



ElectricNews

Adjusting to life in quarantine

Lobbies at cooperative headquarters closed to the public in early March, and were still closed through at least the beginning of May, pending a stay-at-home extension

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Cooperative announces members' capital credit allocations for 2019

PAGES 4-5
Winners of the John & Kathryn English and West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship are announced

PAGE 7
June is recalculation month for members on the level pay plan. Details on budget billing program inside.

LOBBY CLOSED

Due to the recent precautions recommended by the CDC, our lobbies will be closed **THROUGH MAY 3**.

Rest assured it is otherwise business as usual. WCE employees are still on the job taking care of our members' needs 24/7.

Ways you can continue to conduct business with WCE:

- By phone at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.
- On SmartHub App (If you aren't signed up, call us and we will help you get set up.)
- Pay your bill online www.westcentralelectric.coop, by phone at 855-874-5349 or on SmartHub. Also available is autopay through bankdraft or credit card.

We apologize for any inconvenience, but we want to make sure our members are safe, and our employees stay healthy so we can continue to serve you.

Thank you for understanding.



Annual meeting mail-in voting information coming in June

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 28 billing 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 Scholtzhauer at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Headquarters:

7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037
816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803 • PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-874-5349

To report outages 24/7:

Call 816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803 • or report outages at www.westcentralelectric.coop under "View & Report Outages"

District office:

506 N. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO 64075

Website:

www.westcentralelectric.coop

General Manager:

Mike Gray

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*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ON THE COVER: Signs posted on the doors at the headquarters office in Higginsville notify members that lobbies are currently closed. Plans at press time were for the WCE Board of Directors to continue to monitor suggestions made by the CDC and orders from Gov. Mike Parsons in determining when to reopen the lobbies to the public.

West Central allocates capital credits for 2019

West Central Electric Cooperative's margins have been allocated to each member/owner who purchased electric energy in 2019, 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 2019. This year, your allocated amount for 2019 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 2019

(Beginning with the bill reflecting usage for January 2019 and ending with the bill reflecting usage for December 2019.)

0.10884383028

2019 allocation

(Applies to rural/residential rate only.)

Example:

\$1,000 total billing for 2019

\$1,000

X

0.10884383028

\$108.84

2019 allocation



Youth Tour delegates chosen in 2020 won't have the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. like previous winners, however WCE will be considering ways to both honor winners of the Youth Tour and CYCLE contest, as well as possibly arranging trips to Jefferson City for both groups at a later date. (Above Youth Tour 2019 at the Newseum in D.C.)

Youth Tour, CYCLE among events cancelled amid COVID-19 fears

Along with school sports seasons, concerts and even the 2020 Summer Olympics, the 2020 Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (CYCLE) were just two of the events cancelled or postponed because of the COVID-19 corona virus outbreak that spread throughout the world and the United States during the first part of 2020.

Although the trips were scheduled for this summer, decisions on whether to continue, cancel or postpone had to be made several months in advance. Opting to be conservative on the side of safety of the students involved, the decision was made by NRECA to cancel the Youth Tour, and subsequently AMEC to cancel CYCLE.

"We appreciate the understanding with the canceling of Youth Tour and CYCLE," said AMEC Youth Tour and CYCLE State Coordinator Chris Massman. "They were very tough decisions, but again, I believe the correct decisions for the health and well-being of our delegates."

Cooperatives brainstormed ways to recognize and reward the students for their hard work and accomplishments such as awarding scholarships to the winners in place of the trips. WCE Youth Tour winners were Jacelynn Laws, Mia Phutrakul and Callie Fuehring. CYCLE winners were Erin Thessen, Caedon Bergman, Emily Ikerd, August Hoepfer and Lauren Turmbow.

"At this time, we plan to continue with Family Capital Day at a later date, where delegates and their families will have the opportunity to tour Jefferson City," WCE Youth Tour Coordinator Heather Hoflander said. "We will also plan a day in Jeff City with our CYCLE winners, depending on social distancing restrictions for both."

All students will be recognized at a later date during a reception held at WCE.

The event finals were scheduled for April, but were changed to a video submission that was judged in place of the oral competition.

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, July 31, 2020**, 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.

2020 John & Kathryn English Scholars



Morgan Starbuck
4-year Renewable Winner

*The **John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Trust** was created under the terms of the Last Will & Testament of Kathryn English. The purpose of this trust is to provide scholarship grants for high school graduates who are active 4-H members at the time of their high school graduation and who desire to attend college to pursue a degree. John English, a former director of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., designated West Central's Board of Directors as Trustees of the Memorial Scholarship Trust.



Wade Johnson
One-year Winner



Brianna Munsterman
One-year Winner



Catherine Strathman
One-year Winner



Logan Tracy
One-year Winner

2020 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholars

\$750 scholarship winners



Rance White



Wade Johnson



Makenzie Lewis



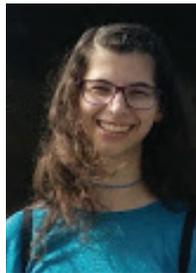
Alyssa Morris



Brianna Munsterman



Rylie Othic



Victoria Martins



Abigail Allnutt



Josiah Kunkel



Cole Schmidli



Sarina Robbins



Cameran Martin



Peyton Moore



Alannah Nowak



Virginia Hayes



Amanda Daniel



Cody Clifton



Madelon West



Taegan Wegener



Dylan Lilleman



Brooke Richards

*The **West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship** is available to students whose parents or legal guardians are current members of the cooperative. The funds are awarded to students graduating high school and planning to attend a college, university or trade or technical school the fall following their graduation.

June is recalculation month for co-op level pay plan accounts

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 CFO 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."

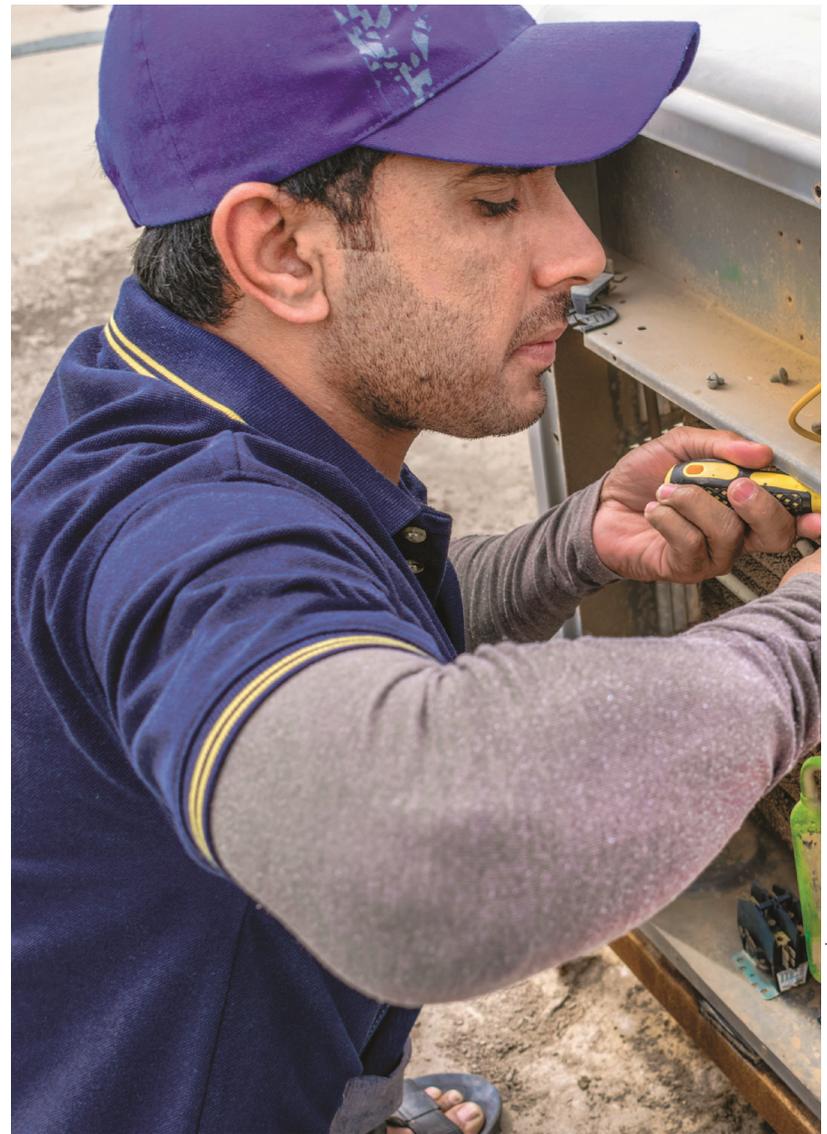
Sign up for Budget Billing...

For West Central Electric Cooper-ative members who have service in 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 re-calculated 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.

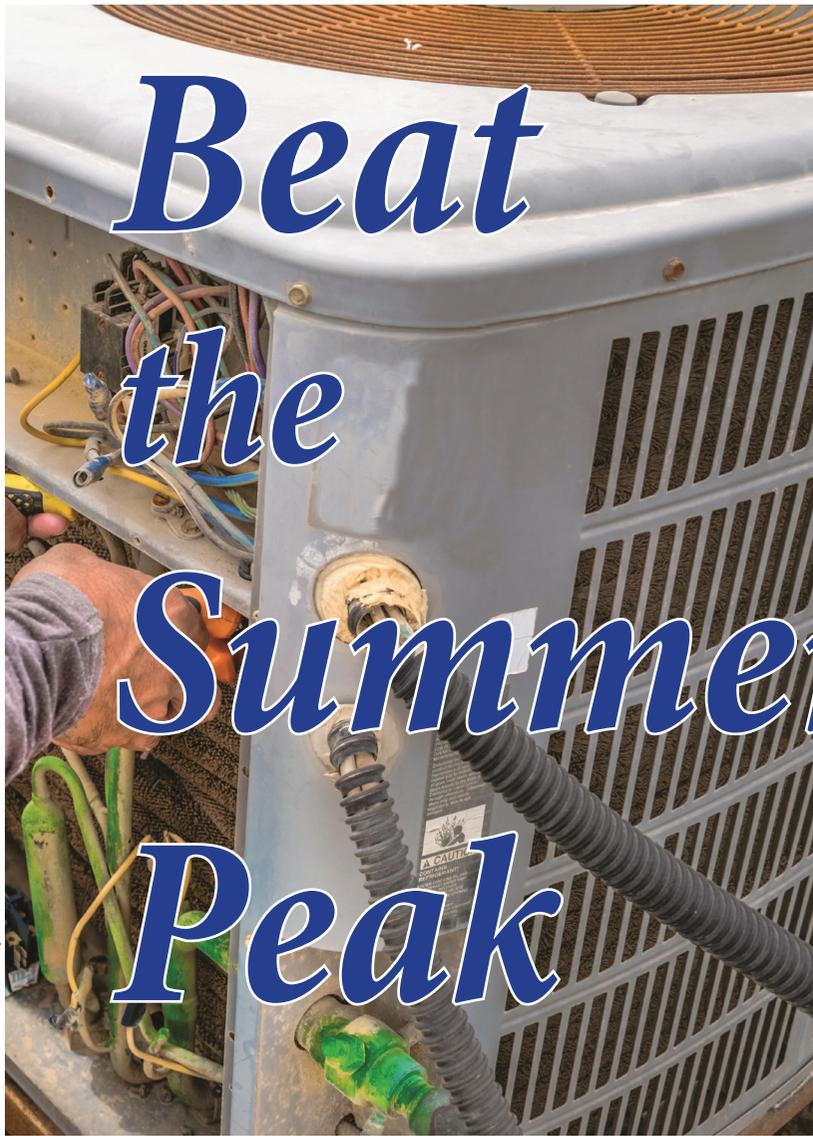


Saving a little money on your electric bill might be easier than you think...

As temperatures begin to spike, there are steps you can take to save money on energy bills this summer.

According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48 percent of energy expenditures just on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) system. Although a majority of that 48 percent is spent on heating expenses, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners.

Aside from replacing your central air conditioner with a newer, higher-efficiency model, there are some things you can do to increase efficiency, which can help reduce your



energy bills.

Besides weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors in your home (always a good idea regardless of the time of year), Safe Electricity offers the following:

- Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76 percent of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat, according to energy.gov.

- If you don't already have one, install a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat seven to 10 degrees from its normal setting for eight hours a day, according to Energy.gov.

- Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by a HVAC professional.

- Consider changes to your landscaping. Greenery that includes shade trees and those that insulate the foundation can reduce energy costs.

- Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help hot air from building. If your attic has less than six to eight inches of insulation, consider adding more. By addressing air leaks around your home and adding insulation, homeowners can save around 10 percent annually on energy bills, according to energystar.gov.

- Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help your air conditioner run more efficiently.

- Make sure your outdoor condenser

unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.

- Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.

- Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.

Increased summer electric demand not only affects the monthly budget, but it can also seriously strain your home's electrical system, which can create dangerous shock and fire hazards. Flickering or dimming lights or frequent circuit breaker trips are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked immediately by a qualified electrician.

To schedule an energy audit, contact Brent Schlotzhauer at 800-491-3803. For more information on electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.



FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held March 26, 2020

Following recommendations from the President of the United States prohibiting social gatherings of more than ten people due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and pursuant to Section 351.355 RSMo., the meeting was conducted by conference call whereby all parties could hear one another. 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: Densil Allen Jr., Max Swisegood, Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Sandra Streit, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons and Jeremy Ahmann. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, Manager of Accounting Michael Newland and general counsel Sheri Smiley.

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 February 2020; expenditures for the month of February 2020; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following february reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Newland presented the February 2020 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. He reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report and Treasurer's 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 and ratios. He discussed deferred revenue that was brought in and the impact of low interest rates. He discussed capital credit retirement options and will present again on this at the next board meeting. He also provided the top 20 consumers. He reported on February 2020 financials from West Central Services.

Operations and Safety Report: Randy Burkeybile provided a written Operations and Safety Report including outages; construction; pole changeouts; inspections; safety improvement plan; Safety Committee Report; crew visits; and no lost-time accidents.

Engineering Report: Dan Disberger provided a written Engineering Report including new projects in staffing and design phase; challenges relating to trees; solar inspections; and right-of-way update.



Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer presented a written Member Services Report including Operation Round Up and community engagement with COVID-19.

NW REPORT

Swisegood presented the NW Report. Items of interest included: outages; legislative activities; and reliability. It was also discussed that the NW Annual Meeting will now be held as a teleconference on April 15, 2020, at 9 a.m. due to COVID-19. Simmons was nominated as the voting delegate for the cooperative.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley presented a report on legal matters.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following were appointed to the Nominating Committee: District 1-- Donald Fore and Adam Heater; District 2 -- Dennis Knipmeyer and Paul Nolte; District 3 -- Virginia Haller and Jeremy Sanders; District 4 -- Verna Jenkins and William Grauberger; District 5 -- Stephanie Othic.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included: How the office was dealing with COVID-19 and adjustments being made to ensure the employees' safety as well as continued service to the members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • *Statement of Operations* • February 2020

	This month	YTD 2020	YTD 2019
Revenue	\$3,591,239	\$6,527,306	\$6,176,416
Power Bill Expense	1,578,546	3,247,785	3,483,549
Operation & Maint. Expense	596,956	1,110,759	1,388,303
Depreciation Expense	191,447	382,151	360,921
Interest Expense	<u>109,860</u>	<u>226,489</u>	<u>226,123</u>
Total cost of Svcs. (Total Expense)	2,476,809	4,967,184	5,458,896
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	1,114,430	1,560,122	717,520
Other Margins	<u>8,955</u>	<u>18,688</u>	<u>52,878</u>
TOTAL MARGINS	\$1,123,385	\$1,578,810	\$770,398

