

NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 07/25



Samantha Surratt served members out of her mobile ice cream car at this year's Annual Meeting.

Members of the co-op gathered for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 14th, at the Winchester Grade School. The co-op held a drive-through registration and a business meeting in the gymnasium. 357 members registered at this year's Annual

Meeting. Members who registered received a \$15 bill credit.

Board Secretary Kevin Brannan welcomed members to the Annual Meeting. Vice President Jenna Morrow thanked

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Members Services Representative Coni Stephenson with member Larry Blackburn.

Micha Bushnell of Prairie Power and Nick Reitz of Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives speaking with board member Julie Rhoads.

members for attending the meeting and provided an update on the co-op's current state. Ms. Morrow then introduced the board of directors and discussed the responsibilities and time commitment required to serve on the board.

Board Treasurer Jim Freeman shared that our audit reflects the co-op's strong financial shape. Mr. Freeman also spoke about interest rates, the co-op's ongoing investment in providing safe and reliable electric service, as well as providing internet to our members.

General Manager Randy Long addressed the membership to discuss the electric system. Mr. Long discussed the co-op's efforts to improve our reliability, particularly over the last couple of decades. He highlighted that about 20 years ago, our board sought to make the necessary changes to rebuild parts of the system, aiming to reduce the frequency of blinks and outages while making the system safer. Members were in agreement that service today is drastically better than it was 20 years ago. Mr. Long shared that this came at a cost, and the co-op, being a non-profit organization, needed to borrow from the federal

government to implement these changes. He also shared the impact inflation has had on the co-op. Mr. Long informed the membership of a possible bylaw change to be voted on in 2026 regarding the co-op's borrowing limit. Mr. Long said that more information will be provided in upcoming center sections of Illinois Country Living and shared at member meetings. Mr. Long also recognized employees for their dedication to the co-op and membership.

The chairman of the nominating committee, Mark Heffington, gave a report. The committee nominated Kristine Bingham as its candidate for Director representing District 2, Pat Stendback for Director representing District 4, Bryan Hubbert for Director representing District 6, and Thomas Meehan for Director representing District 8.

Throughout the meeting, the co-op gave away prizes. Four lucky members won \$500, 20 members received \$100, and an additional \$500 was donated to the favorite charities of 11 members. We want to thank everyone at the co-op who attended this year's meeting. Seeing so many familiar faces was great, and we look forward to seeing you again next year.



Journeyman Forester AJ Shewmake with member Marlin Spencer.

Board Secretary Kevin Brannan speaking at this year's Annual Meeting.



CEO students Mariska Sheurman and Brody Dolbeare speaking at this year's Annual Meeting.



Board Vice President Jenna Morrow speaking at this year's Annual Meeting.



2025 Annual Meeting Prize Winners

\$100

Rusty Lael
Peggy Guthrie
Charles Helton Jr.
Loretta Caskey
Annette Suess
Myron Darush
Roger McKinnon
Ronald Myers
Ralph Albrecht
Jerry Stinebaker
Paul Fearneyhough
Wayne Vorreyer
GW Vineyard Sons Farms
Brian Hansen
Donald G. Eddinger
Eastern United Cemetery
Greg Hutton
Scott Rhoads
Peggy Wheeler
David Thompson

\$500

John Farrell
William D. Christison
Bradley Jefferson
Quinn Jefferson

Members' Fund

District 1 - Jeff Hart - Park Lawn Cemetery
District 2 - Peggy Guthrie - Blue River Cemetery
District 3 - Virginia Coats - Lynnville Christian Church
District 4 - Jon White - St. Judes
District 5 - Virginia Becker - American Legion
District 6 - Janice McFeeley - Lynnville Christian Church
District 7 - David Boardman - Murrayville Food Pantry
District 8 - Randy and Rhonda Wahl - Winchester EMS
District 9 - Phillip Eilerman - St. Barbara's Cemetery
District 10 - Deanna Wicks - Eldred Baptist Church
District 11 - Charles Helton - Walkerville Cemetery

See more photos from this year's Annual Meeting on our Facebook page!



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