

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* March 2023 NEWS

**Eau Claire Energy  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

March 19, 2024

## 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at The Florian Gardens

(see inside cover page for details)



# NOTICE OF 87<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

The 87th Annual Meeting of the members of Eau Claire energy Cooperative will be held at the Florian Gardens at 2340 Lorch Avenue, Eau Claire, on Tuesday evening, March 19, 2024. Doors open at 5 p.m. The business meeting will begin promptly at 6 p.m. to transact the following and any business that may properly come before the meeting.

## 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 86th Annual Meeting

Introduction of Candidates

Unfinished Business

New Business

Concern for Community Award

Membership Q & A

Adjournment

**Doors Open & Registration begins at 5 p.m.**

**Annual Business Meeting begins at 6 p.m.**

**Dinner to follow meeting**







# Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Monica Obrycki,  
President and CEO



Andrew Bourget,  
Board Chair

## A YEAR OF RESILIENCE

### Your cooperative's efforts to ensure a reliable future

In the face of increasing challenges and uncertainties, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative plays a pivotal role in ensuring the resiliency of our communities. Over the past year, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative has made it a priority to safeguard its members against disruptions and enhance the reliability of its services. From infrastructure upgrades to cybersecurity efforts, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative aims to provide safe and reliable energy services to our members.

#### Advocacy:

One of the cornerstones of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's resilience strategy has been proactive advocacy for regulatory support. Recognizing the importance of a supportive regulatory environment, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative has engaged in dialogues with local and state authorities to address critical issues affecting the energy sector. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative actively participated in discussions on renewable energy integration, transmission regulations, and grid modernization.

By fostering solid relationships with our legislators, the

cooperative has been able to support policies that benefit both the cooperative and its members. This advocacy has paved the way for streamlined processes, reduced bureaucratic hurdles, and increased financial support for essential projects, ultimately contributing to the long-term resiliency of the cooperative.

In 2024, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative is committed to strengthening its advocacy efforts further by continuing our education and lobbying efforts. Furthermore, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative will host a Candidates' Energy Forum on October 7, 2024. ECEC will invite political candidates to discuss their stances on energy-related issues and allow members to make informed decisions during elections. By continuing to prioritize advocacy and engagement, the cooperative aims to shape policies that support a sustainable and resilient energy future for its community.

#### Cybersecurity:

In an era dominated by digital advancements, ensuring the cybersecurity of the electric grid and our members' information is vital. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative has prioritized the implementation of cybersecurity measures to protect its critical infrastructure from potential threats. The cooperative invested in and maintained state-of-the-art technologies, such as intrusion detection systems and advanced firewalls, to safeguard against cyberattacks.

Moreover, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative has continued training programs to educate its personnel about cybersecurity best practices. These initiatives empower employees to identify and respond to potential threats promptly, minimizing the risk of cyber incidents that could compromise the reliability of the





a reliable and resilient electrical distribution system. It can prevent outages caused by falling branches or overgrown vegetation interfering with power lines. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative conducts regular tree trimming and vegetation clearance activities to mitigate the risk of service interruptions during storms or adverse weather conditions.

In addition to vegetation management, ECEC prioritizes regular line inspection to identify potential hazards and vulnerabilities in its infrastructure. Through routine inspections, the cooperative can detect and address issues such as damaged poles, worn-out conductors, and faulty equipment before they escalate into major disruptions. Preventive maintenance programs to inspect and service grid infrastructure like transformers, reclosers, poles, and underground infrastructure on a scheduled basis minimize the risk of unexpected failures and service interruptions. Proactive measures serve to prolong equipment lifespan and minimize the likelihood of unforeseen failures.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative is committed to further bolstering its resilience through continued maintenance and inspection initiatives in 2024.

### Infrastructure Upgrades:

Recognizing the significance of a robust and modernized infrastructure, ECEC makes upgrades to enhance the resilience of our distribution system a priority. The cooperative has invested in the replacement of aging equipment, the installation of smart grid technologies, and the expansion of capacity to meet growing energy demands.

electric grid. The cooperative's commitment to cybersecurity not only protects its members but also contributes to the overall resilience of the community's energy infrastructure.

In the coming year, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative plans to further bolster its cybersecurity measures by adding technology staff and exploring potential emerging technologies for threat detection and response. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative aims to continue conducting risk assessments and regularly update its cybersecurity policies and procedures to adapt to potential cyber threats. By taking proactive steps and leveraging innovative solutions, the cooperative is committed to maintaining the highest cybersecurity standards to safeguard the electric grid and ensure uninterrupted energy delivery to its members.

### Infrastructure Maintenance and Inspection:

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative recognizes that proactive infrastructure maintenance and inspection are essential components of ensuring the reliability and resilience of its distribution system. The cooperative continued system maintenance in 2023, including vegetation management, line inspection, and transformer and recloser maintenance.

Vegetation management is crucial to maintaining







These infrastructure upgrades not only improve the overall reliability of the electric grid but also improve the integration of renewable energy sources. ECEC’s commitment to sustainability and innovation creates a resilient and environmentally conscious energy infrastructure for its members.

Plans are underway to fortify existing infrastructure, including upgrading many miles of distribution lines to better withstand extreme weather events and increase load capacity. The cooperative will continue its deployment of advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) to enhance data analytics and monitoring and control capabilities, facilitating quicker response times during

outages and optimizing energy distribution. By prioritizing these initiatives, ECEC aims to not only ensure reliable electricity service but also to lay the foundation for a more resilient, adaptive grid that can accommodate future rate strategies, growth, and the increasing integration of renewable energy resources.



### Mutual Assistance:

In times of crisis or natural disasters, mutual assistance is crucial in enhancing the resilience for ECEC’s members and neighboring cooperatives. In 2023, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative actively participated

in mutual assistance agreements with cooperatives in our region to provide and receive aid during emergencies. Through these agreements, the cooperative can access additional resources, personnel, and equipment to restore power quickly and efficiently in the event of widespread outages.

Moreover, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative contributes resources and expertise to assist other cooperatives and utilities in need. By fostering strong relationships and collaboration through mutual assistance agreements, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative strengthens its capacity to respond effectively to emergencies, ultimately enhancing the resilience of its members.



### Generation Mix:

While the focus of resilience often centers on the distribution system, the resilience of a cooperative is also significantly influenced by the generation mix of its generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative. At Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, our G&T is Dairyland Power Cooperative. The diversity of energy sources within the generation mix plays a crucial role in ensuring a reliable and resilient supply of electricity to distribution cooperatives.

A diversified generation mix reduces dependency on any single energy source, mitigating the risk of disruptions caused by fuel shortages, price volatility, intermittent energy, or unforeseen events impacting a particular energy resource. By incorporating a blend of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric, alongside conventional baseload sources like natural gas and coal, Dairyland Power Cooperative enhances the overall resilience of the electric grid.

In the face of evolving challenges, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative’s steadfast commitment to resilience has yielded significant achievements in the past year. Through advocacy, cybersecurity measures, maintenance and inspection, infrastructure upgrades, mutual assistance, and so much more, the cooperative has fortified its grid to provide reliable energy services, prevent outages, and strengthen our grid. As the cooperative continues to evolve and adapt to emerging challenges, its dedication to resilience remains unwavering, shaping a brighter and more secure future for its members.



# BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022	
	2023	2022
Plant in Service	\$85,784,500	\$83,757,033
Construction work in progress	325,521	399,273
	<u>86,110,021</u>	<u>84,156,306</u>
Less – Accumulated depreciation	27,472,460	25,576,710
Net Plant	<u>58,637,561</u>	<u>58,579,596</u>
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>		
Investments in associated organizations	14,362,682	13,653,409
Other investments	778,723	779,528
Notes receivable	-	-
Total Investments	<u>15,141,405</u>	<u>14,432,937</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash – General	199,312	871,916
Temporary cash investments	6,388	14,612
Notes receivable-current portion	1,961	1,528
Accounts receivable	2,432,202	2,381,357
Materials and supplies	796,434	758,016
Other current assets	55,314	183,586
Total current assets	<u>3,491,611</u>	<u>4,211,015</u>
DEFERRED DEBITS	<u>1,115,244</u>	<u>1,176,948</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$78,385,821</u></b>	<b><u>\$78,400,496</u></b>

EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES	Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022	
	2023	2022
<b>EQUITIES</b>		
Patronage capital	\$29,542,073	\$28,969,853
Other equities	2,752,262	2,574,610
Total equities	<u>32,294,335</u>	<u>31,544,463</u>
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	37,316,185	38,042,179
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Notes payable	-	-
Current maturities of long-term liabilities	1,712,000	1,671,000
Accounts payable	1,767,187	1,709,359
Consumer deposits	1,272,745	1,256,609
Other current liabilities	1,062,921	1,031,949
Total current liabilities	<u>5,814,853</u>	<u>5,668,917</u>
DEFERRED CREDITS	<u>2,960,448</u>	<u>3,144,937</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>\$78,385,821</u></b>	<b><u>\$78,400,496</u></b>



# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021		
	2023	2022
OPERATING REVENUES	\$27,605,436	\$27,456,104
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Cost of providing services	17,282,132	17,187,312
Distribution – Operations	1,598,389	1,380,539
Distribution – Maintenance	1,322,662	1,366,966
Consumer accounts	533,597	553,670
Customer service and informational	563,688	463,883
Administrative and general	1,313,924	1,406,755
Depreciation	2,562,323	2,339,240
Taxes	329,649	311,624
Other deductions	34,302	19,090
Total operating expense	25,540,666	25,029,079
OPERATING MARGINS BEFORE FIXED CHARGES	2,064,770	2,427,025
FIXED CHARGE		
Interest on long-term liabilities	1,572,075	1,396,094
OPERATING MARGINS AFTER FIXED CHARGES	492,695	1,030,931
G&T AND OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS	1,050,866	1,017,447
NET OPERATING MARGINS	1,543,561	2,048,378
NONOPERATING MARGINS:		
Interest and dividend income	38,302	29,719
Other nonoperating margins	258,615	59,178
	296,917	88,897
<b>INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$1,840,478</b>	<b>\$2,137,275</b>

## ADDITIONAL COOPERATIVE DATA

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Miles of line constructed during year	14	12	15	7
Total miles of line in operation	1,759	1,745	1,733	1,718
Consumers connected in year	313	326	394	225
Consumers per mile year end	7.2	7.1	6.9	6.7
Total kwh purchased	215,079,837	216,415,589	208,965,923	206,095,558
Total kwh used ECEC	290,774	319,127	279,620	261,007
Average cost per kwh purchased	8.04 cents	7.96 cents	7.52 cents	7.76 cents
Average cost per kwh sold	8.34 cents	8.27 cents	7.80 cents	8.05 cents
Average revenue per member per month	\$182.58	\$177.81	\$176.33	\$187.92
Average kwh sold per member per month	1,371	1,413	1,400	1,427
Average revenue per kwh sold	13.18 cents	12.59 cents	12.60 cents	13.17 cents

# 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.

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

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 2024, those districts are 2, 4, and 6. You are invited to hear from these candidates in person at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. The 87th Annual Meeting will be held at the Florian Gardens in Eau Claire. The candidates' photos and biographies are included here.



Scan here to view candidates' video bios

## DISTRICT #2

All service areas of the cooperative within the City of Eau Claire and the City of Altoona.



**District # 2  
Director Candidate  
Michael Golat**

412 Saxonwood Rd,  
Altoona, WI 54720

**Membership:** Member of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative since 2006, District 2 Director since 2019

**Occupation:** Altoona City Administrator

**Current and Past Board Positions:**

- HSHS/Prevea Recovery Task Force 2024 – present
- Chippewa Valley Economic Recovery Task Force, 2020 – 2022
- Eau Claire Energy Cooperative Board Member, 2019 – present
- Chippewa Valley Technical College Real Estate Committee, Chair, 2018 – present
- Visit Eau Claire, Treasurer, 2010 – present
- Wisconsin City Administrators Association board member, 2018 – 2020
- Eau Claire Area Economic Development Corporation, Secretary, 2010 – present

**Experience:** I hail from Superior, WI, and graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in economics in 1988. Following that, I ventured to Alaska, where I served as a public utilities director for the City of Unalaska, managing a municipal electric utility. While in Alaska, I earned my master's degree in natural resources economics from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. After Alaska, I moved to the lower 48 and assumed the role of city administrator for the City of Altoona in 2006, where I continue to serve. Throughout my tenure, our focus has been on economic development and enhancing the quality of life for our residents.

**Comments:** I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the incumbent ECEC director for District #2. I have familiarized myself with ECEC operations, finances, policies, and cooperative principles through formal training and engaging in ECEC board business. I eagerly look forward to continuing to serve the cooperative's membership by providing safe, affordable, and reliable electric service.





## DISTRICT #4

Washington east of South Lowes Creek Road and Union, Eau Claire County; Spring Brook, Dunn county, except land in District 2



**District #4  
Director Candidate  
Judith A. Anibas**

N3401 1010th St  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
jaanibas@gmail.com

I have served on the board of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative (ECEC) since 2009 and have been a member since 1999 when my husband, Tom, and I moved into the territory. I remember receiving that first capital credit check and thinking “I need to check this out.” We were members of several cooperatives at the time and that truly piqued my interest in the cooperative business model.

Since elected in 2009, I have attained the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate at the Gold Level and continue to maintain that highest level. The education I received has benefited my decision-making in the board room and given me perspective to understand today’s energy world.

I am an active member at St. James the Greater Catholic Church and Westgate Sportmen’s Club, and serve as a volunteer at Boys and Girls Club and Pheasants Forever of the Chippewa Valley. I enjoy the outdoors activities of hunting, fishing, biking, kayaking and a daily walk with my springer spaniel Palle!

At the electric cooperative annual meeting I was elected to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board and start my service this spring. I am humbled and honored by this trust and am preparing myself with reading and research to serve effectively on this national board.

I continue to strive to understand and learn about the electric industry as we venture into a very exciting and changing world to serve you effectively.

## DISTRICT #6

Pleasant Valley, Eau Claire County; Albion, Trempealeau County

**Membership:** Member of ECEC 41 years

**Occupation:** Retired

**Current and Past Board Positions:** Eau Claire County Local Emergency Planning Committee, 2003 – present; Town of Pleasant Valley Plan Commission, 2006 – present; Pleasant Valley Park Committee, 2017 – present; Eau Claire Energy Cooperative Director, District 6, 2018 – present; Pleasant Valley Park Committee, Chair, 2019 – present; Eau Claire County ADRC Nutrition Advisory Council, 2020 – present; Eau Claire County Local Emergency Planning Committee, Vice Chair, 2022 – present; Eau Claire Energy Cooperative Member Advisory Council, 2014 – 2018; Wisconsin Association of Hazardous Material Responders, Board of Directors, 2007 – 2012; Eau Claire County Board of Land Use Appeals, 1994 – 2003.

**Experience:** Electric and gas utility employee for 32 years. Cleghorn Lions Club member, 200 – present; kitchen volunteer for Meals on Wheels, 2020 – present, Cleghorn Lions Club, President, 2021 – 2023, and Vice President, 2016 – 2021; Fire/Rescue Adjunct Instructor, Chippewa Valley Technical College, 1996 – 2012; miscellaneous leadership roles within Township Fire Department, 1992 –2007.

**Comments:** All of us to some degree enjoy our independence and take pride in being so. But there are times when we need the help of others. This is one of the reasons why being part of an electric cooperative is important. Electric cooperatives such as Eau Claire Energy Cooperative provide safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity, improve the quality of life, and create local jobs. I’m proud to be a member of ECEC and I would like to continue serving as a director representing you.



**District #6  
Director Candidate  
Frank Neibauer**

E2600 Kristy Road  
Eau Claire, WI 54701



The nominating committee is tasked with reviewing director election candidates. This year, candidates from Districts #2, #4, and #6 are presented on pages 16d-17. The Nominating Committee includes cooperative members (left to right) Larry Sturz, Mona Matthews, and Wilson Lund. Their time becoming engaged in the director election process is sincerely appreciated.

## Time for Spring Cleaning

Are your bills a mess? It's time to clean them up by setting up recurring and stored payments through SmartHub. While you're there, check out the other great benefits SmartHub has to offer:

- Communicate directly with the co-op
- Pay your bill online
- Manage your account
- Sign up for paperless billing
- Check your usage

Questions? Call or click Eau Claire Energy at 715-862-1603 or ecec.com.



[View & Pay Bill](#)

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

UW Stout | July 16-18, 2024

Attend Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) to learn the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses. This dynamic three-day event is a unique opportunity for cooperative students to develop their leadership skills and network with other students from across the state.

### What will you do at YLC?

- See what makes the cooperative business model different and successful and apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Work together with other youth leaders from around Wisconsin to demonstrate the power and value of cooperation.
- Identify and develop your own leadership skills.
- Discuss cooperative careers with professionals in the industry.
- Experience college life at a University of Wisconsin campus.

### Who should apply?

- High school students with parents or guardians who are members of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative
- Students who are interested in expanding their leadership skills

### What does it cost?

All registration costs for ECEC students are covered by the cooperative.

**Deadline for registration is June 14, 2024**




## Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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   

**Lobby Hours:** 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Thursday;  
7:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Friday

**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 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF EAU CLAIRE ENERGY COOPERATIVE • MARCH 21, 2023

The 86th 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 21, 2023.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ANTHEM** Mr. Boettcher introduced Addison Engstrom. Ms. Engstrom sang the National Anthem. Mr. Boettcher asked that everyone remain standing while Youth Ambassador, Nora Camlek led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTIONS & SPECIAL RECOGNITION** The Board of Directors, CEO Monica Obrycki, Attorney John Hibbard, and Corporate Secretary Jeni Thorpe were introduced to those attending the meeting. Mr. Boettcher introduced the recipients of the \$1,000 Federated Youth Foundation scholarships and asked that they 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 2023 issue of the *WEC News* magazine mailed to all members and 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 2023 *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 171 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 2023 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 from each Cooperative district that is up for election. The following individuals served on the nominating committee for this year's election: Larry Marquardt, Bonnie Issacson, and Rhonda Kelly

**TELLERS** Mr. Boettcher called the roll of the tellers and the following were present: Linda Goss, Jeff Schmid, Ben Thompson, Mona Mathews, George Isaacson, Wilson Lund, Lawrence Roeder, Deb Short, and Jim Odness. The tellers 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 1, 5, and 8, as follows:

- District No. 1 – Thomas Schwartz (Incumbent); unopposed
- District No. 5 – Joseph Becker (Incumbent); Charlene Warner
- District No. 8 – Jeffrey Frieberg (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 the *WEC News* magazine. The Chair also stated that the organizational meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for March 29, 2023 at the Cooperative headquarters.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** Mr. Boettcher reminded the members of the rules of the meeting, which were published in the March 2023 issue of the *WEC News* magazine as part of the 2023 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, Joe, "Dudley" Smith. Mr. Smith has extensive dedication to the community, serving on the Augusta School Board for 21 years, been involved in the Farm Service Agency and a strong advocate for the agriculture community. Mr. Smith's granddaughter, Addison Engstrom accepted the award on his behalf as he was unable to attend the annual meeting. Mr. Boettcher turned the floor over to CEO Monica Obrycki to discuss how Eau Claire Energy Cooperative has served and provided excellent service to its members through the Seven Cooperative Principles. Ms. Obrycki discussed near record growth, member engagement, community service, and more. 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 Ms. Obrycki for the question and answer session of the meeting.

**QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** Ms. Obrycki explained that she would first answer signed questions that had been deposited in the question box. She was informed there was one written question regarding the *WEC News* magazine monthly symbol search. Ms. Obrycki also encouraged all members to contact her, 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 recipients, the Youth Ambassadors and the Member Advisory Council in attendance for making the 86th annual meeting of the Cooperative a success. He announced that the 87th annual meeting of the Cooperative will be held on March 19, 2024 at The Florian Gardens.

**ADJOURN** Mr. Boettcher requested a motion to adjourn the 86th Annual Meeting. That motion was made, seconded, and carried, and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

**PRIZES AWARDED** Ms. Obrycki invited the members to stay for dinner after announcement of the prize winners. Winners received \$100.00 in cash. The cash prize winners are listed as follows: Adam Wehling, J Todd Berg, Nancy Spehle, Maureen Ziemann, Lorenz Dekan, Bonnie Jackson, Bonnie Peterson, Patrick Kline, Suzanna Mayer.

**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. 1 Thomas Schwartz was elected with 167 votes
- District No. 5 Joseph Becker was elected with 134 votes; Charlene Warner had 37 votes
- District No. 8 Jeffrey Frieberg was elected with 164 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 2023 Annual Meeting file. — *Judith Anibas, Secretary*



