

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY Cooperative

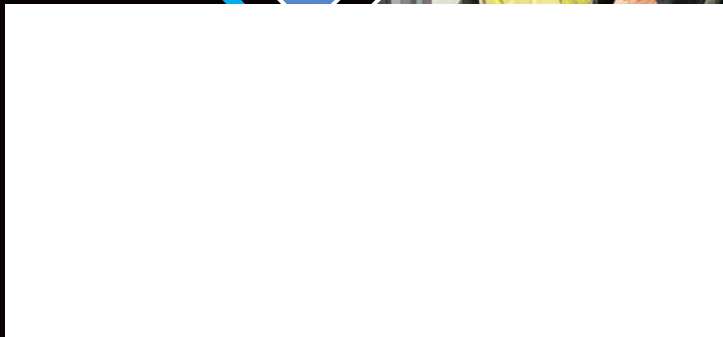
March 2023 NEWS

**Eau Claire Energy  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



March 21, 2023  
**86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
At The Florian Gardens  
(see inside cover page for details)



# NOTICE OF 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

The 86th Annual Meeting of the members of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative will be at The Florian Gardens at 2340 Lorch Avenue, Eau Claire, on Tuesday evening, March 21, 2023. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. The business meeting will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. to transact the following and any business that may properly come before the meeting.

**Doors open at 5 p.m.**  
**Business meeting at 6 p.m.**



## Annual Meeting Agenda

Welcome

National Anthem

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of Guests, Youth  
Ambassadors, Scholarship  
Winners and Member  
Advisory Council

Determination of Quorum

Minutes of 85th Annual  
Meeting

Ballot Explanation

Appointment of Tellers

Introduction of Candidates

Collection of Ballots

Unfinished Business

New Business

Concern for Community Award

Membership Q&A

Adjournment

Prizes

**Doors Open & Registration  
Begins 5 p.m.**

**Annual Business Meeting 6 p.m.**  
**Dinner to follow meeting**

***Eau Claire Energy  
Cooperative***

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner







Monica Obrycki,  
President and CEO

## Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# REFLECTING ON 2022



Clarence L. Boettcher,  
Board Chair

**C**ooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values. These principles are a key reason that Eau Claire Energy Cooperative operates differently from other electric utilities—putting the needs of our members first. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative takes pride in upholding the principles that make us a cooperative. In fact, the seven cooperative principles reflect our belief that all people are important and people working together achieve more. These principles have not only stood the test of time, but also provide a framework for the future. March is always a great opportunity to reflect on these principles and our year at ECEC through this annual report and our annual meeting. If you haven't been to the annual meeting before, consider this a personal invitation!

### 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF EAU CLAIRE ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Florian Gardens  
2340 Lorch Avenue,  
Eau Claire

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Business meeting  
beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner to follow election

Twenty twenty-two brought on many changes to Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. Amidst changes in leadership, building projects, and economic challenges, your cooperative remains strong and dedicated to you, our members. Here are a few highlights of how Eau Claire Energy Cooperative has demonstrated the cooperative principles over the last year.



## VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Membership to ECEC is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances. At ECEC we had near record growth in 2022 with 312 new services. That is a lot of voluntary membership! ECEC also maintains excellent engagement with our Member Advisory Council, Youth Ambassadors, and other member groups. We look to them for guidance and input on new programs and services.



## DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative is a democratic organization controlled by our members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. ECEC's Board of Directors are elected from among the membership. ECEC members have equal voting rights: one member, one vote. All Eau Claire Energy Cooperative members have a voice in their cooperative.





## MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

ECEC members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. As a member, you participate in the financial health of your cooperative. Any money received over and above the cost of doing business is called margins. Your portion of the margins is then returned to you in the form of capital credits. These are credited annually on your October bill.



## AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

While we are similar to other electric distribution cooperatives in many ways, we have the autonomy and independence to operate in a way that works best for our membership. We do what is right for our membership in each circumstance and evaluate each situation and how it pertains to our members. All cooperatives do things a little differently from each other, which makes ECEC unique!



## EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION

We're big on education! We take pride in being the trusted energy advisor to our members and to the community.



Communication about the benefits of cooperative membership helps boost cooperative understanding. Our directors and staff also spend dozens of hours each year in training to be sure we're operating with maximum knowledge and efficiency.



## COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives have each other's backs. We are constantly sharing best practices and helping each other out. One great example of this is through our Restoration of Power in an Emergency (ROPE) program. If a cooperative has severe outages, lineworkers from other cooperatives are deployed to help out. We also lean on each other for advice, education, and assistance when needed.



## CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

We're probably not supposed to have a favorite cooperative principle, but this one is definitely a favorite. ECEC employees live in the same community as our members. Staff at ECEC take pride in showing up for our community through volunteering and sponsorships. We know our members love this principle too, so each year we recognize a member who goes above and beyond for our community. This recognition happens at the annual meeting (another reason to join us!).



**Our team of dedicated employees and directors work hard all year to follow these principles and serve you well. We hope you will join us on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 to learn more about things ECEC employees and directors do each year to ensure the well-being and strength of your cooperative!**



## MEMBERS VOTE IN DIRECTOR ELECTION

As a member of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, you have a voice in the annual board of directors' election. In December, the Nominating Committee selected at least one candidate for each of the three director districts that are up for election. In 2023 those are districts 1, 5, and 8. Every member is allowed to vote for all three positions. You are invited to vote in person at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. The 86th Annual Meeting will be held at the Florian Gardens in Eau Claire. The candidates' photos and biographies are included here.

### DISTRICT #1

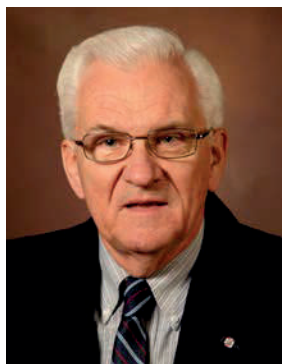
Seymour, West of County Road UN, Eau Claire County; Hallie and Lafayette, Chippewa County, except land in District 2 and the Village of Lake Hallie

#### Thomas Schwartz (Incumbent)

1684 113th Street  
Chippewa Falls, WI  
54729

Member of ECEC  
for 52 years

**Occupation:** Retired



**Current and Past Board Positions:** Eau Claire Energy Cooperative – Director District #1, Member Advisory Council, 2010-2014; 38 years in management with Menard Inc., Corporate Office holding positions of Compensation Coordinator, Accounting/Auditing Manager and Division Controller. St. Olaf Parish current/previous positions held – Men's Club Board of Directors, Secretary, Pastoral Council, School Board President and Treasurer.

**Directors' Training:** Being a director at a co-op requires understanding the co-op's operation and functionality. I have taken electric cooperative education courses and have obtained Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership Credentials and obtained and maintain the status of Director's Gold Credentials.

**Other Relevant Experience:** My experience/background with Menard, Inc. included working with many electric utility companies to ensure accurate energy billing rates for over 200+ Menard Stores. When I was hired at Menard Inc., they had five retail stores; when I left, there were 265. My part in this expansion was to prepare accurate financial reports, oversee store operations by visiting them, manage accounting/auditing teams, and oversee incentive compensation for management employees.

**Comments:** Cooperatives must maintain a proactive approach to accommodate new customers' needs. Our members look to the co-op to keep up with ever-changing technological trends (social media, SmartHub, etc.). Directors today need foresight to perceive future needs of our members.

My work and personal experience have helped me to foresee roadblocks within projects. I was known as the "go-to manager" to get projects done, and I maintain that same work ethic even today in retirement. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue serving the membership as a director of the co-op.

Scan here to  
view candidates'  
video bios





# DISTRICT #5

Brunswick and Drammen, Eau Claire County; Rock Creek, Dunn County; Albany, Pepin County; Naples, Buffalo County, except service area in District 2

## Joseph Becker (Incumbent)

W4895 County Road W  
Eleva, WI 54738

Member of Eau Claire  
Electric Company  
for 34 years



**Occupation:** Environmental  
Supervisor, Beef Cow/Calf  
Operation (Owner)

### Current Board Positions:

Board of Directors for ECEC – (2017 – Present)  
Supervisor – Town of Drammen (2012 – Present)  
Multiple Offices – Prince of Peace Church (1997 – Present)

**Other Relevant Experience:** Owned and managed a third-generation dairy and crop farm operation that has now been transitioned into my current beef cow/calf operation in Eau Claire County. In addition, developed and currently operate a custom baleage harvesting business for area farm operations. I take great pride in my current position as maintenance supervisor for a retirement facility in Altoona. It is my passion to help the elderly with their day-to-day lives. I served on the first Comprehensive Planning Committee for our township in 2013. Also, while serving on the ECEC Board of Directors, I have chaired the operations and marketing committees.

**Comments:** Cooperatives are an essential part of the energy industry, and I am a strong believer in the 7 Cooperative Principles. The services that Eau Claire Energy Cooperative provides are essential to our community's livelihood. Given our cooperative is owned by its members, I truly believe it affords us all the opportunity to directly impact the highest quality of services at affordable rates.

My experiences in owning and operating my current and past businesses have taught me valuable life lessons and the importance of good common sense in day-to-day operations. The cooperative gives us a voice in the ever-changing world of renewables. I believe those attributes, my perspectives along with my current experiences on the board of ECEC, will allow me to continue to be an asset to my community as an ECEC Board of Director. I appreciate your support as your director and look forward to serving the cooperative.

## Charlene "Charlie" Warner

W6150 County Road ZZ  
Mondovi, WI 54755

Member of ECEC  
for 10 years



**Occupation:** Retired

### Current and Past Board

**Positions:** Mondovi Downtown Beautification Fundraising, 2014-2020 (Chair 2017-2019); CDH, LLC, 2013-2017 (President, Treasurer); Long Realty, 2003-2010 (Board Director 2006-2008, Training Director 2007-2009); Dane County Advocates for Battered Women (Director 1996-1999, (Speakers Bureau Chair); Wisconsin Realtors Association (Education Governor 1981-1985) Mondovi Garden Club, 2013-present (Public Relations Chair). Active in leadership roles in Buffalo, Trempealeau, Pepin, Dunn, Pierce, and Eau Claire Counties, as an Organizer, Recruiter, and Candidate, 2015-present (Wisconsin Assembly Candidate 2018 & 2020).

**Other Relevant Experience:** I have advocated for Anthony Acres Parent Group, Habitat for Humanity, Humane Societies wherever I've lived and served as a 4-H leader. I am an active member of Chippewa Valley Votes, a non-partisan group that primarily registers new voters, speaks at schools, jails, and other locations discussing civics and registering voters.

**Comments:** It is no surprise that cooperatives dominate the electric industry in the United States. Co-ops are the heroes who brought electricity to rural areas and poverty districts across the country. Today they champion steady and reliable growth covering nearly 60% of U.S. land mass. I want to serve ECEC to be a part of your next growth and development. Safeguarding the changes that will affect our community in the coming years will be an honor. Growing up in Whitehall, I did not know that I would join food co-ops, telephone co-ops, and numerous electric cooperatives in the course of my life. I'm so glad that I did. My interest in serving on the board was piqued by the Flathead Electric Cooperative in Montana in 2012 when I volunteered to lobby on its behalf. I would like to continue working for the betterment of ECEC and our communities during the exciting times ahead.



# DISTRICT #8

Lincoln, Clear Creek, Otter Creek, and Washington, South of Walnut Rd., South of Easterly extension of Walnut Rd. to Mathwig Rd., and South of Mathwig Rd, Eau Claire County; Sumner & Unity, Trempealeau County.

## Jeff Freiburg

(Incumbent)

51170 Oak Ridge Rd  
Osseo, WI 54758

Member of ECEC  
for 21 years

**Occupation:** Physical Therapist  
– Retired



**Past Board Positions:** Westconsin Credit Union, Director 2000-2003; Osseo City Council, 2015-2022

**Current Board Positions:** ECEC Director, 2004-present; Osseo Area Economic Development Corporation (OAEDC) Treasurer, 2008-present.

**Experience:** OAEDC member, 2004-present; Physical Therapist at Mayo Clinic at Osseo, 2007-2020; Garber Bandshell Foundation, Treasurer 2019-2021 (Osseo, WI)

**Comments:** Since being elected in 2004, I have worked to gain relevant experience and unique knowledge to serve the cooperative and its members. This includes earning the

Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership, and Gold certifications through the National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association.

My current involvement in community organizations provides ample opportunities to make contact with ECEC members where they can share their ideas and concerns. This combination of accessibility and community involvement allows me to maintain and nurture connections between ECEC and many of its members.

Forming political alliances with our legislators is crucial for cooperative directors. I have participated in face-to-face meetings with area legislators to explain electric co-op issues and inform them how legislation and regulation affecting electric co-ops can impact members.

Cooperatives continue leading the industry in providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. ECEC is no exception. I support ECEC's investment in technologies that improve service, create efficiencies, improve system reliability, and enhance safety as well as prepare for future technologies and renewable energy sources. I support sensible legislation and regulation that protects our environment as long as it is equitably paid for by all stakeholders and not solely by the ratepayers.

Given my experience, knowledge, and vision, I am qualified and competent in addressing the future challenges and opportunities facing ECEC. It would be my privilege to continue to serve as an ECEC director representing District 8.

## RULES FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

1. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.
2. Any speaker must be recognized by the chair before speaking.
3. Only members will be recognized by the chair; each member must give his or her name.
4. No resolution on policy affecting Eau Claire Energy Cooperative may be submitted by any member unless written copies have been submitted to the Board of Directors at least 30 days in advance of the meeting so as to permit review by the Board of Directors and its recommendation to the meeting as to approval or rejection.
5. Members are to limit their questions and comments to three minutes, with any rebuttal limited to two minutes.
6. Members will be limited to one question. If time allows, members may ask additional questions.
7. Questions and comments from members will be in order only during the old and new business sessions.

# BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021	
	2022	2021
Plant in Service	\$83,757,033	\$75,439,652
Construction work in progress	<u>399,273</u>	<u>246,362</u>
	84,156,306	75,686,014
Less – Accumulated depreciation	<u>25,576,710</u>	<u>24,019,629</u>
Net Plant	58,579,596	51,666,385
INVESTMENTS		
Investments in associated organizations	13,653,409	13,254,915
Other investments	779,528	781,462
Notes receivable	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Investments	14,432,937	14,036,377
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash – General	871,916	304,418
Temporary cash investments	14,612	338,731
Notes receivable-current portion	1,528	5,794
Accounts receivable	2,381,357	2,149,726
Materials and supplies	758,016	700,884
Other current assets	<u>183,586</u>	<u>105,272</u>
Total current assets	4,211,015	3,604,825
DEFERRED DEBITS	<u>1,176,948</u>	<u>994,594</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$78,400,496</u>	<u>\$70,302,181</u>

EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES	Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021	
	2022	2021
EQUITIES		
Patronage Capital	\$28,969,853	\$27,947,241
Other equities	<u>2,574,610</u>	<u>2,455,907</u>
Total equities	31,544,463	30,403,148
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	38,042,179	31,647,458
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Notes payable	-	-
Current maturities of long-term liabilities	1,671,000	1,480,000
Accounts payable	1,709,359	1,558,140
Consumer deposits	1,256,609	517,772
Other current liabilities	<u>1,031,949</u>	<u>1,031,033</u>
Total current liabilities	5,668,917	4,586,945
DEFERRED CREDITS	<u>3,144,937</u>	<u>3,664,630</u>
TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES	<u>\$78,400,496</u>	<u>\$70,302,181</u>



# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021		
	2022	2021
OPERATING REVENUES	\$27,456,104	\$25,717,558
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Cost of providing services	17,187,312	15,713,479
Distribution – Operations	1,380,539	1,138,850
Distribution – Maintenance	1,366,966	1,494,336
Consumer accounts	553,670	581,791
Customer service and informational	463,883	399,513
Administrative and general	1,406,755	1,432,019
Depreciation	2,339,240	2,239,552
Taxes	311,624	329,779
Other deductions	19,090	24,152
Total operating expense	<u>25,029,079</u>	<u>23,353,471</u>
OPERATING MARGINS BEFORE FIXED CHARGES	<u>2,427,025</u>	<u>2,364,087</u>
FIXED CHARGE		
Interest on long-term liabilities	<u>1,396,094</u>	<u>1,298,799</u>
OPERATING MARGINS AFTER FIXED CHARGES	1,030,931	1,065,288
G&T AND OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS	<u>1,017,447</u>	<u>918,955</u>
NET OPERATING MARGINS	<u>2,048,378</u>	<u>1,984,243</u>
NONOPERATING MARGINS:		
Interest and dividend income	29,719	19,560
Other nonoperating margins	<u>59,178</u>	<u>13,901</u>
	<u>88,897</u>	<u>33,461</u>
INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	<u>\$2,137,275</u>	<u>\$2,017,704</u>

## ADDITIONAL COOPERATIVE DATA

	2022	2021	2010
Miles of line constructed during year	12	15	7
Total miles of line in operation	1,745	1,733	1,718
Consumers connected in year	326	394	225
Consumers per mile year end	7.1	6.9	6.7
Total kWh purchased	216,415,589	208,965,923	206,095,558
Total kWh used ECEC	319,127	279,620	261,007
Average cost per kWh purchased	7.96 cents	7.52 cents	7.76 cents
Average cost per kWh sold	8.27 cents	7.80 cents	8.05 cents
Average revenue per member per month	\$177.81	\$176.33	\$187.92
Average kWh sold per member per month	1,413	1,400	1,427
Average revenue per kWh sold	12.59 cents	12.60 cents	13.17 cents



## YOUTH AMBASSADORS

visit Lake Hallie Police and Fire



The Youth Ambassadors kicked off 2023 with a trip to the Lake Hallie Village Hall to deliver the tie-blankets they assembled to Police Chief Ed Orgon. While there, the group was treated to a tour of the Police Department led by Detective Tim Bowman, followed by a tour of the Chippewa Fire District Station 1 led by Captain Sam McTaggart and Captain Clayton McTaggart. The squad cars, ambulances, engines, and ladder trucks were all displayed and brought a variety of questions from the group. The donated

### Youth Ambassador Meeting Dates

March 22, 2023  
April 19, 2023  
May 24, 2023

blankets will be used in the Police Department vehicles for assistance in the various cold-weather situations the police encounter. The blankets will provide warmth to those in need while also representing the Youth Ambassadors' commitment to Co-op Principle #7 – Concern for Community.

Interesting in joining Youth Ambassadors? Throughout the school year, Youth Ambassadors meet once per month for educational learning sessions, field trips, and community service projects followed by lunch. If this sounds like fun to you, apply today!

*Sign up to  
be a Youth  
Ambassador  
today!*



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is tasked with reviewing director election candidates. This year candidates from Districts #1, #5, and #8 are presented on pages 16a through 16c. The nominating committee includes cooperative members (left to right) Larry Marquardt, Bonnie Issacson, and Rhonda Kelly. Their time becoming engaged in the director election process is sincerely appreciated.

## Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



**Monica Obrycki, President and CEO**

**Taylor Skibba, Marketing and  
Communications Coordinator**

8214 Hwy 12, P.O. Box 368, Fall Creek, WI 54742-0368

[www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com)

**Office Hours:** 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Mon–Fri

**Non-emergencies:** 715-832-1603

**Emergencies & outages:** Toll FREE 800-927-5090  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**Diggers Hotline:** 811 or 1-800-242-8511  
Call 3 working days before you dig.

# MINUTES OF THE 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF EAU CLAIRE ENERGY COOPERATIVE • MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

The 85th regular annual meeting of the members of the Eau Claire Energy Cooperative (ECEC) was called to order by the Chair of the Board of Directors, Mr. Clarence Boettcher, at 6:00 p.m. at The Florian Gardens at 2340 Lorch Avenue in Eau Claire, WI on March 15, 2022.

**WELCOME** Mr. Boettcher welcomed everyone to the annual meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ANTHEM** Mr. Boettcher introduced Tammy Tauger. Ms. Tauger sang the National Anthem. Mr. Boettcher asked that everyone remain standing while Youth Ambassadors, Alexis Dubiel and Alison Dubiel led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTIONS & SPECIAL RECOGNITION** The membership was introduced to the Board of Directors, as well as CEO Lynn Thompson, Attorney John Hibbard, and Executive Assistant Jeni Thorpe.

Mr. Boettcher took a moment before continuing with introductions for several announcements. He recognized Mike Schummer who will be retiring from the Board of Directors after 15 years of service and presented a plaque on behalf of the Cooperative and Board of Directors. Mr. Boettcher also recognized Lynn Thompson who will be retiring May 1, 2022 after 31 years of service to the Cooperative and presented a plaque to Mr. Thompson. Mr. Boettcher had the pleasure of announcing that Monica Obrycki will succeed Mr. Thompson as CEO in May.

Guests at the meeting included Dana Kelroy, editor of the *WEC News* magazine, Representative Warren Petryk of the 93rd Assembly District, Representative Jesse James of the 68th Assembly District, and Senator Jeff Smith of the 31st Senate District.

Mr. Boettcher introduced the recipients of the \$1,000 Federated Youth Foundation scholarships and asked that they stand and be recognized. Mr. Boettcher asked the participants in the Eau Claire Energy Cooperative Youth Ambassadors program to stand and be recognized. Mr. Boettcher also asked the members of the Member Advisory Council to stand and be recognized.

**MEETING AGENDA AND MEETING RULES** Mr. Boettcher went through housekeeping items noting that the meeting agenda and rules were published in the March 2022 issue of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News magazine (WEC News)* and are also available on tables in the room tonight. He also noted that the Notice of the Annual Meeting was published in the same issue of the *WEC News* magazine. The Affidavit of Mailing was posted behind the registration tables. Mr. Boettcher also stated that member questions will be taken after completing the business portion of this meeting.

**OFFICER'S REPORTS** The reports of the board chair, CEO, and secretary-treasurer were published in the March 2022 *WEC News* magazine and are also available on tables in the room tonight.

**QUORUM** To constitute a quorum, at least 50 members must register and attend. Mr. Boettcher was informed that there were 127 voting members registered and in attendance, which constituted a quorum. Mr. Boettcher then declared the meeting open for business.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN** Mr. Boettcher appointed Attorney John Hibbard to act as the parliamentarian for this meeting.

**CALL AND NOTICE, AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING, MINUTES** A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the Notice of Meeting, the Affidavit of Mailing and the Minutes, and to approve them as published in the 2022 Annual Report. Motion was seconded and carried.

**VOTING** There was an explanation of the ballots. Mr. Boettcher thanked the nominating committee, the attorney, and Cooperative staff for operating in accordance with the Bylaws in performing their work in determining the slate of candidates for this year's election.

The nominating committee is comprised of one member for each Cooperative district that is up for election. The following individuals served on the nominating committee for this year's election: Jeanne Chromey, Dean Solie, and Anne Volbrecht.

**TELLERS** Mr. Boettcher called the roll of the tellers and the following were present: Mary Wampole, John Chromey, Mona Mathews, Bonnie Isaacson, Wilson Lund, Lawrence Roeder, Rhonda Kelly, and Jim Odness. The tellers had met prior to the meeting and selected Jim Odness as Chairperson. The tellers were instructed to take charge of the ballot boxes.

**DIRECTOR CANDIDATES** Mr. Boettcher then turned the meeting over to the attorney, Mr. John Hibbard. Mr. Hibbard explained that it is unusual not to have opposition for

any of the incumbents. He explained the efforts that are made to seek out candidates. He introduced each of the Director candidates for Districts 3, 7, and 9, as follows;

District No. 3	Curtiss Williams; John Zmuda
District No. 7	Andrew Bourget (Incumbent); Jeffrey White
District No. 9	Clarence Boettcher (Incumbent); unopposed

Each candidate present was given the opportunity to address the membership for three minutes, which each candidate did. Mr. Hibbard then offered the membership the chance to speak on behalf of any candidates for a time period of up to three minutes each, with a maximum time of ten minutes. No members spoke.

**CLOSE BALLOT BOX** The tellers were instructed by Mr. Hibbard to collect all ballots. A motion was made, seconded and carried to close the ballot box at 6:45 p.m., with instructions to the tellers to count absentee ballots after the close of the ballot box.

At this time, the attorney turned the meeting back over to the Chair. The Chair requested that the tellers report the voting results to Ms. Anibas as soon as they are available. The results will be reported tonight at the meeting, on our website, and in our *WEC News* magazine. The Chair also stated that the organizational meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for March 30, 2022 at the Cooperative headquarters.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** Mr. Boettcher reminded the members of the rules of the meeting, which were published in the March 2022 issue of the *WEC News* magazine as part of the 2022 Annual Report. The rules of the meeting were also available to members in the meeting room tonight. He asked the members if there was any unfinished business. There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS** Mr. Boettcher introduced and recognized the Concern for Community Award recipient, Dave Okas. Mr. Okas is a retired firefighter/EMT for the Eau Claire Fire Department. He is now active in his church, a member of the Altoona Fire Department, and active in the Member Advisory Council at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. Congratulations, Mr. Okas!

Mr. Boettcher turned the floor over to CEO Thompson to provide an update of the Cooperative's accomplishments and future goals to the membership. Mr. Thompson presented on the Cooperative's accomplishments including its rate decrease on January 1 and record growth. He also discussed the Cooperative strategic future including its commitment to safety, building upgrades, and beneficial electrification.

Mr. Boettcher then addressed the membership and asked if there was any new business to come before the membership. Hearing none, he declared the business session closed and turned the floor to Mr. Thompson for the question and answer session of the meeting.

**QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** Mr. Thompson then explained that he would first answer signed questions that had been deposited in the question box. He was informed there were no written questions. He answered oral questions regarding the following topics: grid reliability, broadband, and local renewable energy sources. He also encouraged all members to contact him, or any of the management staff, if they have any questions in the future.

**CHAIR'S THANK YOU** Mr. Boettcher thanked the members, the Cooperative employees, The Florian Gardens staff, the scholarship winners, the Youth Ambassadors, the Member Advisory Council, and the guests in attendance for making the 85th annual meeting of the Cooperative a success. He announced that the 86th annual meeting of the Cooperative will be held on March 21, 2023 at The Florian Gardens.

**ADJOURN** Mr. Boettcher requested a motion to adjourn the 85th Annual Meeting. That motion was made, seconded and carried, and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**PRIZES AWARDED** Mr. Thompson invited the members to stay for dinner after announcement of the prize winner names. Ten winners received \$100.00 in cash. The cash prize winners are listed as follows: Gerald Oster, Cathy Clausen, Herbert Heath, Carol Sessions, Marjorie Roach, Randy Sands, Alan Westphal, Charles Falch (Falch's Acres), Angela and Troy Rahl, and Mary Davison.

**TELLERS' REPORT** Ms. Anibas read the results of the Director election, as reported by the chairperson of the tellers. The following voting results were reported to the membership:

District No. 3	Curtiss Williams was elected with 97 votes
District No. 7	Andrew Bourget was elected with 130
District No. 9	Clarence Boettcher was elected with 155 votes

Each of these directors will serve for three (3) years. The original teller report is affixed to these minutes. A signed copy of the teller report is in the 2022 Annual Meeting File.—*Judith Anibas, Secretary*



