



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

West Central *Electric News*

May 2011



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



Who will it be?

Three of the following six finalists will be on their way to Washington, D.C. in June for the 2011 National Rural Electric Youth Tour. Nathan Arndt of Wellington Napoleon High School, Nicole Ludlam of Crest Ridge High School, and Courtney Welch, Dakota Ross, Kaylee Herring and Lauren Thomas, all of Kingsville High School, will compete April 14 for the chance to represent West Central Electric in our nation's capital. Youth Tour delegates, their families and classroom teachers will also have the chance to spend a day at the Missouri State capital touring the Archives, Supreme Court and the Capitol Building (above) during Family Capital Day. Runners-up will win a trip to the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience, better known as CYCLE, the nationally-award-winning youth conference sponsored by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. Good luck to our six finalists! Check out the pages of June's West Central Electric News to find out who the 2011 delegates are.

June is recalculation month for Level Payment Plan

WCE members whose accounts are on the Level Payment Plan will see those amounts recalculate in June 2011.

"Previously, the recalculation date was once a year based on the month the account was placed on the Level Payment Plan," Billing Supervisor Sharon Rinne said. "With our new computer program, all accounts will recalculate in June of each year."

To qualify for the Level Payment Plan, members must have had service with the cooperative for at least 12 months. Other requirements include:

- a zero account balance prior to initiating the Level Payment Plan,

- no returned checks on the account within the past 12 months, and
- no more than one trip made to the member's location to collect payment.

Members will continue to receive a statement each month showing the status of the account.

"The Level Payment Plan allows members to spread their higher seasonal bills over the entire year without additional costs or finance charges," Rinne said.

Members may contact the cooperative at 800-491-3803 or 660-584-2131 for more information about the Level Payment Plan or to sign up.

Sproat wins English Memorial Scholarship

Grainger, Arbogast, Haston, Hoemann, Tieman and Abare get one-time awards

West Central Electric Cooperative is proud to announce Warrensburg High School senior Kori Sproat as the winner of the 2011 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship. The \$1,000 award is renewable for four years.

Kori Sproat

Sproat is the daughter of Roger and Babette Sproat of Warrensburg. She is a 10-year member of Good Neighbors 4-H Club, and says her heart lies in her 4-H and FFA activities, "because agriculture is my passion."

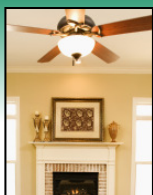
"I am deeply involved in these organizations, and encourage others to do the same," she said. "These two organizations have given me incredible confidence and motivation to set high goals for myself."



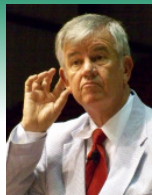
Sproat

Sproat stays busy with her 4-H activities as president of the Johnson County 4-H Council, and serving as a 4-H camp counselor. In addition to her 4-H

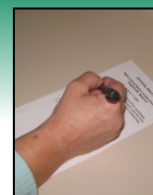
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Doug Rye says the young folks get it when it comes to energy efficiency... page 2



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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

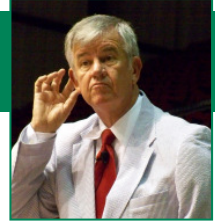
24-Hour Number:
1-800-491-3803

General Manager:
Mike Gray

Board of Directors:
Donna Matthews, President
Max Swisegood, Vice-Pres.
Paul Nolte, Treasurer
Robert Simmons, Secretary
Dale Jarman, Asst. Sect.
Charles Baile, Director
Clark Bredehoeft, Director
Ron Steelman, Director
Stan Rhodes, Director

Doug Rye Says...

Energy efficiency: The young folks get it



I have been teaching energy efficiency for many years on radio, through seminars and in this column. The weekly radio show is in its 20th year with 1,025 programs and counting. Thanks to the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, the columns that you read are also published in electric cooperative magazines in several other states. I also conduct many seminars every year and I must admit that I love every second of it. I do love to help folks have lower utility bills and a comfortable house.

There are times when I think that surely everyone knows about energy efficiency. But all the questions that I get at the office, on the radio show, and at the seminars are all about energy efficiency. I am amazed at how many new non-energy-efficient homes continue to be built. Well, I will just keep on keeping on as long as I am helping you.

If you have been to one of my seminars then you have heard me say that sometimes young folks understand what I teach easier than older folks. I make a few presentations each year in the public schools and it is always rewarding. When I tell them that Mother Earth can give you almost free heating and cooling, they say, "wow." Adults usually say, "nothing's free."

When I tell the students that a geothermal heating system is 400 percent or five times more efficient than a gas furnace, they say, "cool." Adults have a hard time believing that, so I take time and explain how this can be. I get a special kind of satisfaction when I work with young whippersnappers.

In a previous column, I mentioned that I considered electricity to be a blessing and mentioned a goodly number of ways that we use electricity in a

house. I challenged you to make your list and to call if you thought that your list might be the longest. I told you that if you had the most ways to use electricity, I would send you a nice gift for Christmas. I never dreamed that so many of you would call me. The calls came for more than two weeks.

One of the calls came from a teacher from the Kirby, Ark., school system. She said that her classes, grades 1-6, had prepared a very long list. She also mentioned that the classes had really enjoyed the challenge and had learned a lot about the uses of electricity.

Later, I had the privilege of accompanying staff and board members of South Central Arkansas Electric Cooperative to the Kirby school where we presented Ladonna Ashbrooks' classes with a flat screen television and a digital camera for being one of the winners of the

contest. Let's just say that a good time was had by all. We will also do a similar presentation for another winner of the contest — the Gravette Public School — along with staff and board members of Carroll Electric Cooperative

As much as I love working with young folks, I know helping adults is first and foremost. If I am anywhere near you teaching a seminar, I hope you can attend.

Listen to Doug Rye's "Home Remedies" show Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on KXXK Radio, 105.7 FM.

Low-Cost Savings

There are lots of spring energy-efficiency projects you can do on a budget

Improving your home's energy efficiency doesn't have to create a personal budget deficit. Here are a few low-cost ways to improve the energy efficiency of your home this spring.

Clean, clean, clean — Toss out the old, dirty filters in your air conditioner from last summer and replace them with clean ones. Dirt can block airflow and reduce efficiency, causing the unit to work overtime. Also clean fans and refrigerator coils, and adjust ceiling fan blades to draw air upward. Clean out the dust and debris from light globes so your bulbs burn more efficiently. Don't forget to clean the exhaust hose of your clothes dryer. And because that dryer is an energy hog, make the commitment to air dry clothes starting this spring.

Seal the leaks — Keep summer's hot air out by weatherstripping, caulking and insulating. Seal around windows, doors and electrical outlets. If you plan to cut back on air conditioning, install screens on windows that will create a cooling draft through the interior of your house.

Close the flue in your fireplace. Check air ducts for leaks and the level of attic insulation to see if it's settled. R-49 is now the insulation standard for attics in Missouri.

Shade your windows — Add drapes, blinds, exterior shades and other window cover-

ings to cut heat buildup. Adding solar control window films can save as much as 5 percent to 10 percent on your energy bill, according to California's Consumer Energy Center.

Get a ceiling fan — Ceiling fans use only the equivalent energy of a 100-watt light bulb, yet can decrease the temperature by 4 degrees or 5 degrees, according to www.homeenergy.com. They're inexpensive and come in a wide variety of styles. Use the fan to complement your air conditioner, or, along with portable fans, even replace it.

Install a programmable thermostat — You'll reap the same benefits in summer from a programmable thermostat as you do in winter. If set and used properly, a programmable thermostat can save up to \$150 in energy costs each year, according to Energy Star. Each degree in summer you raise the thermostat typically saves 2 percent on your cooling bill. Energy experts recommend setting the thermostat at 78 degrees or above in summer. (exception: heat pumps.)

Add a power strip — If you haven't switched your televisions, computers, VCRs and other electronics to a power strip, make that change this spring. One switch to OFF on the strip ends the flow of "phantom" electricity to all the gadgets plugged into it.



Sproat wins English Memorial Scholarship

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tion to her 4-H involvement, Sproat is active in school as a member of National Honors Society, DECA, Future Business Leaders of America, Future Teachers of America and National FFA Organization. In her community, she volunteers for the local food pantry and at the Missouri Veterans Home. She also performs with Center Stage Academy of the Performing Arts.

Sproat plans to attend the University of Central Missouri and study agriculture business.

"So many Americans believe the food on their plate just appears at a grocery store. For those involved in agriculture, that is a mind-boggling thought, but for most of America, that is a reality," she said. "I wish to take this scholarship and put it toward my education in agriculture business so that when I graduate with my degree, I can teach agriculture literary. I hope to educate those who have a misconception to the true hard work behind the farmer, and just how much work it takes for them to eat their dinner each night."

The committee chose to award six one-time \$500 scholarships to the remaining six finalists. Also receiving awards from the John and Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Trust are: Bethany Grainger of Crest Ridge High School, Andrea Arbogast and Victoria Haston of Lafayette County C-I High School, Catherine Hoemann of Warrensburg High School, Ross Tieman of Santa Fe High School and Mary Abare of Odessa High School.

Bethany Grainger

Grainger is the daughter of Byron Grainger and Billie Chamberlin. She has been involved in 4-H for 10 years, and is a member of the Chilhowee Indians 4-H Club. She plans to study radiology at State Fair Community College.



Grainger

Andrea Arbogast

Arbogast is the daughter of Ralph and Susan Arbogast. She has been involved in 4-H for 10 years, and is a member of Hitt 4-H Club. Arbogast plans to attend Missouri University of Science and Technology and study mechanical engineering.



Arbogast

Victoria Haston

Haston is the daughter of James and Lucinda Haston. She has been involved in 4-H for eight years, and is a member of Hazel Dell 4-H Club. Haston plans to attend Missouri State University in Springfield and study psychology.



Haston

Catherine Hoemann

Hoemann is the daughter of Ken and Diana Hoemann. She has been involved with 4-H for 11 years, and is a member of Good Neighbors 4-H Club. Hoemann plans to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia and study graphic arts and Spanish.



Hoemann

Ross Tieman

Tieman is the son of Kent and Amy Tieman. He has been involved in 4-H for 12 years, and is a member of the Alma 4-H Club. Tieman plans to study agriculture business at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville.



Tieman

Mary Abare

Mary Abare is the daughter of John and Lisa Abare. She has been involved in 4-H for 10 years, and is a member of the Odessa Young Riders. She plans to study nursing at the University of Central Missouri.



Abare

The John and Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship trust was created by the English family to assist students, who are active members of 4-H at the time of their high school graduation, with their educational expenses. The trust named West Central Electric Cooperative's board of directors as the administrators of the scholarship. John English served on WCE's board of directors from 1942 to 1983.

2011 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee

Following is a list of the members named to the 2011 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving on West Central Electric Cooperative's board of directors, contact any of the committee members in your district listed below. The committee will convene on Thursday, May 12, 2011 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Nominees will be voted on at the annual meeting Aug. 5, 2011 in Warrensburg.

District I

Walter Hutcherson
39607 E. Fricke Rd.
Oak Grove, MO 64075
816-625-3837

District II

Robert Sander
13642 Bonanza Rd.
Higginville, MO 64037
660-584-7032

Ken Wodrich
31447 Brandt Rd.
Concordia, MO 64020
660-463-7272

Eric Johnson
14082 Highway U
Odessa, MO 64076
816-230-8074

Ellis Dieckhoff
20795 Jennings Rd.
Higginville, MO 64037
660-584-7336

District III

Aaron Collett
157 NE 825th Rd.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-747-8542

Jerry Phoenix
707 NW 100th Rd.
Centerview, MO 64019
660-656-9527

Sarah Willard
491 NW 900 Rd.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-747-7469

Norma Grainger
890 SW 151 Rd.
Chilhowee, MO 64733
660-747-9588

*Terms will expire for District III directors Charles Baile, Donna Matthews and Robert Simmons.

Board of Directors Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the cooperative who:

(A) is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the cooperative; or

(B) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative; or

(C) is the incumbent of or a candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of \$100 per annum is paid. Upon establishment of the fact that a director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board of directors shall remove such director from office.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Properly hooking up your clothes dryer can help you save on energy costs. Check to make sure the dryer vent hose is tightly connected to the dryer and inside wall fitting and is not kinked or clogged. Also be sure there are no holes that allow hot air to escape into the house.