

WASHINGTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

78th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

May 4, 2017

The 78th Annual Membership Meeting was held at Union 32 Middle and High School on Thursday, May 4, 2017, with 241 members, guests, and employees in attendance. The business meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m. by President Barry Bernstein.

President Bernstein thanked Cabot Creamery for donating their cheese for appetizers. This donation has become a welcome tradition to the annual meetings.

INTRODUCTIONS

President Bernstein introduced General Manager Patty Richards as well as the members of the Board of Directors in attendance:

- Vice President Roger Fox from Walden;
- Treasurer Donald Douglas, Orange;
- Secretary Annie Reed, Marshfield;
- Stephen Knowlton, East Montpelier;
- Roy Folsom, Cabot;
- Dave Magida, Middlesex;
- Richard Rubin, Plainfield; and
- Mary Just Skinner; Middlesex.

He then recognized past directors that were in attendance: Monique Hayden, Bud Haas, Cort Richardson, Michael Duane, Gene Parent and Dan Wing.

President Bernstein identified Directors Don Douglas and Mary Just Skinner up for re-election and Jean Hamilton as a new candidate for election. In the interest of saving time President Bernstein thanked all the invited guests for coming and noted that Attorney General T.J. Donovan and Deputy Attorney General and former WEC counsel Josh Diamond were present.

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

President Bernstein called on Ballot Committee Co-chair Joe Kelly to present the certification of quorum. Mr. Kelly stated 796 ballots were received by mail from the CPA firm, 24 ballots were invalid (spoiled) and 15 ballots had been cast in person at the meeting for a total of 787 members voting in the election which he certified constituted a quorum for the purpose of transacting business at the 78th Annual Membership Meeting in accordance with the Cooperative's bylaws.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Secretary Annie Reed certified that Volume 78, No. 3 of the Cooperative's newsletter, *Co-op Currents*, constituted the official notice of the 78th Annual Meeting of the Members and that this

notice was mailed to all members of record on the 7th day of April 2017, in accordance with the requirements of the Bylaws.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES—2016 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

President Bernstein called for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting held on May 3, 2016, and to approve the minutes as presented.

A motion was made by WEC Member Michael Duane of East Montpelier to waive the reading of the minutes of the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting and to approve them as presented. The motion, which was duly seconded by Charles Haas of Bradford, passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION RECOGNITION

President Bernstein honored five individuals with resolutions and small gifts of appreciation for service: Josh Diamond, Legal Counsel, Dave Magida, Board Director, Will Lindner, *Co-op Currents* Editor, Gene and Evangeline Parent, Ballot Committee Members.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Every year the Cooperative honors employees who reach five-year employment increments. This year Manager Richards presented certificates of appreciation to six of the ten employees who qualified for these milestones:

- Susan Golden, Member Services Supervisor, 10 years of service;
- Donnie Singleton, Equipment Operator Class A, 10 years of service;
- Cheryl Willette, Director of Finance & Administration, 10 years of service;
- Elaine Gonier, Member Services Representative, 15 years of service;
- Mike Patterson, Utility Field Technician A, 25 years of service;
- Brent Lilley, Operation & Construction Services Manager, 30 years of service.

Manager Richards asked all employees in attendance to stand in recognition. She noted these employees are the people that make it all happen at the Cooperative.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Bernstein thanked everyone for coming. He explained that he would keep his report brief so the other reports could be given in a timely manner leaving time for the question and answer session before speaker Susan Morse gave her presentation at 7:15p.m. He noted the rate increase that went into effect in 2017 and the increase in capital credit refunds that will offset the rate increase for this year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Donald Douglas shared a short humorous story before reporting that WEC had met all of its financial obligations in 2016 without a rate increase in two years. He provided a brief description of the Co-op's need to collect margins and then return the margins to members through capital credit refunds. Treasurer Douglas announced that WEC would be able to increase its capital credit allocations and retirement funds for 2017. Treasurer Douglas noted that WEC once again had a clean

audit and kudos were given to WEC's Finance Department. He noted that copies of the audit are available upon request and on WEC's website.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Richards commented on the wonderful member turnout and requested that everyone complete a survey card so WEC would know why they came. Ms. Richards addressed the following topics:

- Service Quality & Reliability Performance (SQRP)—Ms. Richards pointed out that a full SQRP report can be found in the annual meeting issue of WEC's newsletter, *Co-op Currents*. Ms. Richards announced we met all criteria in 2016.
- Safety Record Recognition - WEC is currently at 575 days without a lost time or vehicle accident.
- Community Fund – Total amount donated was \$26,000 in 2016 including listing a few non-profit entities receiving donations.
- One Hundred Percent Renewable – WEC met and maintains this requirement for several years
- Button Up Program – Public Service Board is requiring utilities to assist members in weatherizing their homes and reducing the residential carbon footprint. A specific amount of monetary assistance must occur or utilities will be fined. Ms. Richards encouraged members to contact WEC's Director of Product and Services, Bill Powell.
- Rate Increase – An increase of 5.95% is being implemented in 2017 due to the decline in REC prices.

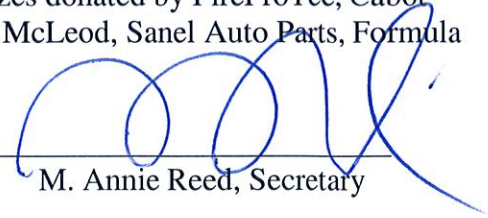
QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION

The meeting was opened to questions and/or comments from attendees. The topics questioned and commented on were: "How does Button Up work"; "How can WEC say they are 100% renewable if we sell REC's to utilities that are not 100% Renewable"; and "Where does the WEC board see WEC in ten years".

ADJOURNMENT

With no further member questions the meeting ended at 6:58 p.m., prior to Susan Morse from Keeping Track® presenting "Animals of the North", and door prizes donated by FireProTec, Cabot Creamery, Efficiency Vermont, Hunger Mountain Co-op, Lowell McLeod, Sanel Auto Parts, Formula Ford, WESCO, and WEC were awarded.

Date of Membership Approval: May 2, 2018

Attest: 
M. Annie Reed, Secretary

