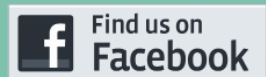




West Central *Electric News*

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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

WCE representatives will display and carry multiple forms of identification

In light of two recent incidents where copper thieves have posed as WCE employees and/or contractors, your cooperative wants you to know that **any employee or representative of the cooperative will have clothing, vehicle signs and/or identification designating them as an employee or contractor for WCE.**

If you have a question about whether someone is an employee of, or authorized to represent WCE, please contact the cooperative at 800-491-3803 or 660-584-2131. If you see any

suspicious activity, or cooperative equipment that looks as if it has been tampered with or is damaged, contact the cooperative or the Theft Reward Hotline at 1-855-COPPER9 (1-855-267-7379.)

If you are approached at your residence or place of business by someone claiming to be employed by or contracting with WCE to check your service, look for blinking lights, etc., contact the cooperative and we can verify if a serviceman or contractor is working in your area.



IDENTIFICATION ON CLOTHING...All WCE employees will wear logo clothing. Logo shirts (left photo) are worn by management and office personnel as well as those who may meet with you at your location for things such as staking a new service, energy audits, rebates, etc. Logo shirts (right photo) are also worn by linemen and servicemen out in the field. They will have a WCE logo patch as well as a patch with the employee's first name.



VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION...All WCE employees and contractors will drive vehicles with signs identifying them as a WCE vehicle (top photo) or a contractor for the cooperative (left photo).



STANDING STRONG...Concrete poles are installed by a West Central Electric contractor along Highway DD between Warrensburg and Knob Noster.

Concrete poles increase reliability

A series of three concrete poles were installed recently along a stretch of DD Highway between Warrensburg and Knob Noster.

The concrete poles replace the traditional wooden poles in an area whose location and inaccessibility make it difficult to reach for outage repairs, according to WCE Line Superintendent Randy Burkeybile.

The poles do come with an increased cost compared to their wooden counterparts, but the expense is worth it, Burkeybile said, because of the increased stability and reliability they add to the system.

"These poles are stronger and more resistant to weather than a traditional wooden pole," he said. "They will with-

stand significantly higher winds and weight from ice, etc. than the normal wooden poles."

Burkeybile said this particular line feeds a large number of members, and the ability to reduce the probability of an outage has him breathing a sigh of relief.

"We just needed to get something better in there because this is a big feeder that would be a big deal to lose power to," he said. "I am sleeping a whole lot better at night since the installation of these new poles."

The performance of the new concrete poles will be monitored with the possibility of installing more in similar areas of inaccessibility.

2013 WCEC and Linn 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 Linn State Technical College Electrical Distribution Systems program.
- F. Applicant should attend Linn 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, 2013. 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 Linn 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 PACKET

Deadline for application to assure consideration for the next following academic year is April 1, 2013. Please submit the following to be considered:

- High school transcript or official GED score report.
- Complete scholarship application, including personal goal statement and two character references.
- 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 Linn 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 and scholarship sponsor 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

2013 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. 22, 2013. 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. 22, 2013.

VI. Finalist Notification

Interviews will be scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, March 20, 2013. 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 11, 2013 by both phone and mail.

2013 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 22, 2013. 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 22, 2013.

VI. Winners' Notification

Recipients of the scholarship will be notified by May 1, 2013 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 Linn 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 Linn 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 Linn 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 **2013 Rural Electric Youth Tour contest**

Essays must be turned in to the Higginsville office no later than 4:30 p.m. February 15, 2013. Essays submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Feb. 15, 2013.

Applications for the **2013 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship**

must be postmarked no later than Feb. 22, 2013. Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Feb. 22, 2013.

Applications for the **2013 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship**

must be postmarked no later than March 22, 2013. Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. March 22, 2013.

Applications for the **2013 WCE and LSTC Electrical Distributions System Scholarship**

Must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2013. Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. April 1, 2013.

Headquarters:
7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452
Higginsville, MO 64037
1-660-584-2131 or 1-800-491-3803

District office:
506 N. Broadway
Oak Grove, MO 64075
1-816-625-8211

Website:
www.WestCentralElectric.coop

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

General Manager:
Mike Gray

Board of Directors:
Clark Bredehoeft, President
Ron Steelman, Vice-Pres.
Paul Nolte, Treasurer
Robert Simmons, Secretary
Stan Rhodes, Asst. Sect.
Dale Jarman, Director
Max Swisegood, Director
Densil Allen, Director
Richard Strobel, Director

2012 Member Appreciation Day winners:

\$25 Energy Certificates

James Hodges, Bates City
Wanita Forth, Odessa
Deloris Hicklin, Bates City
Judy Perry, Odessa
Mike Hutcho, Leeton
Evelyn Conrad, Odessa
Carol Lohofener, Lexington
Betty Mueller, Mayview

Willie Wiredhand Ornament

Beverly Markhan, Grain Valley
Thomas Oetting, Concordia



Tom and Glenda Bakert visit with WCE employee Tiger Fiene as they register for Member Appreciation Day drawings. Several \$25 energy credits and a Willie Wiredhand collectible Christmas ornament given were given away at the annual reception in December.

Safe use of electric heating products adds winter warmth

When used properly and safely, electric blankets and other heating devices can help keep you toasty during cold winter months. Here are a few safety tips for electric blankets and heating pads to keep in mind:

- Purchase items only if they have been approved by an independent testing facility, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

- Inspect all cords and connections for cracks and frayed edges, which are a huge fire and injury hazard. Replace blankets or heating pads with faulty

cords.

- Discard your blanket or heating pad if you see dark or charred spots on the surface.

- Do not put another cover on top of an electric blanket unless the safety instructions included in the packaging specifically state it's safe to do so. Some newer models protect against overheating.

- Once your electric blanket or heating pad is switched on, keep it laid flat—a folded device can cause a fire, as can a blanket that's been tucked in (which can

bend wires).

- Never use heated bedding while asleep—look for a model with a timer that switches off automatically.

If you choose to use a space heater to supplement your home's heating system, purchase a safety-certified model and read the included safety instructions.

- Keep units 3 ft. away from combustible materials—such as bedding, drapes, clothes, and rugs. Space heaters also have parts that can spark, so avoid using them in areas where you store flammable liquids like kerosene and

gasoline.

- In general, plugging space heaters directly into a wall outlet is best. If you must use an extension cord, make sure it's the correct type and boasts the right wire gauge size for your particular space heater. Otherwise, use a wall socket that can handle the load.

- Check safety instructions before using a space heater around water—some models are not intended for use in bathrooms.

Sources: *Electrical Safety Foundation International, U.S. Consumer Product*

Making strides with clean-coal technology

NRECA's Cooperative Research Network works to make better use of abundant resource

Despite the recent "green" energy revolution and the explosion of natural gas drilling rigs across the American landscape, our nation's primary fuel for producing electricity is coal—as it has been for more than a century.

Electricity in the U.S. generated by coal fell from 42 percent in 2011 to 37.5 percent in 2012, largely because of low natural gas prices, the retirement of older coal-fired power plants due to new emissions regulations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and uncertainty about further regulations in the future.

But coal is far from dead. Electricity from coal is predicted to rise about 3 percent this year while natural gas's contribution will drop from 30.5 percent

to 27.3 percent, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Short-Term Energy Outlook for 2013. And natural gas prices are forecasted to rise this year due to higher demand and a slowdown in production.

"Coal still has a future as a source of electricity," said WCE General Manager Mike Gray. "Whether you are for or against the use of coal to generate electricity, the fact is that the United States remains home to the largest reserves of coal in the world. That's why electric cooperatives like West Central are fully behind efforts to explore and test clean-coal technologies."

One driver in the effort is EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule, designed to significantly curb emissions of hazardous air pollutants, such as mercury and arsenic, from coal- and oil-fired electric generating units 25 MW or larger by 2016. Some coal-fired generating units will be shut down, rather than retrofitted, because the needed changes would be too expensive to implement.

America's electric cooperatives and the trade association that represents

them, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), are exploring new approaches to burn coal more cleanly. NRECA's Cooperative Research Network (CRN) recently completed a demonstration of an innovative new multi-pollutant control system that shows promise for helping coal-fired power plants meet stringent emissions standards advanced by EPA. Even better, the technologies tested do so at a fraction of the cost of traditional measures.

The demonstration, conducted in July 2012 at a power plant owned and operated by Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission co-op (G&T) based in Benson, Ariz., was sponsored by CRN along with a coalition of 10 G&Ts and other industry organizations. Results showed that by combining mercury controls—which were successfully tested by CRN in November 2011 at a plant operated by San Miguel Electric Cooperative, a G&T in Jourdanton, Texas—with trona (a naturally occurring mineral similar to baking soda), significant emissions

reductions were achieved. In addition, the tested technologies cut the cost of meeting new environmental rules by a factor five to 10.

"Results for these full-scale power plants were very encouraging," noted John Hewa Jr., NRECA vice president of engineering, research & technical services. "But they were based on limited-duration runs. To verify long-term performance, the results need to be confirmed with extended trials."

"We're supportive of the multi-pollutant control technologies being studied by CRN because they can show us how to best use one of our most abundant natural resources, coal, and keep rates low for our members," Gray concluded. "West Central Electric is proud to support innovations that will allow electric co-ops to continue to provide safe, affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible power for our members."

Story by Angela Perez
Sources: *Cooperative Research Network, U.S. Energy Information Administration*