



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

West Central *Electric News*

May 2013



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

Crouse is 2013 English Scholar

Four other 4-Hers also receive funds

West Central Electric Cooperative is proud to announce Christy Crouse of Warrensburg High School as the winner of the 2013 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship. The \$1,000 award is renewable for four years.

Crouse is the daughter of Jerry and Becky Crouse. She is a 10-year member of Good Neighbors 4-H Club, and said



Crouse

4-H has taught her a "multitude of leadership and life skills."

"I have learned how to work well with others, how to speak effectively in public, how to sew exceptionally well, and how to maintain a garden, just to name a few," she said. "I have been a committed 4-H member for more than half my life, and I plan to continue to support the organization in any way I can."

Crouse has volunteered many hours and held many leadership positions in her school, church community and 4-H club. She has served as vice president of the WHS Student Council, and was elected lieutenant governor of Missouri Girls' State. She is a member of National Honor Society, Fellowship

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One of the electrical safety lessons taught when WCE's Power Town travels to area schools is how to survive an auto accident involving power lines. (Above) Area Lutheran school students in attendance at Trinity Lutheran School's Ag Day learn about electrical safety from WCE Communications Specialist Heather Hoflander. More than 350 students were in attendance at the annual event. WCE provides Power Town demonstrations for schools, 4-H and other community groups and businesses. Contact the cooperative for more information.

May is Electrical Safety Month

Know how to survive an auto accident involving power lines

Instincts tell us to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that bring down power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

Safe Electricity wants everyone to know: If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, stay in your vehicle and wait until the local electric utility arrives on the scene and ensures that lines have been de-energized. If you come upon or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and lines, don't leave your vehicle

to approach the scene.

Indiana teenagers Lee Whittaker and Ashley Taylor saw a power line safety demonstration at their high school and never dreamed their new knowledge would be put to the test. Five days later, they and two classmates were in a car that crashed into a utility pole, bringing live power lines to the ground.

Fortunately, they heeded the safety advice they'd received, and survived because they knew the right actions to take. And they helped others who

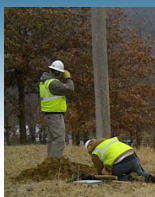
approached the scene by warning them to stay away. A video of their story can be seen on www.SafeElectricity.org.

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, tens of thousands of accidents each year occur where power poles are struck by cars or large equipment. Each one of these accidents has the potential to bring down power lines. Surviving the accident itself might not be enough to stay alive without awareness of the right

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WCE board names 2013 Nominating Committee, director qualifications are listed...page 3



Osmose personnel are working in the WCE service area to train employees. Find out if they will be in your area...page 3



Three local students will soon be on their way to Washington, D.C. and the National Rural Electric Youth Tour...page 4

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1-800-491-3803

General Manager:
Mike Gray

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

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Know how to survive an auto accident involving power lines

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moves to make. In the vast majority of those incidents, the safest place to remain is inside the car. Only in the rare instance of fire should people exit a vehicle. Then, they must know how to do so safely, jumping free and clear, landing with feet together, and hopping away. It's difficult to get out without creating a path for current to flow, which is why one should

get out only if forced to.

"When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on anyone's mind," Safe Electricity Executive Director Molly Hall notes. "We're often more concerned about whether anyone was injured, or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We forget that by exiting the vehicle, we're risking bodily exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from

downed power lines."

Lee and Ashley are grateful to White County Rural Electric Membership Corporation, the Safe Electricity partner electric cooperative that sponsored a Live Line Demo program at their school. The students are encouraging everyone to learn from their experience.

To learn more, watch the video on www.SafeElectricity.org. Visitors can also check out a live power line dem-

onstration, just like the one the Indiana teens saw at their school.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.

Safety awareness is a must *after* the storm

Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, and flooding can leave more than damage in their wake—they can leave hidden dangers as well. In some cases, more lives are lost after the storm than from the storm itself.

"When you're dealing with storm cleanup or flood-damaged property, the prospect of an electrical accident is probably not top of mind," says Safe Electricity's Molly Hall. "But it's the first thing you should think of before you go outside, step foot into a flooded area, or enter a storm-damaged building."

When outside, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Warn others to stay away, and contact West Central Electric.

Do not touch downed power lines, and do not touch objects or puddles of water in contact with those lines. There is no way to know if they are energized. Encountering these objects can be as hazardous as coming into contact with a downed power line itself.

As part of its "Teach Learn Care TLC" campaign, Safe Electricity urges parents and other caregivers to make sure children are aware of these hazards as well.

Safe Electricity offers other precautions following storms:

DRIVING HAZARDS

•If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away, and contact emergency personnel or West Central

Electric. Never drive over a downed line, as it could pull down poles and other items along its path.

•Be alert at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as four-way stops before proceeding with caution.

STORM CLEAN-UP

•Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call West Central Electric to shut off power at the meter.

•Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords, or wires while you are wet or standing in water.

10-FOOT RULE

•Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.

APPLIANCES

•Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to replace them. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.

•If, after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules,



A downed power line lies among the destruction left behind by a spring tornado. When cleaning up after a storm, make sure to stay alert for downed power lines and assume that all power lines are live -- even if they are not arcing or sparking.

such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside.

GENERATORS

•If you use a portable generator, be sure a transfer safety switch has been installed, or connect appliances directly to the generator. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the home to power lines—what is known as "backfeed." Backfeed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews

working to restore power.

For additional information, tips and safety videos, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.



Employees and inspectors from Osmose Utilities Services, Inc. participate in a training session on WCE's system. The cooperative has agreed to allow pole inspection contractors to utilize its system for training purposes.

Pole inspectors training in WCE area

Trainees from Osmose Utilities Services, Inc., are currently working in the West Central Electric service area conducting exercises on inspecting electric poles, according to WCE Manager of Engineering Dan Disberger.

Disberger said Osmose contacted the cooperative for permission to utilize the service area as a training ground to teach their employees how to conduct

pole inspections.

"Osmose is using the WCE system as a training ground for their employees at no expense to us," Disberger said. "The training exercises involve checking the age and condition of poles on our system."

Osmose instructors and trainees will be working in the area between Oak

Grove and Highway 50 until the first part of June, and then move on to the Bates City area.

"When you see people in those areas, there will be numerous vehicles, instructors and students," Disberger said. "Vehicles can be identified by Osmose signage, and trainers and students will have reflective clothing."

Area students win English Scholarships

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of Christian Athletes, Church of the Brethren Youth Group and Praise Team, and the A+ Program. She runs varsity track and plays varsity soccer for the Lady Tigers, as well as playing for Sporting Blue Valley Soccer Club.



Bell

Crouse plans to attend St. Louis University, working toward a degree in political science and international studies.

The committee also chose to award four one-time scholarships. Kendall Bell of Odessa High School will receive a \$750 scholarship. Three \$500 scholarships were awarded to Morgan Schaeperkoetter of Lafayette County C-I High School, and Chad Tieman and Cole Wodrich of Santa Fe High School.



Schaeperkoetter

Bell is the daughter of Darrell and Tracy Bell. She plans to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia or K-State University and major in veterinary medicine. She is a 10-year member of Mighty-Mo 4-H Club.

Morgan Schaeperkoetter is the daughter of Mitch and Sherry Schaeperkoetter. She plans to earn degree in animal science (pre-vet) and agri-business from Northwest Missouri State University. She is an 11-year member of Hitt 4-H Club.

Chad Tieman is the son of Kent and Amy Tieman. He plans to attend the University of Central Missouri to earn a degree in agricultural science and conservation biology. Tieman has been a member of the Alma 4-H Club for 13 years.

Cole Wodrich is the son of Darren and Sheryl Wodrich. His plans include studying wildlife biology at the University of Central Missouri. He is a 10-year member of the Alma 4-H Club.

The John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship was made possible by former WCE board member John English and his wife, Kathryn, who created the trust to assist graduating 4-H members with their educational expenses.



Tieman



Wodrich

2013 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee

Following is a list of the members named to the 2013 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving on West Central Electric Cooperative's board of directors, contact any of the committee members in your district listed below. The committee will convene on Thursday, May 9, 2013 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Nominees will be voted on at the annual meeting Aug. 2, 2013 in Warrensburg.

District I

Walter Hutcherson
39607 E. Fricke Rd.
Oak Grove, MO 64075
816-625-3837

District II

Dennis Knipmeyer
17905 Long Grove Rd.
Higginsville, MO 64037
660-584-2741

David Matthews
10349 Pleasant Grove Rd.
Alma, MO 64001
660-674-2382

Eric Johnson
14082 Highway U
Odessa, MO 64076
816-230-8074

Ellis Dieckhoff
20795 Jennings Rd.
Higginsville, MO 64037
660-584-7336

District III

Gary Bell
1048 NE 121 Rd.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-747-9285

Jerry Phoenix
707 NW 100th Rd.
Centerview, MO 64019
660-656-9527

Sara Willard
491 NW 900 Rd.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-747-7469

Tim Evert
274 NW 800 Rd.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-909-2024

**Terms will expire for District 1 director Max Swisegood and District 2 directors Ron Steelman and Stan Rhodes. Members will elect ONE director each from Districts 1, 2 & 4 as stated in the bylaws approved at the 2012 annual meeting of members.*

Board of Directors Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the cooperative who:

(A) is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the cooperative; or

(B) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative; or

(C) is the incumbent of or a candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of \$100 per annum is paid. Upon establishment of the fact that a director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board of directors shall remove such director from office.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.

Youth Tour 2013 RURAL ELECTRIC



Youth Tour Winner

Nora Faris



Youth Tour Winner

Lanae Goth



Youth Tour Winner

Jillian Bertz

Area students prepare for 'trip of a lifetime'

HIGGINSVILLE, Mo. – Three area high school students are preparing to pack their bags for a week in Washington, D.C.

Nora Faris of Concordia High School, Lanae Goth of Crest Ridge High School and Jillian Bertz of Odessa High School were named winners of the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour competition sponsored by West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. They will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital June 14-20 for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Finalists in the 2013 competition participated in the second round April 4 at West Central Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Higginsville. The students delivered their essays during the oral competition, with the top three winners receiving the trips to the National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

West Central's delegates, their teachers and families will be invited to participate in Family Capital Day June 14 in Jefferson City where they will receive a private tour of the State Capitol Building, the Missouri State Archives, and the Supreme Court. Following a banquet and orientation in Jefferson City that evening, Missouri's 80-plus-member delegation will travel to Washington, D.C. on June 15. While there, delegates will visit, among other places, the Washington Cathedral, the Washington Monument, and the Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Vietnam Wall and Korean War memorials. They will get the opportunity to witness the Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, take an evening dance cruise on the Potomac River, and attend a Washington Nationals or Baltimore Orioles baseball game.

Also on the agenda is Youth Day which is attended by all approximately 1,500 delegates from 44 states, and a day on Capitol Hill where students can meet with their senators and representatives.

A total of 48 entries were received from six different schools.

Delegates get psyched for CYCLE!

Local students Dominick Gillotti, Katie Culbertson, Alyssa McKenzie and Dakota Markham of Crest Ridge High School and Kayla Sims of Chilhowee High School will attend the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience in Jefferson City July 17-19.

CYCLE, which is coordinated by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, has been recognized as the top cooperative youth conference in the nation. During the conference, students will spend a day at the Missouri State Capitol Building, learn about cooperatives, participate in leadership and team-building activities, and hear top-notch speakers. Past speakers at CYCLE have included Darrell

Scott, whose daughter, Rachel, was killed in the shootings at Columbine High School in 1999 and Mike Schlappi, wheelchair basketball world champion and paralympic medalist whose message is "If you can't stand up -- stand out." Students will also have the opportunity to write and debate their own bills on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives.



CYCLE WINNERS...Five students will represent West Central Electric at the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience in July. (L-r) WCE Board Member Densil Allen; Alyssa McKenzie, Dominick Gillotti, Katie Culbertson and Dakota Markham, all of Crest Ridge High School; Kayla Sims of Chilhowee High School and WCE General Manager Mike Gray.