



ElectricNews

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

National Cooperative Month

Cooperatives are everywhere. You are aware that you get your electricity from a cooperative, because the word “cooperative” is in our name. What you may not be aware of, however, is that cooperatives are everywhere. You probably deal with several cooperatives every day and may not even be aware of it.

Just a few of the local cooperatives around you include MFA, Inc., MFA Oil, FCS Financial, Dairy Farmers of America and United Producers, Inc.

The goal of National Cooperative Month is to raise public awareness of cooperatives and celebrate their accomplishments.

• There are more than 40,000 coopera-



tive businesses in the United States with 350 million members (many people

belong to more than one co-op). These cooperatives generate \$514 billion in revenue and more than \$25 billion in wages, according to a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, with support from USDA Rural Development (<http://reic.uwcc.wisc.edu/default.htm>).

- Cooperatives represent a strong business model and greatly contribute to both the national and local economies.
- Studies show that consumers want to do business with companies that share their values, making today’s environment ideal for cooperatives and their commitment to the communities in which their members live and work.

- Co-ops don’t have to answer to outside shareholders; they care about meeting their members’ needs.
- Co-ops represent democracy in action, with control exercised by a board of directors elected from the ranks of members; the board hires and directs management and is ultimately responsible to the members;
- Cooperatives generate jobs in their communities, keep profits local and pay local taxes to help support community services. Cooperatives often take part in community improvement programs, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to benefit from the cooperative experience.

Anderson brings energy knowledge back to the classroom

Imagine you are able to attend a two-day graduate course that earns you an hour of graduate credit from the University of Missouri-Columbia, you get to network with teachers from around the state and you get materials to take back to your classroom -- all at no cost to you.

If you are a teacher, that may sound a little too good to be true, but if you are a teacher familiar with electric cooperatives and what they do for their local communities, you know it is just par for the course.

This summer, Lafayette County C-I educator Eric Anderson was a participant in the Energy in Today’s Classroom program provided through a partnership between Missouri’s electric cooperatives and the University of Missouri.

Anderson said he was impressed with the program and has already implemented things in his classrooms.

“I came away with a better understanding of how hard our local electric cooperatives (work to) urge all members to educate themselves with electrical energy knowledge in their everyday lives,” he said. “My students will obtain the knowledge on energy basics, how we get out electricity and how they can

become more aware of energy costs and efficiency.”

Anderson, who teaches Physics, Physical Science, Chemistry, and Anatomy & Physiology, is putting the program benefits to good use.

“I have already implemented the information and tools from the kit, into my lessons,” he said. “The kits provide a great real-world situation that can be shown with little effort and start the inquisitive nature of students (to ask

‘how?’ or ‘why?’ or ‘can we?’ Which leads to my older students creating their own projects.”

Anderson said the opportunity to connect with other teachers and see what

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Attendees at the 2018 Energy in Today’s Classroom program tour the University of Missouri’s multi-fuel power generation station.

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Lineman's Rodeo raises funds for International Program

The Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives hosted its Second Annual Lineman's Rodeo Aug. 28-29 at the association's headquarters in Jefferson City. The event — designed to let linemen show off the skills they use on the job — also raised funds for future projects that send Missouri linemen to developing nations to build power lines for people living without the benefits of electricity.

Gov. Mike Parson visited the event Wednesday morning and spoke with the linemen on the importance of their work abroad.

"It truly does make a difference," said Gov. Parson, who is a member of Southwest Electric Cooperative. "When you hear those stories, it makes you

proud to know that we are doing things for a higher cause than just those of us back home. We're trying to help other people across the country who don't have the utilities that we take for granted every day."

The governor also commented on workforce development, an initiative he plans to make central to his administration. He told the linemen there is a critical need for more workers to fill a growing number of technical jobs in Missouri.

The two-day event consists of team and individual competitions in the apprentice and journeyman divisions. Some of the challenges include the Hurt-Man Rescue and Modified Pole Climb. Linemen were also faced with

a 100-question knowledge test and mystery events they had little time to prepare for, such as changing out transformer arrestors. Competitors are judged on how safely they complete each challenge. Individual times are only used in the case of a tiebreaker.

"Safety is always the first concern for co-op crews when they head out to work," said AMEC's Craig Moeller, who organized the event and also leads Missouri's International Program. "The Lineman's Rodeo is a great opportunity for them to practice the challenges they face every day and reinforce the training they need to get home safely."

The AMEC Lineman's Rodeo is a fundraiser for international electrification projects sponsored by Missouri's

electric cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Over the last three years, lineworkers from Missouri's electric co-ops have traveled to developing areas in Bolivia to help rural communities see their lights turn on for the first time.

You can find more information about the trips on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MissouriElectricCoops

Eleven teams and a total of 43 linemen from eight cooperatives in Missouri took part in the safety, skills and knowledge competition. They braved brutally hot temperatures Tuesday afternoon and dealt with wet weather Wednesday morning, similar to their real-life work environments.



(Above) WCE Lineman Brandon Steffen competes in the 2018 AMEC Lineman's Rodeo Aug. 28-29 in Jefferson City at the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives.

(At right) WCE Operations Manager Randy Burkeybile and Platte-Clay Line Forman Dan Smithson discussing contestant scoring in the Modified Pole Climb event. Burkeybile and Smithson served as judges for the event.



Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives
Jefferson City, Mo.



Participants visit with Gov. Mike Parson. (L-r) WCE Apprentice Lineman Johnathan Sullins, Platte-Clay Apprentice Lineman Cody Sellers, WCE Journeyman Lineman Brandon Steffen, Parson and Tri-County Manager of Operations Mike Scheib.



WCE Lineman Matt Schellman observes the competition.

Anderson brings energy knowledge back to the classroom

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tools they use as well as the offer of free classroom materials was what piqued Anderson's interest in the program. He said the program is valuable to teachers and he was pleased to be able to take part.



Anderson

"I believe this renews and enhances

a teacher's thinking about energy and electric-ity. (It takes) something that is going on around us constantly, everyday, that most take for granted, and brings it back to the fore-front," he said. "Teachers are also able to receive college credit and/or professional development hours. It doesn't matter

what level you teach, there is informa-

"I strongly urge all science, agriculture science, and vocational teachers to call your local cooperative and ask to be considered for Energy in Today's Classroom program," he said. "Not only will you be able to convey the message to students, but you will become the avenue to get this message of energy out to our communities."

--Eric Anderson, 2018 participant Energy in Today's Classroom

Anderson urged his fellow educators to apply for the program when the information comes out in the spring.

"I strongly urge all science, agriculture science, and vocational teachers to call your local cooperative and ask to be considered for Energy in Today's Classroom program," he said. "Not only will you be able to convey the message to students, but you will become the avenue to get

this message of energy out to our communities."

Newland is named new manager of accounting/finance

A job closer to home is a dream come true when you are the father of young children living in a rural area. Higginsville native Michael Newland said he appreciates the opportunity to now be able to work in his hometown.

Newland has been named West Central Electric Cooperative's new manager of accounting and finance, as announced by General Manager



Newland

Mike Gray.

Newland, a 2007 graduate of Lafayette County C-I High School and a 2011 graduate of the University of Central Missouri, will replace current Office Manager Sandy Starke, who will retire in April 2019.

"I look forward to working at a great company, and WCE comes highly recommended throughout the community," he said. "I look forward to being able to spend more time with my family as I leave public accounting and to be more involved within my community."

Newland and his wife, Jamie, live in Higginsville with their two children. He enjoys watching his son play soccer as well as fishing and hunting.



The most popular attraction in the Missouri Electric Cooperatives' Building at the Missouri State Fair is the Co-op Kids' Area where fairgoers can take a photo in front of a specially-designed backdrop featuring Rural Missouri Magazine's Buddy Bear.

Year after year, visitors to the building say their annual State Fair tradition includes a visit to the co-op building and a photo with Buddy Bear. Many say they have nearly a decade's worth or more of photos on their refrigerator that feature family members over the years -- and, in some cases -- new family members who have been born along the way. If you are lucky, you may even get a glimpse of the real Buddy Bear, who makes appearances in and near the building throughout the fair.

If you missed out this year, we will be back in 2019. Make plans to visit the Missouri Electric Cooperatives' Building.

(Top photo) The Rathert family (l-r) Jason, Kelsie and Angela of Mayview and Mark and Marcia of Lake of the Ozarks, enjoy a visit to the Missouri Electric Cooperatives Building at the 2018 Missouri State Fair. (Right photo) Kelsie Rathert, 12, gets a taste of the linemen's trade in the co-op building's kids' area.



From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held July 26, 2018

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, Jeremy Ahmann and Sandra Streit. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray and general counsel Sheri Smiley.

Kevin Kelso, CPA, gave the independent audit report for 2017. He reported on the balance sheet and the statement of revenue. He reported there was a clean audit for the year end 2017.

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 June 26, 2018; expenditures for the month of June 2018; new membership applications; membership terminations and the treasurer's report.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following June 2018 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; Treasurer's Report and the written monthly Construction, Retirement, Maintenance and Operations Report.

SAFETY REPORT

Gray gave the safety report for the month of June.

NW REPORT

Swisegood presented the NW report for June. He discussed AECL updates, outages, the solar and wind report and margins and expenses. Gray discussed the upcoming NW Board Retreat to be held in September.

DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE REPORT

Directors that attended the 2018 AMEC Directors conference discussed the classes they attended. Items of interest were equity levels and electric charging stations.

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

Gray gave updates on the plans being made for the annual meeting including rules regarding political agendas and that anyone with those would be allowed to advertise or protest but not within 100 feet of the entrance door.

APPOINT DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE FOR NRECA REGION 8-10 MEETING

Swisegood was appointed as the delegate for the NRECA Region 8-10 meeting and Gray was appointed as the alternate.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included member comments, the Foundation, level pays, an update on the Oak Grove Building and the lineman's rodeo.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

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> • June 2018			
	This month	YTD 2018	YTD 2017
Revenue	\$2,425,844	\$15,381,122	\$13,256,628
Power Bill Expense	1,486,138	9,105,967	7,939,071
Operation & Maint. Expense	546,245	3,059,287	3,081,568
Depreciation Expense	177,365	1,060,018	1,029,508
Interest Expense	107,654	630,086	647,807
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,317,402	13,855,358	12,697,954
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	108,442	1,525,764	558,674
Other Margins	9,834	86,522	161,067
TOTAL MARGINS	\$118,276	\$1,612,286	\$719,741

SAFETY FIRST!

Electric blankets help ward off the chill on cool nights, but they must be used correctly to be safe.

- Never put anything on top of an electric blanket; it could overheat.
- Don't fold or tuck in while in use.
- Never leave it on when unattended.
- Be sure to replace if it becomes worn.



This fall, plant for shade and shelter

Follow the 10-ft. rule when planting trees and shrubs, call 811 before digging

Fall's the perfect time to plant a tree that next summer will begin to provide welcome shade. Trees not only suck carbon dioxide from the air, but they also can reduce your energy bills, particularly in cooling your house.

In fact, a 6- to 8-foot deciduous tree near your home will begin shading windows the first year and the roof in 5 to 10 years. Temperatures under a tree can be as much as 25 degrees cooler than a nearby blacktop. Every home deserves a shade tree!

The U.S. Department of Energy emphasizes that trees will help in maximizing shade in summer, deflecting winter winds, funneling summer breezes and utilizing passive solar energy in the winter when the leaves are off the trees.

Here are tips from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and other sources on landscaping to cool and shelter:

- Plant deciduous trees with high crowns, such as oaks and maples, and tall shrubs, such as privet hedge, on the east and southwest to block morning or afternoon heat buildup, and plant trees with lower crowns, such as dogwoods and crabapples on the west to block low-angle afternoon rays; plant evergreens if you want continuous shade
- Plant trees and shrubs to channel cooling breezes into the house or across a shaded patio; keep lower limbs pruned up to allow breezes to pass underneath

shade trees

- While young trees are growing, plant quick-growing vines, such as wisteria and honeysuckle, to climb on trellises and arbors

- If your house lacks a roof overhang on the south, plant deciduous trees and shrubs to shade south walls in summer; however for year-round energy efficiency, leave the south side of the house unshaded, since in winter, trees without leaves can still block as much as 60 percent of the sun

- Plant trees that will become large at least 20 feet from a house and smaller trees or those with columnar shapes at 15 feet or closer, according to the University of Missouri Extension

- Reduce the "heat island" effect around your home with pervious paving, light-colored paving materials, shade, less pavement, organic mulches (instead of rock or gravel) and water-efficient turf grass; an unshaded concrete driveway can be as much as 35 degrees warmer than surrounding lawn

- Shade your air conditioner or exterior heat pump: efficiency will improve by as much as 10 percent; plant no closer than 3 feet, so there's plenty of air flow to the unit

- To block hot summer winds, plant a windbreak on the windward side of your house, usually southwest or west; to block winter winds, plant a windbreak on the north or northwest

Of course, when planting, choose sites away from power lines both overhead and underground. Contact West Central Electric at 800-491-3803 for specific planting guidance.



Don't forget to pick up your

FREE REFLECTIVE HALLOWEEN TREAT BAG

at your cooperative offices in Higginsville and Oak Grove.