



West Central Electric Cooperative

November 2025

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Electric News

Tribute Ride

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West Central Electric News
a news service for the members of



West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.



Headquarters

7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452,
Higginsville, MO 64037
816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803

PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-939-3639

To report outages 24/7

Call 816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803
Report online at
www.westcentralelectric.coop under
"Report Outage"

District office

506 N. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO 64075

Website:

www.westcentralelectric.coop



facebook



Instagram

General Manager

Michael Newland

Board of Directors

Densil Allen Jr., *President*
Clark Bredehoeft, *Vice President*
Dale Jarman, *Treasurer*
Robert Simmons, *Secretary*
Stan Rhodes, *Asst. Secretary*
Richard Strobel, *Director*
Jeremy Ahmann, *Director*
Colby Dowell, *Director*
Elizabeth Houtsma, *Director*

*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

Owned by those we serve.

From the manager's desk

Welcome to Thankful Season

As November begins, we enter what we fondly call "Thankful Season" -- a time when we reflect on the holidays ahead and become more mindful of the many things we appreciate. At West Central Electric Cooperative, gratitude is part of our everyday work, but this season gives us a special opportunity to highlight what we're most thankful for.

From our cooperative family to yours, here are just a few of the blessings we're celebrating this holiday season:

1. Living and working in communities where our members are also our friends and neighbors.
2. The trust you place in us to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable power.
3. The Cooperative Difference—serving member-owners, not shareholders.

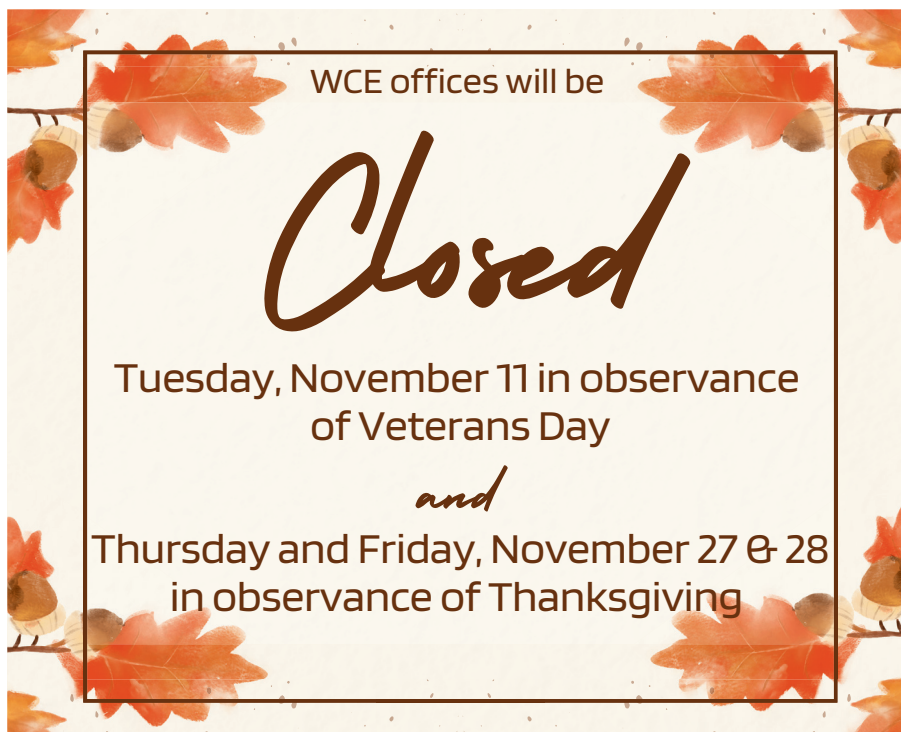


Michael Newland
General Manager

4. The ability to invest in our youth through scholarships and community opportunities.
5. Missouri's three-tier electric system, ensuring reliable service from generation to distribution.
6. Our cooperative team, past and present, who put members first every single day.

From all of us at West Central Electric Cooperative, we wish you a joyful and peaceful Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Michael Newland, CPA
General Manager



ON THE COVER: A WCE digger truck adorned with a large American flag greets more than 250 riders in the 2025 Gail's 9/11 Tribute Ride as they pass co-op headquarters.

What you need to know

Navigating your new electric bill

As a result of our recent software upgrade, your bills will soon have a new look. You will find the same important information with some new features to make managing your account even easier. We also have more room to share detailed messages with our members.

INFORMATION KEY

- A Account Information:**
Your billing date, account number and account name are listed here.
- B Important Messages:**
Learn about programs, services, notices and events.
- C Total Amount Due:**
This section lists your total amount due and the due date. Automatic payment would be indicated here if you participate in this program.
- D Electric Service Description:**
Details regarding your usage. Your kW demand is listed here (for informational purposes only because WCE currently does NOT charge demand on residential or small commercial accounts).
- E Usage Graph:**
This graph lets you track your electric usage from month to month and gives the average temperature.
- F Charge Detail:**
This section gives you a breakdown of all the charges making up your total amount due for the current billing cycle.
- G Energy Usage Comparison:**
At-a-glance comparison of your usage.
- H Payment Stub:**
If you are paying by check, please return this stub with your payment to ensure the payment is properly credited to your account.

YNNN



West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

800-491-3803 • www.westcentralelectric.coop

HIGGINSVILLE: 8 am - 4:30 pm M-F

OAK GROVE: 8 am - 4:15 pm M-F

Member Name

Account #

JOHN DOE

999999999

Billing Date:

Current Bill Due Date:

05/10/2022

06/01/2022

Previous Balance

Payment Received

Adjustments

Balance Forward

Current Charges

Total Amount Due 06/01/22

\$128.31

-\$128.31

-\$5.72

-\$5.72

\$141.93

\$136.21

Important Messages

Total Amount Due

\$136.21

Due Date:

06/01/22

Service Address: 123 ANY ROAD

Service Description: HOUSE

Map #: 68-03B

Phone: 999-999-9999

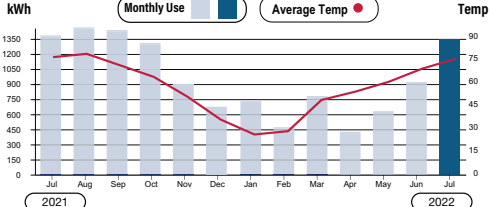
Meter #	Reading Dates	Days	Readings	Multiplier	kWh Usage	kW Demand
12345678	From 04/10/22 To 05/10/22	30	Previous 24945 Present 26292	1	1,347	2,345

kWh

Monthly Use

Average Temp

Temp



Charge Detail

SERVICE AVAILABILITY

ENERGY CHARGE

DEMAND CHARGE

SECURITY LIGHT

JOHNSON COUNTY TAX

Total Current Charges

21 days @ 1.37 per day

368 kWh @ 0.1130

2,345 kW @ 0.00

\$7.32

\$2.15

\$141.93

Energy Usage Comparison

This Month

Last Month

This Month Last Year

Avg Daily Use

Avg Daily Cost

Avg Daily Temp

1,347 kWh 30 days

926 kWh 30 days

1,377 kWh 31 days

45 kWh

\$4.61

83°F

KEEP

SEND

Retain top portion for your records.

Return bottom portion with your payment.



West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

7867 S. Highway 13

Higginsville, MO 64037-0452

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

If you need to make changes to your account, please visit SmartHub or contact the office at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

Account Number

Total Amount Due 06/01/2022

Total Amount Due After 06/01/2022

999999999

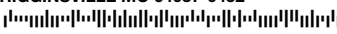
\$136.21

\$141.23

WEST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

7867 S. HIGHWAY 13

HIGGINSVILLE MO 64037-0452





JOHN DOE

123 ANY ST

ANYWHERE, USA 99999



270500011748003000007982000007982072220255



PREPARING FOR THE BIG HUNT

As hunting season approaches, excitement builds for time outdoors. But before you head into the woods, make sure electrical safety is part of your preparation checklist.

Before you climb that tree stand, look out for power lines.

Never install a tree stand near a power line or on a utility pole. Electricity can arc through the air up to 10 feet from high-voltage lines. This means you don't even have to touch a wire to be at risk of electrocution.

Never shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. Stray bullets or pellets could damage equipment, possibly interrupting electric service. Even more concerning, they could drop a power line to the ground, causing a hazardous scenario: those who get within 50 feet of a downed line could be shocked or electrocuted.

Keep these tips in mind to stay safe:

Scout the area. Before hunting, scout your area during daylight. Look for power lines, poles and electrical equipment. Note their locations to avoid them later.

Power safely. If you're using a portable electrical generator, don't use it inside a cabin or RV, or in a confined area. Make sure it's used outside with plenty of ventilation.

Avoid aiming toward power lines or equipment. A stray bullet could knock down a line, interrupt power or create a deadly hazard.

Keep your distance. Stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines, poles and other electrical infrastructure when setting up or taking down tree stands.

Never climb a utility pole. Even if it looks like the perfect vantage point, don't do it. Poles carry high-voltage lines, and climbing them can be deadly.

Don't use utility poles for support. Tree stands or blinds should never be attached to or supported by power poles or electrical equipment.

Watch for downed lines: Stay at least 50 feet away from downed power lines or damaged electrical equipment. Call 911 or your utility immediately.

Learn more at:  **Safe
Electricity.org®**



Paying Tribute

On a gorgeous, crystal clear Saturday in September, the route from Arcadian Moon Winery in Higginsville to the Branded Steakhouse and Event Center in Richmond thundered with the growl from hundreds of motorcycles being ridden in tribute to the lives lost on 9/11.

Gail's 9/11 Tribute Ride, which was first organized shortly after the 2001 attack on America, is typically led by police officers, firefighters and the military, and honors the first responders, military personnel and all those lost on Sept. 11, 2001. The ride is a fundraiser for the Fire Fighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri. Among other things, the foundation supports the Missouri Fire Fighters Memorial and Museum in Kingdom City.

The 2025 event began on the morning of Sept. 6 with a bike blessing given by Bikers for Christ, and kickstands up at 11 a.m. The convoy passed by West Central Electric Cooperative's headquarters office in Higginsville, where 252 riders were greeted with a large American flag waving from the highest tip of a digger truck anchored near the highway.

"It was pretty cool to see all the motorcycles riding together in honor of the fallen at 9/11," WCE Operations Manager Scott Gard said. "They were waving, revving their cycles and pumping their fists when they saw the big American flag hanging high and proud on the digger truck."

Gard showed up to the office early with his two daughters, Taylor and Tyler, to ready the truck.

"It made me feel happy and proud," Tyler Gard said. "You could definitely hear the rumble of them coming down the highway!"

Taylor echoed her sister's sentiments.

"It was an awesome experience and I look forward to watching it next year," she said.

The annual ride had been on hiatus after organizer Gail Worth closed Gail's Harley-Davidson in Grandview, but returned this year, according to Grant Oetting, 2nd vice president for the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri.

"We weren't sure how many might come to Lafayette County, but they definitely came out," Oetting said. "We thought it went really well, and Gail was really happy with the turnout."

Oetting said organizers are looking at bringing the event back to Lafayette County again in 2026. Several locals had a hand in assisting with the event including Kyle Harrison of Wellington (Firestorm Charities) and former state representative Glen Kolkmeier of Wellington, whose company, Energy Transport Solutions, hauled the 911 memorial to Richmond for the event.





Safety Compliance Coordinator Jacob Schowengerdt makes sure WCE's new seasonal employee, "Lineman Larry," is ready to greet members.



The Mayview Picnic parade was one of several these WCE employees and their families attended during late summer and early fall.

Celebrating late summer, early fall

"The Missouri State Fair is always a great place to get to interact with our members and co-op members from around the state as they wrap up summer," *Communications Specialist Heather Hoflander said.*

Late summer and early fall is always a great time at the cooperative when we get to spend time celebrating with our members in their respective communities. Several of our employees who take care of making the day-to-day operations run smoothly seldom get the time to represent the co-op in the communities we serve. In the fall, however, those opportunities open up during many fairs and festivals throughout the service area.

"Our employees have taken our bucket and digger trucks through several of the area parades this fall," said Communications Specialist Heather Hoflander. "Our kids have had fun handing out candy in Mayview, Oak Grove, Odessa, Holden, Concordia, Higginsville and Corder. We also entered a scarecrow in the Higginsville Country Fair Scarecrow Contest and participated in some Halloween events."

"Lineman Larry" spent the season greeting members at the headquarters office in Higginsville from his post in front of the big, neon co-op sign.

Another late-summer event is the Missouri State Fair where co-op employees hand out giveaways and greet fairgoers at the Missouri Cooperatives Building on the fairgrounds.

"The Missouri State Fair is always a great place to get to interact with our members and co-op members from around the state as they wrap up summer," Hoflander said. "The Missouri Cooperatives Building is not only a welcome break from the heat, but also hosts activities, guest presenters who have appeared in the pages of Rural Missouri magazine, and fun games like a scavenger hunt and human-energy-powered racetrack."



From your cooperative

Energy

in Today's Classroom

For two days each summer, classroom teachers from around the state are sponsored by their local electric cooperatives to attend the Energy in Today's Classroom program. The course is designed to provide teachers with a background in energy and energy production, and provide them with tools they can use in their classrooms.

Educators in the middle and high school grades who focus on science, math, agricultural science, energy and building trades are ideal candidates for the course held in Jefferson City and facilitated by transmission co-op Central Electric Power Cooperative. Through EITC, teachers learn from industry experts in the areas of:

- Energy basics
- Energy sources
- Power generation and transmission
- Economics and energy production
- Energy transfer
- The history and future of energy

"We were exposed to so much information, got to go behind the curtain, and ultimately witnessed how much those outside education also care for the success of our students," 2025 EITC participant Jen Duncan of Warrensburg said. "I appreciate (the cooperatives') active engagement in the education of our students."



"We were exposed to so much information, got to go behind the curtain, and ultimately witnessed how much those outside education also care for the success of our students."

*-- Jen Duncan, 2025 EITC Participant
Warrensburg R-6 School District*



Applications are currently being accepted for the 2026 program. Contact Heather Hoflander or Brent Schlotzhauer at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942 for more information or to receive an application.

From the WCE boardroom

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Aug. 28, 2025

A meeting of the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the cooperative, in Higginsville, Missouri, at 9:30 a.m. Aug. 28, 2025, pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and previous resolution of the board of directors. The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen Jr. Attorney Sheri Smiley caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Allen Jr., Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons, Stan Rhodes, Jeremy Ahmann, Colby Dowell and Elizabeth Houtsma. Also present was General Manager Michael Newland.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting on July 24, 2025; expenditures for the month of July 2025; new membership applications and membership terminations, and the Treasurer's Report.

FINANCING AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Newland presented the August 2025 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. He reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report and Treasurer's Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. He also gave the investment report. He presented and reviewed statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash flow management, and KWH sales and ratios. He reported on interest rates, the impact of large loads on the budget and projections for August. He gave updated budget numbers. He reviewed investments. New services connected were reported on. The impact to margins from large loads was discussed. The financial reports were accepted as presented.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE CLOSURE OF F&C BANK ACCOUNT

Newland discussed a letter received by F&C Bank regarding an account with a low balance. The board approved closing the account.

APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS

The following staff reports were approved:

Operations Report

Operations Manager Scott Gard provided an oral report to supplement his written operations report. He reported on crews, expansions worked on, and outages and causes for the month. He gave a mechanic and fleet report including a school attended by the mechanic. He reported the mechanic has been very busy in the shop and they are considering hiring a part-time employee. A brush crew and ROW update was given. Damage to a truck caused by a pole falling on it was updated. An additional bucket truck was discussed. Currently the co-op is renting two bucket trucks. The cost of a new bucket truck is \$225,000.00. The board voted to amend the budget by \$225,000.00 for the purchase of the new truck.

Safety and Engineering Report: Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided an oral report to supplement his written safety and engineering report. As of July 31, 2025, employees have worked 1,022 days without a lost-time accident. Co-op employees drove a total of 38,699 miles as of the end of July without a serious accident. He reported that the workers compensation MOD factor was just received and it is the lowest it has been since the year 2000. RESAP audits have been participated in. He reported on safety meetings, crew visits, and gave an engineering/staking department report. He discussed the Holden substation project. He reported on projects being worked on. He discussed the NW Wildfire Mitigation program and discussed a potential policy for moving the line for third party structures to go under. The policy committee will review for a potential policy.

Member Services Report: Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer



provided a written member services report. He provided updates on Operation RoundUp, the communication department activities and net metering. Chamber meetings and member surveys were reported on. The NISC bill redesign was discussed. A report on the state fair was given. Issues with solar companies giving false information that they are working with the co-op are circulating again.

NW REPORT

Simmons and Newland gave the NW Report. They reported on the new manager search, new large loads, and updates on the Turney gas plant and AECL. The retreat in September will now be held on one day.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft reported on the meeting held on Aug. 6. He gave departmental reports, updates on the Rural Missouri magazine, announced that Jim Bagley was elected as the NRECA representative and gave updates on training and development and grant writing for co-ops that is now available through AMEC. An AECL update was given.

CFC FORUM REPORT

The directors who attended the forum gave updates on the speakers.

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Newland led a discussion on a wrap-up of the annual meeting. Comments from members were discussed. A total of 1,000 meals were served. Next year's annual meeting was discussed. The Policy Committee will look at a policy for allowing board candidates to speak at the meeting and how re-counts on ballots would be handled.

REVIEW BOARD STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The board received the standing committee assignments for 2025 and 2026. Simmons will be removed from the Strategic Planning Committee and Ahmann will be added.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley gave the legal report for the month.

MANAGERS REPORT

Newland gave the manager's report. He gave a staffing report. The salary committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15. The sick leave policy was discussed and changes were made to meet the state law requirements that go into effect Aug. 28. The Bates City franchise agreement was discussed. Annexations were discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

An advertisement in the Rural Missouri magazine was discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 11:34 a.m. and was out at 12:34 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 2025 Statement of Operations

	This month	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Revenue	\$4,062,964	\$24,977,656	\$21,258,371
Power Bill Expense	2,400,712	15,172,739	12,991,344
Operation & Maintenance Expense	962,515	5,399,400	5,132,190
Depreciation Expense	219,591	1,521,919	1,462,190
Interest Expense	135,665	980,500	921,776
Total cost of Service (Total Expenses)	3,718,483	23,074,558	20,507,500
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	344,481	1,903,098	750,871
Other Margins	24,493	219,535	198,567
TOTAL MARGINS	\$368,974	\$2,122,633	\$949,438