



ElectricNews

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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

New SEER rating for heat pump rebates takes effect in 2019

The Take Control and Save (TC&S) dual-fuel and mini-split heat pump rebate program will see a change in 2019, according to West Central Electric Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer.

"To adhere with the requirements set forth in the Take Control and Save program guide, the heat pumps require an Energy Star plus 2 rated SEER to qualify for the rebate program," Schlotzhauer said. "This puts the rating at a minimum of 17 SEER to qualify, according to the Energy Star rating of 15 SEER."

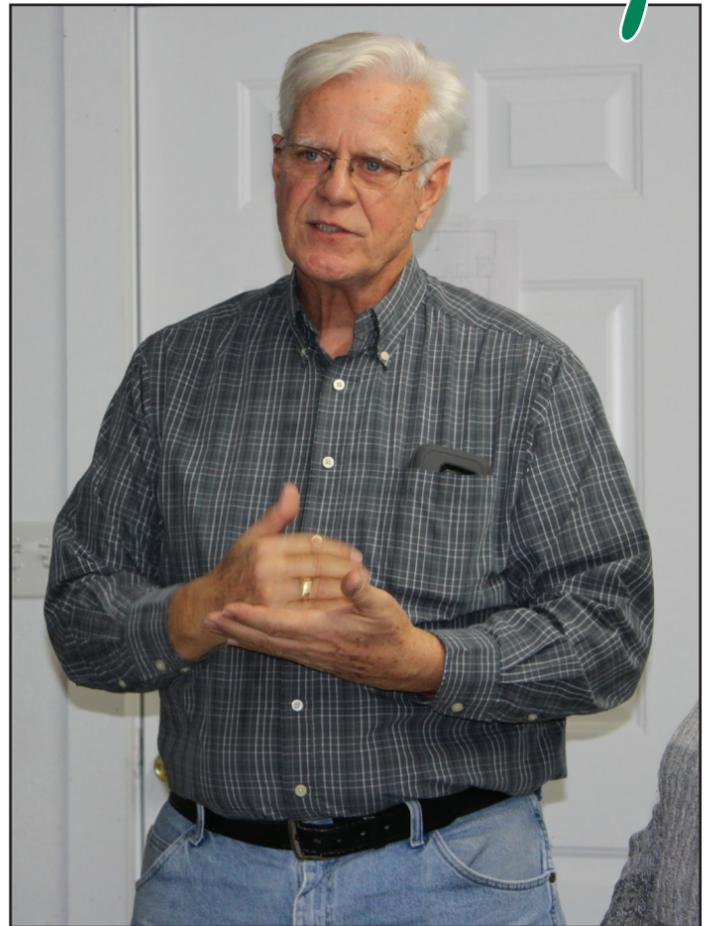
The change will be effective April 1, 2019.

Members may apply for dual-fuel and mini-split heat pump rebates, ground source heat pump rebates, room air conditioner rebates and water heater rebates by going to WCE's website at www.westcentralelectric.coop and clicking on "Saving Energy" and "Energy Saving Rebates." Downloadable rebate forms as well as all program requirements and qualifications are listed in the section. For questions on rebates, contact WCE at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

Commitment to Community



(Left photo) WCE Round Up Foundation Board President Dennis Knipmeyer (right) presents a \$1,500 check to members of the Odessa Community Services Center. (L-r) Patty Kidwell, OCSC food pantry coordinator; Craig Kidwell, OCSC director; Donna Matthews, Round Up Foundation Board member; Brent Schlotzhauer, WCE member services manager; Sharon Petkoff OCSC treasurer; Robert Simmons, WCE board secretary and Knipmeyer. (Right photo) Holden Food Pantry Director Chester Hurshman explains to the group how the organization assists families from the Holden, Centerview, Chilhowee, Latour and Kingsville areas.



WCE is looking for a few good leaders.

Are YOU one of them?

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



First Round Up funds awarded

Holden Food Pantry, Odessa Community Services Center are first to benefit from new WCE program

The first funds to be awarded through the West Central Electric Round Up Foundation were presented just after Thanksgiving, and are expected to assist hundreds of citizens in and around the Holden and Odessa communities, according to Foundation President Dennis Knipmeyer.

Funds were awarded to the Odessa Community Service Center and the

Holden Food Pantry (ministerial association).

"When I made the initial contact to both of these organizations and talked to their directors, you could sense the surprise and the gratitude just in their voices," Knipmeyer said. "The day we presented the checks and visited their buildings, you could see the pride they have in their facilities and what they do."

"They wanted to show us around and explain how their programs work," Knipmeyer said. "They take immense pride in the work they do and they are genuinely sincere in trying to help their communities. I want WCE members to

realize this is not just an Odessa thing or a Holden thing, but also the areas around those towns."

Knipmeyer said the Foundation Board looks forward to the many other organizations around the entire WCE service area that will be helped in the future as more funds are collected and applications for funding are received.



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ODESSA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

The Odessa Community Service Center was awarded \$1,500 to assist

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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

Holden Food Pantry, Odessa CSC receive first Round Up funds



Craig Kidwell, Odessa Community Services Center director gives WCE Round Up Foundation Board President Dennis Knipmeyer a tour of the organization's facility.

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underprivileged families of the Odessa R-7 School District with utilities.

"This means a lot to us, especially at this time of year," CSC Director Craig Kidwell said. "This will help us into February and March, which is the coldest part of the year and when we use most of our utility money, so it gives us a good boost to be able to help people."

Kidwell said the organization receives money for utility assistance from other organizations, such as the Salvation Army, but that money ran out in September.

"We are on our own now, so this is a big help," he said.

Kidwell said the funds provided by the Round Up Foundation will also free up CSC money that would have had to be used for utility assistance, and allow it to be used for food instead.

"It will help us to be able to concentrate more on providing food so it will empower families to help themselves with their utilities," Kidwell said. "If I can tell them we will buy their grocer-

ies, it frees up money for them to keep their utilities going, that helps take some of the stress off them."

Holden Food Pantry-Holden Area Ministerial Association

The Holden Food Pantry HAMA (Holden Area Ministerial Association) was awarded \$8,000 to assist low-income families with utilities and food.

The Holden Food Pantry HAMA assists clients in the Holden, Centerview, Chilhowee, Latour and Kingsville areas with one utility bill per year, as well as monthly food needs. Those benefitting from its services include families with children up to senior citizens.

"We are so excited (to receive these funds)," said Food Pantry Director Chester Hurshman. "We were having a tough time this year getting money for utility assistance."

Hurshman said the Holden organization is made up of several area churches, but was still falling behind.

"This will basically put us into next year for utility assistance, which means we can help so many more people," he said. "Just last month, we served 155 families from the food pantry, and those are generally the people who also need help with their utility bills."

He said a lot of the places where people traditionally get utility assistance may or may not have funding.

"It does my heart good to see that we are responding back and going forward with this charity," Hurshman said.

Both of these organizations receive funding and supplies from other sources such as Harvesters and local donations, but were seeking additional funding from the Round Up Foundation to increase their ability to assist those in need.

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 benefitting foundation applicants chosen for funding.

If you are interested in applying for funding for your organization, applications are available at www.westcentralelectric.com along with a list of program requirements. For more information on the Round Up Program, contact Kim Lewis at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.



WCE Round Up Foundation Board President Dennis Knipmeyer presents an \$8,000 check to members of the Holden Food Pantry-Holden Area Ministerial Association to be used for food and utility assistance in the Holden, Centerview, Chilhowee, Latour and Kingsville areas. (L-r) Holden Food Pantry Director Chester Hurshman; Mike Wakeman, HAMA Center coordinator; Sandra Streit, WCE board member and liaison to the Round Up Foundation board; Rob Allen, HAMA vice president; Kit Gudde, HAMA secretary; Tim Whitmore, HAMA president; Ginger Billingsley, HAMA treasurer; Knipmeyer; Randy Dowell, Round Up Foundation treasurer; Donna Matthews, Round Up Foundation board member; Brent Schlotzhauer, WCE Member Services Manager.

You could be here in 2019!

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 46 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 14-20, 2019. Missouri delegates will meet in Jefferson City on Friday, June 14 for a banquet and orientation before traveling by plane to Washington, D.C. June 15. Delegates and their families will also have the opportunity to partic-

ipate 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 17-19, 2019 in Jefferson City.

WCE will send **FIVE DELEGATES**

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

Students will hear amazing speakers, participate in team-building and leadership activities, and get a chance to author, present and 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 delegates (l-r) Kaylee Henry, Jaycee Mudd and Haley Hunter visit the U.S. Air Force Memorial in Washington, D.C. during the 2018 Rural Electric Youth



(Above) You never know what you might get yourself into at CYCLE. Team-building activities are all the rage to help your team win. Jimmy Le (second from right) and his team work to "walk the plank" in unison to the finish line.



Above: CYCLE delegates 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.



Left: WCE Youth Tour delegate Hunter Todd (back row, third from left) and a few new friends stop by The White House to wrap up the 2018 Rural Electric Youth Tour to 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:

"West Central Electric -- 80 years of Deliberately Different"

Students will use theme to write an essay exploring various ways electric cooperatives strive to make themselves different from other forms of business.

For more information:

Visit westcentralelectric.coop and click on "Youth Programs" then "Youth Tour" to download the information packet.
DEADLINE: Feb. 15, 2019.

From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held October 25, 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 Rod Widger.

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 September 25, 2018; expenditures for the month of September 2018; new membership applications; membership terminations and the treasurer's report.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following September 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 September.

2018 LOAD FORECAST

Gray presented the 2018 Load Forecast prepared in support of G&T operations. The board resolved to approve and adopt the load forecast and to authorize submission of resolution to AECl indicating such approval.

CORPORATE DEBT LIMIT

On the recommendation of the RUS field representative, the board considered the necessity of approving its stated debt limit and resolved to increase the corporate debt limit to \$75,000,000.00.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft reported his attendance to AMEC and related items of interest from that meeting. Directors reported attendance to the AMEC Annual Meeting.

OAK GROVE BUILDING

John Frandsen of Septagon Construction entered the meeting to present an update on site plans, specifications, and permit progress on the Oak Grove building improvements. After discussion, Mr. Frandsen left the meeting.

NW REPORT

Swisegood presented the NW report for September. He noted highlights of the business, operations, and financial activities of NW. Gray discussed the impact of AECl's long-range financial forecast. A discount applied to the base peak demand rate charged to NW along with other offsetting actions by NW will essentially neutralize the anticipated demand increase anticipated by West Central Electric Cooperative.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Streit reported the review and discussions of the Strategic Planning Committee. She noted that some items have been completed and timelines have been amended for other initiatives. Additional recommendations will be passed to the board retreat agenda.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included collection agency termination, employee banquet planning and other business.

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> • September 2018			
	This month	YTD 2018	YTD 201\$
Revenue	\$2,346,412	\$22,724,292	\$20,055,968
Power Bill Expense	1,378,693	13,500,353	12,059,837
Operation & Maint. Expense	578,408	4,688,895	4,573,107
Depreciation Expense	178,969	1,595,822	1,553,337
Interest Expense	119,659	984,924	961,011
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,255,729	20,769,994	19,147,292
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	90,683	1,954,298	908,676
Other Margins	73,208	295,296	270,539
TOTAL MARGINS	\$163,891	\$2,249,594	\$1,179,215

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.



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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 serve.

To report an outage...

Online:

Members may report power outages online at 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.