

Annual Membership Meeting

August 9, 2024

Ozark Border Electric Cooperative's Annual Membership Meeting was held on Friday, August 9, 2024, at the cooperative headquarters in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. This year we hosted registration and voting at our four sub-offices in the days leading up to our drive-thru event in Poplar Bluff. In total 2,608 members attended the meeting. During the meeting four members were elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Cooperative. The following were those elected:

1. Dewayne Ligons – Ellsinore – District 1
2. Dennis LeGrand – Poplar Bluff – District 2
3. Lee Wright – Qulin – District 3
4. Chad Parker – Campbell – District 4

There are a total of twelve members who serve on the Board and the other eight directors are as follows:

1. Darrell Atchison – Ellsinore – District 1
2. Charles Bunting – Poplar Bluff – District 3
3. Curtis Clark – Puxico – District 4
4. Jordan Collins - Ellsinore – District 1
5. Bill Hager - Harviell – District 3
6. Jim Hover – Harviell – District 2
7. Greg Lintz – Dexter – District 4
8. Judy Lunsford – Poplar Bluff – District 2

At the conclusion of the annual membership meeting, the Board elected the following officers;

- Darrell Atchison, President
- Judy Lunsford, Vice President
- Dewayne Ligons, Secretary/Treasurer

Board President, Darrell Atchison reported that Ozark Border Electric Cooperative continues to remain financially strong and at the end of 2023 was providing service to 40,935 consumers and maintaining 6,038 miles of power line. We continue to be one of the largest electric cooperatives in Missouri. The Board President reported that OBEC refunded \$1,087,000 in capital credits to the Cooperative member/owners in 2023. He also reported that the average annual operating expense per consumer still ranks among the lowest in the state, and the ratio of consumers to full-time employees still ranks among the highest. The Cooperative continues to operate at a high level of efficiency.

General Manager, David Schremp recognized employees

who had retired in the past year and reported that the Cooperative has continued to face a number of challenges in 2024, among which was the Memorial Day weekend storms that caused the cooperative more than \$2 million of damage. Supply chain issues, material inventory, construction equipment, tools, and many other essential items are becoming somewhat easier to obtain, but at significantly higher costs. Schremp said that OBEC's power supplier, also deeply impacted by EPA regulations and cost increases, implemented price increases during the past two years, with the possibility of more increases in 2025 and 2026. With power cost representing more than 60% of Ozark Border's total operating costs there was no option but to increase rates in April 2024. He also stated that, due to the current political climate and upcoming court cases, there is a great deal of uncertainty regarding future rate increases. The Board of Directors and management team continue to work hard to remain efficient and make cuts where possible. Schremp expressed his appreciation for the members, the employees, and the Board of Directors.



*David Schremp
OBEC General Manager*



*Darrell Atchison
OBEC Board President*



Lee Wright of Qulin, District 3 and Dennis "Boots" LeGrand of Poplar Bluff, District 2