

Illinois Country Living

MARCH 2017 • ICL.COOP

Cooperatives
BUILD
BETTER COMMUNITIES



 **ROCK ENERGY
COOPERATIVE**
Empowering Members Since 1936

**81st Annual Meeting
Monday, March 27**

81ST ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

Doors Open 4:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Children's Rooms* 5-7:15 p.m.

Ages 3-12 Pickles the Clown,
Videos, Games

**Includes snack and dinner of Pizza, Vegetables and Dip, Cookies, Milk, Juice, Water*

Adult Dinner 6:45 p.m.

Menu: Tossed Garden Salad; All-American Yankee Pot Roast Dinner served with carrots, celery, and Idaho red potatoes; Buttered Green Beans; Dinner Rolls; Fudge Brownie or Lemon Bar; Coffee, Tea, Milk, Water

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Rock Energy Cooperative

March 27, 2017 • 5:30 p.m.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of Rock Energy Cooperative will be held at the Eclipse Center, Beloit, Wisconsin, on Monday, the 27th day of March, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of transacting whatever business may lawfully come before it. The order of business pursuant to the Bylaws shall be as follows:

1. Call to Order. Quorum Determination
2. Reading of Notice of Meeting
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting
4. Reports of Officers, Directors, and Committees
5. Election of Four (4) Directors
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business/Questions
8. Adjournment

Dated this 24th day of February, 2017.

Marian Trescher, secretary, Rock Energy Cooperative

Members must attend this meeting if they wish to vote on co-op business items. Only one ballot per member will be issued at time of registration. Proxy and absentee voting are not allowed.

80TH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Chairman William Dietsch welcomed all in attendance and introduced special guests. The list included six state legislators; managers and staff representing WECA, AIEC, and Alliant Energy; REC board of directors; Attorney Niles Berman; CEO Shane Larson; and spouses.

Dietsch called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 28, 2016, and declared a quorum with 320 voting members present. The total attendance was 634.

Secretary Marian Trescher read the official notice of the annual meeting. The minutes of the 2015 annual meeting were printed in the co-op magazine. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Treasurer James Quade presented the financial report. The cooperative is in good shape financially. No questions were asked. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Motion carried.

Dietsch addressed the membership about life in the 1930s, when the cooperative was founded. The cooperative brought electricity to people in rural areas to improve the quality of their lives.

Larson spoke about events in the timeline since the cooperative began in 1936. He stated that challenges still lie ahead with technological changes, business opportunities, legislation, and regulation issues. The cooperative mission will remain the same: to "empower the members."

Berman reviewed the minutes of the Nominating Committee meeting, which were accepted, and conducted the election. Candidates introduced were Marian Trescher, District 2; James Quade, District 4; and Wendell Boyer, District 9. Each candidate was given the opportunity to address the membership. Ballots were cast, collected by the youth attendees, and counted by appointed tellers.

Dietsch gave a tribute to Jo Miller, retiring director from District 9, who was recognized with a plaque honoring her dedication and 24 years of service. She made history by becoming the first woman to serve on the board when she was elected in 1992.

A video from House Speaker Paul Ryan was shown. Ryan saluted the work of electric cooperatives ensuring their members with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to areas that others ignored.

Statewide managers Stephen Freese of WECA and Duane Noland of AIEC delivered brief remarks congratulating Rock Energy for delivering electricity to members for 80 years.

WECA's Beata Wierzba presented awards recognizing Rock Energy's contributions to the local cooperative pages of *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*. The co-op won the human interest and photography categories and received an honorable mention in the co-op news category.

Scholarships were presented by committee Chair Marian Trescher, Ron Richards, and Bill Fischer. Recipients were Carson Brauer and Hanna Kearns, Parkview; Katherine Butler, Erika Gustafson, and Collin O'Sullivan, Hononegah; Emma Hahn, Clinton; Jake Hermanson, Milton; Heather Messling, Evansville; Amber Pickel, Brodhead; and Jessica Pozzani, South Beloit.

Leah Knaul, Thunder Valley School; Nathan Stevens, Stevens Academy; and Seth Trickle, Parkview High School, were introduced as Youth Tour representatives who will travel to Washington, D.C., in June.

There was no old or new business.

Results of the election were announced. Members re-elected incumbent directors Marian Trescher of District 2 and James Quade of District 4. Newcomer Wendell Boyer was elected to represent District 9.

Two door prizes were awarded in honor of the co-op's 80th anniversary. The winners were each given an \$80 credit on their Rock Energy bill.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Director Ron Richards gave the invocation, which was followed by a delicious turkey dinner served by Best Events Catering.

Respectfully submitted,
Marian Trescher, secretary

MEET YOUR REC BOARD CANDIDATES

District 1

Barbara Miller, who lives at 9925 W. County M in Porter Township, is a candidate to fill the vacancy in District 1 created by the death of Morris Nelson. The District 1 term is for one year.

Miller grew up on the family farm in Center Township and has lived on co-op lines for more than 30 years. “I know from that experience the value of this cooperative’s service to the rural community and appreciate its dedication to meet the needs of its members,” she said.

She has been a teacher in the Brodhead School District for 30 years, receiving a bachelor’s degree in education from UW-Whitewater and a master’s degree in environmental education from the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point.

“I am impressed with REC’s interest in our youth through the leadership opportunities offered as well as celebrating their academic success by awarding scholarships within its membership,” said Miller, who has served on the co-op’s scholarship committee.

She said she feels strongly about the cooperative business model and wishes that more co-ops existed in the area. “I realize the challenges any utility company faces with providing quality economical service, yet being environmentally sustaining. I would appreciate to learn more if given the opportunity as a member of the REC Board of Directors.”



District 6

Clark Schoonover, who lives at 830 Westerfield Way in South Beloit, has been a co-op member since 2007. He has served on the board since October 2014, when he was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of Michael Duffy.

“I have learned a great deal about the energy distribution business as well as the co-op business model,” he said. “Each month the board is apprised of the financial and operational condition of the cooperative. I look forward to ensuring that Rock continues to remain fiscally strong, while providing reliable service to our members.”

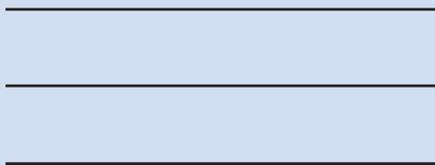
Schoonover has taken the necessary classes to become a Credentialed Cooperative Director. If elected, he would like to advance to the next level, Board Leadership Certificate.

He is a lifelong South Beloit resident and has worked as an engineering test technician at United Technologies Aerospace (formerly Sundstrand) in Rockford for 44 years.

“As a past board member and president on the South Beloit Library Board, I can say that serving on this board is similar to a public board,” he said. “We create and form policies which best serve our members’ interests while keeping an eye on the big picture. We depend on the industry expertise of our CEO and department heads to aid us in these efforts.”



(Continued on back page)



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MEET YOUR REC BOARD CANDIDATES

District 7

Bill Dietsch lives at 7050 W. St. Lawrence Ave. in Newark Township and has been a co-op member since 1965. He has served on the board of directors since 1999 and currently is chairman.

He is a graduate of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association director certification program and serves on the board of directors for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Dietsch studied marketing and education at the University of Omaha and UW-Whitewater and served in the Air Force for four years. He retired from Chrysler after 30 years and is now self-employed refurbishing homes. He also served as a volunteer basketball coach for fifth- through eighth-graders at Brother Dutton School in Beloit for 25 years.



District 8

Ronald Richards lives at 133 Lake Summerset Road in Davis, Ill., with his wife, Diana. He has been a co-op member since 2007, has served as a director on the REC Co-op Board since 2011, and is currently vice chairman.

Richards is an accountant with more than 40 years of business experience, about 20 years in the not-for-profit sector and the balance in manufacturing. He served eight years in the Indiana National Guard as company commander. He is an active member of Faith Community Church in Davis.

During his six years of service, Richards has completed the necessary National Rural Electric Cooperative Association training to receive the Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Credentials and Director Gold Program Certificate. In addition, he has served on the legislative and scholarship committees.

“I believe that as your representative on the board and with my accounting experience, I can assist in guiding Rock Energy into the future with strength and integrity, and provide quality services to our members,” he said. “I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve as your representative from District 8.”



Members must attend the March 27 annual meeting to vote for the director positions. One ballot per membership will be issued at registration.

Annual Meeting RSVP

Use this card to RSVP for the Annual Meeting & Dinner. Please respond no later than March 15, 2017.

Name _____

Address _____

Account No. _____ E-mail address _____

(if available)

(When filling out this form, please print)

_____ # of Adults for Dinner

_____ # of Children 8-12 for Children's Dinner

_____ # of Children 3-7 for Children's Dinner

Please mail this card back at your earliest convenience or drop it off at either our Janesville or South Beloit offices. You also may call (608) 752-4550 or (866) 752-4550 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday or e-mail BarbU@rock.coop.