



ElectricNews

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

Level pay recalculates in June

New amounts reflected on billing due in July

Members who are on the cooperative's Level Payment Plan will see their bills recalculated with the billing period ending in June, according to West Central Electric Finance Manager Michael Newland.

"Those new amounts will be reflected on the billing that is due in July," he said. "Those on Billing Cycle 2 (with due dates on the 22nd of the month) will see their new amount in June."

Sign up for Budget Billing...

For West Central Electric Cooperative members who have service in

Continued on page 2

Cooperative will return \$1.5 million to members

West Central Electric Cooperative will return \$1.5 million to its members in capital credits refunds in July, according to WCE Finance Manager Michael Newland.

A credit will be issued on the billing due in August for all active members. A check will be mailed to non-members the first part of July.

If you purchased electricity from the cooperative during the years listed in the box to the right, you should receive a check or credit. Checks will not be issued for amounts under \$5.00.

"If a member is on our level payment program, the credit will not affect their monthly amount due," Newland said. "The credit will be applied to the balance on the account."

"If a member has multiple accounts, the credits will be applied based on the previous month's bill; largest balance first, then the next until fully applied. If there are no current balances on the account, the credit will be applied to the primary account, the account that West Central has determined as holding the main membership," he said.

If a member has multiple accounts, and would like the credit applied to a

Capital Credits refunded in 2019

Capital credits will appear as a credit to your electric account on your August billing.

Credits being distributed this year:

92.5% of all allocations for 1999

If you were a member of the cooperative during this year, you should receive a refund.

Please direct capital credits questions to Michael Newland in the Higginsville office: 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

different account than the one determined by the cooperative, members may call the office and request a transfer to the account of their choice.

If you do not see a credit on your account, and feel you should have, you may contact Newland at 1-800-491-3803.



Bound for D.C.!



YOUTH TOUR...(Top photo) Abby Fowler of Warrensburg High School delivers her speech in the 2019 Rural Electric Youth Tour finals. (Right photo) Rep. Glen Kolkmeier presents Madalyn Schutte with a medal at the 2019 Youth Tour finals. Fowler and Schutte will join area students Logan Tracy and Rylie Othic on the 2019 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. in June. (Additional photos and coverage on page 3.)

Attention WCE Members...

Your special Annual Meeting issue of *West Central Electric News* will be

published in the July issue of Rural Missouri.

This publication is your official notice of the meeting. It will contain information on the annual meeting scheduled for **Friday, Aug. 2, 2019**, as well as board candidate profiles, any bylaw changes and other pertinent meeting information.

Your official registration card will arrive along with the bill you receive at the end of June or the beginning of July (depending on your billing cycle).

This card must be brought to the annual meeting in order to register for prizes and vote in the board of directors election.

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

Annual meeting mail-in voting information coming soon

Members wanting to participate in their cooperative's annual meeting but unable to attend may cast their vote for directors on the ballot by mail-in voting.

Beginning with the May 31 bill-

ing cycle, a notice will be included in members' bills explaining the vote-by-mail process. Members will be required to submit a request for a voting packet either by calling the office or mailing in the form with their bill. The notice

will have a perforated bottom that can be completed and either mailed to the cooperative or delivered in person.

Members who are able to attend the meeting may still vote in person at the meeting and do not have to submit a

mail-in ballot.

Questions on the mail-in voting procedures may be directed to Member Services Manager Brent Scholtzauer at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

June is recalculation month for level pay plan accounts

From page 1

their name and have lived there for one year or more, budget billing can help avoid the peak bills that come with winter heating or summer air conditioning. Here's how Budget Billing works:

- The total of electric usage over the last 12 months is calculated.
- That amount is divided by 12 months to find the average monthly bill with cushion for weather changes.
- The amount due for that amount of kilowatts is rounded, plus a daily service availability charge, and \$9.20 if a security light is at the location. This is the monthly budget amount to be billed.
- Each month a bill is mailed showing actual usage compared to the estimate you pay.
- Your account is reviewed each year and if the energy consumption appears to differ significantly from the budgeted amount, the billing department may contact you to see if you would like to make an adjustment to your account.
- In June of each year, we true up and compare your actual consumption with what was paid. Your new 12-month

average is determined and any credit or debit carryover is divided by 12 and added or subtracted for that 12-month average to determine your next year's monthly amount.

To receive full benefit of participation in the Level Payment program, you must make your monthly payment by the normal due date, maintain a good payment record with no returned checks on your account and no more than one trip for collection. Failure to do so may result in removal from the program and could result in a requirement to pay any balance due in full with the next regular monthly billing. For those members who are already on the Level Payment Plan, your new amount will be recalculated with the billing period ending in June and be reflected on the billing that is due in July. Those members on billing Cycle 2 will see their new amount in June.

To sign up for the Level Payment Plan, or if you have any questions, please contact the billing department at 800-491-3803.



WCE General Manager Mike Gray presents retiring Office Manager Sandy Starke with a plaque recognizing her 39 years of service to the cooperative.

Starke retires from WCE

West Central Electric Cooperative employees recently congratulated Office Manager Sandy Starke on her retirement after 39 years of service.

Starke began her career at West Central Electric Cooperative on February 4, 1981 as an office assistant, and worked her way up through the ranks to the position of office manager, starting in 2004. Over the years, she performed every function possible in the WCE office from answering phones, dealing with members about billing issues, greeting people at the front counter, making sure all of the cooperative's bills were paid, putting together the annual operating budget, and supervising

office functions.

Starke said she enjoyed that the job kept her challenged. She noted that many things had changed over the years, but that with the use of technology, tasks got faster and faster.

"Everything was done manually when I started," she said. "There was lots and lots of paper, and it took a lot longer to complete a process."

Starke said she plans to spend her retirement traveling, playing golf and spending time with her grandchildren, Gabe and Ella. Starke and her husband, Alex, live on a farm outside of Higginsville. They have two children, Cory and Amber, and son-in-law Nolan.

SAFETY FIRST!

Summer fun revolves around water, but water and electricity don't mix! Be sure your pool or boat dock are ready for summer with an inspection by an electrician. Keep any electric-powered devices away from water and never handle them with wet hands.



2019 RURAL ELECTRIC Youth Tour



YOUTH TOUR WINNER
Abby Fowler



YOUTH TOUR WINNER
Madalyn Schutte



YOUTH TOUR WINNER
Logan Tracy



YOUTH TOUR WINNER
Rylie Othic

Area students prepare to take on Washington, D.C.

HIGGINSVILLE, Mo. – Four area high school students are preparing to pack their bags for a week in Washington, D.C. Abby Fowler and Riley Othic of Warrensburg High School and Madalyn Schutte and Logan Tracy of Sant Fe High School were named winners of the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour competition sponsored by West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. They will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital June 14-20 for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Finalists in the 2019 competition delivered their essays during the oral competition at West Central Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Higginsville April 4. The four students with the highest combined written and oral presentation score were named winners.

West Central's delegates, their teachers and families will be invited to participate in Family Capital Day June 14 in Jefferson City where they will receive a private tour of the State Capitol Building, the Missouri State Archives, and the Supreme Court. Following a banquet and orientation in Jefferson City that evening, Missouri's 100-plus-member delegation will travel to Washington, D.C. on June 15. While there, delegates will visit, among other places, the Washington Monument, and the Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Vietnam Wall and Korean War memorials. They will get the opportunity to witness the Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, take an evening dance cruise on the Potomac River with delegates from several other states, and tour the Smithsonian Museums and the Newseum.

Also on the agenda is Youth Day which is attended by more than 1,500 delegates from 46 states, and a day on Capitol Hill where students can meet with their senators and representatives.

A total of 73 entries were received from six different schools.

Students will represent WCE at CYCLE

Local students Gus Cooper of Crest Ridge High School, Alex Edwards of Santa Fe High School, Joshua Cymer of Warrensburg High School and Lucas Smith and Lucas Coulter, byt of Chilhowee High School will represent WCE at the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (CYCLE) July 17-19 in Jefferson City.

CYCLE, which is coordinated by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, has been recognized as the top cooperative youth conference in the nation. During the conference, students will spend a day at the Missouri State Capitol Building, learn about cooperatives, participate in leadership and team-building activities, and hear top-notch speakers.

In addition to having the opportunity to network with student leaders from across the state, participants will also have the chance to write their own bill and debate that bill on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives.

Past speakers at CYCLE have included Darrell Scott, whose daughter, Rachel, was killed in the shootings at Columbine High School in 1999, Grant Baldwin and wheelchair basketball world champion and paralympic medalist Mike Schlappi, whose message is "If you can't stand up -- stand out."



CYCLE WINNERS...These students will represent West Central Electric at the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience in July. They are congratulated by WCE Board President Densil Allen, Jr. (far left) and Rep. Glen Kolkmeier (far right). Winners are: (l-r) Alex Edwards, Lucas Smith, Gus Cooper, Joshua Cymer and Lucas Coulter.

Summer Energy Efficiency Tips...

Ventilate your home to beat the heat

Your roof can absorb a tremendous amount of heat, especially if you have dark shingles. Without proper ventilation and insulation, your attic temperature could reach 150 degrees. Some of that heat is going to seep into your conditioned space and make your air conditioner work harder.

Properly ventilating your attic can

help keep the attic temperature below 110 degrees. Check to see if your home's soffit vents and attic vents are adequate, and if not, add more. The vents and louvers also will prevent moisture buildup.

Window fans are another way to ventilate. The U.S. Department of Energy says to install them in windows facing

away from the prevailing wind and exhausting hot air from your home. To cool as much of your home as possible, tightly close windows near the fan and open windows in rooms far from the fan, preferably on the windward side of your home. Windows near cooler, shaded outdoor areas provide the best intake air.

In multi-level houses, locate the fan on the upper level and the open windows on the lower level. If that's not practical, you may want to independently ventilate each level of your home with separate fans. Depending on the layout of your home, use several window fans working together to pull the air through your home. For instance, fans in several upstairs bedrooms will insure each bedroom is cooled and will work together to pull air in through the rest of your home.



Maintain your AC during the heat of summertime

Summer's here. Here's what to do to keep your air conditioner working optimally:

- Change filters about once a month
- Clean and shade your condensing unit, and remove debris that could block air flow
- Ask your heating, ventilation and air conditioning contractor about installing dampers to restrict the flow of cooled air to rooms you rarely use, and talk with the contractor about whether closing doors or registers in those rooms will affect your system's efficiency
- If your unit is more than 15 years old, shop for a more efficient model

Caulk and weatherstrip now to block summer heat

One of the easiest things you can do now to prevent hot air leaking into your house and conditioned air leaking out is to seal small, less than 1 inch gaps and cracks with caulking and seal larger gaps with weatherstripping. Sealing gaps also can prevent water damage that occurs around faucets, ceiling fixtures, water pipes, drains, bathtubs and other plumbing fixtures.

The U.S. Department of Energy offers a wealth of information about caulking and weatherstripping, including how to first detect leaks and how to apply caulk and weatherstripping, at <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/weatherize/air-sealing-your-home/caulking> and <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/weatherize/air-sealing-your-home/weatherstripping>.

Caulking varies in strength, properties, prices and applications. Following is more details on the various types of caulk.

Silicone — Household

Recommended uses: Seals joints between bath and kitchen fixtures and tile. Forms adhesive for tiles and metal fixtures. Seals metal joints, such as those in plumbing and gutters. Cleanup: Dry cloth if immediate; mineral spirits or naphtha. Shrinkage: Little or none. Adhesion: Good to excellent. Cost: High. Comments: Flexible, cured silicone allows stretch of joints up to three times normal width or compression to one-half the width.

Silicone — Construction

Recommended uses: Seals most dissimilar building materials such as wood and stone, metal flashing, and brick. Cleanup: Dry cloth if immediate; min-

eral spirits or naphtha. Shrinkage: Little or none. Adhesion: Good to excellent. Cost: High. Comments: Permits joints to stretch or compress. Silicones will stick to painted surfaces, but paint will not adhere to most cured silicones.

Polyurethane, Expandable Spray Foam

Recommended uses: Expands when curing; good for larger cracks indoors or outdoors. Use in nonfriction areas, as material can become dry and powdery over time. Cleanup: Solvent such as lacquer thinner, if immediate. Shrinkage: None; expands quite a bit. Adhesion: Good to excellent. Cost: Moderate to high. Comments: Spray foam quickly expands to fit larger, irregular gaps. Flexible. Can be applied at variable temperatures. Must be painted for exterior use to protect from ultraviolet radiation. Manufacturing process produces greenhouse gases.

Water-based Foam Sealant

Recommended uses: Use water-based foam sealant around window and door frames in new construction; smaller cracks. Cleanup: Water. Shrinkage: None; expands only 25 percent. Adhesion: Good to excellent. Cost: High. Comments: Takes 24 hours to cure. Cures to soft consistency. Water-based foam production does not produce greenhouse gases. Will not over-expand to bend windows (new construction). Must be exposed to air to dry. Not useful for larger gaps, as curing becomes difficult.

Butyl Rubber

Recommended uses: Seals most dissimilar materials (glass, metal, plastic,



wood, and concrete.) Seals around windows and flashing, bonds loose shingles. Cleanup: Mineral spirits or naphtha. Shrinkage: From 5 percent to 30 percent. Adhesion: Good. Cost: Moderate to high. Comments: Durable 10 or more years; resilient, not brittle. Can be painted after one week curing. Variable shrinkage; may require two applications. Does not adhere well to painted surfaces. Toxic; follow label precautions.

Latex

Recommended uses: Seals joints around tub and shower. Fills cracks in tile, plaster, glass, and plastic; fills nail holes. Cleanup: Water. Shrinkage: From 5 percent to 10 percent. Adhesion: From good to excellent. Cost: Moderate. Comments: Easy to use. Seams can be trimmed or smoothed with moist finger or tool. Water resistant when dry. Can be sanded and painted. Less elastic than

above materials. Varied durability, 2–10 years. Will not adhere to metal. Little flexibility once cured. Needs to be painted when used on exteriors.

Oil or Resin-based

Recommended uses: Seals exterior seams and joints on building materials. Cleanup: Mineral spirits or naphtha. Shrinkage: From 10 percent to 20 percent. Adhesion: Good. Cost: Low. Comments: Readily available. Least expensive of the four types. Rope and tube form available. Oils dry out and cause material to harden and fall out. Low durability, 1–4 years. Poor adhesion to porous surfaces like masonry. Should be painted. Can be toxic (check label). Limited temperature range.

Weatherstripping is best suited for doors, operable windows and other movable components of your home. Select a type that will withstand the friction, weather, temperature changes and wear and tear of its location.

Concordia High School



Turner Yount
Troy & Shelly Young
Computer Science

Concordia High School



Alexis Borgstadt
Steve & Diane Borgstadt
Pre-Medicine

Warrensburg High School



Peyton Long
Shawn & Judy Long
Biology

Warrensburg High School



Kara Smith
Dale & Luciann Smith
History Education/Social Sci.

Warrensburg High School



Jordan Bistline
Russell & Jana Bistline
Education

Oak Grove High School



Kathleen Jennings
Jeff & Michelle Jennings
Biology/Pre-Medicine

Oak Grove High School



Rebecca Butters
Timothy & Rhonda Butters
Art History

Oak Grove High School



Kinsey Farmer
Gregory Farmer & Nikki Farmer
Political Science

Oak Grove High School



Garrett Pemberton
Zach & Shawna Pemberton
Actuarial Science

Blue Springs So. High School



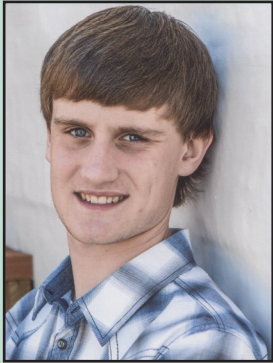
Drake Wood
Ryan & Cindy Wood
Political Science

Odessa High School



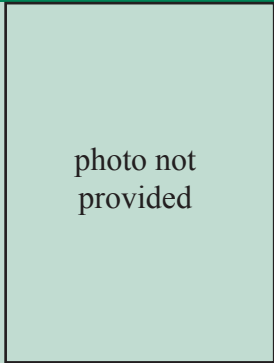
Hayden Moore
Randy & Kim Moore
Graphic Design

Odessa High School



Jackson Lewis
Jamey & Ami Lewis
Industrial Technology

Odessa High School



Taylor Murnahan
Rich & Shawn Murnahan
English Education

Leeton High School



Lindsey Gantz
Doug & Jill Gantz
Chemistry/Criminal Justice

Wellington-Napoleon HS



Jaycee Mudd
David & Shelley Mudd
Biochemistry

Lexington High School



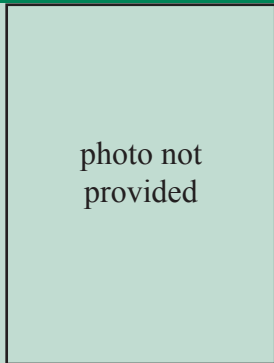
Chandler Himbury
Brad Himbury
Psychology

Holden High School



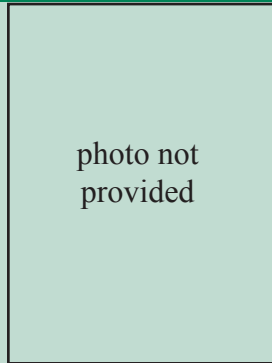
Maegen Keller
Pat & Cindy Keller
Fashion Design Merch. Mgmt.

Holden High School



Allison Holsey
Dennis & Melodee Taylore
Music Education

Holden High School



Madelyn Harrison
Sean & Theresa Harrison
Digital Media/Marketing

Chilhowee High School



Jessica Lowe
Troy & Teresa Lowe
General Business

Congratulations

to the winners
of the

2019 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship

Knob Noster High School



Riley Corbett
Leslie Walling & Joe Corbett
Health Sciences/OT

Knob Noster High School



Makayla Hodson
Tom & Melanie Hodson
Interior Design/Architecture

Crest Ridge High School



Abby Krewson
Gary & Kim Krewson
Occupational Health Safety

From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held March 28, 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, Jeremy Ahmann and Sandra Streit. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, general counsel Sheri Smiley and WCE office staff.

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 Feb. 28, 2019 expenditures for the month of February 2019; new membership applications; membership terminations and the treasurer's report.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following February 2019 reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Michael Newland presented the February 2019 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. He reviewed the Financial Statistical Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. He also gave the investment report. He presented and reviewed statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash flow management, and KWH sales. He discussed line loss calculations and sales comparisons year-to-date. He gave the final numbers for the January snow storms and he discussed bad debt write off and application of capital credits to the bad debt. The amount for bad debt write off was \$38,515.54. A motion was made to write off the bad debt pursuant to the application of the capital credits to the bad debt write off. Newland also gave the Treasurer's Report. He reported that RUS had completed their audit for 2018 and issued a clean audit.

Capital Credit Retirement: Gray and Newland discussed the capital credit retirement for 2018. Staff's recommendation to retire \$1,499,972.90 was approved.

Engineering Report: Dan Disberger gave the engineering report which included a report on construction, retirement, maintenance and operations. He reported on new services, outages, pole change outs and maintenance as well as right-of-way crews. He gave a staking report, discussed pole inspection results and rejection rates. He also discussed solar questions that had been raised and will report back to the board on possibly putting a solar panel up at the cooperative for educational purposes.

Operations and Safety Report: Randy Burkeybile gave the operations and safety report. He discussed crew work and outages in February, gave the construction retirement, maintenance and operations report, and discussed new services built. He also gave the safety report including safety meetings, crew visits and training for the month for employees.

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer presented the member services report. He included a report on Operation Roundup, Youth Tour finals April 4 and Oak Grove High School's career day. He reported on teachers that had applied for the Teacher Education Program as well as the theft of service and discussed a member's concerns on smart meters.

NW REPORT

Swisegood presented the NW report for March. He discussed AECL updates, outages, the solar and wind report and margins and expenses. He gave an update on the floods and damage done to NW substations. He also gave an update on the AMEC District I meeting he attended and potential changes to AMEC Bylaws that were proposed.

NRECA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Strobel and Simmons reported on the meeting they attended and gave updates.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray gave his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included member comments. He gave an update on the NW Annual meeting and an update on RUS revenue deferral. He also gave an update on the Oak Grove building

2019 NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The following names were provided by the Board and approved by the Board to be on the 2018 Nominating Committee:

- District I: Donald Fore, Kyle Grumke
- District II: Dennis Knipmeyer, Paul Nolte
- District III: Virginia Haller, Jeremy Sanders
- District IV: Verna Jenkins, William Grauberger
- District V: Stephanie Othic

ENGLISH SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Dale Jarman reported that \$11,500.00 had been awarded in Scholarships for 2019.

COST OF THREE-PHASE ACCOUNTS

Gray led the discussion on three phase accounts and the cost of service. Staff recommended having Toth do a cost of service study for three-phase rates. No objections were raised to moving forward with the cost of service study

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

Gray led the discussion on the current meeting plans. A committee consisting of Richard Simmons, Dale Jarman, Max Swisegood and Densil Allen, Jr., was appointed to study ideas for the 2020 annual meeting. The committee will report back to the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

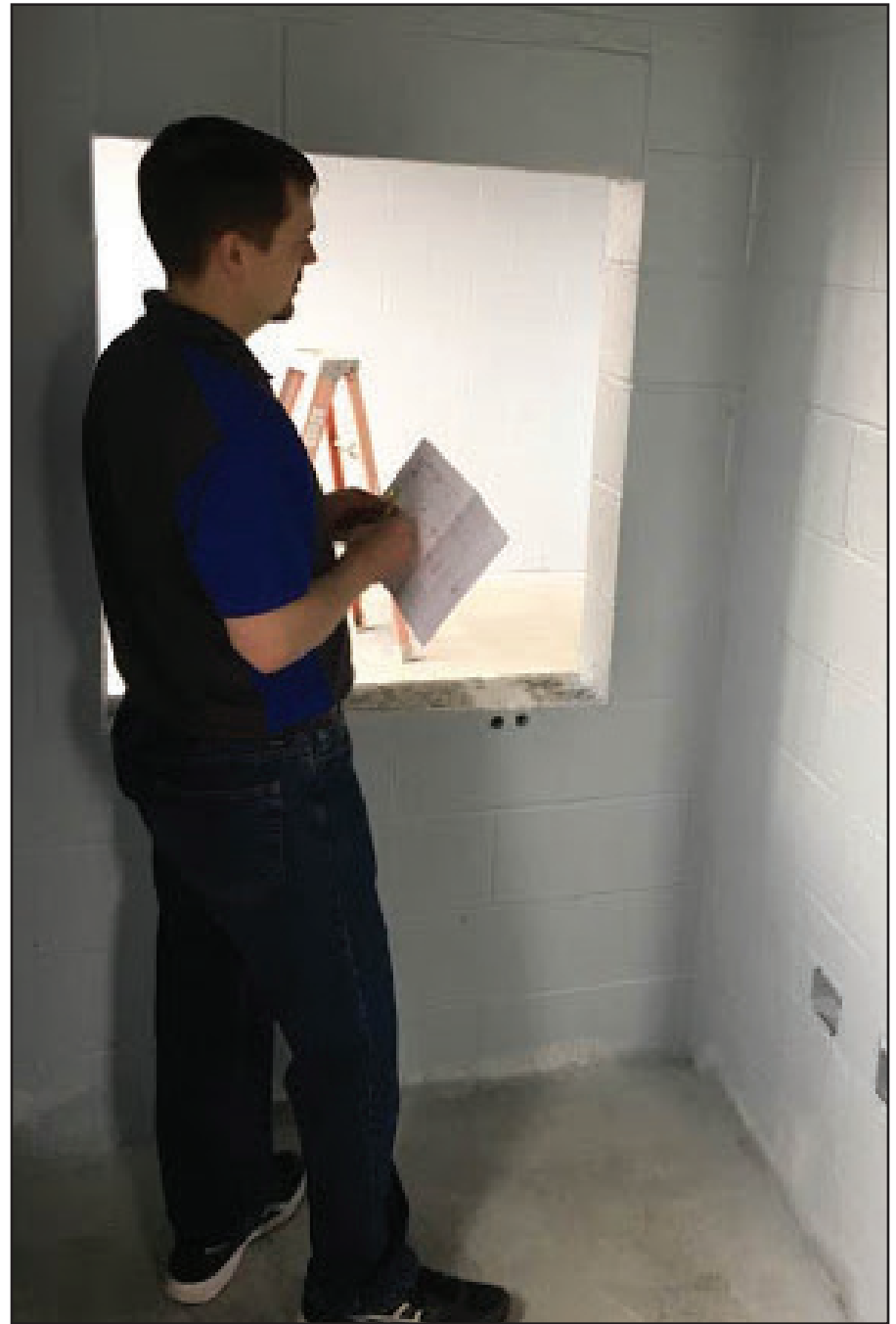
None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered into executive session.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Following the executive session, the meeting was adjourned.



IT Manager Tim Bowler looks over plans for the customer service window and checks communications cable placement in what will be the new front office area of the Oak Grove facility.

Renovations continue at Oak Grove facility

Renovations are continuing at West Central Electric Cooperative's Oak Grove facility, and progress continues to be made on the building, warehouse and grounds.

Plans are to have the office reopen sometime in June, but work was still ongoing at press time.

Members who need to conduct business with the cooperative are reminded there are several ways available to do so.

Members needing to speak to West

Central Electric employees directly may call 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942 to reach a representative. Bills may be paid in person at the Higginsville office, by mail, online at www.westcentralelectric.coop or by phone at 1-855-874-5349. The drive-up drop box will continue to be available at the Oak Grove location, and will be checked daily at 8 a.m. If your payment is past due, please DO NOT place it in the drop box. Contact the office first.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • February 2019

	This month	YTD 2019	YTD 2018
Revenue	\$3,300,681	\$6,176,416	\$6,347,098
Power Bill Expense	1,708,730	3,483,549	3,442,329
Operation & Maint. Expense	661,529	1,388,302	1,003,782
Depreciation Expense	180,667	360,921	352,985
Interest Expense	107,805	226,123	196,399
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,658,731	5,458,895	4,995,495
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	641,950	717,521	1,351,603
Other Margins	16,960	52,877	23,546
TOTAL MARGINS	\$658,910	\$770,398	\$1,375,149

Eliminate the hassle of remembering to pay your bill each month.

Ask about our auto credit card and auto bankdraft payment plans. It's easy to sign up!
Just call 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

Would you rather pay as you go?

We have pre-payment options too! Give us a call!