



**West Central Electric Cooperative**

April 2022

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# ElectricNews

## Lineworker Appreciation Day

Join us in saluting our linemen  
on April 11 for the great job they  
do every day!

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Missouri's Green Tax  
Holiday is April 19-25,  
find out what qualifies

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What do you need to know  
about EVs? Your questions  
on electric vehicles are  
answered

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Planting a tree this spring?  
Know where and what  
kinds to plant with regard  
to power lines

## Frerking is named serviceman

Tim Frerking has been named serviceman at West Central Electric Cooperative, according to General Manager Mike Gray.

Frerking assumed his new duties Jan. 23 following the retirement of long-time employee Robert Minnis.

Frerking came to WCE in 2001 as a ground source heat pump laborer, and was working in the apprentice program by January 2003. He achieved journeyman status in 2006, and served in that capacity until taking on the role as serviceman for the Higginsville location.



**Frerking**

## Important notice regarding email contacts from West Central

Members who have an email address on file with the cooperative will, on occasion, receive notifications from WCE via that address.

Some of the notifications that may be received are listed as: "Bill Available," "Payment Declined," "Credit Card Expired" and "Payment Successful." The email notifications will be generated from the following address: "courier-no-reply@smarthub.com."

To receive these notifications, members will need to make sure they have allowed mail from this sender. The email WILL NOT have the name "West Central" in the address or the reference line.

Please contact WCE at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942 regarding questions about email contacts.



### 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.*

## Missouri's Green Tax Holiday is April 19-25

Once again, Missouri's annual Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday will be held April 19-25. You won't pay sales tax on qualifying ENERGY STAR-certified appliances in participating counties, cities and stores.

As of press time, qualifying appliances were not listed on the Department of Revenue website, but in the past the first \$1,500 of the purchase price of each item is exempt from tax.

Here are the categories of appliances covered by the sales tax holiday:

- Clothes washers and dryers
- Water heaters
- Dishwashers
- Air conditioners
- Furnaces
- Refrigerators
- Freezers
- Heat pumps

Go to <https://dor.mo.gov/taxation/business/tax-types/sales-use/holidays/show-me-green> for all the details. If you're in the market for new appliances, this is the time to save dollars.

**ON THE COVER:** WCE Serviceman Robert Minnis helps load a truck before crews head out on storm repairs last fall. Minnis retired in January after a 32-year career with the cooperative.



# Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with West Central Electric, you would probably picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That’s why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at West Central Electric, it’s important to note that there is a team of highly-skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology (IT) experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn’t be able to “bring the light” to our community.

Our dedicated lineworkers are proud to represent West Central Electric, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

## West Central Electric Cooperative Linemen, & Crews

### HIGGINSVILLE

Adam Beck  
Doug Bird  
Randy Burkeybile  
Derek Cole  
Tucker Crowe  
Tiger Fiene  
Tim Frerking  
Todd Gast  
Brandon Heck  
Nathan Johnson  
Conner Lamphier  
Billy Mackie  
Pete Nelson  
Jeff Rhoades  
Zac Wallpe

### OAK GROVE

Jeff Campbell  
Kade Collins  
Scott Gard  
Matt Schellman  
Brandon Steffen  
Johnathon Sullins  
Jesse Underwood  
Eric Wegener  
Wyatt Wilkinson

# EVs

## *Electric Vehicles*

### What to know about EVs before you buy

Here are some facts from [www.takecontrolandsave.coop/electric-vehicles](http://www.takecontrolandsave.coop/electric-vehicles) to consider as you plan your first EV purchase. Talk with your cooperative about charging options and rebates before you buy.

**Cheaper to operate** — Electric vehicles can be three to five times cheaper than gasoline- and diesel-powered cars, depending on your local gasoline and electric rates.

**Environmentally friendly** — EVs have no tailpipe emissions. The power plant producing your electricity may produce emissions, but electricity from hydro, solar, nuclear or wind-powered plants is generally emissions free.

**No trips to gas stations** — Instead of filling up at the gas station, you'll conveniently charge your EV overnight from home with a 120-volt outlet or a 240-volt Level 2 charger for faster, more efficient charging.

**Performance benefits** — EV engines provide quiet, smooth operation; stronger acceleration; and less maintenance.

**Driving range & recharge time** — Range is typically about 80 to more than 300 miles on a full charge. The average American's daily round-trip commute is less than 30 miles. Fully recharging the battery pack can take four to eight hours. A "fast charge" to 80 percent capacity can take 30 minutes.



# Electric Vehicle Q and A

As more people begin to consider whether an electric vehicle would be right for them, Take Control & Save has looked at some of the most common questions consumers have about purchasing an EV. [www.takecontrolandsave.coop/electric-vehicles](http://www.takecontrolandsave.coop/electric-vehicles).

## Is your daily commute under 330 miles?

Most electric vehicles have a driving range-per-charge between 50 to 330 miles. If your daily commute is under 250 miles per day, there is an affordable EV model that will fit your needs.

**Buyer's Tip:** When you're looking at EVs, check the "range-per-charge" for the vehicle. This is the number of miles the car can typically drive between full charges. For example, if the range per charge for an EV is 100 miles and your daily commute is 30 miles, you should be able to go about three days between charges. EV range varies significantly between models.

## Do you frequently take long road trips?

Long road trips can be challenging with an EV, though public charging stations and battery life are improving. Many EVs have range-per-charge ratings of a 150 to 250 miles, high-end EVs of 330 miles. If you have a second vehicle that is not an EV, use it for long drives.

## Do you have off-street parking at your home?

Plug-in EVs charge from a standard 120-volt outlet or a 240-volt charger installed in your garage or driveway. The latter reduces charging time substantially, is more energy efficient and some models allow you to schedule charging times, which may allow you to take advantage of special electric rates.

## Do you want to save money and pollute less?

EVs cost less to drive and pollute less. An EV uses electricity typically generated from sources that are cleaner than burning gasoline or diesel in a vehicle.

## Why would an EV not make sense? An EV might not be right for you if:

- You commute 300-plus miles per day
- You do not have off-street parking, it may be difficult to charge your EV at home
- You regularly take long road trips

But, keep in mind, EV range is steadily increasing every year, and there may be a plug-in hybrid EV that would be a good fit for you. Yes, these vehicles still use gasoline and require oil changes, but many models have an all-electric range that will meet your daily commuting mileage needs.

## A few EVSE terms to know...

**Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (Chargers)**  
— EVSE is the connector to the electric grid that charges your EV. There are three categories of chargers, based on the amount of power the charger can provide:

### 1. AC Level 1

Provides charging through a 12-volt AC plug and does not require installation of additional charging equipment. Level 1 can typically deliver two to five miles of range per hour of charging. Level 1 is most often used in home applications but is sometimes used at workplaces. A full charge may take up to 24 hours.

### 2. AC Level 2

Provides charging through a 240-volt plug and requires the installation of additional charging equipment by a qualified electrician/installer. Level 2 chargers typically deliver 10 to 20 miles of range per hour of charging. Level 2 is used in homes, workplaces and for some public charging.

### 3. DC Fast-Charge

Provides charging through 480-volt AC input and requires specialized, high-powered charging equipment and special equipment in the vehicle itself. DC Fast-Charging can deliver an 80 percent battery charge or 60 to 100 miles of range for most EV models in about 20 to 30 minutes of charging. This format is used in public charging stations, especially along heavy-traffic corridors. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles typically do not have fast charging capabilities.

Depending on how far you drive each day, you may be able to meet your driving needs with basic Level 1 charging at home. To reduce charging time, you can install a 240-volt Level 2 charging system. A Level 2 also may provide additional functionality (like cost estimation or remote on/off). Consult with an electrician and/or your cooperative before purchasing a high-amperage charging system, as some high-power systems may require significant electrical upgrades to your home. In some cases, the transformer that supplies power to your home may need to be upgraded.

# Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit [www.ArborDay.org](http://www.ArborDay.org).

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

## LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Birch
- Oak
- Sweetgum
- Spruce
- Linden
- Pine

## MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

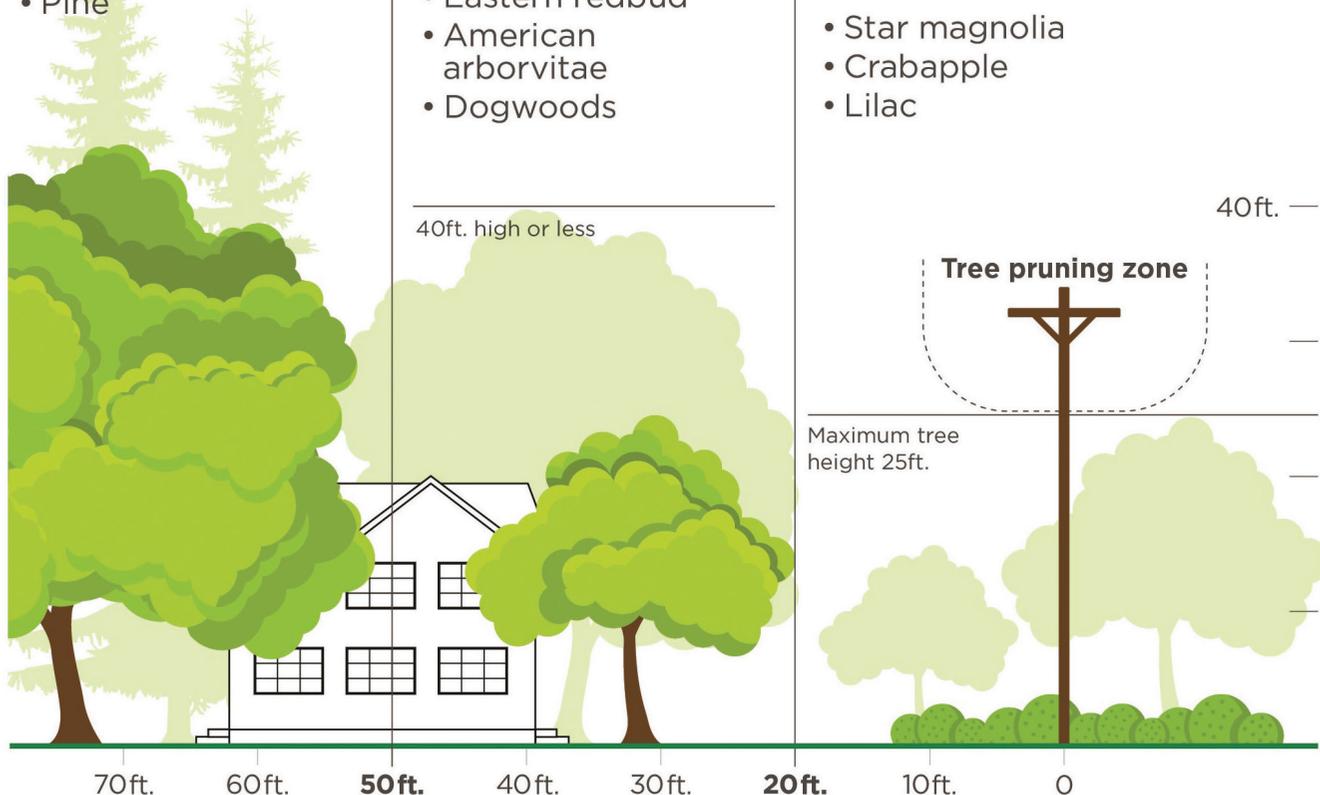
- Washington hawthorn
- Goldenraintree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

## SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



**Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.**

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



Always working for our members...Cooperative representatives from around the state participated in the annual Legislative Conference in February in Jefferson City where they were able to visit with legislators regarding co-op issues. WCE Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer (left) visits with District 53 Rep. Terry Thompson in his office at the Missouri State Capitol Building.

## Robert Minnis retires after 32-year cooperative career

Working for the members and being with his co-workers, who sometimes seem more like family, are the things Robert Minnis says he misses the most since his retirement in January.

“I love helping the members, and I miss the people I have worked with for so long,” he said when reflecting on his first several weeks of official retirement.

Minnis says he won’t, however, miss the alarm clock going off early in the morning and the middle-of-the-night phone calls calling him to an outage.

Minnis joined WCE on Aug. 20, 1990 as an apprentice lineman.

After spending the next few years in the apprentice

program, he made journeyman lineman on Oct. 3, 1993. Between 2006 and 2009, he floated between the roles of journeyman and foreman until he was named serviceman in 2011, a position he held until his retirement on Jan. 6 of this year.

Although he didn’t quite know what to expect when he accepted the position at the cooperative, Minnis said he knew he wanted the stability and benefits of a good company to provide for his family, and he wanted to be able to work outside.

“It was a challenging job, but never boring,” he said. “I didn’t mind working in a variety of weather conditions--at least until I got a little older,” he laughed.

Challenging took on a different meaning when he joined crews traveling to other co-op areas and even other states to help restore power after storms.

“The memories that stick out the most are probably the major storms I worked,” he said. “Tornadoes, high winds, hurricanes, ice storms; the damage and devastation I saw are things that are seared into my memory. Hurricane Katrina was the worst I saw. I brought back a flag that had been twisted, knotted and braided like a ponytail because the winds were so strong.”

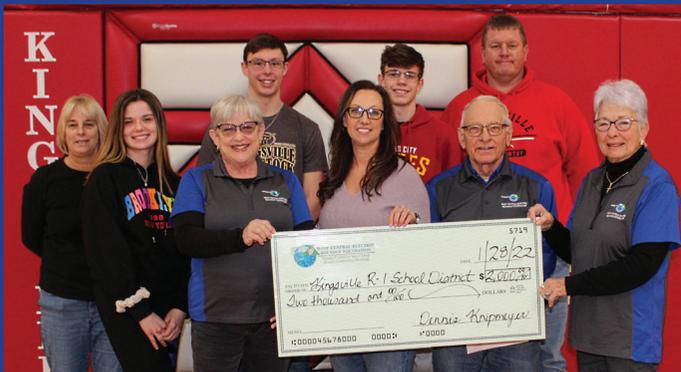
Now, Minnis is content to fill his days traveling and seeing his grandchildren more.

“I’m going to hunt and fish more, tinker in my shop and work on old vehicles, and get reacquainted with old friends,” he said. “Maybe I will make some new friends, too” he said.



Minnis

### First quarter 2022 final Round Up funds are awarded



### Kingsville School District \$2,000

Funds will be used to purchase equipment for the Career and Technical Education Department, including equipment for Housing and Interior Design, Child Development and Food and Hospitality courses.



# FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Jan. 26, 2022

The meeting, was called to order by President Densil Allen Jr. Sheri Smiley, attorney from the cooperative's law firm, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Densil Allen Jr., Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Sandra Streit, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons and Jeremy Ahmann. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray and CFO Michael Newland.

## 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 Dec. 21, 2021; expenditures for the month of December 2021; new membership applications and membership terminations.

## APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following December 2021 reports were approved:

**Financing and Treasurer's Report:** Newland presented the December 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. Deferred revenue was discussed. A motion passed to defer \$750,000.00. Newland presented options of the CARES Act Employee Retention Credit (ERC). The issue was tabled until February. He also discussed the English Scholarship Investment Fund. A motion was made and passed to go into West Central Services at 1:49 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:56 p.m.

**2022 BUDGET:** Newland presented the 2022 Budget. He had provided the written budget to the board prior to the meeting. He discussed assumptions, deferred revenue, compared 2020, 2021 and 2022 budgets, had historical information, discussed the expected cost of power, projected revenue, operation expense, maintenance expense, consumer accounts expense, sales expense, office expense and tax expenses. He also reviewed the Capital Investment Budget and the 2022 proposed cash flow. The budget was passed as presented.

**Operations Report:** Randy Burkeybile provided a written Operations Report on the following: update on crews and there were no major outages for the month. He also provided a report on equipment, brush and spraying crews, and a right of way report.

**Safety and Engineering Report** Pete Nelson provided a written Safety and Engineering Report. Safety meetings, crew visits, the audit by Federated and an engineer/staking department report was



given.

**Member Services Report:** Brent Schlotzhauer provided a written Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up, Youth Tour, scholarship applications and net metering. He attended the District 1 Member Services meeting at NW. He gave a yearly update on the EV and an update on the Coop Connections card.

## AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft reported on the January executive meeting. A solar website is being worked on. The regular board meeting is the following week.

## NW REPORT

Simmons reported on the NW Electric board meeting held Jan. 19, 2022. He reviewed the financial statistics, deferred revenues and the operations report, including outages. A PCB report was given. He reported on the AMEC PAC donation that was made.

## ROUND UP FOUNDATION REPORT

Streit gave a report.

## REVIEW BOARD ASSESSMENT

Reviewing the board assessment was tabled.

## LEGAL REPORT

Smiley presented a report on legal matters.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. He reported on issues with the ceiling in the meeting room and he is getting roofing estimates to repair a moisture issue.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

Sandra Streit resigned from the scholarship committee.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered into executive session at 3:15 p.m. The regular meeting resumed at 3:40 p.m.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

## FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • December 2021

	This month	YTD 2021	YTD 2020
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,980,671</b>	<b>\$29,865,894</b>	<b>\$28,836,291</b>
Power Bill Expense	1,463,309	17,197,005	16,959,828
Operation & Maint. Expense	450,180	6,960,436	6,722,868
Depreciation Expense	206,893	2,434,344	2,332,035
Interest Expense	133,747	1,408,952	1,432,212
<b>Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)</b>	<b>2,254,129</b>	<b>28,000,737</b>	<b>27,446,943</b>
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(273,458)	1,865,157	1,389,348
Other Margins	935,708	1,105,492	1,164,332
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$662,250</b>	<b>\$2,970,649</b>	<b>\$2,553,680</b>

