



West Central Electric Cooperative

October 2025

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Electric News



October is National Cooperative Month

- Democratic Member Control on display at your 86th Annual Meeting
- Coverage inside this issue

West Central Electric News
a news service for the members of



**West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**



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

District office

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Website:

www.westcentralelectric.coop



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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

GM Newland talks growth, reliability in State of the Cooperative address

In his annual State of the Cooperative address given at the Aug. 1 annual meeting, West Central Electric Cooperative General Manager Michael Newland discussed growth in the service area and recent steps to further ensure reliability for members.



Newland

He noted that the cooperative's growth in number of members ranks second out of all the cooperatives in the state, indicating an ongoing trend.

Newland stressed the cooperative's commitment to continually work on maintenance and service upgrades, replace poles and focus on tree trimming and brush maintenance to keep the system in good shape, and ensure WCE has the needed capacity to serve members well into the future.

"Based on our latest member survey, we know you care most about reliability, with affordability as a close second," he said.

Newland said the cooperative's commitment to tree trimming is a proven way to reduce outages caused by trees, and that investments in this area helped the co-op weather recent winter and spring storms with fewer outages.

"We know your electricity is crucial and we remain committed to making sure your power stays on," he said.

Grid Reliability

Newland went on to discuss reliability of the electric grid and how Missouri's three-tier system is designed to ensure a reliable power supply for co-op members. Newland said the system, made up of generation, transmission and distribution cooperatives, ensures member ownership from the local level all the way to power generation, allowing all parts to work together to deliver reliable electricity.

Newland also drew attention to efforts on both the generation and transmission sides to meet the growing

needs of members. Construction on two new power plants in Ripley, Okla. and Turney, Mo. is underway as well as two new substations in progress on the WCE system.

"These substations, which are part of the transmission piece of our electric system, are being constructed by NW Electric Cooperative," Newland said. "The Holden Rural Substation near the Holden Power Plant is expected to be finished by the end of 2025 and will help us take some load off the Centerview Substation. Looking ahead, the Lone Jack Substation is

***"We know your electricity is crucial
and we remain committed to making
sure your power stays on."***

***Michael Newland
WCE General Manager***

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Annual Meeting 2025



Densil Allen Jr.
President



Clark Bredehoeft
Vice President



Dale Jarman
Treasurer



Robert Simmons
Secretary



Stan Rhodes
Asst. Secretary

Incumbents Houtsma, Rhodes and Dowell retain board seats

Three incumbents on the ballot were returned to their seats to serve three-year terms on West Central Electric's Board of Directors, during the 2025 annual meeting Aug. 1 in Warrensburg.

District 1 Director Dowell, unopposed, was elected by acclamation.

In District 2, Rhodes (261 votes) defeated Heather Pettet (134 votes).

In District 3, Houtsma (281 votes) defeated Jack Pollard (136 votes).

Election results were announced at the end of the evening following the close of the business meeting.

At their re-organizational board meeting held immediately following the annual meeting, all officers retained their positions as voted on by the board. Densil Allen Jr. of Knob Noster will remain



West Central Electric directors re-elected to three-year terms on the cooperative board are: (L-r) Elizabeth Houtsma, District 4; Stan Rhodes, District 2 and Colby Dowell, District 1.

as president; Clark Bredehoeft of Blackburn, will remain as vice president; Dale Jarman of Holden will remain as treasurer, Robert Simmons of Warrensburg will remain as secretary and Rhodes of Corder will remain as assistant secretary.



(Above) Annual meeting is always a great place to meet up with friends and members for an evening of food, fellowship and being involved in your member-owned electric cooperative.



(Left) Members Wally and Kelly Dyer visit with board member Robert Simmons. (Below) During the meeting, veterans are recognized for serving their country.



Annual Meeting 2025

Members gather at UCM for 2025 annual meeting

A total of 546 registered members and their guests enjoyed the traditional co-op barbecue dinner, informational booths and business meeting during West Central Electric Cooperative's 86th annual meeting Aug. 1 in Warrensburg. Total attendance was estimated at approximately 1,100.

Director Election

Incumbents Colby Dowell, District 1; Stan Rhodes, District 2 and Elizabeth Houtsma, District 4, were all re-elected by member vote. Rhodes (261 votes) defeated Heather Pettet (134 votes), and Houtsma (281 votes) defeated Jack Pollard (136 votes).

Guest Speaker Caleb Jones, AMEC

Other highlights of the meeting included Guest speaker Caleb Jones, executive vice president and CEO of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, who spoke highly of WCE directors and management on the job they are doing to look out for the members and make decisions that "solidify the cooperative's financial stability, keep rates affordable and ensure system reliability."

"West Central Electric is one of the few cooperatives willing to stand up for members and call out by name those who are trying to change how members are served," he said.

Jones also spoke about reliability and how Missouri's three-tier cooperative system is unique, ensuring some of the lowest rates in the country because generation, transmission and distribution cooperatives are all member-owned.

"Reliable electricity is a non-partisan issue," he said. "Reliability does not ask what party you are when it comes to flipping your light switch."

He told members that a recent win for cooperatives was when legislation was passed eliminating sales tax on equipment used to provide electricity to members.

"What that means is lower rates for our members," he said.

Other Reports

Members also heard from 2025 Rural Electric Youth Tour delegate Delaney Howe who delivered the speech that earned her a place on the Missouri delegation to Washington, D.C., and thanked WCE's board of directors for their support of the youth program.

Members also heard an address on the state of the cooperative from General Manager Michael Newland, and a report from WCE Board President Densil Allen Jr. (A summary of Newland's speech and Allen Jr.'s address appear in this issue.)



(Above) Guest speaker Caleb Jones, executive vice president and CEO of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, addresses members. (Below) Several WCE scholarship winners were in attendance.

Other Evening Highlights

- Informational booths by area vendors including such as NW Electric Power Cooperative, Associated Electric Cooperative, Johnson County Master Gardeners, HCC Network, Johnson County Ambulance District, and more;
- Live demonstrations from WCE linemen on electrical safety and how power outages are located and repaired;
- WCE Operation RoundUp Foundation board members on hand to provide information on the program and show how the funds collected in the past year have been used to support various community programs throughout the service area;
- Prizes including a grand prize \$500 energy credit (won by Larry and Laura Atkins) and several energy certificates as well as other prizes;
- Kids area with prizes and giveaways.



Annual Meeting 2025



Serviceman Johnny Sullins explains the inner workings of a meter to members Michael and Karen Mansell of Bates City



Staking Technician Gavin Wekenborg answers questions from members Carol Caylor and Linda Wehmeyer of Holden.

Allen tells members:

'We go the extra mile'

During his traditional annual meeting message Aug. 1, WCE Board President Densil Allen Jr. highlighted the ways the cooperative goes the extra mile for members. Following are the remarks from Allen Jr. to the members attending the meeting:

"The old saying, "No news is good news," may ring true in many situations, but when it comes to our members, we work hard to keep you informed as member-owners of your cooperative.

"We believe transparency is important, and you are provided with a summary of the business conducted at the monthly board of directors meetings in each issue of the West Central Electric News member newsletter.

"We continuously provide you with electrical safety information and energy efficiency tips to keep you safe around hazards like a downed power line, and help you to save money on your electric bill.

"Our employees love nothing more than being out in our schools and communities making sure you know the opportunities available to you. From scholarships and leadership opportunities for our youth, to project grants through

our
Operation
Round-Up
Foundation, we
are full
of good
news about
how your
cooperative can help!

"Our Operations Department strives to make sure members are informed about work in progress in their area. Whether it is scheduling work around the member's needs, a personal phone call to notify them about work being done at their location, or conveying the reasons for a planned outage, we believe communication is key.

"We also notify members via automated phone messages when contractors such as pole inspectors are working in your area. We want to make sure you are aware of who is out there working on behalf of the cooperative. You can follow our Facebook page for updates as contractors move throughout our service area, and we encourage you to contact the cooperative any time you have questions.

"Bottom line: We believe in going the extra mile for our members, not only to ensure that you have safe, reliable and affordable electricity, but also that you are aware of all the ways your cooperative is working for you. Thank you for attending the 86th annual meeting of your cooperative."



Densil Allen Jr.

"We work hard to keep you informed as member-owners of your cooperative."
Densil Allen Jr.
WCE Board President

GM Newland delivers State of the Cooperative address

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scheduled to be constructed next year, with an anticipated completion date near the end of 2026. These new substations will be vital in helping us serve the expected growth in these areas."

He said WCE will be responsible for building new distribution lines that connect these substations to the existing system, and upgrading many of the lines.

Addressing Rate Increases

"I began serving as your manager in 2023, and since then, the cost of almost everything we buy has increased significantly. There is a common theme: reliability is not cheap, which is why you've seen the need to increase rates for two consecutive years," Newland told members. "I was proud to share that your board of directors was able to implement a smaller rate increase than originally projected in our cost-of-service study. I want to thank you again for your trust as we navigate these challenges and make every dollar stretch as far as possible."

He noted that WCE has the 32nd lowest residential rate of Missouri's 40 electric cooperatives, but the third highest cost for wholesale power due to the large number of residential member usage compared to commercial usage.

Member Equity Return

Newland told members their board approved paying back more than \$1.5 million in capital credits this year including those on the lines in 2005, 2006 or 2024. To date, WCE has returned over \$41 million in capital credits

"This is a true testament to the legacy of those who helped start the

cooperative back in 1939," he said.

Newland also took time to praise the dedication of board members and co-op employees to making sure their decisions benefit the membership.

"Each month, (the directors) represent your interests in the board room, ensuring the cooperative remains aligned with your needs. I know they do not take this responsibility lightly," he said.

Going the Extra Mile

He also drew attention to co-op employees, who he said every day truly embody the year's theme, "Going the Extra Mile."

"Thanks to the dedication of your West Central Electric employees and the work being done by NW Electric Cooperative and Associated

"Thanks to the dedication of your West Central Electric employees and the work being done by NW Electric Cooperative and Associated Electric Cooperative, you can trust that we are committed to meeting your needs. We will continue to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power, now and in the future. We never take your trust for granted."

***Michael Newland
WCE General Manager***

Electric Cooperative, you can trust that we are committed to meeting your needs," Newland concluded. "We will continue to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power, now and in the future. We never take your trust for granted."



Annual Meeting 2025



Grand prize winner Larry Atkins receives a \$500 energy certificate from WCE Operations Manager Scott Gard.



Barbara Smith receives her 43" smart tv donated by NW Electric from WCE Systems Admin. Brandon Thaller.



Claire Strobel shows off the bike and helmet she won in the grand prize kids' drawing.



Ethan Strobel is excited to have his name drawn out as winner of the kids' bike and helmet grand prize.

2025 Annual Meeting Prize Winners

Grand Prize \$500

Energy Credit

Larry & Laura Atkins

43" Smart TV

Donor: NW Electric

Ronald & Barbara Smith

\$250 WCE Energy Certificate

Donor: Scobee Powerline

Daniel O'Halloran

\$100 Energy Certificates

Monte & Crystal Jones

Virgil & Debra Hilburn

HP & Wilma Boyd

Paul & Barbara Nolte

\$50 Energy Certificates

John & Denise Aversman

Ross & Jeanee Stephens

Sherry Swope

Carol Gibson

Patrick Swoboda

Michael Friend

Kyle & Deborah Stone

Larry & Sharon Jennings

Duane & Becky Limback

Nathan & Ann Beissenherz

Stephen Boyd

Warren & Marsha Stowell

\$25 Energy Certificates

Joshua Guy

Sonya Lasater

Curtis & Rebecca Hite

Perry McDow

Clifford & Dorothy Combs

Bruce & Pamela Meinershagen

Jim & Sharon Singleton

Daniel & Bonnie Thessen

Fay Sweeny

Devyn Burkeybile

Fred Koenig

Charles Daehler

Dutch Oven

Donor: NW Electric

Cindy Crider

Cooler

Donor: Graybar

Paul & Lois Brandt

Wheeled Cooler

Donor: Scobee Powerline

Robert & Margaret Henning

Leaf Blower

Donor: Asplundh

Alan & Jennifer Carney

Utensil Set

Donor: Scobee Powerline

Kenneth Nierman Farm, Inc.

Knife Set

Donor: Scobee Powerline

William & Sherry Miller

Golf Accessories & Cooler

Donor: Evans, Lipka & Assoc.

Dale & Kyoko Lawson

\$25 Bass Pro Gift Card

Donor: Tallman Equipment

Christopher & Heather Phillips

\$25 Bass Pro Gift Card

Donor: Tallman Equipment

Keith & Brenda Hinck

Backpack Cooler

Donor: NISC

Hinck Farm LLC/Keith Hinck

\$25 Walmart Gift Card

Donor: Fletcher-Reinhardt

Timothy & Bobbi Long

Cooler

Donor: Fletcher-Reinhardt

Marcella Dinse

Pruning Saw

Donor: Lynn Elliott

Forrest & Harriett Wrisinger

Cooler

Donor: Altec

Albert & Helen Ryun

Kids' Drawing Prizes:

Boy's Bike with Helmet

Ethan Strobel

Girl's Bike with Helmet

Claire Strobel

\$10 DQ Gift Certificates

Whit Bundy

Ava Ko

Stuffed Buddy Bears

Magnolia Gurney

Kohen Burkeybile

From the WCE boardroom

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held July 24, 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. July 24, 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, Colby Dowell and Elizabeth Houtsma (by phone). 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 of June 26, 2025; expenditures for the month of June 2025; new membership applications and membership terminations, and the Treasurer's Report.

FINANCING AND TREASURER'S REPORT

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

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 the new bucket truck had arrived, on crews, expansions worked on and outages and causes for the month. He gave a mechanic and fleet report. He reported on damage to a truck during a storm from a pole that belonged to Evergy and the response time to get to the linemen in the truck. A brush crew and ROW update was given. Progress being made on substations was reported on.

Safety and Engineering Report: Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided an oral report to supplement his written Safety and Engineering Report. As of June 30, 2025, employees have worked 971 days without a lost-time accident. Co-op employees drove a total of 40,958 miles as of the end of June without a serious accident. He reported on safety meetings, crew visits, and gave an engineering/staking department report. He reported the materials have been ordered for the Holden project. A Lone Jack update was given. Audits by Federated and MECIP were performed and reported on.

Member Services Report: Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer provided a written Member Services Report. He provided updates on Operation RoundUp, parades participated in, the annual meeting preparation, the CYCLE conference, the chamber meetings attended and rebates given. The 2026 Member Satisfaction Survey from AECl was reported on. Bill inserts and a printing issue were reported on.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SECTION 3 – REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE

Newland presented a change to 3.5 on the requirements for services. The



change was approved.

POLICY 3.18

Newland presented an amendment to Policy 3.18 based on an amendment to NW Electric's change to the NR1 rate, which sets a minimum of when the rate can be requested. The amendment was approved.

POLICY 4.15

A new AI policy was presented by Newland and approved by the board.

NW REPORT

Simmons and Newland gave the NW Report. An update on the Turney gas plant and Lone Jack was given. They reported on the new Turney gas plant and AECl margins. They reported that David McDowell, the CEO/Manager has announced his retirement. An AECl report was provided in the board packet.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft reported the next meeting will be held Aug. 6.

DIRECTORS CONFERENCE REPORT

Directors attending the director's conference gave updates on the speakers.

ROUNDUP FOUNDATION REPORT

Newland gave an update on the July 14 meeting and awards granted.

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

Newland gave an annual meeting update.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley gave the legal report for the month.

MANAGERS REPORT

Newland gave the Manager's Report. He reported the Oak Grove MSR position has been filled. He gave a staffing update. NRECA dues will be increasing in 2026. The large-load venture was discussed. A motion was made and passed to join the large-load venture. Margins and right-of-way was discussed. Additional right-of-way and clearing could be done this fall by one of the contractors, but would require an additional \$125,000 in the budget. The budget was amended for right-of-way clearing. Summer hours for union workers have started. The co-op is nearing a record high number of hours with no lost-time accidents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 11:45 a.m. and was out at 11:55 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

June 2025 Statement of Operations

	This month	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Revenue	\$3,199,011	\$20,914,692	\$17,806,455
Power Bill Expense	2,176,856	12,772,026	10,888,143
Operation & Maintenance Expense	696,649	4,436,886	4,241,584
Depreciation Expense	219,443	1,302,328	1,251,789
Interest Expense	138,038	844,835	774,414
Total cost of Service (Total Expenses)	3,230,986	19,356,075	17,155,930
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(31,975)	1,558,617	650,525
Other Margins	31,268	195,041	170,399
TOTAL MARGINS	\$(707)	\$1,753,658	\$820,924