



# ElectricNews

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

## Co-op mission covers more than the electric side of the meter, Allen tells members

"There are two sides to every story," West Central Electric Board President Densil Allen, Jr. told members gathered for the 79th annual meeting Aug. 3 in Warrensburg.

"Our goal has always been to provide safe, reliable, affordable electricity to our members, but the other side of our story focuses on



Densil Allen, Jr.

our commitment to our local communities and working to make life the best it can be for our members and their families," he said.

Allen talked about the cooperative's mission statement, "West Central Electric Cooperative focuses on enhancing the quality of life for our members by providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity in a professional manner." He told members that enhancing the quality of life sounds like a lofty goal, but at WCE, "we think of it as 'the other side of the meter,' and as equally important as keeping the lights on."

Allen mentioned the cooperative's scholarship programs, energy-efficiency and rebate programs, supporting local chambers of commerce and senior centers, as well as sending students to Washington, D.C. and Jefferson City to learn about our country's and state's history and government. He described the cooperative's efforts to create an online presence aimed at making things like paying the bill and contacting the cooperative more

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**Grand prize winner...** Charlotte Ammons was ecstatic to hear her name called as the grand prize winner of a free month of electricity. "I have been coming here for so many years, and I never win anything!" she said. "This is great!" (Left) WCE Apprentice Lineman Wyatt Wilkinson presents Ammons with her certificate.

## Members participate in Annual Meeting

With no director races or bylaw amendments on the ballot, the Aug. 3, 2018 annual meeting was a quick one, with members able to make it an early night.

A total of 729 members registered, with a total attendance of more than 1,300.

### Director Election

All three directors with terms expiring ran unopposed for re-election, and were elected by acclamation. District 1 Director Jeremy Ahmann, District 2 Director Clark Bredehoeft and District 4 Director Dale Jarman will all serve three-year terms.

### Other Meeting Highlights

Other highlights of the meeting included a presentation by Jaycee Mudd of Wellington-Napoleon High School. Mudd attended the 2018 Rural Electric Youth Tour as a representative of WCE.

In her essay titled, "The History of Cooperatives," Mudd described life in first-person from a man she named Arnold Johnson, and how he witnessed the birth of cooperatives and the electrification of the rural countryside.

"In 1935, during the midst of The Great Depression, the Roosevelt Administration created the Rural

Electrification Act with the hopes of bringing electricity to rural areas," her character described. "One day, a man came knocking on our door asking for money. Before Dad could tell him to leave, Mother had already decided she wanted to hear him out."

Her character described how the farmers scraped up the money and joined together to form the first electric cooperatives.

"Despite everyone's doubts, and with the help of the cooperative, on

Tuesday, May 7, 1941, the lights turned on for the first time in my little farmhouse," her character Arnold Johnson said.

Mudd went on to describe the improvements in electricity over the years, the cooperatives' ability to keep rates affordable, and their desire to do more in their local communities.

"They've made it clear they care about the members they serve as well by doing things such as educating our communities, caring for the environ-



Light-up spinners were a hit with the kids attending the annual meeting with parents and grandparents. Above, Josie Vaughn, 3, and Elijah Vaughn, 5, experiment with their voices.

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1-800-491-3803

**General Manager:**  
Mike Gray

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

**Board of Directors:**

Densil Allen, Jr. President  
Clark Bredehoeft, Vice-Pres.  
Dale Jarman, Treasurer  
Robert Simmons, Secretary  
Stan Rhodes, Asst. Sect.  
Max Swisegood, Director  
Richard Strobel, Director  
Sandra Streit, Director  
Jeremy Ahmann, Director

## Co-op mission covers more than the electric side of the meter, Allen tells members

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convenient for members. He also spoke extensively about the new Operation Round Up program, which kicks off with the September billing period.

“We have always felt that maybe we could do a little more, and we found that we can accomplish more with a new program called Operation Round Up,” Allen said. “For as little as a few cents per month per member, we can accomplish a great deal. Together, our cooperative and our members can put into practice the principles on which our founders built this company way back in 1939. Together, we can do great things for our local communities and the people in them.”

The purpose of Operation Round-up is to provide grants to local groups and organizations which may not other-

wise be able to fund certain projects. The Operation Round-up Board is made up of cooperative members from

dollar each month, with proceeds being contributed to area organizations such as emergency departments, schools and

like much, but when several thousand members’ contributions are added together, we can do some great things. Members who would prefer not to participate are given the opportunity to “opt out” of the program, and for those who do participate, the donations are tax-deductible.

“This program, has been adopted by 17 of our fellow Missouri cooperatives and more than 200 electric cooperatives nationwide, and the community benefits for them and their members have been tremendous,” Allen said. “With programs such as Operation Round-up and the other programs our cooperative offers, we can accomplish our mission of enhancing the quality of life for our members while doing our jobs to provide safe, reliable, affordable electricity.”

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**—Densil Allen Jr., WCE Board President**

around our service area who will be responsible for evaluating applications and disbursing funds to local groups. Operation Round-up allows members’ bills to be rounded up to the nearest

community groups to assist with community projects and programs. The average member contribution will total around \$6 per year, with the maximum being just over \$11. It doesn’t sound



Garrett Morton was thrilled to be drawn the winner of the boys’ bike and helmet.



Lynna Penni was thrilled to find out she was the winner of the girls’ grand prize bike and helmet when she came back to the arena from the swimming pool.

## Incumbents re-elected, Allen will stay on as board presi-

Three incumbents were elected to serve for an additional three years during the business meeting at the 79th WCE Annual Meeting Aug. 3 in Warrensburg.

District 1 Director Jeremy Ahmann, District 2 Director Clark Bredehoeft and District 4 Director Dale Jarman all ran unopposed and were elected by acclamation. During their re-organizational meeting, all officers retained their positions as voted on by the board. Densil Allen, Jr. of

Warrensburg will remain as president; Clark Bredehoeft of Blackburn, will remain as vice president; Dale Jarman of Holden will remain as treasurer Robert Simmons of Warrensburg will remain as secretary and Stan Rhodes of Corder will remain as assistant secretary.



Allen



Directors re-elected for a three-year term include (l-r) Dale Jarman, District 4; Clark Bredehoeft, District 2 and Jeremy Ahmann, District 1.

# Gray says cooperative is physically, financially strong

In his annual report to the members, General Manager Mike Gray spoke about the status of the cooperative for 2017 and the accomplishments to date in 2018. He told members that growth remains steady, and that the cooperative is in good shape.

"As I report to you every year, we continue to work on maintenance and system improvements," Gray said.

He described several projects that have either been completed or are in the works to improve system reliability for members.

Gray also discussed increased usage in January of this year, and how that has affected the cooperative.

"We set a peak demand of 81,881 kW in January, which is an increase of about 8 percent over last year's peak, so our demand cost for 2019, as it stands right now, will be significantly higher than it is this year," he said. "I am happy to report that after compiling the budget for 2018, there was no reason to increase rates this year. Looking ahead into 2019, it appears our wholesale power cost will be increasing due to the higher demands we have set. My hope is we will be able to maintain current rates for a while. Revenues are up so far in 2018. If this continues we

may be able to offset the increase in wholesale cost next year with some of this year's revenues."

He also discussed the effects of 2017's mild weather and told members that even though revenues and sales were down, WCE still made margins sufficient enough to cover the cooperative's debt-service requirements.

Gray informed members that with the easing of EPA regulations regarding carbon emissions, the repealing of the previous administration's Clean Power Plan and lower natural gas prices, the outlook for the cost to generate electricity in the near future looks stable.

"Our state and national organizations will continue to lobby our elected officials to keep electric rates as affordable as we can while also being good stewards of the environment," he said.

He noted that right-of-way maintenance has been stepped up during 2018, and reminded members of the various ways they can use to contact the

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--Mike Gray, General Manager

cooperative.

"In summary, I am happy to report that West Central is in good shape both physically and financially," he said.



WCE General Manager Mike Gray reports on the state of the cooperative.

# Members participate in Annual Meeting

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ment and even going to Bolivia. These cooperatives are so much more than electrical institutions. They care for their local youth as well by supporting 4-H and FFA, providing scholarships, giving youth opportunities to learn, such as this essay contest and so many more. Electric cooperatives have certainly lived up to their motto, 'serving our members since 1939,' and have proven that they're willing to put in the extra effort in order to serve their members today," she wrote.

Members also heard an address on the state of the cooperative from General Manager Mike Gray, and a report from WCE Board President Densil Allen Jr. (Both reports were printed in their entirety in the evening's program, and separate stories summarizing their remarks are printed in this issue.)

In addition to the business meeting, members were able to visit informational booths by vendors such as Missouri One Call, Johnson County Community Health and the Johnson County Master Gardeners, who also provided two plants to be given away with the evening's prize drawings. WCE linemen gave live demonstrations on electrical safety and how power outages are located and repaired.

Board members of the new WCE Operation Round Up Foundation were on hand to give members more information on the program which will kick off with the September billing.

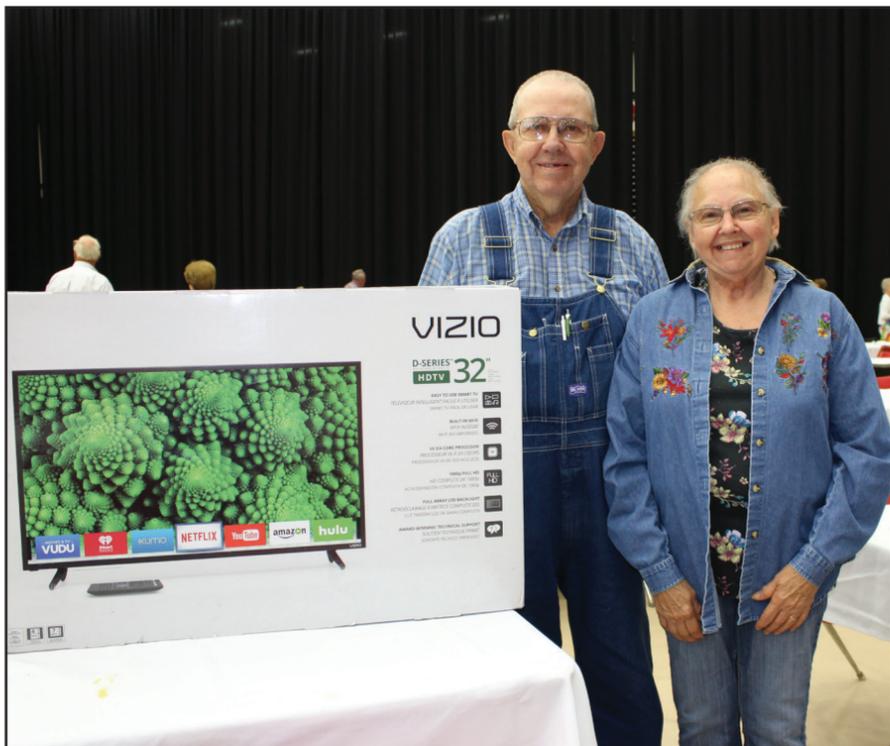


WCE Operation Round Up Foundation board member Oral Glasco (right) discusses the new cooperative program with member Pete Doyle.

Upon arrival, members were registered for prizes, including a free

month of electricity (won by Carl and Charlotte Ammons of Warrensburg)

and several energy certificates as well as other prizes. The children's grand



Leslie and Mary Ellen Hamlin show off their new Vizio smart TV donated by NW Electric Cooperative.



WCE and John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship winners are recognized during the 79th annual meeting of members.



Julia Clear of Pittsville registers for WCE's 79th annual meeting of members held Aug. 3, 2018 at the Multipurpose Building on the University of Central Missouri campus.



Forrerst Wilgers, 17 mos., son of Kyle and Kelsey Wilgers of Warrensburg, was fascinated with Buddy Bear's antics at the 79th annual meeting of members.



Right-of-Way Coordinator Dru Felkins answers questions from Ron Deatherage of Odessa.

## 2018 Annual Meeting Prize Winners

**Grand Prize Free Month Electricity**  
Carl & Charlotte Ammons

**TV (NW Electric)**  
Leslie & Mary Ellen Hamlin

**\$100 Energy Certificates**  
Donald & Lucinda Fuemmeler  
Dennis & Kathryn Stehwien

**\$50 Energy Certificates**  
Richard Dunn  
Judith Wolter  
Mike and Carolyn Hutchko  
Tim & Teresa Carriere

**\$25 Energy Certificates**  
Charles Daehler  
Stanley & Marte Carter  
Gregory Cobb  
Jo Narron  
Ellis McIntyre  
William & Sherry Miller  
Richard & Helen Ring  
Ronald & Darla Deatherage

**KIDS--Grand Prize Bike & Helmet**  
Garrett Morton  
Lynna Penni  
**Lego Building Set**  
Kaspar Wolter  
Eden Beissenherz

**Stuffed Buddy Bear**  
Sam Gwin  
Sara Dobney

**Alltec Model Bucket Truck**  
Melvin & Chris Simon

**Bass Pro Gift Card (Berry Consulting)**  
Stephen Schwartze

**Titlest Golf Balls (Altec)**  
GL & Anita Grigsby

**Alltec Duffel Bag**  
Scott & Tresina Alvested

**Plants (Jonsson Co. Master Gardners)**  
James & Judith Bollmeyer  
Jerry & Mona Parrott



# Students are challenged to become greater leaders

For three days in July, Jefferson City was home to some of the best and brightest students Missouri has to offer. The event was the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience sponsored by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, and it was attended by high school juniors and seniors from across the state chosen to represent their local cooperatives.

“We want to be a leadership development stepping stone for the youth,” said Barry Hart, CEO of AMEC. “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.”

Delegates participate in 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 and CYCLE essay contest.



WCE CYCLE delegates (l-r) Alex Osborn of Odessa High School, Jimmy Le of Warrensburg High School and Veronica Knox of Crest Ridge High School, visit the Missouri State Capitol Building



Veronica Knox (left) participates in a PSA skit with her team during the 2018 Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership experience.

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.

While the conference is short, CYCLE is jam-packed with activity from the team-building exercise “Build a Cooperative” game, to a boisterous game of Missouri Jeopardy, a segment when the teams perform a TV public service announcement 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.

Delegates also spend an afternoon at the Capitol Building where they have the opportunity to sit at the desks on the floor of the House of Representatives

and debate a bill they’ve written with their CYCLE peers. Motivational sessions with guest speakers include the Rachel’s Challenge group, which shows students how they can start a chain reaction of compassion in their own communities. In the Rachel’s Challenge presentation, 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. This year’s delegates were privileged to hear from Rachel’s uncle, Larry Scott.

For more information about the 2018 Youth Tour and CYCLE contest, contact Heather Hoflander at 800-491-3803 or [heather@wcecoop.com](mailto:heather@wcecoop.com).



Alex Osborn looks for delegates to help fill out her questionnaire during the “Can You Find Me?” ice breaker at CYCLE.



Warrensburg High School’s Jimmy Le speaks during a debate on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives.

# From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held June 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.

Bryan Bacon, RUS Field Representative, gave the Cooperative's Long Range Financial Forecast and discussed the Cooperative's current financial position with the Board.

### 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 May 24, 2018; expenditures for the month of May 2018; new membership applications; membership terminations and the treasurer's report.

### RESOLUTION FOR RUS AD APPLY CERTIFICATION

Gray presented the RUS AD Resolution. The resolution was passed after discussion.

### APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following May 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 May.

### NW REPORT

Swisegood presented the NW report for June. He discussed AECI updates including: an update on airplane expenses. Gray discussed the Special AMEC District One meeting called for the purpose of naming a replacement for AMEC's CEO Barry Hart following his retirement in January of 2019.

### AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft gave the AMEC report from the June meeting. He reported that Barry Hart had announced his retirement.

### AECI ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Board members who attended the AECI Annual Meeting in Branson in June discussed the long-term strategic plan and the speakers who presented at the meeting. Gray presented a video to the board from AECI discussing the long-term strategic plan.

### CFC INTEGRITY FUND CONTRIBUTION DISCUSSION

A discussion was held regarding the contribution to the CFC Integrity Fund. Staff recommendation was \$250, which was approved.

### ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

Gray announced that no Petitions were filed for the Board of Directors positions that are up for election. He reported that state representatives had been invited and he would extend an invitation to U.S. representatives as well. No presentations would be allowed.

### APPROVE RUS LOAN ADVANCE

Gray presented information on the RUS Loan and reported that the Cooperative has until August 1, 2018, to draw additional money on the old loan. He recommended a \$5 million dollar draw against the loan, which was approved.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included: an update on the Oak Grove building improvements.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

None.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

Following the executive session, the meeting was adjourned.

## FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • May 2018

	This month	YTD 2018	YTD 2017
Revenue	\$1,953,582	\$12,955,278	\$11,052,573
Power Bill Expense	1,342,828	7,619,829	6,594,417
Operation & Maint. Expense	499,300	2,513,043	2,621,968
Depreciation Expense	176,898	882,653	856,342
Interest Expense	107,547	522,432	543,511
<b>Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)</b>	<b>2,126,573</b>	<b>11,537,957</b>	<b>10,616,238</b>
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(172,991)	1,417,321	436,335
Other Margins	6,683	76,689	133,042
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$(166,308)</b>	<b>\$1,494,010</b>	<b>\$569,377</b>



CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS...Work continues on updates at the WCE headquarters building in Higginsville. (Top photo) WCE lineman Derek Cole works on getting a new parking lot light connected. (Bottom photo) Eric Wegener and Cole get the new light pole set.

## How Operation Round Up information will appear on your monthly bill:

ACCOUNT NUMBER		BILLING DATE		TELEPHONE		SERVICE ADDRESS		
12345001		09/29/2018		(555)555-5555		1234 THIS RD.		
SERVICE INFORMATION				READING			USAGE	
METER #	MAP #	FROM	TO	DAYS	PREVIOUS	PRESENT	MULT	KWH
44444	AB-01A	08/29/2018	09/29/2018	31	45776	48828	1.9	3052
Activity Since Last Bill		\$ Amount		Current Bill Information				\$ Amount
Previous Balance		238.85		BALANCE FORWARD				2.00
Payments		238.85		SERVICE AVAILABILITY				37.82
Adjustments		0.00		31 days @ 1.22 per day				78.08
Balance Prior to this Billing		0.00		ENERGY CHARGE				188.24
				ROUND UP AMOUNT				.76
				YTD ROUND UP AMOUNT				8.01
				Amount Due				275.00
				Amount Due after 09/15/2018				302.42

Your **MONTHLY** Operation Round Up contribution will appear here as a line item on your billing statement.

Each year in **DECEMBER ONLY** your **YEARLY** Round Up contribution will appear here as a line item on your billing statement.

Always watch this box on your bill for important information like billing changes, annual meeting information, capital credits amounts, etc.

Retain top portion for your records and return bottom portion with your payment.

Your payment and any interest charges may be processed electronically.

ACCOUNT NUMBER:	12345001
Amount Due	275.00
Amount Due after 09/15/2-18	302.42

MORE INFORMATION ON BACK

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
P.O. Box 452  
Higginsville MO 64037-0452

### How does it work?

Beginning with the September 2018 billing, the electric bills of WCE members will be rounded up to the next dollar. The funds collected are placed into the WCE Round Up Foundation and the funds are donated to local charitable organizations through an application process. On average, a member will donate \$6.00 a year with a maximum donation of \$11.88. Members who do not want to participate may opt out by contacting the cooperative and requesting to opt out.

- Payments must be received (not postmarked) prior to 07/15/2018 to avoid a late payment charge or possible disconnection of service for nonpayment.
- Failure to receive a bill does not exempt you from the monthly payment, late charges or disconnection.
- Accounts considered paid when full payment is received, we are not responsible for the need service. Please allow 4-5 days for delivery.
- WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU, PLEASE CALL US, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

# WCE Life Support Equipment list will be updated

In an effort to better serve its members, West Central Electric Cooperative updates the Life Support Equipment List each year.

"Although we add new entries to the Life Support Equipment List as members call and request to be placed on the list, we seldom get members calling to let us know they need to be removed," Communications Specialist Heather Hoflander said. "In an effort to keep the list as up-to-date as possible, we create a new list every year."

Members are asked to fill out the following form, and mail it to West Central Electric NO LATER THAN Sept. 30, 2018 to ensure their

name appears on the new list.

The Life Support Equipment List is used by cooperative personnel in the event of a planned outage, for example, during extensive repairs or maintenance.

The list is not used as a priority list to get service turned back on in the event of an outage.

"The reason this is not a priority service list is because in the event of an outage, repairs have to be made in a certain order," Line Superintendent Randy

Burkeybile said. "It does no good to go out and repair an individual service when the main line is down. Until the main line is repaired, there won't be any power to the individual line."

Members requesting their name be placed on the Life Support Equipment List should mail the following form to the Higginsville office. If you or a family member is on oxygen, please let us know how

many hours of back-up you have available.

Please keep in mind that if we do not hear from you by Sept. 30, 2018, your name will be removed from the current Life Support Equipment List.

**If your name needs to remain on the WCE Life Support Equipment List, You MUST fill out the following form and mail it to West Central Electric Cooperative before September 30, 2018, or your name will be removed from the current list.**

### Request for 2018-19 Life Support Equipment List inclusion

(Please fill out all information completely.)

Name to appear on list: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on WCE account: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Location Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Life support equipment requiring electricity to operate: \_\_\_\_\_

If on oxygen, how many hours back-up? \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out all information completely and mail to Heather Hoflander, West Central Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037.