



West Central Electric Cooperative

December 2021

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews



Member Appreciation Day is back

WCE will again host in-person
Member Appreciation Day
Dec. 14 at co-op offices

PAGE 3
WCE linemen take third
place in the Lineworker
Rodeo team division

PAGES 4-5
The 12 Days of
Christmas Energy
Efficiency

PAGE 6
Round Up board
approves final round
of grants for 2021

Member appreciation Day will be Dec. 14

Open house is back on after Covid forced cancellation last year

West Central Electric's traditional Member Appreciation Day will be held 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14 at both the Higginsville and Oak Grove locations, General Manager Mike Gray announced.

"After so many things had to be cancelled or altered over the past two years, we are glad to be able to invite our members back into our offices for our holiday open house," he said.

Members can register to win free electricity and collector's edition Willie Wiredhand ornaments. WCE will draw for two ornaments and four \$25 certificates for energy credit at each office. Winners will be drawn at 4 p.m. Dec. 14. Members who win a prize will be notified by phone. Credit will be applied to your electric account if you are a winner of free electricity. Ornaments can be picked up at our offices or we would be glad to mail them to you.

Information will also be available on the Round Up program and the new Co-op Connections program. Members can sign up online or pick up a Co-op Connections card at one of the offices to start saving at businesses both locally and nationwide.

The new WCE 2022 calendars will also be available.

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.

Don't forget to sign up for Co-op Connections and save money at these area businesses

The Co-op Connections is live, and you could be saving money when you visit several area businesses. Request a card or download the app at www.connections.coop to get great deals at these area businesses:

Abe Thompson RV Service Center, Oak Grove
Alumbaugh, Inc. Heating & Cooling, Higginsville
Arcadian Moon, Higginsville
At Ease Coffee and Design, Lexington
Awesome Blossoms, Warrensburg
Banner Coulson Chevrolet, Higginsville
Dave's Corner Garage, Mayview
Dempsey's BBQ, Concordia
Friesz's Donuts, Warrensburg
Generations Cafe, Higginsville
Glam Guru, LLC, Higginsville
Hannah Banana's Coffee & More, Higginsville, Lexington, Clinton
Higginsville Printing, Higginsville
Hoflander Ford, Higginsville
Jamie's Place, Holden
K&A Creations Crafters Market, Holden
Michelle's Place, Mayview
My Sister's Garden, Higginsville
Oak Grove Chiropractic, Oak Grove
Odessa Diesel Repair, Odessa
Odessa Nutrition, Odessa
Pat's Army & Sporting Goods, Lexington
Pigeon's Nest, Higginsville
Pure Life Photography, Higginsville
Riverside Nutrition, Lexington
Sign Gypsies, Lafayette County
Shades Salon, Higginsville
STG Feed & Animal Health, Oak Grove
Vitality, Higginsville

Contact us if your business would like to participate!

*WCE offices will be closed
on the following days:*

**Thursday, Dec. 23 and Friday, Dec. 24
for the Christmas holiday
and
Friday, Dec. 31, 2022
for the New Year's holiday**



Three West Central Electric linemen participated in the annual AMEC Lineworkers Rodeo at AMEC headquarters in Jefferson City in October. In the Team Division, Wyatt Wilkinson, Kade Collins and Matt Truax took third place.

(Top photo) Linemen participate in one of several contests during the rodeo.

(Middle photo) Truax, Collins and Wilkinson watch their competitors while awaiting their turn.

(Bottom photo l-r) Wilkinson, Collins and Truax receive their awards from Missouri Gov. Mike Parson.



2021 AMEC Lineworkers Rodeo

Holidays are a great time to save energy at home



Here once again is the familiar but always useful list of tips for the holidays from the U.S. Department of Energy:

Day 1: get a home energy audit

Give the gift of energy savings by purchasing a professional home energy audit for someone. The audit will help pinpoint where your home is losing energy – and what you can do to save money – by checking for air leaks, inspecting insulation, surveying heating and cooling equipment and more. By making upgrades to your home following a home energy audit, you could save 5 to 30 percent on your energy bills.

Day 2: install a smart thermostat

Don't pay for warm or cool air you aren't using. Install a smart thermostat to save money on your energy bills. Lowering your thermostat 10 to 15 degrees for 8 hours can save up to 15 percent a year on heating bills. If you are traveling this holiday, be sure to program your thermostat for energy savings while you are away. Remember, cooperatives participating in Take Control & Save offer a rebate for the purchase and installation of new, ENERGY STAR-rated smart thermostats. They may be used with any type of heating or cool system.

Day 3: maintain your fireplace

It isn't the holidays without a crackling fire, but don't let your energy bills go up in smoke. Proper chimney maintenance – like sealing your fireplace flue damper, caulking around your hearth and installing tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system to blow warmed air back into the room – will keep warm air in and cold air out.

Day 4: prepare your windows for winter

Before you curl up on the couch in front of the window this holiday season, take steps to reduce heat loss. Weatherizing your windows can reduce drafts, and installing storm windows can cut heat loss through your windows by 25 to 50 percent.

Day 5: take advantage of sunlight

Use sunlight to your advantage this winter. Open curtains during the day to allow sunlight to naturally warm your home; close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.

Day 6: buy ENERGY STAR electronics

Are computers, TVs or other electronics on your wish list this holiday season? Be sure to ask for ENERGY STAR home electronics for instant energy savings. For example, depending on use, an ENERGY STAR-

qualified computer can save 30 to 65 percent more energy than other computers.



Energy effic

Day 7: purchase rechargeable batteries and an ENERGY STAR battery charger

If you are buying gifts that require batteries, use rechargeable ones, which are more cost effective than disposable ones, as well as an ENERGY STAR battery charger. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.

Day 8: save energy in the kitchen

Between holiday baking and meal preparation, your oven is probably working overtime. Cooking alone accounts for 4.5 percent of your home's energy use, and when factoring in other kitchen appliances, your kitchen's energy use can be as high as 15 percent.

Take simple actions such as using the right-sized – and covered – pots on stove burners, using the oven light to check on a

dish's progress and baking multiple items at the same time. Use a microwave or toaster oven instead of the stove where feasible.

Day 9: use LEDs

Light up your home with light-emitting diode lights. In addition to being sturdier and more resistant to breakage, LED holiday lights last longer and consume 70 percent less energy than conventional incandescent light strands. It only costs about 27 cents to light a 6-foot tree for 12 hours a day for 40 days with LEDs compared to \$10 for incandescent lights.

Day 10: install a timer on lights

When decking your house in holiday lights, use timer controls to lower energy consumption and save money. The controls allow you to turn lights on and off at specific times, and stay in the holiday spirit.

Day 11: plug holiday decorations into power strips

Even when you aren't using lights and electronics, they still draw small amounts of energy, averaging \$100 a year. Plug your electronics into a power strip, and turn it off to reduce your energy bills.

Day 12: drive your way to fuel savings

Whether you are driving across town to do errands or across the country to visit family, fuel costs can add up. To save, do multiple errands on one trip. Also empty the car after your driving trips – an extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could increase gas costs by up to 8 cents a gallon.

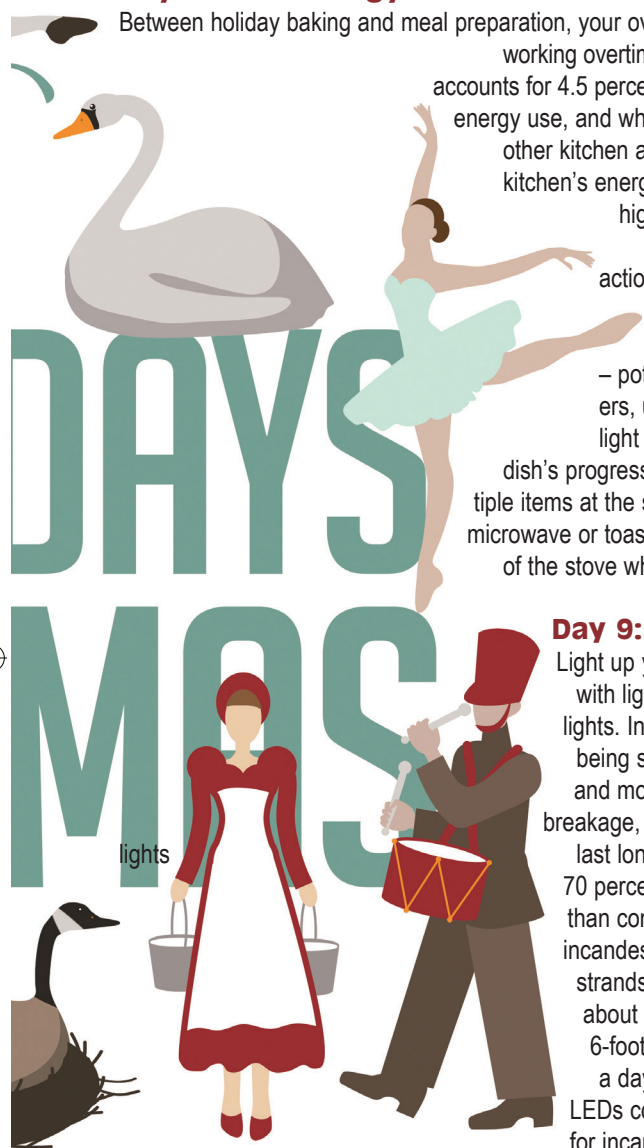
Energy efficient gifts from ENERGY STAR

The best gifts are the ones that keep on giving – in this case, saving energy dollars. The Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR department offers many such gifts at www.energystar.gov/products/holiday. Or just look for the ENERGY STAR label when you're shopping.

These energy-efficient devices and appliances are perfect gifts for energy-minded folks on your Christmas list. Among the gift ideas ENERGY STAR recommends are products in these categories:

- Televisions
- Wireless speakers
- Digital media players
- Sound bars
- Tablets
- Laptops
- Laundry
- Smart thermostats – Participating cooperatives offer a Take Control & Save rebate for the purchase and installation of new ENERGY STAR-listed smart thermostats used with any type of heating and cooling system. The limit is two per member address.
- Dishwashers
- Refrigerators
- Air cleaners
- Ceiling fans
- Light bulbs
- Light fixtures
- Light strings

Here's the difference such gifts can make. The average American household spends about \$2,000 a year on energy bills. If your home was filled with ENERGY STAR-qualified products, you would save about 30 percent or \$575 a year on your energy bills. Over the lifetime of the products, you could save \$8,750 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 77,000 pounds, according to ENERGY STAR.



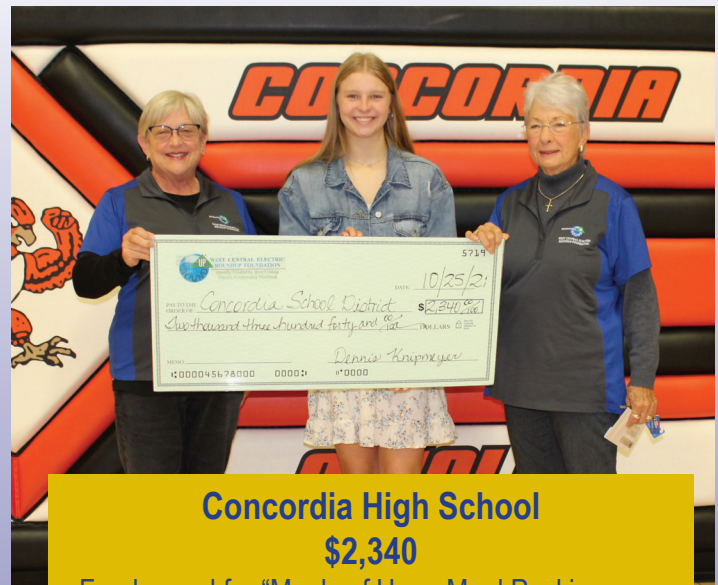
ciency

Final round of grants are awarded to 2021 Round Up applicants



Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Johnson County \$2,795

Funds used to purchase event management and fundraising solution software to help advertising and fundraising efforts



Concordia High School \$2,340

Funds used for "Meals of Hope Meal Packing Event," for Mac & Cheese Backsnacks (8,000 meals) to serve 65 families per weekend.



WEST CENTRAL ELECTRIC ROUNDUP FOUNDATION

Proudly Funded by West Central
Electric Cooperative Members

Since 2018...

41 projects funded!
over \$164,000 donated



Alma Fire Protection District \$6,500

Funds used to provide improvements to upgrade communication equipment.

If your community
organization has a project that
needs funding, contact Kim
Lewis at kim@wccecoop.com,
or visit our website at
www.westcentralelectric.coop
for information on how to
apply for a grant

Tax credits are available...

Here's what's out there and how to claim your share

Claim residential energy property federal credits

For years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, you may claim a credit for (1) 10 percent of the cost of qualified energy efficiency improvements and (2) the amount of the residential energy property expenditures paid or incurred during the taxable year.

The overall lifetime credit limit is \$500 (\$200 for windows), according to the Internal Revenue Service at www.irs.gov/newsroom/energy-incentives-for-individuals-residential-property-updated-questions-and-answers. Other individual credit limitations:

- \$50 for any advanced main air circulating fan
- \$150 for any qualified natural gas, propane or oil furnace or hot water boiler

- \$300 for any item of energy-efficient building property

The residential energy property credit is nonrefundable.

Qualified improvements include:

- Energy-efficient exterior windows, doors and skylights
- Roofs (metal and asphalt) and roof products
- Insulation

Claim your renewable energy federal tax credits

Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, the renewable energy tax credit for geothermal heat pumps now features a gradual step down in the credit value. The federal tax credit for this renewable energy system is:

- 26 percent for systems placed in service after 12/31/2019 and before 01/01/2023
- 22 percent for systems placed in service after 12/31/2022 and before 01/01/2024

These credits expire Dec. 31, 2023, so you have time to take advantage of them for both existing homes and new construction and for both principal residences and second homes but not for rentals.

Here are details of the types of renewable energy systems that qualify. All include both equipment and installation costs. For more detail, go to www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits/renewable_energy_tax_credits.

Geothermal heat pumps – Must meet the requirements of the ENERGY STAR program in effect at the time of the expenditure.

The credit must be claimed on the tax return for the year the product installation is completed. Therefore, any product purchased in 2020 that qualifies for the new credit, but is not installed until 2021, should be claimed on your 2021 tax return.

Credits generally can be applied over several years since many taxpayers don't pay enough tax to "use up" the credits in a single year for some of the qualifying equipment and items.

Check with your electric cooperative to see if it offers any rebates for efficiency improvements.



Merry Christmas!

from your friends at West Central Electric
Cooperative

Stacy Barnett	Nathan Johnson
Adam Beck	Kim Lewis
Doug Bird	Billy Mackie
Janette Blakely	Robert Minnis
Tim Bowler	Pete Nelson
Lois Brunkhorst	Michael Newland
Randy Burkeybile	Jeff Rhoades
Jeff Campbell	Matt Schellman
Derek Cole	Brent Schlotzhauer
Kade Collins	Tucker Crowe
Brandy Dukes	Brandon Steffen
Dru Felkins	Johnny Sullins
Tiger Fiene	Brandon Thaller
Tim Frerking	Matt Truax
Pam Fuenfhausen	Jesse Underwood
Scott Gard	Zac Wallpe
Todd Gast	Eric Wegener
Mike Gray	Wyatt Wilkinson
Brandon Heck	Laura Yearns
Heather Hoflander	

**We are honored to serve our
members, and wish you a safe
and prosperous new year!**

FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Sept. 23, 2021

A meeting of the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the Cooperative, in Higginsville, Missouri, at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and previous resolution of the board of directors. The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen Jr. Cooperative Attorney Sheri Smiley 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, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons, Sandra Streit and Jeremy Ahmann. Also present was General Manager Mike Gray.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, an amended agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of Aug. 26, 2021; expenditures for the month of August 2021; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following July reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Gray presented the August 2021 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. The meters that have been connected over the last ten years was discussed from RUS. He reported on July 2021 financials from West Central Services.

Operations Report

Gray provided the Operations Report. He reported on crew and truck use in Louisiana for Hurricane Ida. His report also included the following: update on crews; outages for the month, an outage at the Concordia substation that is supplied by Evergy on Sept. 3, the mechanic's position, and mowers. He also provided a report on equipment, brush and spraying crews, and a right-of-way report as well as construction retirement, maintenance and operations.

Safety and Engineering Report: Pete Nelson provided the Safety and Engineering Report. He reported on the following: safety meetings and crew visits. AMEC will complete the pole top and bucket rescue certification. He also reported on the status of engineering and staking projects, provided an update on solar installations, reported on the number of days worked without a lost-time accident and the miles driven without a serious accident. Potential fiber make-ready work was updated. A potential large load was also discussed and discussion was held regarding a member who wanted a line moved that was outside of the policy.



Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer presented the Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up. He gave an update on Coop Connections and reminded the board that the 2021 member satisfaction tri-annual survey begins on Oct. 18. He provided a net metering report and a COVID update for the office.

VOTING DELEGATE FOR CFC AND FEDERATED REGIONAL MEETING

Gray was named the voting delegate for CFC and Federated Regional meeting.

NW REPORT

Gray and Swisegood reported on the September NW board meeting and board retreat, and provided the mid-month AECI report which included a discussion on capital credits and deferred revenue, and reported on outages, wind, and solar. They reported on policies reviewed and gave a safety report for NW. Capital purchases for 2022 were discussed. Line upgrades were also discussed. The AMEC presentation on the annexation legislation was discussed. AECI's presentation on renewables and battery storage was reported.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley presented a report on legal matters.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented the monthly Manager's Report. The board retreat will be held Jan. 25-26, 2022. A discussion was held regarding lighting to cemeteries and it was decided to keep with the normal board policy that is in place.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was called at 11:35 a.m. and dismissed at 12:09 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • August 2021

	This month	YTD 2021	YTD 2020
Revenue	\$2,778,807	\$20,697,677	\$20,311,837
Power Bill Expense	1,509,807	11,733,831	11,590,499
Operation & Maint. Expense	474,687	4,467,155	4,629,774
Depreciation Expense	203,728	1,609,885	1,544,109
Interest Expense	114,102	923,028	951,634
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,302,324	18,733,899	18,716,016
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	476,483	1,963,778	1,595,821
Other Margins	5,680	70,571	95,911
TOTAL MARGINS	\$482,163	\$2,034,349	\$1,691,732

