



ElectricNews

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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



West Central allocates capital credits for 2018

West Central Electric Cooperative's margins have been allocated to each member/owner who purchased electric energy in 2018, according to General Manager Mike Gray.

Because rural electric cooperatives' business structure differs from investor-owned utility companies, the money WCE makes as margins (profits) is returned to the member/owners who use the service, rather than to unknown investors. The money is used as equity in the cooperative, and is returned to the members over time as determined by your board of directors.

West Central Electric tries to balance the system by staying financially strong while also returning the profits to its members over time. Each year, the board of directors decides how this will be accomplished.

You can calculate your own allocation for the year by using the formula in the box below.

The percentage used in the formula was determined by the total margins (profits) of the cooperative, and the total cost paid for our wholesale power in 2018. This year, your allocated amount for 2018 will appear on the bill you received in May.

If you have a non-rural/residential account, any questions regarding how to calculate your allocation, or if you do not know your year-to-date patronage, contact Michael Newland at the Higginsville office at 816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803.

Total paid for electricity in 2018
(Beginning with the bill reflecting usage for January 2018 and ending with the bill reflecting usage for December 2018.)

0.10686213394

2018 allocation
(Applies to rural/residential rate only.)

Example:
\$1,000 total billing for 2018

\$1,000
X
0.10686213394
\$106.86
2018 allocation

Lake season is finally here!

Time to review dock safety and electric shock drowning

May is Electrical Safety Month, and as we prepare for that first dip in the lake of the season, it is a good time to review some safety practices around water and docks. Life vests, fire extin-

guishers, floatation devices that can be thrown in the water, and proper lighting are a few essentials for recreation in a pool or lake. But some people aren't aware of one of the most dangerous and life-threatening hazards that can kill swimmers without warning. ESD, or electric shock drowning, can occur when electrical connections around pools, lakes, and other bodies of water are not installed or maintained properly.

"You should make sure that the

dock area is safe," says Molly Hall, Executive Director of the Energy Education Council – Safe Electricity program.

"This means making sure electrical connections are properly installed and safely maintained," she warns. "Your loved ones' lives might just depend on it."

Hall suggests that boaters and swimmers inspect pool areas and docks for

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Todd is 2019 John & Kathryn English scholar

Committee awards six additional 4-Hers with scholarship funds

When the English family founded the John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship, they were looking for an active 4-Her who is not only a good student, but also "displays character, works diligently and faithfully, and is an active and good citizen and constructive member of society." The WCE Scholarship Committee is pleased to

announce this year's winner is Hunter Todd of Odessa High School.

Following an application and interview process, Todd was named the 2019 John and Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship winner, and will receive a four-year, renewable scholarship worth a potential \$4,000.

Six other outstanding students were awarded one-time scholarships, including Drake Wood, Caleb Bergman, Connor Bergman, Jacob Dierking, Rebecca Butters and Kara Smith.

Todd is the son of Doug and Bobbie



Todd

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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

Reminder: Oak Grove office is closed for renovations

Renovations at the Oak Grove location began in February and are expected to last until June 1.

Members have a variety of ways to conduct necessary business with the cooperative. Members needing to speak to West Central Electric employees directly can still call 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942 to reach a representa-

tive. 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.

Lake season is here...

Time to review dock safety and electric shock drowning

From page 1
hazardous conditions. If you aren't sure about the safety of an area, it's best to find out if there's been a recent inspection – or call a professional to evaluate. Any hazardous conditions should be repaired immediately to ensure the safety of swimmers, boaters, or anyone who might come in contact with the water. Even if you are renting or visiting an area with water and electric connections, it is important to notify the owner of any safety violations so that they can be fixed immediately. Improperly maintained areas should not be used for recreation.

While regulations might vary by

location, the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that ESD can be prevented by regular inspections for ground-fault failure and by strict enforcement of the National Electric Code through frequent inspections of pools and docks.

Safe Electricity urges boat owners to have dockside electrical systems installed by professional electricians guided by National Electric Code, and to have these systems inspected regularly to avoid tragedy.

Get more information and read about electric shock drowning, as well as watch a video on a real-life ESD story at SafeElectricity.org.



2019 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee

Following is a list of the members named to the 2019 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving on West Central Electric Cooperative's board of directors, contact any of the committee members in your district listed below. The committee will convene on May 8, 2019 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Nominees will be voted on at the annual meeting Aug. 2, 2019 in Warrensburg.

District I
Donald Fore
38105 East Round Prairie Rd.
Oak Grove, MO 64075
816-625-3186

Kyle Grumke
4246 Highway FF
Odessa, MO 64076
816-565-0276

District II
Dennis Knipmeyer
17905 Long Grove Rd.
Higginsville, MO 64037
660-584-2741

Paul Nolte
711 W. 35th St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
660-909-7285

District V
Stephanie Othic
41 SW 251 Rd.
Centerview, MO 64019
660-864-6687

District III
Virgina Haller
510 NE 201st Rd.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-747-7330

Jeremy Sanders
613 NW 1001 Rd.
Holden, MO 64040
660-909-3165

District IV
Verna Jenkins
1151 SW 1050 Rd.
Holden, MO 64040
816-732-6946

William Grauberger
513 NW 1201 Rd.
Holden, MO 64040
816-277-4171

**Terms will expire for District 1 director Max Swisegood, District 2 director Stan Rhodes and District 4 director Sandra Streit. Members will elect ONE director from District 1, ONE director from District 2 and ONE director from District 4.*

Board of Directors Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the cooperative who:

(A) is not a member who continuously uses cooperative energy and service at his/her permanent, primary place of residence; or

(B) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative; or

(C) Has been an employee of the cooperative within the last three (3) years.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.

John & Kathryn English Scholarship Committee awards funds to 4-Hers

From page 1

Todd of Centerview. He is a 10-year member of 40-ville 4-H Club in Mayview, and currently serves on the State 4-H Council and as a National 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador.

“When you are a little kid and you join 4-H, you don’t really know why you’re joining, but you go to the monthly meetings, and you normally see a friend or two,” Todd said. “After a while, you begin to realize that you matter within the meetings, and you come to see that you have a voice,

and your voice is making a difference within the community in which you are meeting.”

Todd enjoys his time serving the local community through 4-H, participating in many service activities, as well as participating in shooting sports. He will represent Missouri on the 4-H State Shotgun Team in June at the National 4-H Shoot in Grand, Island, Neb, and he has been the 4-H Western Heritage National and State “Top Hand” for the past three years.

In addition to numerous other roles

and activities in 4-H, Todd is also involved in FFA and currently serves as the Odessa chapter president. He is a member of National Honor Society, and participates in Chamber Choir and Musical Theatre at his school. Todd serves his community working with the Odessa Chamber of Commerce, as a Special Olympics mentor and assists at the Missouri State Fair. He plays guitar, and has performed for various community events as well as performing several times at the National FFA Convention.

Todd plans to attend the University of Wyoming, Laramie and major in agribusiness management with a minor in political science.

“I am very passionate about agriculture and the importance of agriculture knowledge in our country,” he said.

The scholarship committee also chose to award additional funds to several area 4-Hers including Drake Wood, Caleb Bergman, Connor Bergman, Jacob Dierking, Rebecca Butters and Kara Smith.



Wood

Drake Wood
Blue Springs South HS
\$2,000 winner

Drake Wood is a nine-year member of Southwest 4-H Club.

He is the son of Ryan and Cindy Wood. He plans to attend Simpson College and study political science.



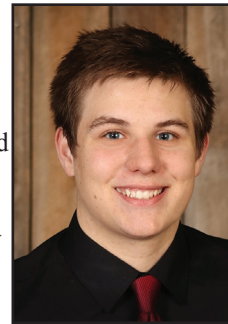
Bergman

Caleb Bergman
Santa Fe HS
\$2,000 winner

Caleb Bergman is a 13-year member of Alma 4-H Club. He is the son of Jody and Tiffany Bergman, and plans to study agriculture education at Missouri Valley College.

Connor Bergman
Santa Fe HS
\$1,000 winner

Connor Bergman is a 13-year member of Alma 4-H Club. He is the son of Jody and Tiffany Bergman, and will attend MU or Mo. Valley College to study Parks, Rec. and Sports to become a park director.



Bergman

Rebecca Butters
Oak Grove HS
\$1,000 winner

Rebecca Butters is a 12-year member of Mighty Mo 4-H Club. She is the daughter of Timothy and Rhonda Butters. She will attend Metropolitan Community College to study art history.



Butters

Jacob Dierking
Santa Fe HS
\$1,000 winner

Jacob Dierking is an 8-year member of Walkenezer 4-H Club. He is the son of Joel and Marla Dierking. His plans are to attend State Fair Community College and study agribusiness with an emphasis on agronomy.



Dierking

Kara Smith
Warrensburg HS
\$500 winner

Kara Smith is an 11-year member of Mt. Moriah Hustlers 4-H Club. She is the daughter of Dale and Luciann Smith. She will attend Missouri State University and study history education and social science.



Smith



Recognized for Years of Service...

Employees and board members were recently recognized by WCE Manager Mike Gray for their years of service to the cooperative. Front row (l-r) Lineman Adam Beck, five years of service; Mechanic Paul Werning, 30 years of service and Board Member Jeremy Ahmann, five years of service. Back row (l-r) Communications Specialist Heather Hoflander, 20 years of service; Consumer Service Representative Stacy Barnett, 20 years of service and Accountant Pam Fuenhausen, 15 years of service.

From the Boardroom...

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered into executive session and reconvened following.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of Jan. 23, 2019, expenditures for the month of January 2019; new membership applications; membership terminations and the treasurer's report.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following January 2019 reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Michael Newland presented the January 2019 Operating Report and Comparative Operating Statement and reviewed the Financial Statistical Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons; reported final year-end numbers as well as the investment report; presented and reviewed the Financial Statistical Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons; provided the investment report; provided statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash flow management, and KWH sales; discussed line-loss calculations and sales comparisons year-to-date; discussed the power bill from N.W. Electric and the financial impact of the January snowstorm and reported that \$52,817.51 was bad debt write off for 2018. He also gave the Treasurer's report.

Engineering Report: Dan Disberger presented the Engineering Report which included information on construction, retirement, maintenance and operations; new services, outages, pole change-outs and maintenance; brush crews and spraying crews; a staking report as well as inspections that had been done on poles and the rejection rate.

Operations and Safety Report: Randy Burkeybile discussed crew work and outages in January; gave a construction retirement, maintenance and operations report and reported on 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 Round Up, Youth Tour, a new office employee, how calls were handled during the recent snow storm, an update on the building break-in, member comments, and net metering. He also discussed Policy 23.1 and the changes made to the rebate policy to mirror AECL's policy.

NW REPORT

Swisegood presented the NW report. He discussed AECL updates, outages, the solar and wind report and margins and expenses, as well as patronage capital.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft gave the AMEC report. He included department reports, a report on MECIP, an update on the annual meeting and statewide training courses.

NW DELEGATE

Swisegood was appointed as the NW delegate for the NW Annual Meeting and Simmons is the alternate

RESOLUTION FOR BANK SIGNATURE CARD

The board approved a resolution to authorize signatures for bank activity.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included member comments; an update on the Oak Grove building and the employee banquet in March. He also gave director training dates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A recommendation was made to discuss possible new annual meeting ideas.

MEETING ADJOURNED

FINANCIAL REPORT • <i>Statement of Operations</i> • January 2019			
	This month	YTD 2019	YTD 2018
Revenue	\$ 2,875,735	\$ 2,875,735	\$ 3,296,463
Power Bill Expense	1,774,819	1,774,819	1,830,582
Operation & Maint. Expense	726,774	726,774	489,312
Depreciation Expense	180,253	180,253	176,969
Interest Expense	118,319	118,319	83,813
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,800,165	2,800,165	2,580,676
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	75,570	75,570	715,786
Other Margins	35,918	35,918	18,255
TOTAL MARGINS	\$ 111,488	\$ 111,488	\$ 734,041

Save money with your existing water heater

You can save energy dollars without buying a new water heater. Here are a few suggestions from the U.S. Department of Energy:

Conserve water — Use less water. That simple change may save you more than other options. A family of four each showering five minutes a day can use about 700 gallons a week, which is a three-year drinking water supply for one person. Use water-conserving showerheads and faucet aerators to cut hot water use in half. A family of four can save 14,000 gallons of water a year and the energy needed to heat it.

Insulate your existing water heater and pipes — If your electric water heater was installed before 2004, adding an insulating jacket is one of the most effective do-it-yourself energy-saving projects, especially if your heater is in an unheated space. The jacket will reduce standby heat loss by 25 to 40 percent, saving 4 to 9 percent on your water heating bills. Follow directions carefully when installing an insulation jacket.

Insulating hot water pipes reduces heat loss and can raise water temperature 2 to 4 degrees hotter than uninsulated pipes can deliver. DOE recommends insulating all accessible hot water pipes, especially within 3 feet of the water heater. Also insulate cold water inlet pipes for the first 3 feet. Pipe sleeves made with polyethylene or neoprene foam are the most commonly used insulation.

It also helps to place your heater in a space that is heated and cooled.

Lower the water heater temperature — Keep your heater thermostat at about 120 degrees. Each 10-degree reduction in water temperature will generally save 3 to 5 percent on your water heating costs. When on vacation, turn the thermostat down to the lowest possible setting or turn the heater off completely.

Fix leaks — A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 a month. Repair leaks in faucets, showerheads and pipes, but if your tank leaks, you need a new heater.

Install low-flow fixtures, showerheads and faucets — For about \$10 to \$20 each, you can buy quality, low-flow fixtures and cut your water use by 25 to 60 percent. Federal regulations mandate new showerhead flow rates of 2.5 gallons per minute at a water pressure of 80 pounds per square inch.

If your showerheads predate 1992, use this quick test to determine if you should replace old heads with new ones:

1. Place a bucket marked in gallons under your showerhead
2. Turn on the shower at the normal water pressure you use

Time how many seconds it takes to fill the bucket to the 1-gallon mark

If it takes less than 20 seconds to reach the mark, you could benefit from a low-flow showerhead.

3. Replace the aerator (the screw-on tip of the faucet) with ones that restrict flow at about 1 gallon per minute.

Buy efficient dishwashers and clothes washers — You consume less energy with an energy-efficient dishwasher properly used than washing dishes by hand. Check the EnergyGuide label to see how much energy a unit uses. Be aware that compact-capacity dishwashers may actually use more energy because they must be used more frequently. Look for dishwashers with booster heaters that efficiently boost water temperatures to 140 degrees. Such units cost more but will pay for themselves with energy savings in about a year.

Inefficient clothes washers can cost three times as much to operate as energy-efficient ones. Look for washers that allow you to adjust water temperature and levels, spin dry and load from the front.

