



**West Central Electric Cooperative**

February 2020

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# ElectricNews

## Prepare for power outages

We'll get you back on ASAP,  
but the key to safely riding  
out power outages is to be  
prepared ahead of time  
pages 4-5

### PAGE 2

Member Appreciation drawing winners are announced, and some important scholarship deadlines to note

### PAGE 3

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** to members regarding third-party bill-paying company DOXO

### PAGES 6-7

Details on each of WCE's available scholarships: John & Kathryn English, West Central Electric and WCE/EDS

# IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Students entering the

## 2021 Rural Electric Youth Tour contest

Essays must be turned in to the Higginsville office no later than 4:30 p.m. February 12, 2021.

Essays submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Feb. 12, 2021.

Applications for the

## 2021 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship

must be postmarked no later than Feb. 19, 2021.

Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Feb. 19, 2021.

Applications for the

## 2021 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship

must be postmarked no later than March 12, 2021.

Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. March 12, 2021.

Applications for the

## 2021 WCE Electrical Distributions Systems Scholarship

must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2021.

Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. April 1, 2021.

### 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](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) under "View & Report Outages"

#### District office:

506 N. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO 64075

#### Website:

[www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://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.*

## 2021 Member Appreciation Day winners:

### *Willie Wiredhand Ornaments:*

James Mieser, Warrensburg

Ruth Elgin, Odessa

Wesley Stettinisch, Oak Grove

Mark Given, Oak Grove



### *\$25 Energy Certificates:*

Carol Lohofener, Lexington

Melvin Hoffman, Warrensburg

Danielle Schroeder, Higginsville

Raymond Bollmeyer, Warrensburg

Fran Rushing, Napoleon

Wanda Thomas, Holden

Doris Hodges, Oak Grove

Harmut Noerenberg, Odessa

**ON THE COVER:** Heavy frost covers branches of a tree at the West Central Electric headquarters office in Higginsville. Winter weather can show up well into the spring months as we have seen in the past few years, so be prepared to ride out power outages safely at any time.

*Important information for WCE members...*

## **DOXO is NOT affiliated with WCE Cooperative**

Some West Central Electric Cooperative members may have signed up for an account on a website called Doxo believing they were directly accessing their WCE billing account. Please note that Doxo is NOT affiliated with WCE in any way and is NOT A DIRECT PAYMENT PROCESSOR. Doxo is an unnecessary third party bill payment platform.

Not only does Doxo charge an additional processing fee that you wouldn't otherwise have to pay, using their

service also creates a risk that your payment is not passed through to WCE in time to avoid late fees or past due balances.

The best way to pay your bill is directly through the co-op by using the SmartHub app found on our website at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop), calling in a payment by phone at 855-874-5349, visiting our office in person or mailing your payment with the stub from your bill.

## **EV charging station rebate now offered**

*Qualifying Level 2 charging stations are eligible for \$250 rebate*

Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., (AECI) and West Central Electric have announced the addition of electric vehicle charging stations to the current rebate program. This rebate became effective Jan 1, 2021.

Rebates must be submitted within 90 days of purchase of equipment. Charging stations must have been

purchased on Jan. 1, 2021 or after to be eligible.

### **Electric Vehicle Charging Station Rebate Qualifications: ELIGIBLE MEMBERS**

- Residential and commercial members in good standing with the cooperative are eligible for rebates when buying qualifying electric vehicle Level 2 charging stations.
- The structure in which the charging station is installed must be a permanent structure on a permanent foundation on land owned by the member.
- Rebates are limited to eligible services (homes, lake homes, shops, barns, commercial buildings, etc) that purchase more than 6,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity from the cooperative on an annual basis.

### **ELIGIBLE ELECTRIC VEHICLE LEVEL 2 CHARGING STATIONS**

- Equipment must be new and ENERGY STAR rated.

•The cooperative reserves the right to complete an on-site inspection of the charger after installation.

•Electric vehicle charging stations that receive rebates may be subject to cooperative load control programs. The participant agrees to allow the cooperative to control the

timing of their charging equipment now or in the future.

• Owner must provide proof of purchase within 90 days and attach this form.

### **REBATE DETAILS**

- Limit of two rebates per member location.
- Attach additional applications for more units.
- The application must include all the information requested on the front of this application.
- Recipients of rebates may be requested to participate in a future survey by phone or e-mail.
- INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED AND WILL BE RETURNED TO THE MEMBER
- Please allow 6-8 weeks for rebate processing. Please keep a copy for your records.

For rebate questions, contact WCE at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

# **Take Control & Save**

**A Cooperative Effort for Energy Efficiency**

**Rebates are available on various energy-efficient equipment. Visit [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) under "Saving Energy" and "Energy-saving Rebates" for current rebate forms and information on qualifying equipment.**

# Understanding power

While your cooperative does everything it can to reduce the possibility of outages to your home or business, they do occur. There are a variety of reasons power outages can occur, including severe storms causing mass destruction, tree limbs coming into contact with power lines, vehicles crashing into utility poles, and animals such as squirrels causing short circuits while climbing electrical equipment.

Whatever the reason, rest assured your cooperative is working as fast as it can to get your power restored quickly and safely. While each utility has its own system for restoring power during an outage, many of the following steps will be similar from utility to utility.

The number one focus of your utility will be public safety. This means crews will clear lines and equipment that could pose safety hazards to the public. Next, it will turn its attention to power generation facilities that generate the actual electricity that powers your home or business. After that come transmission line and substation equipment repairs. Then, your utility will focus on feeder lines that can serve one to 3,000 customers, tap lines that provide power to 20 to 30 homes or businesses, and then connections to individual customers.

During this process, utilities will generally first make repairs to facilities that are critical to public health and safety—like hospitals, police and fire stations, water treatment plants, and communication systems. How long it takes to get your power restored depends on the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages, and when it becomes safe for utility personnel to get to the damaged areas.

Whether long or short, it pays to know what to do when the power goes out so you can keep your family safe. Safe Electricity suggests you:

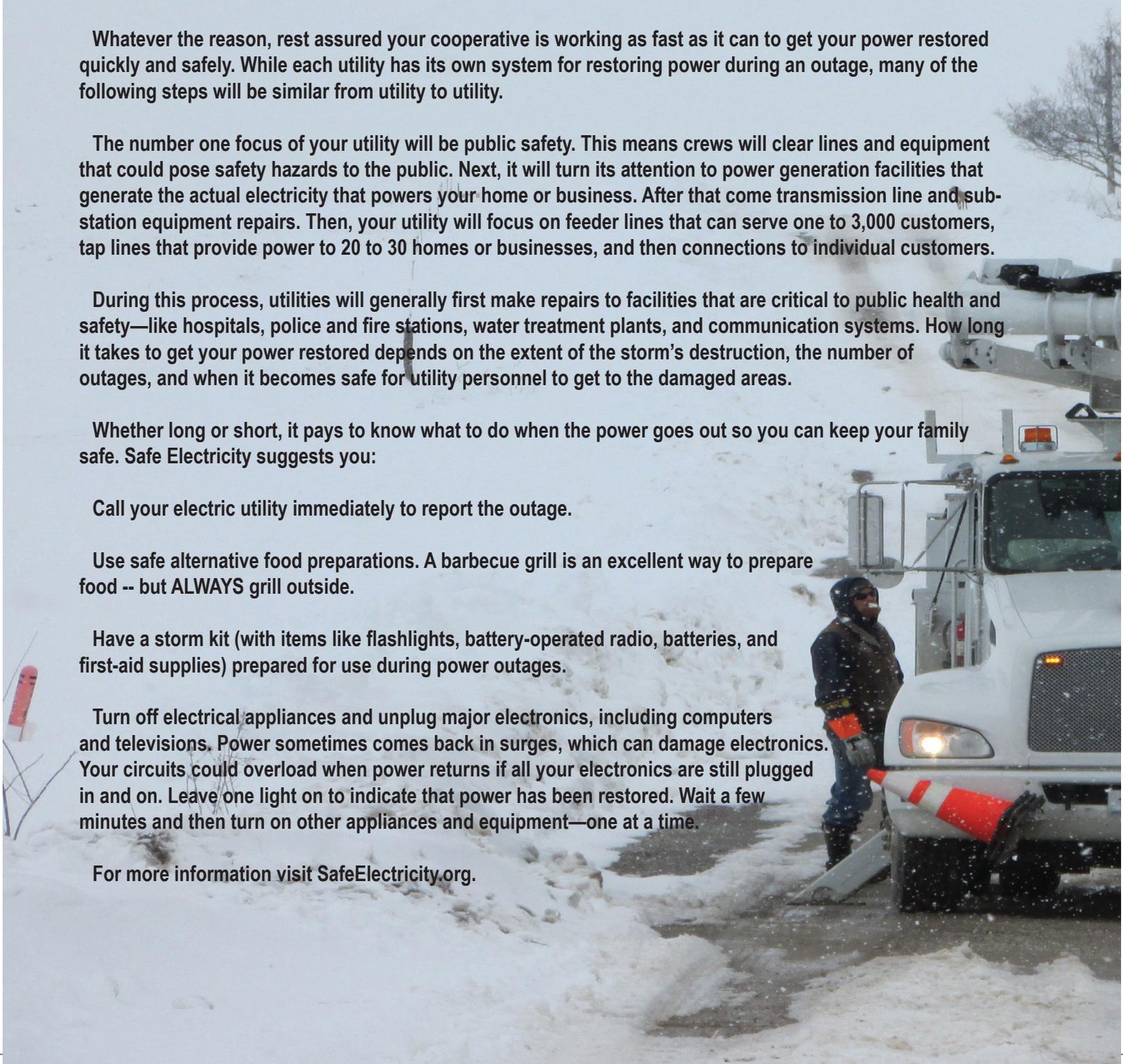
Call your electric utility immediately to report the outage.

Use safe alternative food preparations. A barbecue grill is an excellent way to prepare food -- but ALWAYS grill outside.

Have a storm kit (with items like flashlights, battery-operated radio, batteries, and first-aid supplies) prepared for use during power outages.

Turn off electrical appliances and unplug major electronics, including computers and televisions. Power sometimes comes back in surges, which can damage electronics. Your circuits could overload when power returns if all your electronics are still plugged in and on. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes and then turn on other appliances and equipment—one at a time.

For more information visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



# outages

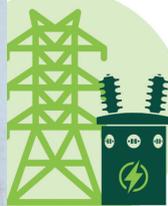
## ONCE THE POWER IS OUT HOW IS IT SAFELY RESTORED?

When conditions are favorable for a storm, severe weather can take down power lines or disrupt your electric service in several ways.

It can happen when wind causes trees or branches to fall into power lines or when ice buildup on wires causes the lines to sway and "gallop." When lightning strikes, transformers and other electric equipment can be affected.

Slick road conditions can also play a role when vehicles strike a power pole or pad-mounted transformer and cause a disruption in service.

Please know that when the power does go out, we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power. Here are the steps we take in the assessment and restoration process:



### STEP 1: ASSESS THE DAMAGE

We assess the damage to utility equipment and power lines across the service area

### STEP 2: ADDRESS SAFETY RISKS

We address immediate safety risks, including downed power lines



### STEP 3: RESTORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES

We ensure that public health and safety facilities are operational

### STEP 4: PRIORITIZE REPAIRS

We repair (usually in this order): transmission towers and lines, substations, distribution lines, and then service lines to properties



If you see a downed power line, always assume it is live and deadly.

Learn more at: [Safe  
Electricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)



## 2021 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship

### I. Amount of Scholarship

This year, approximately 20 high school seniors meeting DESE graduation requirements will receive a \$600 West Central Electric Cooperative scholarship for use at any college, university, trade or technical school the fall semester after their senior year/high school graduation.

### II. Selection Criteria

- A. The applicant will be selected without regard to sex, race, religion or color.
- B. The applicant's parent or legal guardian must be a current WCE member.
- C. A cumulative 3.0 or better grade point average is required.
- D. A minimum ACT score of 18 is required. (Equivalent college placement exams will qualify. Students must provide their score and the name of the exam on the designated place in the application.)
- E. A high school transcript must accompany the application. **\*\*Applications received without transcripts WILL BE PENALIZED.**
- F. The Scholarship Committee will consider financial need and special circumstances when selecting the winner of this scholarship. Please address financial need and any special circumstances when answering question # 7 on this application.
- G. Please submit a recent photo along with your application. This photo will be used for press releases and for the WCE newsletter if you are selected a winner. If you submit your application online, please email a photo to heather@wcecoop.com.

H. All scholarship applications **MUST BE TYPED.**

I. High School counselor must sign your transcript. (Home school transcripts are accepted, but must be signed by the teacher.)

### III. Restrictions

- A. Children and grandchildren of current West Central employees and directors are not eligible to apply.
- B. Four-year recipients of the John and Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Trust will not be considered.

### IV. Application Deadline

All applications **must be postmarked on or before March 12, 2021.** Send applications to: Heather Hoflander, West Central Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037.

### V. On-line applications

Scholarship applications are available on line at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) under the heading "Youth Programs." Applications may be printed and mailed, or filled out on line and emailed. If you choose to email your application, please also either email your photo as a jpeg to [heather@wcecoop.com](mailto:heather@wcecoop.com) or mail a photograph along with your transcript. Applications submitted via email **must arrive by 4:30 p.m. March 12, 2021.**

### VI. Winners' Notification

Recipients of the scholarship will be notified by **May 1, 2021** by mail.

## 2021 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship

### I. Background

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 seniors who meet DESE graduation requirements, and who are or were active 4-H members at the time of their high school graduation, and who desire to attend college the fall semester following their senior year/high school graduation 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.

### II. Amount of Scholarship

The John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Committee will award one \$1,000 scholarship (\$500 per semester) to a student beginning his/her freshman year in college. This student may reapply for additional funds for their next three years of study. Renewal requests will be filed in the spring and submitted with a transcript for the previous school year. Grants will be paid out by semester as long as the student remains enrolled full-time and meets academic requirements stated on the renewal application. The amount of these grants may vary due to availability of funds. The committee may decide to make one or more one-time scholarship awards based on merit.

### III. Selection Criteria

- A. The applicant will be selected without regard to sex, race, religion or color.
- B. The applicant must attend a high school in West Central Electric's service area, or have a parent or legal guardian who is a current West Central Electric member.
- C. A cumulative 3.0 or better grade point average is required.
- D. A minimum ACT score of 18 is required. (Equivalent college placement exams will qualify. Students must provide their score on the designated place in the application as well as the official name of the exam.)
- E. Participation in 4-H at the time of high school graduation is required.
- F. Two reference letters are required. No letter may come from a relative, and one letter must be from an adult involved with 4-H (for example a project leader, a 4-H youth specialist, etc.)
- G. Students must submit a copy of their completed Missouri Report Form (including required signatures) along with their application.

H. A high school transcript must accompany the application.

I. The Scholarship Committee will consider financial need and special circumstances when selecting the winner of this scholarship. Please address financial need and any special circumstances when answering question #4 on this application.

J. Please submit a recent photo along with your application. This photo will be used for press releases and for the WCE newsletter if you are selected a winner. If you submit your application online, please email a photo to [heather@wcecoop.com](mailto:heather@wcecoop.com).

K. Finalists will be required to participate in an interview with the scholarship committee. If applying, you should tentatively plan to be available that evening for interviews, should you be named a finalist.

L. All scholarship applications **MUST BE TYPED.**

M. High School counselor must sign your transcript. (Home school transcripts are accepted, but must be signed by the teacher.) **\*\*Applications received without transcripts WILL BE PENALIZED.**

### IV. Restrictions

Children and grandchildren of current WCE directors are not eligible to apply.

### V. Application Deadline

All applications **must be postmarked on or before Feb. 19, 2021.** Send applications to Heather Hoflander, West Central Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037.

### VI. On-line applications

Scholarship applications are available on line at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) under the heading "Youth Programs." Applications may be printed and mailed, or filled out on line and emailed. If you choose to email your application, please also either email your photo as a jpeg to [heather@wcecoop.com](mailto:heather@wcecoop.com) or mail a photograph along with your transcript. Applications submitted via email **must arrive by 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 19, 2021.**

### VII. Finalist Notification

**Interviews will be scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, March 31, 2021.** All students applying for this scholarship should tentatively plan for an interview on this date. Those scheduled for interviews **will be notified by Friday, March 5, 2021.**

## 2021 West Central Electric Cooperative Electrical Distribution Systems Scholarship

### I. General Description

West Central Electric Cooperative, Higginsville, Missouri, will accept applications from students interested in pursuing a degree in Electrical Distribution Systems at an accredited institution in Missouri, Kansas or Iowa. This program provides for students a scholarship as well as on-the-job training. General provisions of the scholarship are as follows:

### II. Eligibility Requirements

A. Applicant should reside in the West Central Electric Cooperative service area.

B. Applicant shall be expected to participate in an interview with the cooperative general manager and/or staff representatives in April of the application year.

C. Applicant should be a student in good academic standing with a minimum 2.5 high school cumulative GPA, or GED with 260 minimum score.

D. Applicant should be **admitted as a full-time student to the school of choice, and be accepted into that institution's Electrical Distribution Systems Program.**

E. Applicant should attend school commencing during the Fall semester immediately following receipt of the application.

F. Applicant is required to complete a summer internship at West Central Electric Cooperative.

### III. Selection Criteria and Award of Scholarship

A. To be considered, applicants must submit a complete application by the **scholarship application deadline of April 1, 2021**. The criteria used to evaluate applications for award will be based upon the following:

- Academic achievement
- Civic involvement
- Leadership
- Ability to communicate clearly defined personal goals through personal goal statement (on application)
- Financial need
- Interview conducted by the general manager and/or cooperative staff

B. Selection Priority: This is a one-time annual scholarship awarded to full-time students attending an accredited EDS program. West Central Electric Cooperative will determine the number of awards based on need and the number of applicants as well as the availability of funds. In the event a student is unable to fulfill the requirement of full-time enrollment for the fall semester in the year the scholarship is awarded, the scholarship may be transferred to the next available alternate.

C. Scholarship Award: The scholarship provides up to \$5,000 annually to begin in the fall semester upon the student's verified enrollment. The scholarship may be used for the cost of tuition, fees, books, tools, and/or other costs associated with a student's education. The scholarship is renewable each semester if the recipient meets the continued expectations of the scholarship, up to \$10,000 maximum per recipient.

### IV. Application

Deadline for application to assure consideration for the next following academic

year is **April 1, 2021**. Please submit the following to be considered:

- Letter of acceptance to an accredited institution and admittance to the school's EDS program.
- High school transcript, college transcript or official GED score report.
- Complete scholarship application, including personal goal statement.
- Two letters of character reference.
- Applications may be printed and mailed along with transcript or GED report and letters, or you may apply online at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) under the heading "Youth Programs." If you apply online, please mail your high school transcript or GED score report and your letters of reference. Applications submitted via email **must arrive by 4:30 p.m. April 1, 2021**. Please also either email your photo as a .jpg to [heather@wcecoop.com](mailto:heather@wcecoop.com) or mail a photograph along with your transcript and letters.
- Applications may be mailed to West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attention: Heather Hoflander. P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037.

### V. Expectations of Scholarship Recipient

A. Recipient must maintain 3.0 GPA per semester. There will be a one (1) semester probation should the student's grades fall below a 3.0 GPA. Failure to return to a 3.0 could mean loss of scholarship. Applicant will provide the cooperative with a transcript at the end of each semester.

B. Recipient must attend all classes and work as scheduled. Excessive school attendance absences may result in suspension or termination of the remainder of the scholarship benefits.

C. Recipient must comply with the institution's student policies and rules. Failure to abide by such policies and rules may result in suspension or termination of the remainder of the scholarship benefits.

D. Recipient must contractually agree to work at West Central Electric Cooperative for four years following completion of the degree. A copy of the employment contract is attached as Exhibit A. The receipt of this scholarship is expressly contingent upon the successful applicant executing said employment contract, Exhibit A. Failure to complete the contract would mean reimbursement of the scholarship based on incomplete term. Employment after graduation will be solely at the discretion of West Central Electric Cooperative management. The employment contract may be changed or terminated at any time due to employee misconduct or if a position is not available.

E. In the event the student initially awarded the scholarship is unable to fulfill the requirement of full-time enrollment for the fall semester, the scholarship may be awarded to the next available alternate.

F. Release of Information: In submitting the application, the applicant grants permission for the scholarship committee to review high school and college transcripts and to contact character references. Submission of the application also grants permission to promote and publicize the scholarship and recipient(s).

G. Recipient must submit an official transcript to West Central Electric Cooperative at the conclusion of each semester to verify eligibility and GPA.

### VI. Winners' Notification

Recipients of the scholarship will be notified by **May 1, 2021**.

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**Scholarship applications are available from your high school counselor's office, online at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) or from West Central Electric Cooperative's Higginsville office. Call WCE at 1-800-491-3803 for more information.**

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# FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Nov. 24, 2020

The meeting was held via teleconference due to COVID-19 health concerns and recent recommendations from the local health experts, where all parties could hear each other and all parties could speak to each other, 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. Sheri Smiley, attorney for the cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Allen, Robert Simmons, Max Swisegood, Clark Bredehoeft, Dale Jarman, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Sandra Streit and Jeremy Ahmann. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, CFO Michael Newland and 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 Oct. 22, 2020; expenditures for the month of October 2020; new membership applications and membership terminations.

## APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following October 2019 reports were approved:

**Financing and Treasurer's Report:** Newland presented the October 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 reported on October 2020 financials from West Central Services. He reported on the hurricane hours that had been billed out to other co-ops and the rebate received on the credit card from CFC.

**Operations and Safety Report:** Randy Burkeybile provided a written Operations and Safety Report. His report included the following: a crew update, outages for the month, and a report on current COVID-19 numbers at the cooperative and how the office is handling quarantines and brining in staged crews to try and combat COVID issues. He also reported on inspections and crews sent to Alabama for hurricane relief the end of October. He reported on the safety meetings, crew visits and safety audits. He reported on the new apprentice that was hired. He reported on the broken pole hit during a fatality car accident.

**Engineering Report:** Dan Disberger provided a written Engineering Report. He reported on the following: staking projects, pole inspections that were currently ongoing and gave a Right-of-Way Report. He also gave a report on solar installations and potential new services were also reported on.

**Member Services Report:** Brent Schlotzhauer presented a written Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up. He attended the 4th quarterly District 1 member services meeting at NW. He will be a standing member of the AMEC member service planning committee. He discussed the vaccine potentials for the co-op and reported that everyone has been equipped to work from home to keep operations running should the office need to close due to COVID.



## BYLAW CHANGE FOR WEST CENTRAL FOUNDATION

Smiley presented the proposed bylaw change to the West Central Foundation. The following Bylaw change passed:

### ARTICLE XXVI AUDIT

The board of directors of the foundation shall on an annual basis cause the books and records of the foundation to be reviewed by an outside company on agreed upon procedures and audited by a certified public accountant every five years unless decided earlier by the West Central Board of Directors and a report in keeping with sound accounting principles to be issued to the board of directors of the foundation and the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative. The cost of any audit shall be paid from funds of West Central Electric Cooperative.

## BOARD POLICY 3.10

Gray and Newland presented revisions to Board Policy 3.10. After much discussion the revision passed to amend the policy as presented with possible additional amendments to be made at a later time.

## NW REPORT

No report for November.

## LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Smiley gave the legal report.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. He reported on his discussion with Every. He reported that the Youth Tour winners will not be able to go to Washington DC this year. He proposed instead giving a scholarship to the winners instead. A \$3,000.00 scholarship to each winner was approved.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

Streit said she would like the co-op to look into the Co-op Connections Card as a member benefit. Gray said he will have Member Services review and report back at an upcoming board meeting.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was called.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

## FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • October 2020

	This month	YTD 2020	YTD 2019
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,085,564</b>	<b>\$24,672,153</b>	<b>\$24,196,414</b>
Power Bill Expense	1,120,290	13,992,707	14,428,081
Operation & Maint. Expense	512,588	5,752,073	6,205,381
Depreciation Expense	196,648	1,936,855	1,842,699
Interest Expense	<u>116,512</u>	<u>1,192,207</u>	<u>1,182,326</u>
<b>Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)</b>	<b>1,946,038</b>	<b>22,873,842</b>	<b>23,658,487</b>
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	139,526	1,798,311	537,927
Other Margins	<u>13,002</u>	<u>165,605</u>	<u>243,401</u>
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$152,528</b>	<b>\$1,963,916</b>	<b>\$781,328</b>

