

NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 08/22



General Manager Randy Long speaking at this year's Annual Meeting held on June 11th.

Members of the co-op gathered for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 11th, at the Winchester Grade School. The co-op held a drive-thru registration, followed by an indoor business meeting. Members who registered received a \$15 bill credit.

During the meeting, Board President Tom Meehan welcomed the members to the Annual Meeting and provided an update on the state of the co-op. He also gave a heartfelt thank you to the staff and board of directors for their continuing hard work for the co-op. Meehan also thanked the membership for their confidence in, and appreciation, of the cooperative. "The

continued...



Illinois Electric Cooperative

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Loss Control Supervisor Brenda Bettis and Internet Technician Drew Klingele working the drive-through registration at this year's Annual Meeting.

co-op staff, directors and its membership are family," he said.

Board member Jim Freeman gave the treasurer's report, announcing that the co-op is in strong financial shape again this year, and highlighted the fact that the co-op was able to again retire approximately \$1 million in capital credits to current and former members during the past year. Freeman assured the membership that all is being done to mitigate rate increases.

General Manager Randy Long addressed the membership to discuss the electric system, focusing mostly on the reliability of the grid, amid the possibility of rolling blackouts in this part of the country. Long spoke on the next steps in the future with the closure of coal-fired generation plants.

"At the moment, we have enough capacity, most of the time," Long explained. "The risk of blackouts will increase with each closure of these power plants. This is why it is important to stay engaged and continue to make our voices heard through legislative efforts such as the Voices for Cooperative Power Campaign."

Members helped to impact the legislation that helped prevent the premature closure of the Prairie State Plant with more than 1,800 letters of support during the co-ops' call for action last fall. Long also encouraged the membership to sign up for text messaging alerts to be notified of any system shut down notices.

Four seats on the board of directors were up for election. Kristine Bingham, District 2; Pat Stendback, District 4; Bryan Hubbert, District 6; and Tom Meehan, District 8, were all re-elected for a 3-year term.

Throughout the duration of the meeting, prizes were handed out. Four lucky members won \$500, 20 received \$100 and \$500 were donated to 11 members' favorite charities.

From everyone at the co-op, we'd like to thank everyone that made it out to this year's meeting. It was great to see so many familiar faces and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Youth to Washington Tour

What do you get when 34 students from 16 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives join 1,000 of their peers across the United States? You get the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth to Washington Tour!

Two students from Illinois Electric Cooperative service territory were selected from a diverse group of applicants to represent their cooperative and enjoy an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from June 17-24 as part of the annual Youth Tour.

The 2022 youth tour delegates from Illinois Electric included Gaybrielle Henry and Haylee Kress, both of Golden Eagle.

The students toured Capitol Hill and met with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and U.S. Representatives Rodney Davis and Darin LaHood. They also visited historical and cultural sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, the White House, a variety of memorials and the U.S. Capitol. Among fun activities the students enjoyed were an assembly of more than 1,000 Youth Tour participants from across the nation.

“Youth Tour is a great opportunity that changes these students’ lives,” says Randy Long, IEC President/CEO. “This experience helps prepare them for their futures. After touring our nation’s capital, meeting congressional representatives and learning firsthand how our government works, they return home with valuable knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime.”



Congressman Darin LaHood, Haylee Kress and Gaybrielle Henry

Since 1964, the nation’s cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 60,000 high school students to visit Washington, D.C., talk one-on-one with their U.S. congressional delegations and learn from energy and grassroots government education sessions. NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation’s more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million consumer-members in 47 states.

2022 Annual Meeting Prize Winners

\$100

Donald D. Pence
Michael Lee Davis
Joseph C. Fanning
Christine Montgomery
Albert L. Berry
Albert Kirchner
Dennis Devino
Karen Krieg
Noel Keeley
Marcus Moore
David Whitehurst
Darren Hoots
Randall Voigts
Tommy Curt Oldham
Jenna Morrow
Terry Ransom
Charles L. Helton Jr.
Thad Walker
Javier Reyes
Wayne Vorreyer

\$500

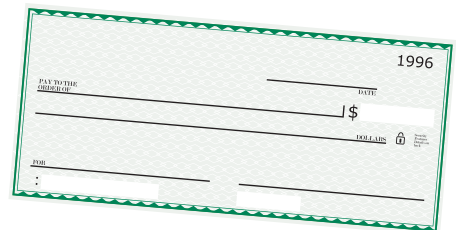
Dick Gauges
Larry Evans
Maurine Hoots
Byland Family Farms, LLC

Members' Fund

District 1: Grace Baptist Church – Gary Dice
District 2: Pittsfield West Cemetary – Cora Etta Root
District 3: St. John's Luthern Church in Bluff Springs – David Thompson
District 4: Spring Creek Fire Department – James Fox
District 5: Calhoun Co. Ambulance – Ed Benz
District 6: Winchester EMS – Rhonda Nash
District 7: Harts Prairie Church – Myron Darush
District 8: Faith Bible Church – Marla Bailey
District 9: Brussels American Legion – Paul Droege
District 10: Hillcrest Camp – Noel Keeley
District 11: Campus Crusade for Christ – Peter Baloga

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