



West Central Electric Cooperative

December 2019

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

# ElectricNews

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



Please join us for  
**Member  
Appreciation  
Day**

**8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Thursday,  
Dec. 12, 2019  
at  
Higginsville and  
Oak Grove offices**

**Register to win:  
a \$25 energy  
credit on your  
January 2020  
electric bill**

**(Four certificates will be  
given away at each office.)**

**Join us for coffee,  
punch and cookies to  
celebrate the season!**

**\*Also register to win limited  
edition Willie Wiredhand  
collectible ornaments**

## Major overhaul will bring improved Rural Missouri magazine to your door in 2020

For the past two years, you have enjoyed West Central Electric News in full color thanks to Rural Missouri magazine acquiring a new printing company. Well, there's more! Beginning with the January 2020 edition, Rural Missouri will take on a whole new format.

The new issue will be printed in traditional magazine size instead of the

oversized magazine readers have always been used to. The same favorites, such as Rural Missouri Eats, the recipe pages, events pages and great features about co-op members from around the state, will continue to be a part of the magazine.

West Central Electric News, which keeps you connected to your local coop-

erative, will continue to have the center pages to notify our members of upcoming events, policy changes and other important information you need to know about your cooperative.

The new format will be cheaper and easier to produce, and the size will make it more convenient to read at home or take on the go.



West Central Electric Cooperative Round Up Foundation members: front row (l-r) President Dennis Knipmeyer, Sally Davidson, Donna Matthews and Margie Storck present Concordia High School Student Council President Kailey Ohrenberg with a check for \$1,500 for the Meals of Hope project. Back row (l-r) Jaren Adams, FBLA vice president; Amanda Reid, Meals of Hope co-chair; Morgan Heimsoth, FCCLA president; Savannah McGinnis, Concordia Music Masters representative; Brayden McGinnis, National Honors Society representative; Morgan Nelson, president of Concordia Elementary School Student Council; Chris Estes, FFA president and Colby Stein, C-Club representative.

## Commitment to Community

### Concordia School District

The Concordia School District received \$1,500 for their Meals of Hope project. Funds will be used to purchase 6,000 meals to put in their weekly BackSnacks. Each bag has six meals and is sent home with 63 students on the last day of school of the school week. These students and families are facing food insecurity.

## Round Up Foundation funds several projects

Seven area community groups are the latest to receive funding through the West Central Electric Cooperative Round Up Foundation, according to Foundation President Dennis Knip-

meyer.

"The Round-Up Foundation is pleased to be able to fulfill these recent requests to fund much-needed and worthwhile projects in our area,"

Knipmeyer said. "We appreciate the members of West Central Electric who participate in the program, and are excited about the good things Round Up

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# • Operation Round Up • Operation Round Up •

## Round Up Foundation funds several projects

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is able to do in our area communities.”

The West Central Electric Round Up Foundation was established in the fall of 2017 with the first funds being collected in September 2018. Members who chose not to opt out of the program have their bills rounded up each month to the nearest dollar with proceeds benefiting foundation applicants chosen for funding.

If you are interested in applying for funding for your organization, applications are available at [www.westcentralelectric.com](http://www.westcentralelectric.com) along with a list of program requirements. The board meets quarterly to consider applications and award funds. For more information on the Round Up Program, contact Kim Lewis at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.



Round Up Foundation Board members consider several applications for project funding during their quarterly award meeting in October.

### Tri County Outreach

Tri-County Outreach received \$6,000 for the Shepherd's Food Pantry. They serve the needs of Lafayette, Carroll and Saline counties with a pantry to serve all people who need food assistance. They do so by serving them with a fully-stocked pantry that gives them 40-60 pounds of food each month. This includes staple foods, canned goods, boxed food, fresh produce and fruits, and frozen meals and vegetables. The food is purchased through Harvester's Community Food Network.

## Commitment to Community

### Holden Senior Center, Inc.

The Holden Senior Center, Inc. received \$4,000 to assist with much-needed repairs to the building's roof. The center provides meals and activities to local senior citizens.



(L-r) Shepherd's Food Pantry Manager John Mueller; Round Up Foundation Board members Oral Glasco and Donna Matthews; Brenda Curry, food pantry volunteer; Victory Christian Fellowship Pastor Jerry Curry and Round Up Foundation Board member Sally Davidson.



Seated (l-r) Joyce Lagud, coordinator, head cook and janitor for Care Connection; Linda Watson, president of Holden Senior Center, Inc. and Linda Danforth, senior center board member and volunteer. Standing (l-r) Oral Glasco, Knipmeyer and Amy Kephart, senior center board member and volunteer.



# • Operation Round Up • Operation Round Up •



## Mayview Mo Foundation

The Mayview Mo Foundation received \$5,000 for refacing the exterior wall on the old school. They will add siding, and a new entrance to the gym with landscaping and a graveled parking lot. Classrooms at the school have been renovated, and four businesses rent the space. The gym at the school will be used for events and gatherings.



Front row (l-r) Opal Johnson, MMF Board; Donna Matthews, Round Up Board; Elaine Hudson and Martha Hawthorne, MMF Board; Dennis Knipmeyer, Round Up Board. Back row (l-r) Margie Storck, Round Up Board; Denise Bainbridge, Helen Ryun, Kristy Barker, Will Ogan and Larry Neher, MMF Board; and Randy Dowell and Sally Davidson, Round Up Board. Not pictured: MMF Board members Slade Baker, Karen McAllister, Jessica White and Matthew White.

## Higginsville Senior Center

The Higginsville Senior Center received \$3,850 for the purchase of a reach-in freezer, which had to be replaced. The Senior Center provides meals and activities to local senior citizens and also provides meal delivery to shut-ins.



(L-r) Higginsville Senior Center Coordinator Julia Hawkins, Round Up Board member Sally Davidson, Care Connection Regional Director Deb Kreiger, Round Up Board member Donna Matthews and Round Up Board President Dennis Knipmeyer.

## Church Women of Higginsville and Corder

The Church Women of Higginsville and Corder received \$3,000 which will be used to help purchase meals for their food pantry to be distributed weekly through October, November, December and the Christmas meal. The food pantry is available to families living in the Lafayette County C-I School District.



(L-r) Round Up Foundation board member Donna Matthews, Round Up Foundation President Dennis Knipmeyer, food pantry volunteer Linda Amor, food pantry manager Karen Luehrman, Church Women of Higginsville President Nancy LaGore and Round Up Foundation board member Sally Davidson.

## City of Chilhowee Park Board

The \$4,000 in funds will be used for the construction of a community picnic shelter/pavilion. The current pavilion in the park is only large enough for one picnic table. The park board would like to build a structure large enough for family reunions or birthday celebrations. The entire community would have access to it. The structure will be 16 X 30 X 10 with a wood frame, metal roof and concrete floor.



(L-r) Donna Matthews, Round Up Board member; Sherry Swope, co-chairman of the Chilhowee Park Board; Sally Davidson, Round Up Board.

## How can my community organization receive funds from Operation Round Up?

- Applications are available at [www.westcentralelectric.com](http://www.westcentralelectric.com) along with a list of program requirements.
- Operation Round Up board meets quarterly to consider applications and award funds.
- Contact Kim Lewis at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942 for more information on the Round Up program and applications.



**Headquarters:**  
7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452  
Higginsville, MO 64037  
816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803

**District office:**  
506 N. Broadway  
Oak Grove, MO 64075

**PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-874-5349**

**Website:**  
www.westcentralelectric.coop

**24-Hour Number:**  
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

## From the Boardroom...

*Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Sept. 26, 2019*

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 and Jeremy Ahmann. Sandra Streit was absent. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, general counsel Shawn Battagler, office staff of WCE and David Tudor, CEO of AECL.

### AECL UPDATE

Tudor provided an in-depth update on AECL and answered questions from 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 Aug. 22, 2019; expenditures for the month of August 2019; new membership applications; membership terminations and the treasurer's report.

### APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following August 2019 reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Michael Newland presented the July 2019 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. He reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons and gave the investment report. He presented and reviewed statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash-flow management, and KWH sales.

Audit Report: The audit report was approved as presented.

Operations and Safety Report: The board was referred to the written operations and safety reports.

Engineering Report: The board was referred to the written engineering report.

Member Services Report: The board was referred to the written member services report.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included: board retreat set for January 27-28, 2020; discussions with Cattlemen regarding meal service; Toth will present a work plan and cost of service study at the board retreat; and member concerns.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

None.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered into executive session.

### WAGE AND SALARY ACTION

Following executive session, the board reported action taken to authorize the 2020 payroll budget.

### CEO COMPENSATION

Following executive session, the board reported action taken to authorize adjustment of the CEO's compensation for 2020.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

FINANCIAL REPORT • <i>Statement of Operations</i> • August 2019			
	This month	YTD 2019	YTD 2018
Revenue	\$2,494,564	\$19,848,987	\$20,377,880
Power Bill Expense	1,451,915	11,895,859	12,121,659
Operation & Maint. Expense	659,875	5,228,348	4,110,488
Depreciation Expense	187,131	1,466,543	1,416,853
Interest Expense	116,831	945,673	865,265
<b>Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)</b>	<b>2,415,752</b>	<b>19,536,423</b>	<b>18,514,265</b>
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	78,812	312,564	1,863,615
Other Margins	9,260	172,965	222,088
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$88,072</b>	<b>\$485,529</b>	<b>\$2,085,703</b>

## Decorate safely this holiday

The holidays are upon us. For many, that means more celebrations with friends and family, travel, decorations, cooking and shopping. West Central Electric wants you to stay safe during the holidays, so here are a few tips to consider as you gear up for the season.

We can't guarantee that the hustle and bustle of the season won't leave you with a few frayed nerves, but we can certainly help you avoid frayed wires.

### INSPECT YOUR SEASONAL ITEMS

Take a few moments to carefully inspect all your holiday items to ensure everything is in safe, working order. A few things to look out for include:

- Brittle insulation on wires
- Rodent damage to wires
- Chafed or frayed wires, especially at stress points
- Worn switches with the potential to

short circuit

- Corroded metal parts
- Broken legs, unstable bases and other tip-over hazards

### NEVER DEFEAT SAFETY DEVICES

There are reasons why some devices have fuses, some plugs have three prongs instead of two, and one prong is wider than the other on two-prong outlets. When those safety features get in the way of your grand holiday décor plans, you might be tempted to tamper with or defeat those features. Don't do it! If your plugs won't fit together, that means they're not designed to work together.

### EXTENSION CORDS ARE TEMPORARY

Extension cords are designed for temporary use and should never be used as a permanent or long-term solution.

### **\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\*** **to members when making payments by phone**

**When making a payment using the automatic payment number, please double-check electric account numbers and bank account numbers to make sure they are correct. One missed number will result in payments being posted to the wrong electric account.**

## Net Metering & Interconnection Act

West Central Electric Cooperative has a net metering agreement for interconnection of a distributed generation source.

Our policy, agreement and application now reflect the new standards set by the Net Metering and Easy Connection Act as of January 1, 2008.

For more information, contact our Higginsville office at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

**WCE offices will be closed the following holidays:  
Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25  
in observance of Christmas.  
and  
Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020  
in observance of New Year's Day.**