

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

March 2025

**Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



March 18, 2025

88th Annual Meeting
at The Florian Gardens
(see inside cover for details)



NOTICE OF 88TH ANNUAL MEETING

**Doors Open & Registration begins at 4:30 p.m.
Annual Business Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner to follow meeting**

The 88th 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 18, 2025. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. The business meeting will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. to transact the following and any business that may properly come before the meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Welcome

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

Determination of Quorum

Minutes of 87th Annual Meeting

Introduction of Candidates

Unfinished Business

New Business

Concern for Community Award

Membership Q & A

Adjournment

Prizes



Monica Obrycki,
President and CEO

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

POWER IN PARTNERSHIPS



Andrew Bourget,
Board Chair

As we prepare for our Annual Meeting and reflect on the past year, one thing stands out: the incredible value Eau Claire Energy Cooperative partnerships bring to our members.

These partnerships, built on shared values and mutual support, promote cooperative values and directly benefit you, our members.

At the heart of the cooperative model is “cooperation among cooperatives.” By partnering with various cooperatives to meet the needs of our members, we have opportunities for greater operational capabilities, improved services, and meaningful cost savings—all of which translate to greater value for you. Cooperative partnerships can span from local to statewide and even national or international levels. This creates a network of support and shared expertise that enhances our ability to serve you effectively. Here are a few examples of partnerships that make a difference:

This year, we are thrilled to welcome Doug Booher, Rural Electric Supply Cooperative’s (RESCO) Vice President of Sales and Manufacturer Relations, as our Annual Meeting keynote speaker. RESCO is a wholesale distributor of high-voltage electrical products, and our partnership with them ensures that we receive competitive pricing, reliable delivery, and exceptional customer support. They allow us to maintain efficient operations to complete the necessary work to maintain reliable and safe electricity.

Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) has been the unified voice of Wisconsin’s electric cooperatives for more than 80 years. Their efforts in advocacy ensure that public policies positively shape our ability to deliver reliable, safe, and affordable electricity. WECA offers great professional development opportunities for our employees and directors, keeping us ahead in the utility industry. Additionally, their monthly magazine keeps over 171,000 subscribers informed, encouraging a stronger connection among cooperative members across the state. WECA membership supports education, advocacy, and collaboration, creating benefits that ripple through our membership.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) is ECEC’s generation and transmission cooperative, providing the energy that powers members’ homes and businesses. Their focus on efficiency, affordability, and safety ensures we meet your energy needs while upholding their commitment to sustainability, reliability, and responsibility. As part of DPC,



we not only receive reliable power but also have a voice in shaping the future for our communities.

National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, or CFC, is a finance cooperative that lends to ECEC and supports the financial health of thousands of cooperatives like ours. CFC supports ECEC with competitive financing for electric infrastructure, emergency credit during disasters, and specialized loans to address our needs. Their strategic planning and financial training services also help us provide reliable, stable service. Partnering with CFC strengthens our ability to build and maintain our electrical system that powers our members’ lives.

Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange offers insurance solutions designed specifically for electric cooperatives. Their focus on safety, service, and stability helps us manage risks and protect our operations and members. Their value-driven programs support our mission and add extra security to everything we do.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), is our national organization of electric cooperatives. There are more than 900 electric cooperatives who are members of NRECA. NRECA empowers co-ops and ensures long-term success in numerous ways. From amplifying the voice of cooperatives in Washington, D.C., to advocating for safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, NRECA strengthens the cooperative network. Their programs support employee professional growth, advocate for the cooperative business model, and address legal, tax, environmental, and other critical issues that are important for our operations.

These partnerships illustrate how cooperation extends far beyond our own lines and we’ve only listed a few. By partnering with organizations that share our cooperative principles, we strengthen our ability to deliver on our mission of reliable, affordable, and safe electricity. These alliances help us save money, improve efficiency, and improve the quality of the services we provide—all of which directly benefit you.

As we gather for our Annual Meeting, let’s remember the strength we find in our partnerships. Together, with our member-owners and our cooperative allies, we are building a brighter future. Thank you for being a member of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative. Your membership matters, and it fuels everything we do.

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023	
	2024	2023
Plant in Service	\$88,733,949	\$85,784,500
Construction work in progress	581,519	325,521
	<u>89,315,468</u>	<u>86,110,021</u>
Less – Accumulated depreciation	29,475,104	27,472,460
Net Plant	<u>59,840,364</u>	<u>58,637,561</u>
INVESTMENTS		
Investments in associated organizations	14,990,519	14,362,682
Other investments	19,449	778,723
Notes receivable	-	-
Total Investments	<u>15,009,968</u>	<u>15,141,405</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash – General	3,491	199,312
Temporary cash investments	4,753	6,388
Notes receivable-current portion	1,188	1,961
Accounts receivable	2,730,279	2,432,202
Materials and supplies	1,061,146	796,434
Other current assets	105,511	55,314
Total current assets	<u>3,906,368</u>	<u>3,491,611</u>
DEFERRED DEBITS	<u>860,614</u>	<u>1,115,244</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$79,617,314</u>	<u>\$78,385,821</u>

EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES	Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023	
	2024	2023
EQUITIES		
Patronage capital	\$30,437,556	\$29,542,073
Other equities	2,903,039	2,752,262
Total equities	<u>33,340,595</u>	<u>32,294,335</u>
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	38,543,709	37,316,185
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Notes payable	-	-
Current maturities of long-term liabilities	1,756,631	1,712,000
Accounts payable	2,096,003	1,767,187
Consumer deposits	325,305	1,272,745
Other current liabilities	1,120,504	1,062,921
Total current liabilities	<u>5,298,443</u>	<u>5,814,853</u>
DEFERRED CREDITS	<u>2,434,567</u>	<u>2,960,448</u>
TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES	<u>\$79,617,314</u>	<u>\$78,385,821</u>

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023	
	2024	2023
OPERATING REVENUES	\$28,703,628	\$27,605,436
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Cost of providing services	17,354,401	17,282,132
Distribution – Operations	1,554,254	1,598,389
Distribution – Maintenance	1,501,149	1,322,662
Consumer accounts	567,280	533,597
Customer service and informational	593,448	563,688
Administrative and general	1,462,643	1,313,924
Depreciation	2,623,798	2,562,323
Taxes	346,078	329,649
Other deductions	34,076	34,302
Total operating expense	26,037,127	25,540,666
OPERATING MARGINS BEFORE FIXED CHARGES	<u>2,666,501</u>	<u>2,064,770</u>
FIXED CHARGE		
Interest on long-term liabilities	<u>1,638,777</u>	<u>1,572,075</u>
OPERATING MARGINS AFTER FIXED CHARGES	1,027,724	492,695
G&T AND OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS	<u>1,072,953</u>	<u>1,050,866</u>
NET OPERATING MARGINS	<u>2,100,677</u>	<u>1,543,561</u>
NONOPERATING MARGINS:		
Interest and dividend income	32,269	38,302
Other nonoperating margins	<u>(4,640)</u>	<u>258,615</u>
	<u>27,629</u>	<u>296,917</u>
INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	<u>\$2,128,306</u>	<u>\$1,840,478</u>

ADDITIONAL COOPERATIVE DATA

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Miles of line constructed during year	11	14	12	15
Total miles of line in operation	1,770	1,759	1,745	1,733
Consumers connected in year	189	313	326	394
Consumers per mile year end	7.2	7.2	7.1	6.9
Total kwh purchased	212,427,902	215,079,837	216,415,589	208,965,923
Total kwh used ECEC	299,622	290,774	319,127	279,620
Average cost per kwh purchased	8.17 cents	8.04 cents	7.96 cents	7.52 cents
Average cost per kwh sold	8.49 cents	8.34 cents	8.27 cents	7.80 cents
Average revenue per member per month	\$184.16	\$182.58	\$177.81	\$176.33
Average kwh sold per member per month	1,346	1,371	1,413	1,400
Average revenue per kwh sold	13.68 cents	13.18 cents	12.59 cents	12.60 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 November, the Nominating Committee selected at least one candidate for each of the three director districts that are up for election. In 2025, those districts are 3, 7, and 9. You are invited to hear from these candidates in person at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025. The 88th 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 #3

Ludington, and Seymour, east of County Road UN, Eau Claire County; Sigel, including the village of Cadott, Goetz and Edson, Chippewa County; and the town of Butler, Clark County.



**District # 3
Director Candidate
John J. Zmuda**

1255 305th St
Cadott, WI 54727

Membership: Member of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative for 27 years

Occupation: Retired Business Owner

Current and Past Board Positions:

President of Transmission Supply and Source Inc (1982 – 2012); Automobile Service Association of Wisconsin (2001 – 2002); Antique Automobile Club of Western Wisconsin President (1995); Indianhead Car Club President (2001, 2002, 2004); Eau Claire Optimist Club President (2010); CVTC Automotive Advisory Board (2014 – current)

Comments: I live in the rural Cadott area with my wife Marilyn. We are retired business owners. We have 5 grown children. I have been a Chippewa Valley resident since 1977, a CVTC graduate and

have spent about 27 years on the ECEC grid. We really like the rural Cadott area and have chosen to retire here. During my working years I was very active in the transportation service industry. We owned Transmission Supply and Service on Hwy 93 in Eau Claire. While in business I joined and was active in our national and state trade associations. Also during our working years we owned and managed several different multi-family housing complexes. I am familiar with small business bottom lines, employee relations, vendor negotiations and financial responsibilities.

I feel my experiences could be an asset to the board with the transportation industry converting to electric vehicles. I am anxious to learn more about our electricity distribution and serving the needs of our energy users.



DISTRICT #7

Washington, east of South Lowes Creek Rd, north of Walnut Rd, and north of an easterly extension of Walnut Rd to Mathwig Rd, and north of Mathwig Rd, Eau Claire County, except land in District 2.



**District #7
Director Candidate
Andrew H. Bourget
(Incumbent)**

3635 Markgraff Road Fall
Creek, WI 54742

Membership: Member of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative for 39 years

Current and Past Board Positions: Eau Claire Energy Cooperative Board, 2009 – present, currently Board Chair, chaired committees in Marketing, Operations, and Finance; WI Electric Cooperative Association’s Education and Legislative Committees, Eau Claire Area School Ag Advisory Council, FFA, Fall Creek School Board, CESA 10 Agency which covers thirty area schools, Wisconsin Association of State and County Office Employees.

for 38 years, Executive Committee of Eau Claire County Farm Technology Days. Raised on a family dairy operation. Graduated from Cadott High School and UW River-Falls.

Comments: I support the cooperative business model with a big picture outlook for long-term gains that guides the services and provides the future direction of the Cooperative. I endorse the Member Advisory Committee, youth programs and legislative involvement. I am a Community Solar Member that supports energy conservation programs and green energy. I advocate for further education of our members and implementing modern technologies that will provide us with safe, reliable, and affordable sources of energy. I have participated in numerous Wisconsin and National Electric Cooperative Association programs and obtained Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership Credentials, and am presently maintaining Director Gold Credentials.

I greatly appreciate the trust that you have placed in me over the past fifteen years. It has been my privilege and honor to represent and serve you. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve you in the future. Thank you. Feel free to contact me at frenchy3625@yahoo.com or 715-828-3625.

Other Relevant Experience: Member of St. Raymond Catholic Church, The Knights of Columbus, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pheasants Forever and Whitetails Unlimited. County Executive Director of the USDA /Farm Service Agency

DISTRICT #9

Wilson, Bridge Creek and Fairchild, Eau Claire County; Garfield, Cleveland and Northfield, Jackson County.



**District #9
Director Candidate
Clarence "Butch" L.
Boettcher (Incumbent)**

W16163 US Hwy 10
Fairchild, WI 54741

Membership: Member of ECEC 47 years

Occupation: Self-employed beef and crop farmer

Current and Past Board Positions: Eau Claire Energy Cooperative Board of Directors, (Director, 1983-present; Vice-Chair, 1996-1999; Board Chair, 2011 - 2022); Dairyland Power Cooperative Board of Directors, (Director 1997-present; Executive Committee 2002-2009, 2024; Board Chairman, 2005-2010); Federated Youth Foundation Board of Directors (Director 2007-2013); Gen-Sys Energy Cooperative Board of Directors (Director & Board

Experience: B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Education, UW-River Falls; Farm Business Management Instructor at CVTC for 29 years (retired 2008); Vocational Agriculture Instructor at Oshkosh and Fall Creek High Schools for 6 years. NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership Certificate and Director Gold Certificate.

Comments: Electric cooperatives are a business model that grew out of the need to provide cost-based electricity for member-owners. Consistent with the cooperative philosophy, electric cooperatives work to further economic development and the quality of life in their service territory. Cooperatives can play a big role in helping our nation become more energy independent by participating in cost-effective renewable energy initiatives including wind and solar products. At Eau Claire Energy, we have stepped up to the challenges of transitioning to a future with lower carbon emissions and the evolution of distributed energy resources. The future success of ECEC will leverage the legacy advantage of the cooperative business model while focusing on new technologies that can improve safe, reliable service at continued stable rates for our members.

Chairman 2006-2010); Wisconsin Association of Agriculture Educators, (Vice-President, 1998-2000); Wisconsin Polled Hereford Association (Director, 1990-1993); Chippewa Valley Forage Council (Director, 1993-1999).

EAU CLAIRE ENERGY COOPERATIVE

2024 BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Article IV - Directors

Section 3. Nominations.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint a nominating committee at least ~~+50~~ 175 days before the next annual meeting of the members. The nominating committee shall strive to nominate not fewer than two nominees for each director position to be filled at the next annual meeting of the members. The nominating committee shall be composed of one member from each of the districts from which a director is to be elected at the next annual meeting and shall be appointed by Board resolution. No member of the Nominating Committee may be nominated as a candidate. Separate nominations shall be made for each vacancy on the Board. The Secretary shall prepare and post a list of nominations for Directors at the principal office of the Cooperative not fewer than 60 days prior to the next annual meeting. Any fifteen or more members may make nominations in writing over their signatures not more than ~~+50~~ 175 nor fewer than 90 ~~55~~ days prior to the meeting. The Secretary shall promptly post additional nominations at the Cooperative headquarters.

Section 10. Officers of the Board.

A. At the annual organizational meeting of the Board, and at such other times as necessary to fill vacancies, the Board of Directors shall elect from among its members. The officers of the Board shall be Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, and such other officers as may be determined by the Board. ~~the following Officers of the Board:~~

1. The Chair, who, unless unavailable, shall preside over all meetings of the members and all meetings of the Board of Directors;
2. The Vice-Chair, who shall preside over all meetings of the members and all meetings of the Board of Directors whenever the Chair is unavailable to do so;
3. The Secretary; who shall record and preserve all records of Board proceedings which the Board directs shall not be kept by the Cooperative's Secretary; and

B. No Officer of the Board of Directors shall be an Officer of the Cooperative, unless separately elected to such a position.

C. All elections of a Board Officer shall take effect following the adjournment of the next regular board meeting following the organizational meeting.

Article V – Meetings of the Board

Section 2. Regular Meetings of the Board.

Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at the time designated by the Board and shall convene at a place designated by the Board. Such regular meetings may be held without notice other than such resolution fixing the time and place thereof. Any Director who ~~is absent fails to attend~~ three consecutive regular meetings of the Board, or ~~absent who fails to attend~~ any four regular meetings of the Board in ~~any~~ consecutive period of twelve months, shall be forfeited and the vacancy filled pursuant to the Bylaws. In addition, a Director may attend up to ~~two virtual meetings~~ two meetings in a virtual format in ~~any~~ consecutive period of twelve months. Virtual attendance must be approved by the Board Chair. Exceptions may be made to number of Additional virtual meetings may be allowed with approval by the full Board. Absences cannot be excused for any reason.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee is tasked with reviewing director election candidates. This year, candidates from Districts #3, #7, and #9 are presented on pages 16b-16c. The Nominating Committee includes cooperative members (left to right) Ann Vollbrecht, Dean Solie, and Ben Thompson. Their time becoming engaged in the director election process is sincerely appreciated.



STAY SAFE WITH FREE ELECTRICAL SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS

Empower your group with life-saving knowledge



Eau Claire Energy Cooperative offers free electrical safety demonstrations for all ages and professions! From school-age children to professional groups and community groups—we customize our presentations to meet your needs.

Safety Demonstrations can teach about:

- ✔ **Downed Power Lines & Vehicle Accidents:** What to do if your vehicle comes into contact with electrical equipment.
- ✔ **First Responder & Workplace Training:** How EVs impact emergency response and essential electrical safety knowledge for businesses.
- ✔ **Kid-Friendly Safety Talks:** Teaching children about the dangers of playing near power lines.
- ✔ **Hands-on, Engaging Demonstrations:** Real-world scenarios for better preparedness.

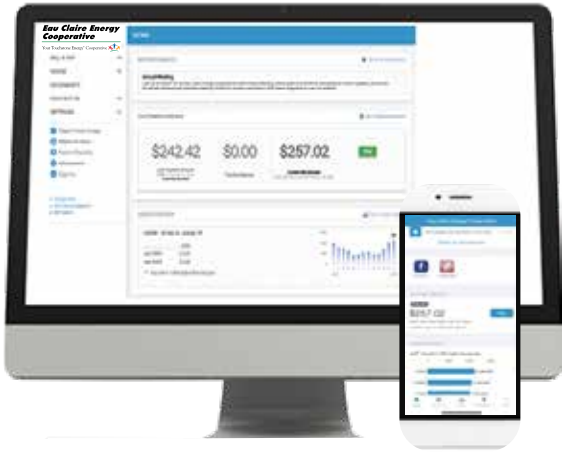
Schedule your FREE safety demonstration today!

Call 715-832-1603 | Email tskibba@ecec.com

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- ✔ **Sign up for Paperless Billing:** Ensure you receive your bills as soon as they are available. By setting up paperless statements, you can view your bill the same day it is available. No more mailing delays or hassle. Register for SmartHub to be enrolled in paperless statements.
- ✔ **Enroll in Auto Pay:** Sign up for Auto Pay to have your bills automatically withdrawn on the due date each month. Payments are always on time and it is fast and secure to set up! Members can register for SmartHub and enroll in Auto Pay in just minutes.
- ✔ Make payments using our automated phone system, by mail, by stopping into our office, or utilizing our 24 hour drop box at ECEC headquarters.

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Monica Obrycki, President and CEO

**Taylor Skibba, Marketing and
Communications Coordinator**

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

UW Stout | July 15-17, 2025

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 20, 2025**



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 87TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF EAU CLAIRE ENERGY COOPERATIVE • MARCH 19, 2024

The 87th regular annual meeting of the members of the Eau Claire Energy Cooperative (ECEC) was called to order by the Board Chair Mr. Andrew Bourget, at 6:00 p.m. at The Florian Gardens at 2340 Lorch Avenue in Eau Claire, WI on March 19, 2024.

WELCOME & SAFETY MOMENT Mr. Bourget welcomed everyone to the annual meeting. He also provided several key safety messages that included emergency routes in case of severe weather or fire and the location of an A.E.D. in case of a medical emergency.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ANTHEM Mr. Bourget introduced Jamie Gerike. Ms. Gerike sang the National Anthem. Mr. Bourget asked that everyone remain standing while Youth Ambassadors Nora Camlek, Abigail Turk, Owen Rozeboom, and Alyssa Wirth led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS & SPECIAL RECOGNITION The Board of Directors, CEO Monica Obyrcki, Attorney John Hibbard, and Corporate Secretary Jeni Thorpe were introduced to those attending the meeting.

Mr. Bourget introduced the recipients of the \$1,000 Federated Youth Foundation scholarships and asked that they stand and be recognized. Mr. Bourget also asked the members of the Member Advisory Council to stand and be recognized.

MEETING AGENDA AND MEETING RULES Mr. Bourget went through housekeeping items noting that the meeting agenda and rules were published in the March 2024 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. Bourget 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 2024 *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. Bourget was informed that there were 167 voting members registered and in attendance, which constituted a quorum. Mr. Bourget then declared the meeting open for business.

PARLIAMENTARIAN Mr. Bourget 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 2024 Annual Report. The motion was seconded and carried.

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 Sturz, Mona Mathews, and Wilson Lund.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES Mr. Bourget then turned the meeting over to the attorney, Mr. John Hibbard. Mr. Hibbard explained the Cooperative's nomination process. He explained the efforts that are made to seek out candidates and stated that despite the Cooperative's best efforts along with the nominating committee's efforts, this year there was no opposition to the incumbents in each district. Since there was no opposition, based on the bylaws, there will be no vote and all directors are elected by acclamation.

Mr. Hibbard introduced each of the Director candidates for Districts 2, 4, and 6, as follows:

District No. 2 – Mike Golat (Incumbent); unopposed

District No. 4 – Judi Anibas (Incumbent); unopposed

District No. 6 – Frank Neibauer (Incumbent); unopposed

Each candidate present was given the opportunity to address the membership for three minutes, which each candidate did. Acclamation by applause followed each address. 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.

At this time, the attorney turned the meeting back over to the Chair. The Chair stated that the organizational meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for March 27, 2024 at the Cooperative headquarters.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS Mr. Bourget reminded the members of the rules of the meeting, which were published in the March 2024 issue of the *WEC News* magazine as part of the 2024 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. Bourget introduced and recognized the Concern for Community Award recipients, Dale, Sandy, and Kayla Pocerich. The recipients were nominated because of their extensive dedication of the community by annually baking and decorating over 7,000 Christmas cookies and donating them to local organizations.

Mr. Bourget turned the floor over to CEO Monica Obyrcki to discuss the efforts of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative to provide reliable power to the members. She noted that there are details of ECEC's reliability efforts in the annual report. Ms. Obyrcki introduced Mr. Brent Ridge, President and CEO of Dairyland Power Cooperative. Mr. Ridge provided an overview of Dairyland Power, its strategic goals, generation mix, reliability efforts, and projects such as the Nemadji Trail Energy Center and Cardinal Hickory Transmission line.

Mr. Bourget 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. Obyrcki for the question and answer session of the meeting.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION Ms. Obyrcki explained that she would first answer signed questions that had been deposited in the question box. Member questions consisted of topics regarding terrorist attacks on power plants and substations, overhead and underground line conversions, nuclear waste, hydropower, wind turbines, solar, battery storage, and more. Ms. Obyrcki 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. Bourget thanked the members, the Cooperative employees, The Florian Gardens staff, scholarship recipients, Youth Ambassadors, and the Member Advisory Council in attendance for making the 87th annual meeting of the Cooperative a success. He announced that the 88th annual meeting of the Cooperative will be held on March 18, 2025 at The Florian Gardens.

ADJOURN Mr. Bourget requested a motion to adjourn the 87th Annual Meeting. That motion was made, seconded, and carried, and the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

PRIZES AWARDED Ms. Obyrcki invited the members to stay for dinner after the announcement of the prize winners. Winners received \$100.00 in cash. The cash prize winners are: Avery Burton Jr., Melvin Flanders, Dennis Scheuermann, Audrey Roecker, Karen Lind, Gavin McCann, Tobie Matherne, Gary Hetchler, Regina Mauer, and Nora Camlek.

—Judith Anibas, Secretary

