

84TH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The 84th Annual Meeting of Stearns Electric Association was held at the Stearns County Fairgrounds in Sauk Centre, Minnesota, on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING OF THE MEETING:

Ms. Madelyn Ludwig sang the National Anthem. Director Arlyn Lawrenz provided an invocation.

President Randy Rothstein officially opened the meeting and asked for approval of the agenda. A motion to accept the agenda as printed was made by Mike Cramer, seconded by Vijay Puri and carried.

Rothstein appointed Scott Dymoke to serve as Attorney and the Parliamentarian along with Deb Hoeschen as Recording Secretary.

Rothstein announced that a sufficient number of members were present to declare a quorum. A motion to waive the reading of the Notice of Meeting and the Affidavit of Mailing was made by Robert Stommes seconded by Steve Dudding and carried. A motion to accept the 82nd Annual Meeting minutes and 2020 election results was made by Director Tony Ampe, seconded by Neil Franz and carried.

Dymoke announced that balloting would close in five minutes and introduced this year's candidates in districts 3, 4, 5 and 9. Dymoke also explained the change from the nominating committee process to director applications as approved with the passing of the restated Bylaws on May 5, 2020.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Rothstein called on CEO Robin Doege to give the financial report. The balance sheet and statement of operations were reviewed as printed in the 2020 Annual Report. CEO Doege stated the 2020 annual audit was performed by CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP. A motion to accept the financial report was made by Puri, seconded by Bill Kemp and carried.

REPORT TO MEMBERS:

VP of Engineering and Operations Matt O'Shea explained how Cooperative employees continued to work through the COVID pandemic in 2020. VP of Administration and Finance Vicky Herkenhoff reviewed how the 2020 annual meeting was bifurcated to announce election results via video.

Doege and Herkenhoff detailed how the Co-op demonstrates one of the seven cooperative principles in its concern for the community. As part of the My Co-op Cares Program, employees give back to their communities and partake in fundraising activities to benefit local organizations and individuals. The Operation Round Up® program achieved a major milestone awarding over \$2.5 million dollars since the program's inception in 1993. Additionally, despite the ongoing pandemic, the Energy Education program was presented virtually to 1,750 fourth graders in 35 area schools.

O'Shea explained that safely delivering reliable electricity is core to the mission of Stearns Electric along with the importance of maintaining our distribution system. In 2020, members had power 99.98% of the time and the construction work plan represented a \$5.4 million commitment to reliable electric service. Over 580 projects were designed, staked and constructed, 330 new services installed and over 8,700 poles inspected for strength and durability. Additionally, in the four years since beginning the Right-of-Way project, tree-related outages have been reduced by over 60%.

Over 400 Co-op members took advantage of special promotions and rebates by investing in affordable energy saving solutions for the first time in 2020. Great River Energy announced plans to phase out remaining coal resources and explore more green energy production. This includes retiring GRE's Coal Creek Station, adding significant wind energy generation, converting its Spiritwood Power Plant to be fueled with natural gas and installing a new long-duration battery storage option. These changes are set to reduce wholesale electric rates in the coming years and achieve over 95% carbon-free energy.

For the first time, Stearns Electric distributed \$500,000 to members in the form of Generation and Transmission Capital Credits in 2020. Along with Co-op Capital Credits, Stearns Electric returned a total of \$1.625 million to members last year.

O'Shea explained that after planning and review in 2020, the Co-op's Board of Directors asked members to approve proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Members voted to approve the amendments which adjusted Co-op practices related to membership requirements, director positions and tenure, director nomination process, Capital Credit retirement and more.

Doege added that the amendment had also adjusted the way the Co-op handled director vacancies. Unfortunately, due to failing health, District 3 director Dick Nathe had resigned. With that vacancy, per the restated bylaws, the seat needed to be filled in conjunction with the next Annual Meeting. Postponing the 2021 Annual Meeting by four weeks allowed the Co-op to save members money, time and resources by not having to plan a second election and meeting for District 3 members.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Dymoke opened the business meeting stating the purpose of the Annual Meeting was to give members an opportunity to ask questions by calling in or coming forward.

ELECTION TELLERS REPORT:

Gary Toenyan, lead election teller, came forward and reported on the election results. A total of 1,571 ballots were cast with 7 ballots found to be ineligible. The results for a three year term were as follows:

District 3: Christopher (Chris) Bergman - 110
Michael Cramer - 147
Loren Estwick - 34
Thomas (Tom) Keller - 79
William (Bill) Kemp - 65
Vijay Puri - 109
James (Jim) Rasmusson - 54
Robert (Bob) Stommes - 70
Write In - 7

District 4: Neil Franz - 96
Randy Rothstein - 310
Write In - 1

District 5: Anthony (Tony) Ampe - 133
Write In - 2

District 9: Jerry Fries - 335
Write In - 2

CLOSING OF THE MEETING:

There being no further business to conduct at this time, a motion was made by Puri and seconded by Stommes to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



85TH ANNUAL MEETING

April 5, 2022

6:30 p.m. Registration and Balloting Opens

7:00 p.m. Business Meeting Convenes

AGENDA

Call to Order

Eric Peterson, President

Honor Guard Presents Flags

Invocation

Arlyn Lawrenz, Director - District 2

Approval of Agenda

Parliamentarian Appointment

Appointment of Secretary

Certificate of Quorum

Notice of Meeting / Proof of Mailing

Approval of 2021 Minutes

Introduction of Nominees

Balloting Closes

Financial Report

Robin Doege, CEO

Report to Members

Vicky Herkenhoff, VP of Administration and Finance

Matt O'Shea, VP of Engineering and Operations

Robin Doege, CEO

Unfinished Business

New Business

Report of Election Results

Introduction of Elected Directors

Adjournment

Attendance Prizes

member driven. community focused. energy smart.

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