



West Central Electric Cooperative

October 2026

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Electric News

State Fair Time!

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paperless?
Sign up to win!
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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
Online: www.westcentralelectric.coop
Mobile app: SmartHub®

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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

Celebrating cooperatives

It's October, which means it is the time of year when we pause and celebrate being a cooperative during National Cooperative Month. There are so many things about cooperatives and the way they operate that are celebration-worthy.

Taking care of our members and making our communities a better place are two of our most important roles, but there are lots more great things that cooperatives are a part of.

Electric cooperatives power 56 percent of the American landscape. Those co-ops serve 42 million people across the world, including 92% of persistent poverty counties. A reach like that is truly something to celebrate.

Co-ops power more than 22 million businesses, homes, schools and farms in 48 states. The 830 distribution cooperatives that directly supply and support those members are the foundation of America's electric cooperative network, serving their members and supporting their communities every day. That's a lot of people relying on their local electric cooperative to deliver!

Another thing to celebrate about cooperatives is the return of capital credits. Co-



ops return more than \$1 billion in member equity annually to their members. Running as a local, not-for-profit business allows us to put our focus solely on our members without having to turn a profit for investors in faraway cities. Co-ops focus on people, not profits, and that feels good.

Electric cooperatives are also working hard to take care of our environment. Cooperatives focus on keeping electricity reliable while also reducing emissions by switching to natural gas power plants and increasing the use of renewables. A diverse portfolio of resources from natural gas, coal, wind, hydro power and other renewables helps ensure energy is always available.

So as we settle in to fall, and start thinking about all of the holidays we're about to celebrate, take a minute to celebrate cooperatives as well.

Sincerely,

*Michael Newland, CPA
General Manager*

Reminder

Because of this year's later annual meeting date and press deadlines, coverage of your 87th annual meeting will appear in the November issue of West Central Electric News.

ON THE COVER: WCE Safety and Compliance Coordinator Cody Brock and Lineman Derek Cole visit with young fairgoers in the Missouri Electric Cooperatives Building during the Missouri State Fair.

What you need to know



West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

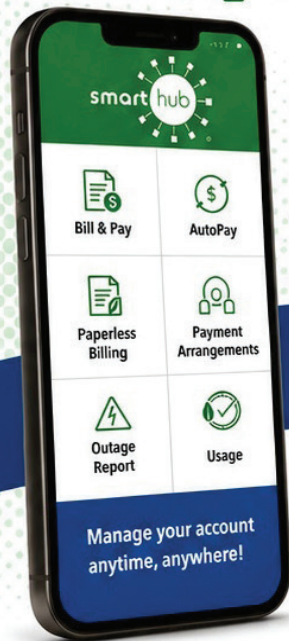
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

GO DIGITAL & WIN!



SEPTEMBER 1 –
DECEMBER 31

4 months of
chances to win!



Enroll in **Paperless Billing, AutoPay**, or both
and be entered to win!



WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

All active members enrolled in paperless billing, AutoPay, or participating in prepaid billing on each drawing date are eligible and will all automatically have an entry.



ALREADY ENROLLED?

Great news! You'll already be automatically entered.

- ✓ 1 entry for Paperless Billing
- ✓ 1 entry for AutoPay

*You could
win!*

MONTHLY DRAWINGS



3 WINNERS EACH MONTH

\$100
BILL CREDIT

Drawings will take place on the
15th of every month:

Sept. 15 • Oct. 15 • Nov. 15 • Dec. 15

GRAND PRIZE



\$300
BILL CREDIT

Grand Prize drawing will take
place on December 31!

SIGN UP TODAY!



Through
SmartHub



At one of our
office locations



Get your bill
faster



Never miss
a payment



Secure &
convenient



Manage your
account anytime,
anywhere



Save paper &
help the
environment

Go digital for the benefits!



www.westcentralelectric.coop



800-491-3803

Official contest rules can be
viewed at our website.

West Central Electric Cooperative Electric News

From your cooperative

Energy

In Today's Classroom



EITC Class of 2026 participated in two days of learning from energy experts at this cooperative-sponsored program which also provided educators with 15 professional development hours and \$500 to purchase materials for their classrooms.

“Like others, I just assume the lights are going to work when I turn them on. I had no idea of the amount of jobs and/or technology that is involved in maintaining electricity and its connection to our homes.”

--Jeanne Burgin, Chilhowee School District

Teachers from across Missouri explored how energy is produced, delivered and used during the 14th annual Energy in Today's Classroom program July 29–30 in Jefferson City. Hosted by Central Electric Power Cooperative, the two-day workshop provided 15 hours of professional development for the 37 participating educators each sponsored by their local distribution cooperatives from around the state.



Attendees, including Chilhowee teacher Jeanne Burgin, learned about energy fundamentals, the economics of energy, electric vehicles, energy demand and residential solar. They also completed a hands-on circuitry project and toured a Central Electric substation near St. Martins and the University of Missouri's Combined Cooling, Heat and Power Plant in Columbia.

Each teacher received educational materials and a \$500 scholarship for teaching tools to help bring energy lessons to life for students in their classrooms. The lessons can be adapted for students of all ages.

Applications are currently being accepted for the next summer's program set for July 28–29, 2027. Contact **Heather Hoflander** or **Brent Schlotzhauer** at **800-491-3803** or **816-565-4942** for more information or to receive an application.



Employee Retirement



Lois Brunkhorst retires after 26 years at WCE

After 26 years of serving cooperative members, West Central Electric Member Service Representative Lois Brunkhorst has traded the fast pace of the office for a slower pace with family and friends.

Brunkhorst joined the WCE team in May 2000, and wore many different hats over the years including roles in billing, accounts payable, data records and working with everyone from WCE linemen to co-op members in many different capacities. Her co-workers even coined the phrase, "If you don't know, ask Lois," because of her extensive knowledge in so many areas of the cooperative business.

Some of the biggest changes Brunkhorst said she witnessed over the years dealt with advances in technology.

"We went from doing everything by hand like posting payments, running credit cards through the machine, manual billing, to having almost everything automated and done

electronically," she said.

In addition to working with co-op members, Brunkhorst said she got some of her most enjoyment out of balancing the deposits and posting to member's electric bills and know that it all balanced.

"I'm a numbers person and OCD," she laughed.

While she will be missed at the cooperative, Brunkhorst said she will now have time to focus on some of the things she has missed at home.

"I am looking forward to getting projects done at home that have been neglected, spending more time with my family and granddaughters, and just being able to do things on my schedule and not have to make it around an 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday work schedule," she said.

"Working at WCE has been a wonderful family environment where I really enjoy the friendships made," she said.

Brunkhorst officially retired on Aug. 7.

FARM SAFETY FOR A SAFE HARVEST

Take these steps to help keep you and everyone on your farm safe during a busy harvest.

Meet Daily

Have morning safety meetings to brief everyone on the day ahead and to discuss potential electrical hazards. Review power line locations, clearance requirements and the proper positioning of extensions for transporting.

Train Others

Train anyone working on your farm, including seasonal workers and family members, on potential electrical hazards.

Use a Spotter

Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines or poles. Always keep equipment and extensions at least 10 feet from power lines.

If your equipment makes contact with a power line, pole or guy wire, **stay in the cab, call 9-1-1 and warn others to stay away.**



Safe
Electricity.org®

From your cooperative



West Central Electric's member services team and linemen joined the state's co-ops at the Missouri State Fair in August, meeting with community members, answering questions and promoting all of the great things electric cooperatives can do in our local communities.

October is National Co-op Month

"Simply put: we're here to serve our members and their communities," said Brent Schlotzhauer, Member Services Manager.

When you hear the word cooperative, what comes to mind? As your local electric co-op, we hope you think of **West Central Electric Cooperative**.

Regardless of the services offered, all cooperatives have one thing in common: they're led by the people they serve—and that simple idea makes a meaningful difference.

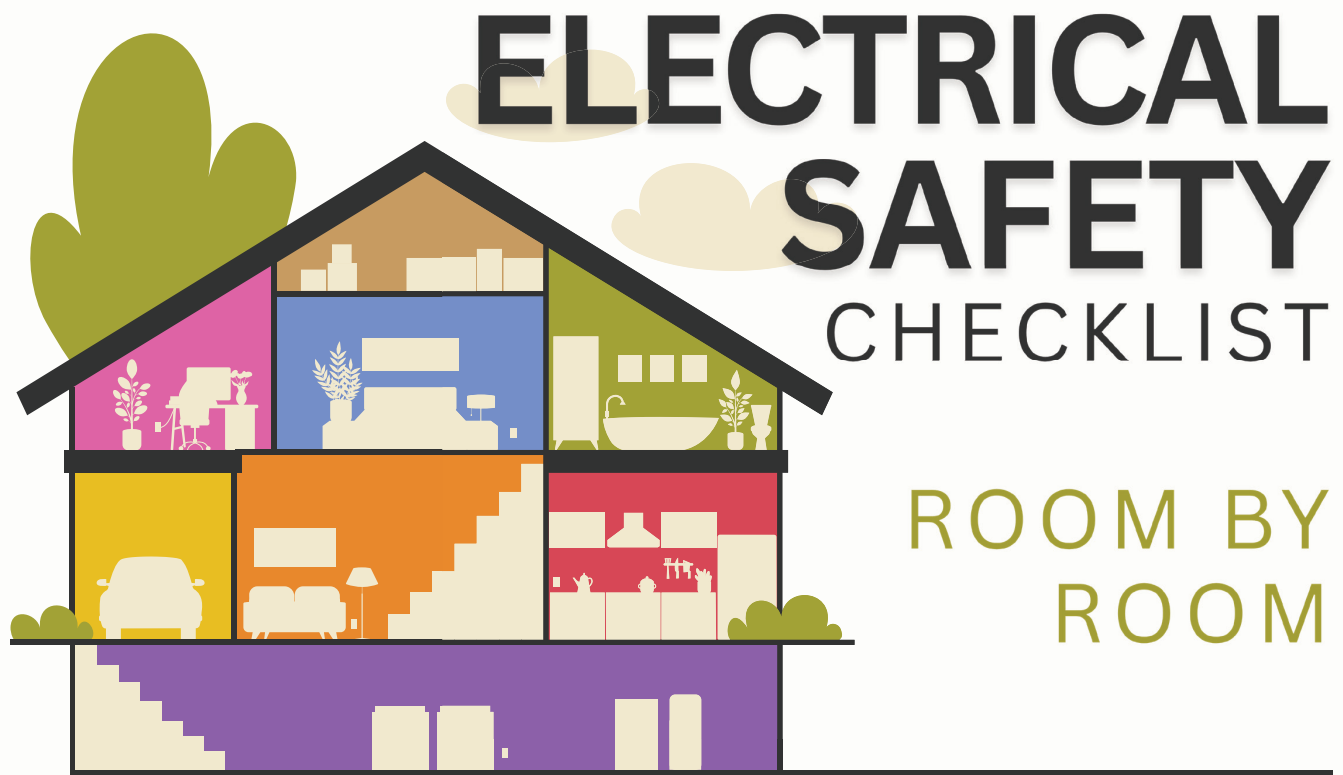
Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, like Ocean Spray help farmers bring their products to market. Retail

cooperatives, like ACE Hardware, are owned by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while utility cooperatives, like **West Central Electric**, provide reliable electricity to the communities they serve. Cooperatives are also in the business of supporting our local communities through many programs like those on display in the Missouri Electric Cooperatives Building at the Missouri State Fair.

Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Their goal isn't to earn a profit—it's to provide value, meet unique local needs and strengthen the communities they call home.

We're your neighbor and local energy partner, and we're committed to serving our communities for generations to come.





Check these monthly to keep your home and family safe.

Kitchen

- Clean refrigerator coils and allow space for airflow.
- Store and use appliances away from the sink.
- Use and test GFCI outlets.
- Inspect cords for cracks or frays.
- Keep cords off counters; unplug when not in use.

Bedroom

- Place and test smoke and CO detectors on every level and near sleeping areas.
- Keep cords out from under rugs or furniture.
- Unplug devices and chargers when not in use.
- Make sure lightbulbs are the correct wattage.
- Plug window AC units into a dedicated circuit.

Basement

- Ensure washer and dryer are stable and ventilated.
- Remove dryer lint after each use.
- Set water heater to 120°F or lower.
- Have furnace inspected and confirm proper ventilation.

Bathroom

- Keep appliances away from water (sink, toilet, tub, shower).
- Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Use and test GFCI outlets.

Living Room

- Use safety caps on unused outlets, especially if children or pets are present.
- Ensure electronics have space for airflow.
- Replace cracked light switch or outlet covers.
- Avoid overloading outlets, power strips and surge protectors.

Garage

- Use and test GFCI outlets.
- Inspect cords for cracks or damage.
- Unplug tools and appliances when not in use.
- Place garage refrigerators/freezers on dedicated appliance circuits.

Learn more at: [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org)

From the WCE boardroom

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held July 23, 2026.

A meeting of the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the cooperative in Higginsville, Mo. at 9:30 a.m. July 23, 2026, 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, Jeremy Ahmann, Stan Rhodes and Colby Dowell. Elizabeth Houtsma was present via phone. Also present was General Manager Michael Newland.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting on June 25, 2026; expenditures for the month of June 2026; new membership applications and membership terminations, and the treasurer's report.

FINANCING AND TREASURER'S REPORT

CFO Rebecca Hoeflicker presented the June 2026 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, borrowing funds, and projections for June. She gave updated budget numbers and reviewed investments. Equity was reported on. The cash-flow statement was reviewed. New services connected were reported on. Lone Jack expenses were discussed. Interest rates were reported on as well as capital credit retirements. Growth for the year was reviewed. 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 on crews, mechanic and fleet, and outages including storm outages on July 4, and mutual aid that was provided to a local co-op that was hit hard by the storms. He also reported on maintenance, brush crews, and right-of-way

Engineering Report: Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided an oral report to supplement his written engineering report. He reported on new work being done by subcontractors. He gave a Lone Jack update and a TWACS update on the substations. He reported on work done on Hwy DD and the prices for supplies were discussed.

Safety Report

Newland gave the safety report for Safety and Compliance Manager Cody Brock that had been provided in writing in the board packet. Safety meetings will be held July 29, 2026. He reported on the AEGIS audit. As of June 30, 2026, employees have worked 1,336 days without a lost-time accident and have driven 44,149 miles for the month.

Member Services Report: Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer provided a member services report. He provided updates on Operation RoundUp and the communication department activities. Youth and member outreach were discussed. The member survey that will be used at the annual meeting was discussed. He reported on chamber meetings and projects and on member engagement. Member Services



Supervisor Brandy Dukes reported on member service key metrics and payment options regarding how members currently pay their bills. The marketing campaign for encouraging paperless billing and auto pay was reviewed.

REVIEW/APPROVE BOARD RESOLUTION MERGING RS PLANS

Newland presented a resolution amending the retirement security plan for consideration. The board approved the resolution.

APPOINT VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE FOR NRECA REGION 8-10 MEETING

Simmons was named the voting delegate and Newland the alternate.

NW BOARD REPORT

Simmons and Newland gave the NW Board report. They reported on margins, equity, and outages. They gave a Lone Jack update and a Turney update. New large loads were discussed. AECI projections were reviewed.

DIRECTOR'S CONFERENCE REPORT

Board members who attended the director's conference reported.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley gave the legal report for the month.

MANAGERS REPORT

Newland gave the manager's report. He reported on meetings attended. Locate companies were discussed. He reported on the system and economic growth as well as 2027 projects and the order of meters. He went through the strategic planning objections. He discussed vacation schedules, vacation carry-over and minimum call-out time. He gave updates on Lone Jack and marketing happening there.

ROUND-UP FOUNDATION REPORT

Dowell gave a report and a written report was provided to the directors on the grants awarded. The RoundUp Foundation will have an informational booth at the annual meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

Administrative Assistant Kim Lewis gave an update on the annual meeting venue and the order of business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 11:33 a.m. and was out at 12:16 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

June 2026 Statement of Operations

	This month	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
Revenue	\$2,996,145	\$20,790,508	\$20,914,692
Power Bill Expense	1,999,247	12,400,968	12,772,026
Operation & Maintenance Expense	859,095	4,621,159	4,436,886
Depreciation Expense	228,789	1,364,537	1,302,328
Interest Expense	<u>145,854</u>	<u>886,324</u>	<u>844,835</u>
Total cost of Service (Total Expenses)	3,232,985	19,272,988	19,356,075
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(236,840)	1,517,520	1,558,617
Other Margins	<u>29,814</u>	<u>264,502</u>	<u>195,041</u>
TOTAL MARGINS	\$(207,026)	\$1,782,022	\$1,753,658