




West Central *Electric News*



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. ~ Serving our members' needs since 1939

CYCLE 2012 Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience



SURPRISE VISIT...Delegates at the 2012 Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience were treated to a surprise visit from Dr. Lori Salierno (just below center of bike) who just so happened to be staying at the same hotel as conference delegates while on her Challenge the Cycle Tour. (Story on page 3.)

Why We Celebrate YOU in October... National Cooperative Month

Cooperatives are all around you, and they are working to build a better world

Every October, cooperatives around the nation celebrate National Cooperative Month. The celebration lasted even longer in 2012 with the United Nations-sanctioned International Year -- a full year! -- of Cooperatives. But what are we really celebrating? What makes a cooperative different, and why should that matter to YOU?

Our economy still has critical hurdles to overcome, so you may not feel like celebrating at all. But when our faith in big institutions has been shaken, it's the perfect time to remember what we've already accomplished locally -- all with a little cooperation.

We've faced tough times before; 75 years ago our area didn't have electricity. Young folks were leaving en masse to find a brighter future in urban areas, and rural America was left in the dark. But instead of waiting for someone else to fix our problem, we turned to each other. We built our own utility, and we powered our future.

By our very nature, not-for-profit, local, member-owned and governed cooperatives like your

electric cooperative empower members to improve their lives. And while bringing electricity to rural Missouri was a big first step, you, as our members, certainly didn't stop there. Just think about what we've accomplished!

By working with your cooperative you can make a big impact on the communities we serve. Ready to get involved? Attend our annual membership meeting to let us know what issues are important to you. Continue to read our local pages in *Rural Missouri* to stay in touch with programs and events offered by your electric cooperative. Check our website and facebook often for updates.

As we celebrate National Cooperative Month, thank you for your efforts to strengthen our community. We want you to continue to stay involved as we build a better future together. The cooperative business model is a handy tool that lets us improve our quality of life.

National Cooperative Month is a time to celebrate YOU, our members -- the real POWER in the communities we serve.

"Seventy-five years ago our area didn't have electricity... But instead of waiting for someone else to fix our problem, we turned to each other. We built our own utility, and we powered our future."

Learn About Co-ops

It's a Matter of PRINCIPLE

The Rochdale Principles

Co-ops deliver electricity, sell produce, provide loans, and arrange for housing, health care, and more. But despite these differences, they all have one thing in common--seven cooperative principles:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training, Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

Learn more at www.go.coop.

**Cooperative Enterprises
Build a Better World**

A message from America's Electric Cooperatives

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General Manager:
Mike Gray

Board of Directors:
Clark Bredehoeft, President
Ron Steelman, Vice-Pres.
Paul Nolte, Treasurer
Robert Simmons, Secretary
Stan Rhodes, Asst. Secy.
Dale Jarman, Director
Max Swisegood, Director
Densil Allen, Director
Richard Strobel, Director

Can you help us locate these people?

The following members have capital credit refund checks due them. Checks mailed to the last address on file for these members have been returned. If you can provide a current address for any of the members listed below, or the name of an heir if the member is deceased, please contact Sandy Starke at 1-800-491-3803 or 1-660-584-2131.

ACL Investments	5.96	Beck, Warren	53.48	Carpenter, Lybbie J	67.58	Deangelis, Gary & Geri	8.13
Adams, Larry C & Joann	206.54	Beckman, Brice	15.84	Carr, Dale & Theresa	165.17	Decker, Ada	106.67
Adams, Robert D & Loretta C	10.97	Bedsworth, Thomas Jr	51.06	Carter, Jamie & Peri L	23.27	Deer, Judith P	12.27
Adams, Traci	87.24	Beggs, Robert D & Sharon R	101.04	Carter, Kenneth N	5.70	Deeser, Terry L	8.05
Adkisson, David A & Pam A	42.71	Bell, Christie	22.15	Cartmill, William C & Mary E	5.61	Delana, Karen S	50.16
Aines, Lewis H Jr & Alice	60.73	Bell, David & Sharon K Cockrum	5.48	Casey, John T	38.56	Delong, James S Sr & Rosalie	70.21
Akers, Anne	37.98	Bell, Virgie S & Kathleen	10.17	Casteel, Richard M & Christine	28.55	Demtech, Eric	7.19
Alan's Contracting	7.42	Beltran, Gerardo J & Dawn L	30.55	Castro, Lynn A	25.33	Dilday, Bonnie	7.71
Alarcon, Rebecca R	5.49	Bender, Merlyn & Lois	29.49	Caviness, Audra	6.94	Ditondo, Michael	6.07
Albertson, Mary J & Tiffanie	81.55	Benefield, Joseph N & Melissa	7.01	Caylor, Shellie R	11.71	Dixon, Larry D & Heather J	25.32
Albrecht, Matthew J	12.99	Bennett, John	37.56	Cedar Grove Church Elders	5.48	Dombrowski, John J & Susan K	60.37
Albright, Robert M	147.83	Benwell, David	23.02	Chapman, Russell G	8.44	Downs, Chris & Laurie	9.39
Alderson, Kevin S	19.90	Berger, Cyndy	65.44	Chocha, Andrew & Cythia Duy	15.17	Ducklow, Charles	34.42
Alexander, John M & Kimberly	66.09	Berger, Robert E Jr & Mary	6.26	Chrisman, Mary	51.97	Dudley, Renae	22.27
Alexander, Regina S	16.07	Bergeron, Danielle	9.89	Chriss, Glen & Francine	18.24	Duffey, Donald D	38.36
Alexander, Sharon	9.37	Beringer, Patrick & Deborah	8.03	Christian, Jerry L Jr	44.27	Dugger, Douglas R	20.00
Allen, Christopher D & Susan R	36.00	Berne, Howard	17.22	Church, Robert	48.07	Duncan, Bobby	18.31
Alterman, Kenny	16.63	Berry, Anna M	78.33	Clark, Logan E	31.39	Durand, June D	71.93
Amoco Pipeline Co	1,040.35	Beyer, Robert D Iii	7.94	Clark, Ronald K & Kelly J	10.83	Dwyer, Patrick M	43.66
Anderson, David J & Doris M	22.50	Bezemer, Gary	71.68	Clary, Tim	8.71	Dyke, Charles R	26.75
Anderson, Donnie	56.01	Bingham, Loretta	56.23	Claypool, Kenneth J & Janice L	7.00	Eaton, Sandra S	5.67
Anderson, Gina	9.06	Bischoff, Lynn	14.96	Clay, Luther Mike	12.95	Eddy, Phillip & Staci	6.53
Anderson, Larry & Wendy	29.54	Black, Janice	12.45	Cleary, Joseph R	34.48	Edelman, Harry V & Lisa	24.16
Anderson, Mary	197.58	Black, Thomas S & Teresa	52.90	Clifton, Vivian J	178.15	Eggert, Steven & Marta	13.76
Anderson, Tammy	78.86	Blackmore, Debbie L	159.61	Cline, John L	23.21	Eisenmenger, John R	10.31
Aponte, Jasmine	5.74	Blades, Everett B & Margery	36.65	Cline, Sherry E	14.92	Eisenmenger, Mary	8.86
Ard, Glenn S	106.34	Bloss, Cecil	130.67	Clites, Steve & Sherly	222.48	Elias, Timothy L	6.49
Ardanche, Mauricio A	19.19	Boan, Rose Marie	35.88	Clohesy, Christopher	25.14	Elliott, Sean M & Dean	9.84
Armstrong, Andrew	10.17	Bollmeyer, Lisa	80.93	Clossen, David A & Lisa M	15.93	Ellis, Craig J & Kim D	58.96
Ashbridge, Michelle	12.34	Bond, Warren & Susan	35.42	Clymens, Dale & Stephanie	14.42	Embree, Paula	70.60
Atwell, John & Shirley	11.53	Boney, Peter R	34.14	Cobb, Melissa M	5.17	Emily, Russell L & Patricia A	24.31
Austin, Susan	30.69	Booe, Stephanie	19.12	Coffey, Cathy S	24.26	Emily, Trish	47.62
Backs, Stephen R & Christine L	16.98	Booker, Helen L	7.62	Cogan, Glen	11.98	Enloe, Betty	7.03
Bailey Andres & Melissa	9.95	Boone, Dennis W	6.43	Cole, Kathleen M	9.72	Epperson, David B & Debbie C	7.76
Bailey, Clarence & Dorothy Trust	54.37	Botkin, Amanda	8.20	Collier, Sandy	14.85	Erickson, Tom D & Lisa	187.94
Bailey, Walter R & Susan M	65.61	Bowie, John & Melva	63.74	Collins, Cathy A	16.34	Evans, Brent	19.02
Baker, Albert	17.68	Boyette, Samuel	23.30	Collins, John E	68.37	Evans, Cheryl K	12.92
Baker, Bruce A & Bonnie E	180.13	Boyle, Patrick	9.82	Collins, Lula J	25.46	Falls, Thomas J	7.38
Baker, James & Tonya S	28.51	Brady, Vicki A	75.02	Colliver, Bart J	11.50	Fannin, Jeff	9.84
Baker, Karlotta	80.18	BRBish, Michael & Laura	38.89	Colvin, Jason	8.82	Faulk, Michael & Sara	5.59
Baker, Malinda	17.96	BRB Contractors Inc	13.85	Colvin, Tommy E & Justin Meyer	6.82	Feldhacker, Jamie	25.14
Baker, Matthew L & Desiree	22.47	Brents, Johnathan L & Melissa	11.52	Comalander, Jason & Stephanie	30.69	Ferrazzano, Martha H	14.22
Baker-Beaty, Pame	13.27	Breshears, Mitzi M	10.58	Combs, William J Jr	35.01	Fielder, Wilie W & Clarice L	68.32
Ballard, Ronnie & Renae	151.63	Brice Detention & Services LLC	30.42	Comer, David A	10.84	Fields, Jana	11.60
Bannister, Steven P & Sandra S	9.85	Bristow, Ken & Diane H	26.73	Connell, M V & Edna L	48.61	Fields, Martin K & Pamela	7.29
Bantz, Lale	13.11	Brown, Gene & Sara	138.91	Conner, Novella M	141.62	Fields, Russell	35.50
Barclay, Don & Jana	24.49	Brown, Jason A	10.62	Cooper, Rodney L & Brenda	295.61	Fillingier, Adrienne L	12.85
Barker, Kendra	5.21	Brown, Reginald	50.02	Cooper, Sane M & Tina M	38.05	Findley, Sonya Graves	58.82
Barlett, Cynthia	17.13	Brown, Taylor A Jr & Rhonda	45.92	Copenhaver, Jim	50.20	Fink, Amanda & Kathleen Nance	9.08
Barlett, Richard D	58.00	Brown, Timothy & Robi E	7.04	Copenhaver, Keith	46.86	Fink, Mindy J	5.65
Barnett, Ralph E & Theresa L	11.41	Brown, W L	5.34	Corbett, William & Alice E	118.95	Finney, Ted & Marla S	47.59
Barnett, Wahnetta C	192.88	Brown, William T	6.18	Cotton, Ernest & Rose M Moore	68.31	Fishcer, Christian & Marsha	7.76
Barnhill, Wilma	122.97	Brown, Larry L	452.12	Coulter, Lori J	7.84	Fitterling, Tara	25.83
Barry, Tony & Catherine	31.43	Bruns, Pamela S	89.98	Courmoyer, Gerald & Christina	23.80	Fitzpatrick, Holly D	14.39
Bartlett, Ellen	17.17	Bryan, Stephen A	21.44	Courmoyer, John R & Cheri L	13.03	Fleaharty, Todd	18.73
Bartlett, Ronald	12.55	Bryne, Jeana & J W Blankenship	9.95	Cowan, Dana	75.89	Fletcher, Kevin J	34.79
Barton, Ira D & Virginia L	12.54	Buckley Bros Foundation Inc	37.64	Cox, Dale L	13.11	Floyd, Wayne & Tracy	7.27
Bates, Jeff	23.27	Bueneman, Thomas & Stephanie	34.90	Cox, Gene	14.02	Foltz, Alva E & Heather A	12.71
Batzold, Melana	57.42	Buic, Chris & Shelly	76.31	Coy, Brian T & Teresa S	17.04	Fonseca, Jose	12.24
Baumgarden, Rusti	11.61	Bullard, Jared & Rhoni M	39.96	Crabtree, Donald R	24.07	Forcer, Robert C & Kathleen M	109.61
Bavuso, Kenneth J & Gayle L	1.23	Burbanks, Leon E	9.31	Crain, Kay	5.51	Ford, Jimmy D	5.07
Baxter, Gregory	59.15	Burditt, Jodie	7.82	Crooks, Michael S	7.31	Forschen, Neiland	73.63
Baxter, Ken & Melanie	50.18	Burgin, Donald R Jr & Roberta	24.55	Crowder, Jim & Opal	5.57	Foster, Brent M & Toby A	5.30
Bean, Brandon & Stacie	39.68	Burk, Chad	28.93	Crowley, Michael	7.02	Foster, Kathy J	20.67
Beaty, Duaine	41.61	Burr, Ronald S & Debra L	6.57	Cunningham, Shelly	18.23	Fowlers Family Auto Of KN	9.90
		Burris, Barbara	28.68	Curtis, Gene	23.60	Fox, N Richard	22.21
		Burtchell, Dietrich & Ashley	39.55	Curtis, Jone	155.66	Fox, Rebecca	9.02
		Burton, David	27.53	Curtis, William L	10.51	Frank, Denny	13.29
		Burton, Robert W	39.63	Cutrufro, Candace N	10.73	Free, Wm J & Hilary	9.94
		Bushmeyer, Will & Wm E	6.34	Dady, Connie L	56.48	Freeman, James A & Betty S	60.34
		Butts, Elmer E	17.17	Danbar Inc	6.14	Frick, Jesse A & Amy	127.11
		Caldwell, Brian R & Lori L	14.77	Daniel, Jo E	16.20	Friel, John P	5.61
		Camby, Jason	20.63	Danner, Justin L	14.64	Frith, Daniel E	58.88
		Campbell, Deb J	19.52	Danner, Ronald L	59.45	Fromm, Scott C & Yvonne	18.91
		Carey, Roger L	5.78	Dark, Susan A	5.53	Furlough, Phillip R & Melanie	34.01
		Carney, Stephen J	56.34	Darner, Kenneth R & Veronica R	16.07		
		Carpenter, Jean & Heidi Engelma	6.68	Davis, Henry & Ella Rountree	67.41		

LIST CONTINUES IN
NOVEMBER ISSUE

WCE directors vote to retain current slate of officers

West Central directors voted to retain their current slate officers, led by President Clark Bredehoeft, during their annual reorganization meeting.

In addition to Bredehoeft, continuing in their roles for another year are Vice President Ron Steelman, Secretary Robert Simmons, Assistant Secretary Stan Rhoades and Treasurer Paul Nolte.



Clark Bredehoeft
President



Ron Steelman
Vice President



Robert Simmons
Secretary



Stan Rhoades
Asst. Secretary



Paul Nolte
Treasurer

CYCLE challenges students to become better leaders

What better place to be on a hot July day than sitting in a hotel conference room with nearly 100 of your peers? NOWHERE -- if that conference is the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience and your peers are among the best and brightest the state of Missouri has to offer!

"We want to be a leadership development stepping stone for the youth," said Barry Hart, CEO of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, the sponsoring organization of the conference. "By us getting involved in helping develop their leadership potential, we hope these delegates go back to their communities, continue to learn from local leaders, educators and co-op staff

so when they get into positions of leadership later in life, they won't forget the cooperatives' way of thinking."

Each year, Missouri electric cooperatives send delegates to Jefferson City for three days of leadership activities, cooperative education and hands-on government. Delegates secure a spot at this award-winning youth conference through their participation in the Rural Electric Youth Tour essay contest sponsored by West Central Electric.

From the introductory "Can You Find Me?" game, students are energized and off and running from daybreak until lights out, forging friendships and discovering more about themselves.

"CYCLE was a lot of fun," said 2012

Delegate Bailey Clutter of Odessa High School. "I met lots of amazing people, and I'm glad I got the chance to experience it. It was very inspiring!"

While the conference is short, CYCLE is jam-packed with activity. One of the team-building exercises is the "Build a Cooperative" game, where students are divided into teams and given a box of supplies they can use to build a model of their own member-owned business. Other activities include a boisterous game of Missouri Jeopardy, a segment when the teams perform a TV commercial based on something they've read in that day's newspaper and a session where the youth learn about their personalities and character through a fun

questionnaire.

Students also get a tour of the Missouri Supreme Court and a brief session on the judicial system.

Of course, what would a trip to Jefferson City be without a tour of Missouri's beautiful Capitol? While there, the students get to sit at the desks on the floor of the House of Representatives and debate a bill they've written with their CYCLE peers. Through this activity, the delegates see how hard it is for a bill to actually go through the process of becoming a law. While there, they also participate in a scavenger hunt designed to familiarize them with their state Capitol.

The fun continues each evening with activities such as a barbecue at the park, a hypnotist and motivational sessions with speakers such as the Rachel's Challenge group, who speaks to students about how they can start a chain reaction of compassion in their own communities. They hear about Rachel Scott, the first person killed in the Columbine High School shooting in 1999, and how she stood up and made a difference in the lives of others in just a few short years.

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER

This year, students were treated to a surprise visit from Dr. Lori Salierno, the CEO of Celebrate Life International, an organization geared to transforming at-risk youth into responsible citizens through intervention, compassion and re-education.

"Generation after generation of kids are moving in a downward cycle of life...we can challenge that cycle," Salierno says on her website <http://challengethecycle.org>.

Salierno cycled 3,284 miles across the country in 46 days to raise money to help at-risk kids. It was on the final day of CYCLE that a cooperative chaperone recognized her and told her about the conference which was just wrapping up. Salierno jumped at the chance to address the delegates about making a difference and reaching their goals. She was an instant hit.

For more information about the 2013 Youth Tour contest or CYCLE, contact Heather Hoflander at 800-491-3803 or heather@wcecoop.com.



CYCLE...West Central's delegates (l-r) Angela Brown of Odessa High School, Lindsey Feldman of Crest Ridge High School and Bailey Clutter of Odessa High School participate in "Can You Find Me" mixer at the opening of the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience. A trip to the conference, put on by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, is one of the prizes in the Rural Electric Youth Tour contest. During the conference, 98 youth from across the state learned about cooperatives, participated in leadership activities, heard phenomenal presentations such as "Rachel's Challenge," and debated their own bill on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives.



*Stepping up
communications...*

COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADE...West Central Electric lineman Pete Nelson installs antennas on the cooperatives' communication tower. The antennas will allow for communication between co-op substations with the TWACS (Two-Way Automatic Communications System) automatic meter reading system, which uses existing power as the communication path. The upgrade will function as a back-up meter-reading system as part of the cooperative's Cycle Billing Program to ensure meters are read on correct days and times. The system will also allow for pinpointing outages, malfunctioning systems, etc., and will increase overall reliability of these types of communications.



Five ways to get ready for winter on the cheap

You don't have to spend a lot of money to prepare for winter. Take these steps this fall to be more efficient this winter:

1. Buy or make a draft snake to use in front of that leaky exterior door. These old-fashioned draft dodgers can block drafts that the U.S. Department of Energy estimates can waste up to 30 percent of your home's energy use.
2. Winterize your air conditioner and water lines. Goodhousekeeping.com's consumer guide to green living suggests draining any hoses and air conditioner pipes, draining any water pooled in equipment and turning off the air conditioner water shut-off valve if it has one.
3. Clean refrigerator coils and dryer lint. Cleaning the vacuum coils of your refrigerator will help it run more efficiently. Likewise, clogged lint collectors and hoses on clothes dryers can create a fire hazard and reduce dryer efficiency by 30 percent.
4. Wrap your hot water pipes. Inexpensive pre-slit pipe foam from home improvement and hardware stores can be easily installed around pipes to decrease the chance of freezing and to reduce water-heating costs.
5. Insulate your windows. Window insulation kits are an inexpensive way for do-it-yourselfers to block drafts around old windows.

Prevent copper theft, save a life

Copper theft has reached an epidemic level that is not only affecting the United States, but also is creating immense global havoc. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the theft of copper costs the national economy around \$1 billion per year.

The increase in copper theft has disrupted the flow of electricity, created electrical hazards, slowed down construction projects and knocked out irrigation networks across the United States.

Additionally, when thieves cut locks or chain link fencing surrounding an electric substation, they leave a highly dangerous area exposed to inquisitive children and animals.

Stealing material from an electric substation or utility pole can cause not only serious injuries and death, but also extensive outages, fires and explosions — consequences that impact innocent people. The minimum damage that can occur is an outage, which may affect thousands of individuals.

Deaths and damages related to copper theft are completely unnecessary and could happen anywhere. People must be aware of this kind of theft and that tampering with electric power facilities can result in extremely dangerous situations. Always alert your utility provider when you see or suspect suspicious activity.

- Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.
- If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment or hanging wire, contact your electric utility immediately.
- If you see anyone around electric substations or electric facilities other than utility personnel or contractors, call the police.

**FREE REFLECTIVE HALLOWEEN TREAT BAGS
AT YOUR COOPERATIVE OFFICES
IN HIGGINSVILLE AND OAK GROVE.**