

RURAL MISSOURI

Our Office will be Closed

Memorial Day May 29

If you have an emergency or an outage please call

417-682-5636 or 800-286-5636

BCEC Ground Source

the official newsletter of Barton County Electric Cooperative

May 2017



CEO/GM NEWS

Interim CEO/General Manager, Jeff Hull
Cooperative Principle Number Five.....
Education, Training and Information

I would like to invite each member of Barton County Electric to attend this year's Annual Meeting. One of the Seven Cooperative Principles is **Education, Training and Information**. What better way to accomplish this as a group than Annual Meeting? The biggest part of my conversation with members this year at Annual Meeting will be rates. We announced in the March issue of Rural Missouri a "Rate Change Coming in June". When I accepted the Interim CEO/GM role in late February one of the first questions I asked staff is, "do we need the planned increase scheduled for June?" The answer was not certain either way, so we spent a lot of time in March drilling down the reason for the increase and to see if we could post-pone an increase in 2017. After countless hours of hard work, we are pleased to tell you we do not plan to have a rate increase in 2017! This of course is great news but your first question may be, how did they do that? Well, it wasn't easy, but we looked at the big ticket items to come up with a long-term forecast. We have been working very aggressively on our four-year work plan. This plan calls for a lot of upgrading of lines and poles. We also have been very aggressive with right-of-way clearing for the past several years, which has resulted in lower outage numbers, which is our goal. Having said that, we found by pushing the "pause" button in these two areas, we are happy to announce, we have postponed the upcoming rate increase scheduled to take affect in June! Again, this is great news for our members but please understand we have only pushed the "pause" button to give all of us time to look into rate structures and what direction we need to go. Each month, we plan to keep you informed what the forecast looks like and what we are doing to keep rates as low as possible while providing safe and reliable electricity to your homes and businesses.

Also at Annual Meeting this year we plan to share information about how politics affect our business. We will have a guest speaker explaining what demand is and how it affects BCEC's power bill. I will give you a snapshot of what we have done, what we are doing and what we plan to do in the future here at BCEC.

As you can see in the Annual Meeting Program, we plan to educate, train and provide valuable information to help you, our member-owners, be engaged in your cooperative. We plan to keep members informed as we navigate the best way to keep your cooperative financially strong. I am looking forward to seeing you all in a few days.



Annual Meeting Program

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Moore Pavilion - Lamar, Missouri

Registration at 5:00 p.m.

Business Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

5:00-6:30 p.m.	Registration of Members
5:00-6:30 p.m.	Chicken Mary's Meal
5:00-6:30 p.m.	Entertainment, That Dalton Gang
6:30 p.m. Call Meeting to Order	Kenny Owen, President
National Anthem	That Dalton Gang
Invocation	
Introduction of Guests and Board Members..	Kenny Owen, President
Determination of Quorum.....	Shawn Battagler, Attorney
Notice of Meeting	Shawn Batagler, Attorney
Minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting.....	Shawn Battagler, Attorney
President's Report.....	Kenny Owen, President
Financial Report.....	Tom Williams, Secretary
Introduction of Board Candidates.....	Shawn Battagler, Attorney
Balloting.....	Shawn Battagler, Attorney
<i>Registration Closed - Voting Ceased</i>	
Chief Executive Officer Report	Jeff Hull, Interim CEO/GM
Guest Speaker	Joe Wilkinson, Director of Member
	Services and Corporate Communications, Associated Electric
Questions and Answers	Board, CEO, & Attorney
Election Results	Shawn Battagler, Attorney
Old Business	Kenny Owen, President
New Business	Kenny Owen, President
Adjournment	Kenny Owen, President

* Drawing for Electric Bill Credits throughout the meeting

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF BARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. May 5, 2016

The 80th Annual Meeting of the Members of Barton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., convened at Moore Pavilion in the City of Lamar, Barton County, Missouri at 6:30 p.m., on May 5, 2016, pursuant to the date fixed by the Board of Directors under the provisions of the bylaws and notice of the meeting.

Registration began at 5:00 p.m. with a meal served to members, prepared by Chicken Mary's. Pre-meeting entertainment was provided by That Dalton Gang.

President Douglas Haile called the meeting to order. That Dalton Gang led in singing the National Anthem. Employee Rusty Endicott led in the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a prayer of invocation.

President Haile welcomed members and recognized guests at the meeting. He introduced the Board of Directors.

Attendance prizes were distributed throughout the course of the meeting.

Rod Widger, General Counsel and Parliamentarian for the meeting, verified the status of the meeting. He announced that there were 430 members registered and that the quorum requirement was satisfied to conduct the business of the meeting. Mr. Widger explained the voting method to be used during the meeting. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to waive the reading of the Official Notice and proof of mailing of notice.

Secretary/Treasurer Joel Maneval presented the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to approve the 2015 minutes as printed.

President Haile presented the President's Report. He reviewed the accomplishments of the past decade. He spoke of the Cooperative's strong equity position, capital credit retirements, divestiture from propane business, right-of-way maintenance, pole change outs, and line conversions. He expressed appreciation for the Cooperative staff and employees.

Secretary/Treasurer Joel Maneval presented the Treasurer's Report with a review of the balance sheet and consolidated statement of operations printed in the meeting program. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Attorney Widger explained the proposed bylaw amendment regarding the definition of joint membership under law. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership approved the bylaw amendment.

Mr. Widger introduced director candidates and gave instructions for the marking and collecting ballots. Voting was closed and ballots were collected to be counted with results to be reported before the conclusion of the meeting.

Chief Executive Officer Russell McCorkle gave his annual report. He recognized Associated Electric Cooperative, Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, and other organizations present and supporting the meeting. He recognized law enforcement, emergency services and military active duty, retired and veterans. He explained the Cooperative's ongoing effort to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable electric service. He reviewed with the membership the 7 Cooperative Principles that distinguish cooperative organizations.

Mr. Widger reported the results of the Director election as follows: Kenny Owen – 398 votes, Karl Morey – 356 votes, Matt Schlichting – 356 votes, and Rusty Phipps – 332 votes. It was therefore ordered that Kenny Owen, Karl Morey, and Matt Schlichting were each elected for a term of 3 years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

The President asked for old business and there was none. He then called for new business and there was none. On motion made, seconded and passed, the meeting was adjourned.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 417.682.5636 or 800.286.5636

24 hours a day

Before you call:

- Check breaker(s) in your home and below your meter
- Check with your neighbors to verify they have power
- To better serve you when you do call please have the following information ready:
 - Name on the account you are reporting
 - Your six-digit BCEC location number

Bill Payment Options

1. The Office

You are always welcome to stop by the office located 1 mile west of Lamar at 91 West 160 Highway
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

2. Drive-up Drop Box

located at our office
available 24 hours a day

3. On-Line Bill Pay

available 24 hours a day at
www.bartonelectric.com

4. By Mailing To:

Barton County Electric Cooperative
91 West Highway 160
Lamar, MO 64759

5. Auto Pay

from your checking or savings account
or with your debit/credit card

6. By Phone

Using your debit or credit card
Monday thru Friday 8am to 5pm
417-682-5636 / 800-286-5636

7. Prepay

Call or stop by to learn more
about how you can prepay
for your electricity

Your Directors

Kenny Owen, President
Jerry Thieman, Vice President
Tom Williams, Secretary/Treasurer
Barbara Barley
Karl Morey
Matt Schlichting
David Stump
Kevin Taffner
Max Walters

Your Interim CEO/GM

Jeff Hull

2016 Annual Meeting Electric Bill Credit Drawings

10 - \$50.00 / 5 - \$100.00 / 5 - \$250.00 / 1 - \$500.00

Must Be Present to Win

Credits will be added to your account by BCEC personnel

Credits are non-transferrable

FIND YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER AND WIN \$25!

1. Find your account number hidden in this issue of *bcec Ground Source*
2. Call the cooperative or stop by our office: 417.682.5636 or 800.286.5636
3. If the account number is yours you will get a \$25.00 electric bill credit!
4. You must call to claim your prize during current issue