



# ElectricNews

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

Due to a computer program conversion error which was beyond our control, the Operation Round-Up story that ran in the December 2017 newsletter had some errors that left out key information. Below is the story with those details included. We apologize for the confusion. Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions.

## Operation Round-Up program is coming in 2018

The countdown to helping communities in the West Central Electric Cooperative service area is on. Operation Round-Up is slated to begin later this year, and will benefit organizations throughout the service area.

The Operation Round-Up program will allow members' bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar each month with proceeds being contributed to area organizations such as emergency departments, schools, community groups, etc. to assist with community projects and programs.

All members will be enrolled in the program unless a request to be removed from the list is received. Members who would like to opt-out of the Operation Round-Up program are asked to contact West Central Electric with your request. The average member contribution will total around \$6 per year, with the maximum being just over \$11. Donations are also tax-deductible.

WCE is looking for a few good leaders. Are YOU one of them?

Rural Electric Youth Tour & CYCLE details on page 3...



Knob Noster High School science instructor Becky Forest (right) puts her Energy in Today's Classroom training to work in the lab with two of her students, constructing their own voltaic cells and calculating voltage.

# ENERGY in Today's Classroom

## Program offers teachers credit and tools to take back to the classroom

On a cool fall morning, the lab in Knob Noster High School science instructor Becky Forest's room was abuzz with activity -- and not just the electrical kind. Students were excited to be putting their teacher's resources from the Energy in Today's Classroom program into use.

During the lab, students "learned about voltaic cells, voltage, calculating energy and types of energy," Forest said.

Energy in Today's Classroom is a two-day graduate-level course offered through the University of Missouri-Columbia, and provides teachers with a background in energy and energy production. Teachers from around the state participate in the two-day program

on the MU campus, where they learn about energy basics, energy sources, power generation and transmission, economics and energy production and energy efficiency. They also get to tour the University of Missouri's multi-fuel power generation station and Boone Electric Cooperative in Columbia.

"I wish every science teacher could

"I wish every science teacher could have the opportunity to learn about the energy used to power our lives."

--Becky Forest, science instructor Knob Noster High School

have the opportunity to learn about the energy used to power our lives," Forest said.

In addition to materials and information covered during the course, teachers take home a classroom kit for their use with tools and reference guides

along with several hands-on demonstration tools to enhance classroom learning opportunities.

"We used the solar panel during the eclipse, and we will be using other resources received from Energy in Today's Classroom later in the year," Forest said.

"One of the Seven Cooperative Principles is commitment to our local communities. Sending teachers from our service area to this workshop is one of the many ways West Central Electric can support our local educators," WCE Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer said.

The program takes place in mid-summer. Teachers who successfully complete the course will receive one hour of graduate course credit from MU, which is equivalent to 15 hours of professional development. Teachers who are interested may contact Brent Schlotzhauer at 800-491-3803.



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

**Board of Directors:**  
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WCE Member Services Manager Steve Moore (left) is recognized by AMEC Vice President of Member Services, Mike Marsch during the 2017 Member Services Association Annual Meeting.

## Moore retires from cooperative's Member Services Department

After serving the cooperative for a number of years, Steve Moore officially retired from the West Central Electric's Member Services Department Jan. 2.

After being appointed to fill an unexpired term on the board of directors in 1993, he was subsequently elected by the members to retain that position. In 1997, he was elected vice president by his fellow board members, and later, president.

In May 2005, Moore resigned his position on the board to take charge of the Member Services Department and the new West Central Services subsidiary, which provided satellite internet and television services.

Throughout his years as manager of member services, Moore was involved as a representative with area chambers

of commerce, as well as being actively involved in AMEC's grassroots program.

"I'll miss the interaction with people which includes fellow employees, members, chamber members and legislators," Moore said. "My association with West Central, as well as numerous other cooperatives, have been the most rewarding experience of my life on so many different levels, I will miss it dearly."

Moore said he also plans to do some traveling and volunteer work, "as well as a very long list of things to do around the house that I've been putting off until my retirement!"

Steve and his wife, Diana, live in rural Knob Noster. They have two grown daughters.

## Hoefler retires as co-op's senior staking technician

After 17 years working in the West Central Electric Cooperative Staking Department, Senior Staking Technician Wayne Hoefler is putting away his survey equipment.

Hoefler joined the ranks of the co-op team in September 2000 as a staking technician. He spent many hours over the years out in the service area, meeting with members and working to plan new services to bring electricity to their properties. Being able to connect with members was a favorite aspect of the job for Hoefler.

"I have enjoyed being able to work with members and figure out how to provide what they needed," Hoefler said.

Wanting a slower pace, but not ready to enter the world of retirement quite yet, Hoefler has spent his last few years at the cooperative working part-time as the senior staking technician.

"I am looking forward to spending more time with my family, and continu-



Hoefler

ing to farm," he said.

Hoefler and his wife, Joyce, live in Mayview and have three grown children. They enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren.

### Statement of Nondiscrimination

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provides that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefit of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Mike Gray, general manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

*\*West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



**West Central Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

The Touchstone Energy® logo signifies that a local electric cooperative is among the hundreds of consumer-owned co-ops which have joined in a nationwide marketing alliance dedicated to providing superior service at affordable rates to all customers, large and small, and the communities they

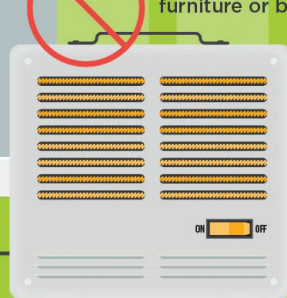
### Use Space Heaters Safely

**DON'T:** Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.



**DON'T:** Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to overheat, and can be a tripping hazard.

**DON'T:** Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.





You could be here in 2018!

# WCE is looking for the next generation of leaders

What do the schools in West Central Electric Cooperative's service area have in common? They have sent some of the best and brightest to both our nation's and state's capitals for the Rural Electric Youth Tour and the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience. If you are a high school junior this year, YOU could be a part of that, too!

## What is Youth Tour?

The annual contest for high school juniors is sponsored by West Central Electric Cooperative, which sends delegates on a six-day trip to Washington, D.C. to learn about our nation's history and government while experiencing our nation's capital firsthand.

Electric Cooperatives throughout the country sponsor delegates on the trip which includes students from more than 40 states. Cooperatives from the state of Missouri will send more than 100 delegates. This year, WCE will send **AT LEAST THREE DELEGATES**, and, depending on the number of entries received, as many as five delegates to Washington, D.C.

## When is it?

This year's Youth Tour will be June 8-14, 2018. Missouri delegates will meet in Jefferson City on Friday, June 8 for a banquet and orientation before traveling by plane to Washington, D.C. June 9. Delegates and their families will also have the opportunity to participate

in Family Capital Day sponsored by West Central Electric.

## What will we do?

While in Washington, D.C., delegates will have the opportunity to meet with their senators and representatives, as well as visit historic memorials such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Iwo Jima and Vietnam memorials. Favorite Washington, D.C. landmarks are also on the agenda, including Mt. Vernon, the Smithsonian museums, Ford's Theatre, the Washington Monument and Arlington National Cemetery. Delegates

will also enjoy a moonlight cruise on the Potomac River and a MLB game or play at the Kennedy Center.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour provides a chance for high school juniors to learn about government, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives, as well as rural electrification and the impact it has had on our nation's development.

## What is CYCLE?

CYCLE is the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience which will be held July 18-20, 2018 in Jefferson City.

WCE will send **FIVE DELEGATES**

to this conference sponsored by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. They will join approximately 100 other delegates from across the state.

Students will hear amazing speakers, participate in team-building and leadership activities, and get a chance to debate their own bill on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives.

For more information, contact your high school English teacher, FFA advisor, or Heather Hoflander at West Central Electric Cooperative in Higginsville at 1-800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.



Youth Tour delegate Elizabeth Fahrmeier listens to Youth Tour orientation instructions before heading to Washington, D.C. on the 2017 Youth Tour.



(Above) You never know what you might get yourself into at CYCLE. Team-building activities are all the rage to help your team win the "Yellow Lanyard of Awesomness!" Alice Evans (left) works with her team to advance a hula-hoop down the line.



Above: CYCLE delegates Jessica Paxton (left) Alice Evans (right) and Zach Toole (front) meet Larry Scott, uncle of Rachel Scott, the first student killed in the Columbine High School shooting. Scott, a presenter with the Rachel's Challenge program is one of many who have brought the program to CYCLE delegates over the years.



Left: WCE Youth Tour delegate Caitlyn Aversman (second from left) and a few new friends enjoy a cruise on the Potomac River during an evening boat tour to see the sights of Washington, D.C.

## Contest Details:

The contest is open to high school juniors who attend a school in the West Central Electric service area, or whose parents or legal guardians are current members of WCE.

## How do I enter?

Submit a 600-word, typed essay on the following topic:

"Electric Cooperatives -- contributing to their local communities and beyond"

Students will use theme to write an essay exploring various ways electric cooperatives work to make their local communities and the world beyond a better place to live.

## For more information:

Visit [westcentralelectric.coop](http://westcentralelectric.coop) and click on "Youth Programs" then "Youth Tour" to download the information packet. **DEADLINE: Feb. 16, 2018.**



# From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held October 19, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen, Jr. Robert Simmons, Secretary of the Cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following Directors were present: Max Swisegood, Clark Bredehoeft, Dale Jarman, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Sandra Streit and Jeremy Ahmann. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray and General Counsel Sheri Smiley.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved.

## APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of Sept. 28, 2017; expenditures for the month of September 2017; new membership applications; membership terminations and the treasurer's report.

## APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following September 2017 reports were approved: Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement including the Financial Statistical Report with month and budget comparisons and statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, and KWH sales; the monthly Construction, Retirement, Maintenance and Operations Report (Gray reported on new services; outages; pole change outs; maintenance; new construction; hurricane updates; outages after the storms in October, personnel changes and brush control. He also reported there were no injuries for the month), and the Safety Report.

## AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft reported his attendance and highlights of the meeting including substation work, outages, the compensation study and the AECl update.

## OPERATION ROUND-UP DISCUSSION

Simmons reported on the committee's recommendations for the adoption of the Articles of Incorporation and the bylaws which were accepted by the board. Discussion was held regarding the roll-out of the program to the members at the annual meeting.

## BANK RESOLUTION

Gray presented the bank resolution which was approved by the board, naming the financial institutions and naming the people who are authorized to transact business with said financial institutions.

## POLICY 3.3

Gray presented the updates needed to Policy 3.3 to add all banks. The policy passed and was updated.

## RETIREMENT & SECURITY PLAN RESOLUTION

The Retirement and Security Plan resolution was passed.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included: a discussion on the annual retreat and agenda. He also reported on the lineman's rodeo and gave an AECl update on the return of margins.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A review of the policy for per diem pay was reviewed and discussed. The Wage and Salary Committee presented their recommendations regarding the per diem. Items were passed.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered into executive session

## MEETING ADJOURNED

Following the executive session, the meeting was adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • <i>Statement of Operations</i> • September 2017			
	This month	YTD 2017	YTD 2016
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2,146,804</b>	<b>2,055,968</b>	<b>20,181,510</b>
Power Bill Expense	1,296,265	12,059,837	12,490,720
Operation & Maint. Expense	136,069	2,052,715	2,048,050
Depreciation Expense	174,994	1,553,337	1,494,579
Interest Expense	<u>106,162</u>	<u>961,011</u>	<u>886,675</u>
<b>Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)</b>	<b>1,713,490</b>	<b>16,626,900</b>	<b>16,920,024</b>
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	152,233	908,675	868,582
Other Margins	<u>82,362</u>	<u>270,540</u>	<u>180,658</u>
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>234,595</b>	<b>1,179,215</b>	<b>1,049,240</b>

# Schlotzhauer set to return to Member Services helm

West Central Electric is pleased to welcome Brent Schlotzhauer back to the Higginsville office and the Member Services Department after a 9-year stint as the Oak Grove Branch Manager.

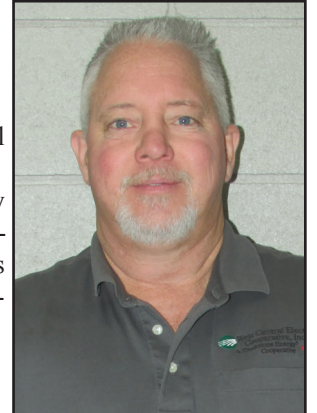
Schlotzhauer started working for the cooperative in 1988 as staff engineer, and moved into member services in 2000. In 2008, he was promoted to branch manager to oversee the Oak Grove office. The recent move back to Member Services allows him to again work close to home.

"Having enjoyed the opportunity to work for WCE and serve our members for nearly 30 years and work in the Oak Grove Office for nearly 10 of those years, it will be bittersweet that I will no longer see the familiar faces that find their way into the Oak Grove office including our employees, but I will be looking for the chance to re-acquainting myself with the membership on the east half of the system too," he said.

Through the years, Schlotzhauer has worn many hats from safety coordinator to keeping the cooperative in compliance with many

regulations from the county level up to the federal level. He has also been involved in community relations and legislative issues.

An active member of several community organizations including Lion's Club, Little League



Schlotzhauer

Football and School Board, Schlotzhauer and his wife, Beth, live in rural Higginsville and have one son, Chris.

"I look forward to working with the Member Services Department and the rest of the WCE family of employees to provide you, the member regardless of your geographic location, the most exceptional service we can provide," he said.

## To report an outage...

### Online:

Members may report power outages online at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop). Click on the tab at the top titled "Report an Outage" and enter your account number or phone number.

### By phone:

You may also call to report outages by phone. Call 1-800-491-3803 -- 24 hrs. a day, or Higginsville at 816-565-4942.

**\*During heavy outages, we will be busy, so please keep trying if you get a busy signal.**

### Before calling, have you:

- 1) Checked your fuses or multibreakers?
- 2) Checked with your neighbors to see if they are out of electricity?

### When calling, have this information ready:

A) Your name, or the name your service is under;

B) Your account number (look on your latest bill to find it.) or your map location number.

(This is the number the co-op uses to locate where you live. It was given to you when you signed up for membership.) Please keep both numbers by your phone for quicker service.

### Tracking Outages

Outage information may be tracked on our website, and periodic updates will be posted on our facebook page. **PLEASE DO NOT REPORT OUTAGES ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE** as they have a good chance of getting missed. If you have internet service, go to the website to report instead.