



West Central Electric Cooperative

July 2021

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews

Second Cooperative Principle:

Democratic Member Control

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Gathering size restrictions on UCM campus forces the cancelling of in-person annual meeting for the second year

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How can you vote in your cooperative election? Here are full instructions for obtaining a mail-in ballot or voting online

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Want to know about your candidates for WCE Board of Directors positions? Check out their election profiles here

• ANNUAL MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 GATHERING RESTRICTIONS •

Annual meeting cancelled

Gathering restrictions force decision

For the second year in a row, West Central Electric's board of directors has been forced to cancel the traditional in-person annual meeting of members. The decision was made at the April 22 board meeting.

"This year's in-person meeting had to be cancelled because of Covid-induced gathering size restrictions at the University of Central Missouri," General Manager Mike Gray said. "This decision had to be made early because of time-line restraints, and we were not able to get a commitment at that time that restrictions would change by August."

The board of directors election will be held by mail, as it

was last year, as well as a new online-voting process (see information on facing page).

As for the usual financial statistics and other annual meeting reports, members will still receive that information via the August edition of West Central Electric News.

"Over the past year, we have learned to adapt to many situations we never thought we would have to adapt to, but we have been able to keep the cooperative running, the information flowing, and take care of normal business just like always, but in different ways," Gray said. "We are disappointed to have to cancel the meeting for a second year in a row, but are looking forward to the day we can all gather again for annual meeting just as we have in the past."

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: A member waits to cast her ballot during a past annual membership meeting at the University of Central Missouri Multipurpose Building. The 2020 annual meeting was cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the 2021 annual meeting was cancelled because of ongoing gathering restrictions.

Memo on seasonal connections...

Members requesting seasonal connections on meters for wells, irrigation systems, etc. are asked to have either the map number or pole number available when they call in. Having one of these pieces of information will help cooperative employees ensure the right meter is being connected at your location. Please direct any questions to WCE at 816-565-4942 or 800-491-3803.

The **Co-op Connections Card** is coming soon for WCE members. Continue to watch this newsletter and our Facebook page for dates and details!



•Co-op members can save money and support local businesses!

•Businesses can participate at no cost AND get free advertising!

Member voting will begin July 9, 2021 and end July 30, 2021.

ELECTION NOTICE

Because of gathering size restrictions on the University of Central Missouri campus, and the resulting need to cancel the in-person annual meeting, this year's board of directors election will be held through a combination of online and mail-in voting.

West Central Electric Cooperative is member-owned, which means the organization is governed by the members it serves.

Although co-op elections are typically held at the annual meeting each year, a change to WCE's bylaws approved by members at the 2015 annual meeting allows for voting by mail-in ballot or voting "by any other means" established by the board of directors.

Because of Covid-induced gathering size restrictions, the WCE Board of Directors was forced to again cancel the in-person annual meeting for 2021. Votes for the board of directors election may be cast by members either via mail-in voting, or online voting. The process for this remote election process has a number of checks and balances to ensure the privacy of co-op members and the security of election

outcomes. The election is administered by an independent, third-party contractor.

Members can find detailed information about the election process by visiting www.westcentralelectric.coop/vote and can revisit the website beginning July 9 to officially cast their ballot in this year's co-op election.

The goal of this process is to ensure every co-op member has an opportunity to exercise their right to democratic participation, despite the inability to host a mass gathering at this time. This protects a basic principle of the cooperative business model, and empowers members with continued local control over their electric cooperative.

HOW TO VOTE IN THE CO-OP ELECTION

STARTING
July 9, 2021

Voting in WCE's 2021 election is an easy and secure process.

In order to access a ballot, you will need to have the following information:

1. Your last name or business name on your account
2. Your co-op account number
3. Your map location number

(This information can be found on the front page of your billing statement, or through your online SmartHub account. Once you have the required information, visit www.westcentral.amecvote.com to vote online, or call 816-490-6614 to request a mail-in ballot.)

Online voting portal
secure login page

Log on to:

www.westcentral.amecvote.com
to vote online

Mail-in ballot instructions:

- Call 816-490-6614 BEFORE July 30 to request a ballot.
- Follow the voice prompt to leave your member information
- Look for your ballot to arrive in the mail within a week
- Fill out your ballot for the board of directors election
- Return your ballot to PO Box 1648, Jefferson City, MO 65102
- Ballot MUST ARRIVE BY 4 P.M. AUG. 13 IN ORDER TO BE COUNTED

ONLINE VOTING WILL BE OPEN JULY 9 - JULY 30

Clark Bredehoeft

Blackburn, Mo.

Occupation: Farmer

Family: I am a 3rd generation farmer. My wife, Holly, and I live on our century farm, and have three grown children and one grandchild.

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: We are members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Alma, where Holly is the church/school secretary, and I am presently an elder. I am a member of Farm Bureau, MU Alumni Association, American Soybean Association, Corn Growers Association, and have represented West Central Electric on the Board of Directors of AMEC, Association of Missouri Electric Cooperative, for the past 12 years. I have also been elected to represent District 1, on the executive committee of AMEC, starting in October.

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? Being on the board of directors is something I have enjoyed and I am willing to devote the time needed to help maintain and promote the business of West Central Electric. Because electricity is a valuable input in my agricultural business, it has always been my desire to help WCE keep costs down and provide the best service possible. Having the most experience of the present Board of Directors, I feel I bring a valuable asset into how decisions were made in the past and how to move forward in the future. My years of service and education has qualified me to serve and make good decisions for the Cooperative.

What are your goals for your first three-year term? My goals for the next three years are to provide leadership to maintain the quality



DISTRICT

2

Candidate

of service with the lowest cost possible for our members. Keeping costs low for the membership is something I have always strived to do.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? The climate change issue and how we are impacted by the government policy and restrictions put on us and our power supplier, AECI. Being on the Board of Directors for AMEC, gives me the opportunity to give direction to the AMEC Legislative Staff to communicate the best interests of coops with our state and federal officials. I also have opportunity to represent WCE with personal visits to the state capitol, to talk with our own legislators on how these issues affect our members.

Additional comments: I am the only director living in the eastern part of Lafayette County, and represent the northern and eastern area of District 2. It's important to have Directors distributed fairly evenly through all the districts, to maintain representation for all members. I have always felt that directors should be active in their businesses and communities. I believe this helps them to maintain a sense of ownership in their cooperative. It has been a privilege to serve on the Cooperative's Board of Directors, and if re-elected, I look forward to serving you in the next three years.

Brenda Oliver
Odessa, Mo.



DISTRICT
2
Candidate

Occupation: Realtor and Appraiser

Family: I have been married to retired sheet metal worker, Gene Callahan for 30 years and we do not have children. We have lots of nieces and nephews that keep us entertained. We raise beef cattle on 110 Acres just 2 miles north of the Johnson County line. We built our home in 1992 and were excited to try the “new” technology of geo-thermal heat pumps.

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: I've been an active member of the Odessa Chamber of Commerce for many years and work on the Odessa Rodeo, Puddle Jumper Days Parade, and the Chamber Recognition Program. I'm an active member of the Odessa First Baptist Church and I belong to several bridge clubs. For the last 15 years I have been heavily involved in the Kansas City Regional Association of Realtors and served as President in 2013. Missouri Realtors Association has 24,000 members and I served as the President of that group in 2019 and will be a National Realtors Association Regional Vice President for 2022, representing Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas and Oklahoma at national events.

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? After 40 years of owning my own independent real estate company I understand the challenges of small business owners. I sold Heritage Realty in 2019. Although I still actively list and sell for the new Brokers, I now have more time to take on worthwhile service work. I've also slowed down on my real estate appraisal business. My extensive experience in these two fields is a perfect skill set for working with WCE. I've served on condemnation panels, understand surveys, right-of-ways, easements, legal descriptions and built 10 homes in rural areas serviced by WCE. So I know the challenges of providing the electric service that is so vital to the continued economic growth of our area. As a farm appraiser, I've traveled almost every country road in the service area and I know growth patterns for residential and commercial expansion—many of the things that will drive the decisions WCE will have to make in years to come. I've been instrumental in political action on real estate issues on state and national levels, and I know that political involvement is a critical part of the success of every utility. I'm not

afraid to speak up to decision makers, and speak from the heart about what our rural area brings to the economic health and social conscience of Missouri and the mid-west.

What are your goals for your first three-year term? My goal would be to learn as much as I could about the fiscal aspects of the Co-op, become familiar with the management, and represent the board at educational, political and public relation opportunities. I'd like to help promote the the “Round-Up” program as the community service gem that it is. My main goal would be to share my unique talents to make members feel that they have representation on the board that understands their needs and goals.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? Planning for the future needs of power availability and the inevitable cost increases will require “big picture” thinking. I've always been a passionate advocate of strategic planning, and I'd not only encourage aggressive planning but participate in the process. This would probably include a plan to attract and keep the best employees, lobbying for policies and laws that support strengthening the position of rural cooperatives in general and partnering with other like-minded utility providers in order to stay on top of current issues and trends that will impact our cooperative members.

Additional comments: Many people have asked if I want to serve on the WCE board because I have an “agenda.” On the contrary, I am a huge fan of our cooperative and want to help maintain its place in the framework of smart rural economic development. Pressure from people in the metropolitan area wanting to move to less populated settings, exacerbated by the Pandemic, will require our cooperative to manage it's resources soundly and be poised for more demand in the very near future.

West Central Electric Cooperative • 2021 Board of Directors Candidates • West Central EI

DISTRICT

1

Candidate

Jeremy Ahmann
Odessa, Mo.



Incumbent

Occupation: Farmer, Lewis Hybrids Seed Dealer

Family: Wife: Rachel. Children: Abe (10), Emily (9), Lauren (7)

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: Grace Lutheran Church, Lexington ; Wellington-Napoleon Sports Association

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors?

I am thankful for the opportunity to have served on the board for the last six-and-a-half years. I have enjoyed my time and have learned a great deal from management, employees and other board directors.

I have had the opportunity to serve on various committees during my time as a board member. I have served on the strategic planning, by-law, wage and salary and scholarship committees. I believe that these experiences along with my continuing education both inside and outside the board room make me qualified to continue to serve.

There's no specific quality of mine that I feel qualifies me to serve as a director more than any other, but I believe in hard work, good communication and making decisions for the greater good. I feel a strong sense of commitment to the future of this cooperative and making sure that the voice and best interests of the members are heard.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? I look forward to continuing to work with this board on providing affordable, reliable, electric service to our members. I want to work with the board to help lead this cooperative through decisions that affect each and every member not only now, but in the years to come.

I have enjoyed the continuing education opportunities provided by the cooperative, and so a goal of mine is to continue expanding my knowledge and perspective through these opportunities. I also hope to increase my knowledge in the boardroom and in service to cooperative members through work on various board committees

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? One of the biggest issues continues to be the effect that potential future legislation and regulations could pose on the future of rural electric cooperatives. I'm thankful to serve on a board with other members who also recognize these potential issues. We're all committed to an open-minded and forward-thinking approach to these challenges. We continue to listen-to and analyze topics both from inside and outside the cooperative, and do not take that responsibility lightly.

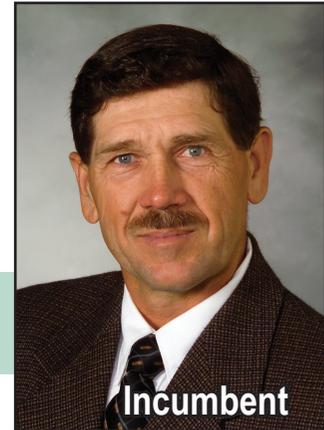
Additional comments: In my time of service, the board has seen a wide array of topics to discuss. I'm proud of the work this board has done and continues to do to ensure this cooperative can continue to provide the cheapest and most reliable energy to its members for many years to come.

DISTRICT

4

Candidate

Dale Jarman
Holden, Mo.



Incumbent

Name: Dale Jarman

Occupation: Farmer

Family: My wife Georgia and I have two sons; Seth , his wife Laura and daughter Leona and Nathan and his wife Severyn.

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: I am a member of the Johnson County Extension Council, Trustee of the Blackwater Cemetery Association and a member of the Holden United Methodist Church.

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors?

What do you feel qualifies you to serve as a director of the cooperative: My parents became members of West Central Electric when it became originally available in our area. I am aware of the mission the co-op had to serve the rural population that the private utility companies found too unprofitable to serve. Co-ops are responsible to the members they serve and not outside investors. My commitment as a director is to stay true to this mission.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? The most important thing we do is to provide reliable, quality service at affordable rates. I have attended several training courses and researched the impact of the various decisions that we have to make. Learning and staying current with changes in the industry is important to me.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? In order to provide reliable power, we need to keep and improve electric generation that will work in adverse conditions as well as to upgrade transmission lines. We also need to improve cyber security in order to protect our system.

Additional comments: I have learned a great deal about our co-op while being on the board. I am in a position to help maintain a strong co-op that continues to meet our members' needs. I would appreciate your support in this election.



West Central Electric's 2021 Nominating Committee (l-r): Adam Heater, Paul Nolte, Stephanie Othic, Jeremy Sanders, Virginia Haller, Lance Tieman, Verna Jenkins, William Grauberger and Donald Fore.

2021 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee

Members of the 2021 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee met May 13, 2021 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Nominees were the current slate of incumbents with terms expiring and one challenger:

District 1:

Jeremy Ahmann (incumbent);

District 2:

Clark Bredehoeft (incumbent)
Brenda Oliver

District 4:

Dale Jarman (incumbent)

2021 WCE Nominating Committee:

District 1

Donald Fore Adam Heater

District 2

Lance Tieman Paul Nolte

District 3

Virginia Haller Jeremy Sanders

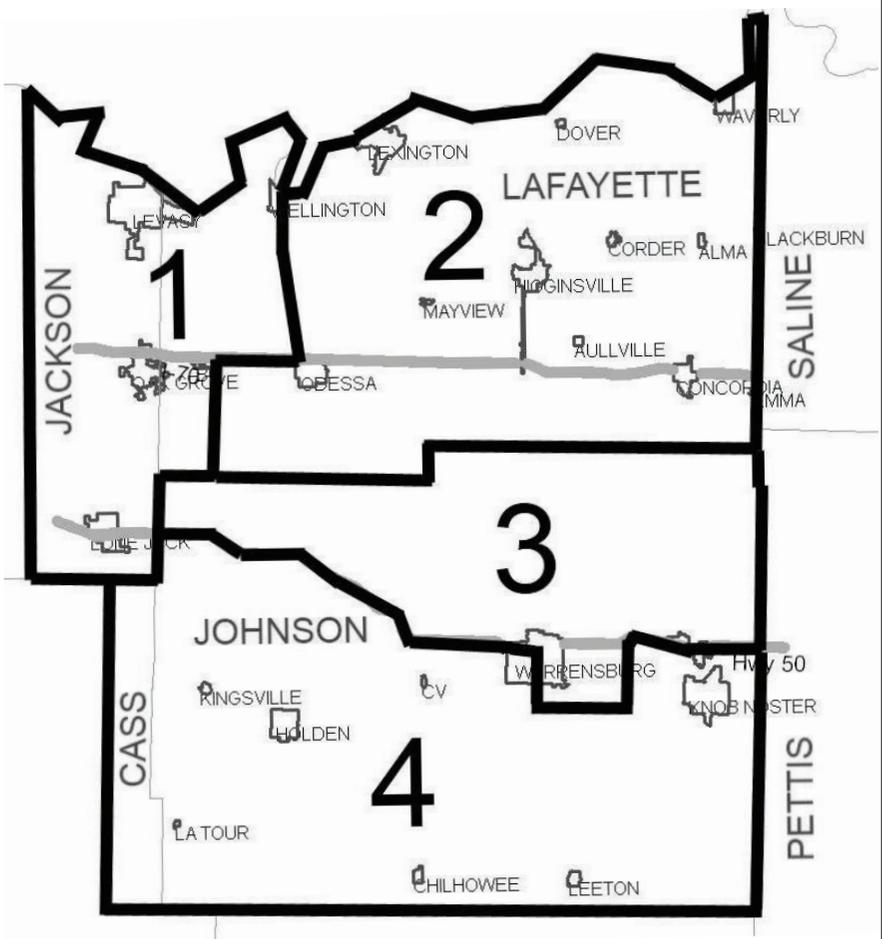
District 4

Verna Jenkins William Grauberger

District 5

Stephanie Othic

West Central Electric Cooperative DISTRICT MAP



LEGEND
County lines ———
District boundaries ———

*District 5 is an "At-Large" district, and therefore encompasses the entire service area.

FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held April 22, 2021

The meeting, was called to order by Vice President Clark Bredehoeft. Robert Simmons, Secretary of the Cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Max Swisegood, Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Dale Jarman Robert Simmons and Jeremy Ahmann. Densil Allen Jr. and Sandra Streit attended by phone. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, CFO Michael Newland and general counsel Sheri Smiley, Operations Manager Randy Burkeybile, Engineering Manager/Safety Coordinator Pete Nelson and Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer.

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 March 25, 2021; expenditures for the month of March 2021; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following february reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Newland presented the March 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. He reported on March 2021 financials from West Central Services. A potential bylaw change regarding the unclaimed capital credit list was discussed and may be brought forth next year regarding publication in the paper. This year one notice will be placed in each paper of each county and then a link to the coop's web site where the list will be provided will appear in the small papers in the same counties. The audit will be sent to the lenders. The auditor will be scheduled to come present to the board.

Operations and Safety Report: Burkeybile provided a written Operations Report and was present for questions. His report included the following: a crew update, outages for the month, an update on filling the mechanic's position, brush crews who will begin work at the Centerview substation, and right-of-way-reports.

Safety and Engineering Report: Nelson provided a written Safety and Engineering Report and was present for questions. He reported on the following: safety meetings and crew visits. He also reported on staking projects, pole inspections, new services and change services. He gave an update on certifications that will be worked on that were on hold for COVID.

Member Services Report: Schlotzhauer presented a written Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up. He gave an update on Youth Tour and announced the winners of both Youth Tour and CYCLE. He reported on the English Scholarship winners and the West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarships. He gave a COVID office update, discussed net metering and rebates given. Chamber meetings are starting again live. He went to the capitol to help support the bills that are in committee. He gave a Co-op Connections report -- the card should be ready the second week of September.

NW REPORT

Swisegood and Gray reported on the April board meeting. They provided the mid-month AECL report, and reported on outages, wind, and solar. They gave an update on the fiber system and the policies that were updated, reported on the NW Annual Meeting and the election of officers and directors. They reported on the strategic planning that had been done.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft and Gray reported on the meeting held April 7, 2021 and had provided the board with written departmental reports. They reported on the dollar



up program that is given to lineman training facilities for each hour an intern works during the summer. The maximum to West Central would be approximately \$500.00. This amount is then triple matched by an outside program. The board approved a donation up to \$500.

AMEC PAC DONATION

A \$500 donation was approved.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Jarmann reported on the scholarships that had been presented.

OPERATION ROUND UP REPORT

A written report was provided regarding the meeting April 11, 2021. Streit gave a supplemental report regarding the projects that were approved. The next meeting will be held on July 12, 2021.

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

Gray reported that UCM will not allow the capacity required for an annual meeting quorum so it was decided to cancel the in-person meeting this year as the governor for the state of Missouri had extended the ability of the co-ops to do so through Aug. 31, 2021. If after the upcoming nominating committee meeting it is determined that there will be election contests, or if someone filed timely to run by petition, there will be allowed both mail-in and electronic voting. The board voted that if the election is contested, AMEC will conduct both mail-in voting and electronic voting on behalf of the co-op, and if there is no contested election that the ballots can be returned back to the office as was done in 2020. Streit then left the meeting.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA ON CONFERENCE CALLS

Jarmann led the discussion on whether board attendance by conference calls should be allowed. This could be a board policy change. There was a motion to table the subject until next month.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley presented a report on legal matters.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. He reported on a Zoom call he attended to talk with legislative staff on federal legislation and discussed non-union co-op logo clothing and the assistance program, and a new policy will be brought later.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • March 2021

	This month	YTD 2021	YTD 2020
Revenue	\$2,598,349	\$8,892,491	\$8,947,358
Power Bill Expense	1,363,782	4,850,705	4,621,550
Operation & Maint. Expense	553,945	1,635,717	1,694,129
Depreciation Expense	199,596	596,756	574,107
Interest Expense	125,575	345,826	352,120
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,242,898	7,429,004	7,241,906
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	355,451	1,463,487	1,705,452
Other Margins	30,257	42,600	52,842
TOTAL MARGINS	\$385,708	\$1,506,087	\$1,758,294

