



West Central Electric Cooperative

January 2022

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews

2022
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

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**Co-op Connections
Program adds new
business to slate of
those offering deals**

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**Youth Tour and
CYCLE 2022
contest details are
announced**

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**Ice on power lines is a
weighty subject even
during a minor storm --
here's what happens**

Statement of Nondiscrimination

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provides that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefit of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Mike Gray, general manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



**West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Net Metering & Interconnection Act

West Central Electric Cooperative has a net metering agreement for interconnection of a distributed generation source.

Our policy, agreement and application now reflect the new standards set by the Net Metering and Easy Connection Act as of January 1, 2008.

For more information, contact our Higginsville office at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**to members
when making payments by phone**

When making a payment using the automatic payment number, please double-check electric account numbers and bank account numbers to make sure they are correct. One missed number will result in payments being posted to the wrong electric account.

**Pay-by-Phone:
855-874-5349**

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.

Bates City Antiques joins the Co-op Connections Program

Free Gift with \$10 purchase while supplies last



Bates City Antiques
LLC

Quality Antiques & Collectibles 200 E. Clinton • Bates City, MO
816-690-8505

Large Parking Lot
20 miles east of Kansas City, I-70 Exit 31,
then 3 blocks south on Hwy. Z

PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN!

WEBSITE: batescityantiques.com

Mon-Sat 10:00 to 5:00
Sunday 11:00 to 5:00
Closed Easter, Thanksgiving,
and Christmas

Bredehoeft appointed to AMEC Executive Committee

WCE Board Vice President Clark Bredehoeft was recently appointed to the Executive Committee of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. The role of the committee is to develop the association's annual work plan and budget, and monitor its operating policies. The committee consists of 12 members from cooperatives around the state.



Bredehoeft

To report an outage...

Online:

Members may report power outages online at www.westcentralelectric.coop. Click on the tab at the top titled "Report an Outage" and enter your account number or phone number.

By phone:

You may also call to report outages by phone. Call 1-800-491-3803 -- 24 hrs. a day, or Higginsville at 816-565-4942.

**During heavy outages, we will be busy, so please keep trying if you get a busy signal.*

Before calling, have you:

- 1) Checked your fuses or multibreakers?
- 2) Checked with your neighbors to see if they are out of electricity?

When calling, have this information ready:

- A) Your name, or the name your service is under;
- B) Your account number (look on your latest bill to find it.) or your map location number. (This is the number the co-op uses to locate where you live. It was given to you when you signed up for membership.) Please keep both numbers by your phone for quicker service.

Tracking Outages

Outage information may be tracked on our website, and periodic updates will be posted on our facebook page. PLEASE DO NOT REPORT OUTAGES ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE as they have a good chance of getting missed. If you have internet service, go to the website to report instead.



The city of Holden's annual Snowball Drop was a success, with lots of area kids turning out to gather the ping-pong "snowballs" launched by WCE's Nathan Johnson. Kids could then turn in the "snowballs" for prizes.

West Central Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour & CYCLE 2022!

What do the schools in West Central Electric Cooperative's service area have in common? They have sent some of the best and brightest to both our nation's and state's capitals for the Rural Electric Youth Tour and the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience. If you are a high school junior this year, YOU could be a part of that, too!

What is Youth Tour?

The annual contest for high school juniors is sponsored by West Central Electric Cooperative, which sends delegates on a six-day trip to Washington, D.C. to learn about our nation's history and government while experiencing our nation's capital firsthand. Electric Cooperatives throughout the country sponsor delegates on the trip which includes students from Alaska to Wyoming and in between. Cooperatives from the state of Missouri will send more than 100 delegates. This year, WCE will send **AT LEAST THREE DELEGATES**, and, depending on the number of entries received, as many as five delegates to Washington, D.C.

When is it?

Plans may have to be altered due to COVID restrictions, so be open to changes. The dates should not change, however. The tour has been split into two groups this year to cut down on numbers of students in the same place at the same time. This year's Youth Tour for Missouri will be **Monday, June 13 - Sunday, June 19, 2022**. Missouri delegates will meet in Jefferson City on Monday, June 13 for a banquet and orientation before traveling by plane to Washington, D.C. June 14. Delegates and their families will also have the opportunity to participate in Family Capital Day sponsored by West Central Electric, and spend the day in Jefferson City on their own mini-Youth Tour.



2019 was the last time delegates were able to travel to D.C. for the national tour. Above, WCE delegates (l-r) Maddi Schuette, Rylee Othic, Logan Tracy and Abby Fowler visit the United States Capitol Building during the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Plans at this point are for the 2022 tour to continue as anticipated.

What will we do?

While in Washington, D.C., delegates will have the opportunity to meet with their senators and representatives. In the past, we have visited historic memorials such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Iwo Jima and Vietnam memorials. We have had favorite Washington, D.C. landmarks on the agenda, including Mt. Vernon, the Smithsonian museums, Ford's Theatre, the Washington Monument and Arlington National Cemetery. Delegates have enjoyed a moonlight cruise on the Potomac River and a MLB game or play at the Kennedy Center. The Rural Electric Youth Tour provides a chance for high school juniors to learn about government, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives, as well as rural electrification and the impact it has had on our nation's development.

What is CYCLE?

CYCLE is the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience which is currently scheduled for July 13-15 in Jefferson City. WCE will send **FIVE DELEGATES** to this conference sponsored by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. They will join more than 100 other delegates from across the state. Students will hear amazing speakers, participate in team-building and leadership activities, and get a chance to author, present and debate their own bill on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives. A visit to the Winston Churchill Memorial is also on the schedule.

For more information on both of these programs, contact your high school English teacher, FFA advisor, or Heather Hoflander at West Central Electric Cooperative in Higginsville at 1-800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942, or heather@wcecoop.com.



Covid modified the 2021 CYCLE event, but WCE delegates joined with delegates from the Northwest Electric area in Cameron at NW headquarters and via Zoom with delegates from around the state.

Contest Details:

The contest is open to high school juniors who attend a school in the West Central Electric service area, or whose parents or legal guardians are current members of WCE.

How do I enter?

Submit a 600-word, typed essay on the following topic:

“My local electric cooperative -- providing stability in a unstable time”

Students will discuss the different programs, scholarships, opportunities, etc. that West Central Electric offers to students in our area.

For more information:

Visit westcentralelectric.coop and click on “Youth Programs” then “Youth Tour” to download the information packet.

DEADLINE: Feb. 11, 2022.

Keep yourself in hot water

Here's how to get the most from your hot water heater

Install a heat pump water heater for big \$ savings

A heat pump water heater costs more up front, but oh the savings on your energy bill! If you have a heat pump, it makes sense to install an ENERGY STAR-certified HPWH, which can save a household of four approximately \$350 a year and up to \$3,750 over its lifetime. See the accompanying table for details.

If you did purchase such heaters in 2021, use IRS Form 5695 with your tax return.

Explore fuel options for water heaters

Fuel type and its availability in your area may narrow your water heater choices, though cost of these fuels can vary widely, and some fluctuate frequently. Here is a list from the U.S. Department of Energy of heater options by fuel or energy source:

Electricity - Widely available for conventional storage, tankless or demand-type and heat-pump water heaters. Electric resistance systems can be used with combination water and space heating systems, which include tankless coil and indirect water heaters.

Fuel oil - Available in some areas of the United States to fuel conventional storage water heaters, and indirect combination water and space heating systems.

Geothermal energy - Available throughout the United States to those who will have or already have a geothermal heat pump system in their homes

Natural gas - Available in many areas to fuel conventional storage and demand (tankless or instantaneous) water heaters, as well as combination water and space heating systems, which include tankless coil and indirect water heaters.

Propane - Available in many areas to fuel conventional storage and demand (tankless or instantaneous) water heaters, as well as indirect combination water and space heating systems.



For a family of four, the savings will pay back the difference in initial cost in two years. Take Control & Save rebates and federal tax credits are available for HPWH. It's a smart investment!

Take advantage of water heater rebates and credits

Check with your electric cooperative to see if it offers rebates on the purchase and installation of high-efficiency electric water heaters and heat-pump water heaters. The rebates are offered by some cooperatives through the Take Control & Save energy-efficiency program.

Also check with your tax advisor to see if you qualify for the federal tax credit of \$300 for electric heat pump, gas, oil and propane water heaters. The credit is for heaters purchased in 2021, with the credit expiring Dec. 31, 2021. However, it's possible the credit will be extended for purchases in 2022.

Types of water heaters

When shopping for a new water heater, it's good to know the different types. Here's a summary from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Savers that are also recommended by Associated Electric Cooperative's Take Control & Save program:

Conventional storage - They provide a storage tank of hot water adequate for daily use.

Heat pump - Moves heat from one place to another instead of generating heat directly for providing hot water, resulting in high efficiencies and significant cost savings.

Solar - Uses the sun's heat to provide hot water and save money on energy bills.

Tankless coil and indirect - Uses a home's space-heating system to heat water.



ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT



When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.



ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

Safe
Electricity.org[®]

Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative

Don't space out when using space heaters

Smart tips for using space heaters and electric blankets

Many people turn to space heaters or electric blankets for added warmth in the winter. Safe Electricity reminds those who use space heaters and electric blankets to keep safety considerations in mind and use these devices with caution.

When buying a space heater or electric blanket, check for approved safety certification marks to verify that the product has been tested for safety. Look for a space heaters and electric blankets with safety features, including an automatic shut off. Be very cautious about buying used space heaters or electric blankets. They may not have up-to-date safety mechanisms. Your safety is worth the investment in a new heater or blanket.

Safe Electricity shares the following tips for using space heaters and electric blankets:

- Review and follow all manufacturer directions.
 - Plug space heaters and electric blankets directly into outlets; avoid using an extension cord.
 - Always remember to turn off space heaters and electric blankets when not in use. Never leave one of these devices on unattended or after going to bed.
 - Many fires start when flammable products are placed too close to heating devices, such as space heaters. Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, paper, and other flammables.
 - Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface — NOT on carpets, furniture, or counter-tops.
 - Be aware of pets and children near heating appliances. Pets should never be allowed to sleep on top of electric blankets.
 - Keep space heaters and electric blankets away from water. If they become wet, do not turn them on to dry.
 - Regularly examine cords to make sure there is no cracking or fraying. Do not use damaged appliances. Also inspect your electric blanket to ensure that it is not worn or damaged. It should not have any charred or dark areas. Replace old or damaged blankets.
 - Store your electric blanket in a manner which avoids creasing. If it cannot be stored flat, loosely fold or roll the blanket in a cool, dry closet.
- To learn more on how to avoid electrical hazards, visit SafeElectricity.org.*

FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Oct. 28, 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, Oct. 28, 2021, pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and previous resolution of the board of directors. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Clark Bredehoeft. Attorney Sheri Smiley 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, Sandra Streit and Jeremy Ahmann. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, CFO Michael Newland, Operations Manager Randy Burkeybile, Engineering Manager Pete Nelson and Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer. Absent was Densil Allen Jr.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of Sept. 28, 2021; expenditures for the month of September 2021; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following September reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Newland presented the September 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 storm work done in Louisiana has been billed. The demand discounts for AECI were discussed.

Operations Report

Burkeybile provided the Operations Report. His report included the following: update on crews; outages for the month, and that the mechanic's position has been filled. He also provided a report on equipment, brush and spraying crews, and a right-of-way report. Requests for bids on next years circuits are going out. He reported on construction retirement, maintenance and operations. He also reported that the linemen's team from West Central took third place in the team event at the AMEC Lineman's Rodeo.

Safety and Engineering Report: Nelson provided the Safety and Engineering Report. He reported on the following: safety meetings and crew visits. Training on work place violence was given. He discussed challenges on getting materials and the rise in cost of materials. He reported on the status of engineering and staking projects, gave an update on solar installations and 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. A revision to policy 3.2 was discussed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the revision to policy 3.2.

Member Services Report: Schlotzhauer presented the Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up. Information has been sent to schools on Youth Tour and CYCLE. AECI is offering a rebate program that was discussed. He gave an update on Co-op Connections. He reminded the board that the 2021 member satisfaction tri-annual survey has begun. He provided a net metering report and a COVID update for the office.

AMEC ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Strobel, Rhodes and Bredehoeft gave updates on the meeting they attended and the speakers. Bredehoeft will serve on the executive committee starting next month.

ROUND UP FOUNDATION REPORT

Streit presented the Minutes from the last Round Up Foundation meeting for review.

NRECA REGION 8-10 MEETING REPORT

Gray gave an update on the meeting he attended.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Jarman reported the committee has discussed how to handle academics and ACT scores that some colleges no longer require. The committee is working on a recommendation regarding the English Scholarship and will report back to the board.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley presented a report on legal matters.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented the monthly Manager's Report. He discussed solar.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was called at 11:55 a.m. and dismissed at 12:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • September 2021

	This month	YTD 2021	YTD 2020
Revenue	\$2,707,299	\$23,404,976	\$22,586,589
Power Bill Expense	1,369,485	13,103,316	12,872,417
Operation & Maint. Expense	820,305	5,287,460	5,239,489
Depreciation Expense	205,233	1,815,118	1,740,207
Interest Expense	125,859	1,048,887	1,075,695
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,520,882	21,254,781	20,927,808
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	186,417	2,150,195	1,658,781
Other Margins	82,134	152,705	152,606
TOTAL MARGINS	\$268,551	\$2,302,900	\$1,811,387

