



Electric News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. ~ Serving our members' needs since 1939



Retired director Jack Rhodes dies

Long-time WCE director Jack Rhodes, 86, died Jan. 1, 2015 at Lexington Memorial Hospital.

Rhodes was elected to the cooperative board in 1979, and served many years as board secretary until his retirement in 2010.

An avid believer in the cooperative, he always said, "The cooperative way is the best there is."

He is survived by his wife, LaVerne, a daughter, Jackie (Jeff) Wright, a son, Stan (Vicky) Rhodes, two sisters, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Osmose is training in WCE service area

West Central Electric members in areas northwest of Oak Grove and around Levasy are reminded that Osmose will be holding pole inspection training sessions in these areas throughout the end of February.

"During this time, there may be numerous vehicles parked along the side of the roads as well as several trainers and trainees in these areas," WCE Engineering Manager Dan Disberger said.

Training vehicles will be marked with "Contractor for West Central Electric" signs, and will also carry the "Osmose" name. Vehicles may have out-of-state plates since the company is hosting trainees from various areas.

"This arrangement has worked out well for both the cooperative and Osmose," Disberger said. "They are inspecting the poles at no cost to us because they are training new inspectors for their business, and we are providing the poles for them to use. It's a win-win situation for both of us, and we are pleased to be working with them."

Members who have questions are asked to contact the cooperative at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.



A GOOD DAY FOR LEARNING... Trainees learn pole inspection techniques from an Osmose trainer working on the cooperative's system. WCE Members are reminded that Osmose is holding training sessions in the cooperative service area throughout the end of February.



MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY... WCE Member Services Advisor Anne Patrick (right) wishes a Merry Christmas to members John and Anna Luellen of Warrensburg during the 2014 Member Appreciation Day held in December at the Higginsville and Oak Grove offices. Members could register for prizes and enjoy refreshments while ringing in the holidays.

2014 Member Appreciation Day winners:

Vizio 28" LED HDTV
Phillip Burney, Mayview

\$25 Energy Certificates
Lloyd Matthews, Warrensburg
Sherrie Erlandson, Odessa
Carol Estill, Bates City
Bill VanSant, Bates City
Linda Savage, Bates City
Valerie Frerking, Concordia
Jean Heinemann, Warrensburg
Sandy Spease, Lexington

Willie Wirehand Ornaments
Darrell Fenton, Oak Grove
Delmar Hadley, Oak Grove
Betty Mueller, Mayview
Loren Limback, Alma

2015 WCEC and State Technical College Electrical Distribution Systems Scholarship

West Central Electric Cooperative, Higginsville, Missouri, will accept applications from students interested in pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Distribution Systems at Linn State Technical College, Linn, Missouri. This program provides for students a two-year scholarship in a quality college training program, a two-year college degree, and on-the-job training. General provisions of the scholarship are as follows:

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.
- C. Applicant should be enrolled as a full-time student.
- D. Applicant should be a student in good academic standing with a minimum 2.5 high school cumulative GPA, or GED with 260 minimum score.
- E. Applicant should meet minimum admission requirements of and be accepted in the State Technical College Electrical Distribution Systems program.
- F. Applicant should attend State Technical College commencing during the Fall semester immediately following receipt of the application.
- G. Applicant is required to complete a summer internship at West Central Electric Cooperative, the summer semester between the first and second years of the academic program.

SELECTION AND AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIP

A. **Selection criteria:** To be considered, applicants must forward a complete application packet by the scholarship application deadline of April 1, 2015. 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 Linn State Technical College. 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 \$2,400 annually. \$1,200 is applied to recipient's account at State Technical College 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 \$4,800 maximum per recipient.

APPLICATION

Deadline for application to assure consideration for the next following academic year is April 1, 2015. Please submit the following to be considered:

- State Technical College Admissions Application
- High school 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 under the heading "Youth Programs." If you apply online, please mail your high school transcript or GED score report and your letters of reference.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE 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 State Technical College'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).

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

Submit application information to: West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Att.: Heather Hoflander, Scholarships; P.O. Box 452; Higginsville, MO 64037

2015 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 graduates who are or were active 4-H members at the time of their high school graduation and who desire to attend college 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 at least one \$1,000 scholarship (\$500 per semester) to a student beginning his/her freshman year in college. This student may reapply for additional grants for their next three years of study. The amount of these grants will 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, creed 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.

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, a county livestock specialist etc.)

G. A high school transcript must accompany the application.

H. 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 # 5 on this application.

I. 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. Winners who have not included a photo with their application will appear as "photo not available" in all publicity materials.

J. Finalists will be required to participate in an interview with the scholarship committee.

K. All scholarship applications MUST BE TYPED.

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

M. All of the above requirements, except item I, must be met for an application to be considered

IV. Application Deadline

All applications must be postmarked on or before Feb. 20, 2015. 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 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 or mail a photograph along with your transcript. Applications submitted via email must arrive by 4:30 p.m. Feb. 20, 2015.

VI. Finalist Notification

Interviews will be scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, March 18, 2015. All students applying for this scholarship should tentatively plan for an interview on this date. Those scheduled for interviews will be notified by Monday, March 9, 2015 by both phone and mail.

2015 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship

I. Amount of Scholarship

This year, up to 20 high school seniors will receive a \$500 West Central Electric Cooperative scholarship for use at any college, university, trade or technical school.

II. Selection Criteria

A. The applicant will be selected without regard to sex, race, creed 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.

E. A high school transcript must accompany the application.

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. Winners who have not included a photo with their application will appear as "photo not available" in all publicity materials.

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.)

J. All of the above requirements, except item G, must be met for the application to be considered

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 20, 2015. 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 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 or mail a photograph along with your transcript. Applications submitted via email must arrive by 4:30 p.m. March 20, 2015.

VI. Winners' Notification

Recipients of the scholarship will be notified by May 1, 2015 by mail.

Scholarship money is available to area high school seniors

Each year, West Central Electric Cooperative makes an investment in the future of our communities by awarding thousands of dollars in scholarships to area high school graduating seniors.

Three different scholarships are available through WCE; the West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship, the John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship and the West Central Electric Cooperative and State Technical College Electrical Distributions Systems Scholarship.

The **John and Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Trust** is a renewable scholarship given to seniors active in 4-H. Scholarship amounts depend on the current status of the trust fund.

The **West Central Electric Scholarship** is a one-time award given to graduating seniors each year. The number of scholarships awarded depends on the availability of funds. WCE will award up to twenty \$500 scholarships each year.

The **West Central Electric Cooperative and State Technical College Electrical Distribution Systems Scholarship Program** provides a two-year college scholarship to a student interested in pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Distribution Systems at State Technical College, Linn, Missouri. This scholarship provides for students a quality college training program, a two-year college degree, and on-the-job training.

Details on all three scholarship programs can be found in this newsletter or online at www.westcentralelectric.coop. Applications are available online, at either of WCE's two offices, from area high school counselors, or at the Jackson, Johnson and Lafayette county University Outreach and Extension Centers.

For more information on West Central Electric Cooperative's scholarship programs, contact WCE at 800-491-3803 or 660-584-2131.

Scholarship applications are available from the following places:

- ◆ at your high school counselor's office,
- ◆ online at www.westcentralelectric.coop,
- ◆ from West Central Electric Cooperative's Higginsville office or Oak Grove office.

Call WCE at 1-800-491-3803 for more information.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Students entering the **2015 Rural Electric Youth Tour contest**

Essays must be turned in to the Higginsville office no later than 4:30 p.m. February 13, 2015.

Essays submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Feb. 13, 2015.

Applications for the

2015 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship

must be postmarked no later than Feb. 20, 2015.

Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Feb. 20, 2015.

Applications for the

2015 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship

must be postmarked no later than March 20, 2015.

Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. March 20, 2015.

Applications for the

2015 WCE and LSTC Electrical Distributions System Scholarship

Must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2015.

Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. April 1, 2015.

Headquarters:

7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452
Higginsville, MO 64037
816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803

District office:

506 N. Broadway
Oak Grove, MO 64075

PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-874-5349

Website:

www.westcentralelectric.coop

24-Hour Number:
1-800-491-3803

General Manager:
Mike Gray

*This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.*

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

From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held November 25, 2014

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, Dale Jarman, Richard Strobel, Robert Simmons, Stan Rhodes Sandra Streit and Jeremy Ahmann. Absent was Densil Allen, Jr. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray and Shawn Battagler, general counsel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved as amended.

BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT

Daniel Cash from the University of Missouri Extension entered the meeting and led the board in a discussion regarding board self-assessment. The board approved participation in the board self-assessment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The unapproved minutes of the regular meeting of the board of directors held Oct. 30, 2014 were approved as corrected.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES FOR OCTOBER

An itemized list of expenditures for October was presented to the board, and the payment of the bills was ratified.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following October 2013 reports were approved: Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement including the Financial Statistical Report with month and budget comparisons and statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, and KWH sales; Treasurer's Report; the written monthly Construction, Retirement, Maintenance and Operations Report.

SAFETY REPORT

Gray reported one accident with a deer and no lost-time accidents during the month.

MEMBERSHIPS

The applications submitted for membership in the cooperative were accepted and approved. Directors reviewed a list of requests for termination of membership in the cooperative which, along with their requests that their billings be deducted from their deposits and the remainder, if any, be refunded to them, were accepted and approved.

125 PLAN

The 125 plan was reviewed and approved.

ELECTRIC LOAD FORECAST

The 2014 Electric Load Forecast Study was approved.

N.W. ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC. REPORT

Swisegood and Gray reported their attendance at the NW board meeting and highlights including financials, operations of NW, AECL operations and discussion regarding board members touring the Thomas Hill Power Plant.

BYLAW COMMITTEE REPORT

The board discussed modification of by-laws to apply discounted capital credits to bad debt of former members. No action was taken.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray reported on the new cooperative website and plans for the annual employee recognition dinner.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Directors discussed board retreat topics.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Directors met in executive session and returned to the regular meeting at the conclusion.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Operate your generator safely

Generators can be life savers. But they also can be deadly if not used properly. Follow these safety tips from the Consumer Product Safety Commission — go to www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Guides/Home/Carbon-Monoxide/What-to-Know-Generators-and-CO-Carbon-Monoxide/ for its "What to Know: Generators and CO (Carbon Monoxide) guides." Also check out the Occupational Safety and Health Administration at www.osha.gov/Publications/3277-10N-05-english-06-27-2007.html for its "Protect Yourself Portable Generator Safety" publication.

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

In a confined space, generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide, which you can't see or smell. If you feel sick, dizzy or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air immediately. Carbon monoxide (CO) from generators also can be a problem if it displaces too much oxygen.

- Never use a generator inside your home, garage, crawlspace, sheds or similar areas, even with fans and open doors and windows. CO can build up and linger for hours even when the generator is turned off.
- Locate the unit outdoors and away from doors, windows and vents that could allow CO to come inside.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Install battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with battery backup in your home.
- Test CO alarms often, and replace batteries as needed.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Keep the generator and the surface it sits on dry, and only touch the unit with dry hands.
- Connect appliances directly to a portable generator with heavy-duty, outdoor extension cords. Make sure the wattage rating for each cord exceeds the total wattage of all appliances connected to it and that the entire cord is free of cuts, tears and kinks. The plug needs three prongs and a grounding pin, per the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- NEVER try to power your house by plugging a generator into a wall outlet. This extremely dangerous practice is known as "backfeeding," and it can electrocute utility workers, neighbors and family members. It also bypasses some of the built-in household circuit protection devices.
- Always notify your utility that you have a standby generator or are using a portable with a manual transfer switch. This information will protect line workers restoring power.
- Use a licensed electrician to install manual and automatic switches that connect generators to house wiring.

FIRE HAZARDS

- Store gasoline, propane, kerosene and other flammable liquids outside of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass safety containers.
- Do not store fuel near a fuel-burning appliance, such as a natural gas water heater.
- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool down. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • October 2014

	This month	YTD 2014	YTD 2013
Revenue	1,749,859	21,816,763	21,289,756
Power Bill Expense	1,137,399	13,097,058	12,710,623
Operation & Maint. Expense	195,898	2,114,401	2,285,289
Depreciation Expense	154,575	1,525,759	1,479,743
Interest Expense	109,806	1,123,710	1,134,350
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	1,597,678	17,860,928	17,610,005
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(112,550)	1,299,425	1,063,119
Other Margins	13,014	113,886	185,202
TOTAL MARGINS	(99,536)	1,413,311	1,248,321