

CARROLL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 29, 2020

Board President, Harold Sutton announced the first ever virtual Annual Meeting which was recorded in the Cooperative's board room due to the COVID Pandemic. The meeting was put on the Cooperative's website for viewing.

Manager Larry Fenbers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Secretary, Harold Barber, gave the invocation.

Manager Fenbers introduced the Board of Trustees.

Harold Barber read the Notice of the Meeting that was originally scheduled to be held at the Carroll County Fairgrounds and explained due to COVID it was held virtually in the board room at the Cooperative. Districts #2, #7 and #9 are up for election.

AJ Atkinson, Manager of Marketing and Member Services, recognized the scholarship and Youth Tour winners. He said a total of \$6,000 in scholarships were given this year. Two students were chosen to attend the Youth Tour in Washington, DC, but it was canceled due to the COVID Pandemic. Those two students will attend the 2021 Youth Tour in DC.

Larry Fenbers returned to the podium and gave the People for People report. He stated fifty cents is the average monthly contribution our members donate and when you add it all together, it makes a difference! In 2019, \$47,750 were awarded to various organizations and individuals. Since the beginning of 2020, \$32,000 has been granted. A total of \$880,378.71 has been given to those in need since the program began in 2000. On behalf of the People for People board, he thanked the members for their contributions and the positive impact on our communities.

Harold Sutton explained the minutes were printed in the Cooperative Living Magazine. He asked for a motion to approve. Said motion was given by Larry Fenbers and seconded by Robert McCort.

President Sutton went on to explain this past February a Strategic Planning Session was held and they are done approximately every three years. He stated the Cooperative works for the owner-members. He also said we should be our members first source of information about solar panels and electric vehicles. He said solar does not produce as well in Ohio as in sunnier parts of the country and explained the Cooperative has facts and figures from our own solar panel array in Sherrodsville. The Cooperative sells a service to keep the lights on, but a solar panel salesman sells the product and whether it does or does not produce what they claim, the salesman is gone. He stated in no means is he discouraging solar power and it has come a long way. He just wants to encourage the members to get the facts because there is much to consider before that initial investment. He said to let the Cooperative be here to help give the vital facts.

Larry Fenbers returned to the podium for the manager's column. He stated last year no one could have predicted a world- wide pandemic. He also said a decision had to be made in May about cancelling the in

person Annual Meeting at the fairgrounds and holding the first ever virtual meeting in the office. He explained one good thing about the virtual meeting is that it is shorter and hopefully, next year it will be back at the fairgrounds. He said fortunately, five years ago the members voted on a by-law change to amend the options to vote enabling members to vote online, by telephone, and by mail-in ballot. He also said this is the first ever uncontested election since he has been here and it is probably due to the pandemic. He explained that the Cooperative returned over \$428,000 in Capital Credits last year and the year ended in a good position. He said 2020 started fairly calm but then the virus began and a stay-at-home order was issued in March, but the Cooperative was exempted because we are an essential business. We had to figure out how to keep our employees safe by juggling start times, start locations, dividing the work force and driving separate vehicles. He also spoke of the ten- year financial forecast and cost of service study that was done and resulted in a small rate increase at the beginning of the year. He stated the Cooperative is in the process of rebuilding aging lines and circuits out of substations. The plan to replace a transformer in the Merrick Substation will be delayed until the spring of 2021 due to COVID. Tie capabilities in Leesville and Merrick sub will be upgraded. The transmission switches are being replaced in Sugar Grove Sub and it will mean a more timely response in the event of an outage. Trees are still on a five- year cycle that began in 2010. Over 2100 dead ash trees and other outside corridor trees were removed which was twice as many as the same time last year. We also completed one of the strategic planning goals which was upgrading our computer systems and cyber security focusing on protecting our members. He said he was happy to report there were no lost time accidents and the Cooperative completed the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) which is done by an outside inspection group and scored well. He announced new employees: AJ Atkinson, Manager of Marketing and Member Services, Taylor Wright, lineman, Brian Riggs, apprentice lineman and Hunter Snyder, mechanic. He thanked the board members and employees for their service.

AJ Atkinson gave the Nominating Committee Report and explained some of the qualities the nine-member committee looks for are skills, character, education and experience. The committee searched and could not find any candidates to run this year. He stated District #2, #7 and #9 are up for election and will all run unopposed.

Larry introduced the Board Candidates: District #2 Diane Tarka; District #7 Todd Brown & District #9 William Casper.

Jake returned to the podium and asked for a motion to close voting. Said motion was given by Bob McCort and seconded by Frank Chiurco. He also asked if there was any unfinished or new business. There being none he asked for a motion to adjourn. Gary Snode gave said motion and it was seconded by Diane Tarka.

Larry Fenbers returned to the podium and stated he had spoken to Keith Harden from Coop Ballot and the results are: District #2 Diane Tarka; District #7 Todd Brown; and District #9 William Casper

Harold Barber, Secretary/Treasurer

APPROVED BY:

Harold Sutton, President

