Capital Electric Cooperative held its 73rd annual meeting on June 4 at the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Bismarck.

IN THIS ISSUE

• Capital Electric Cooperative’s 73rd annual meeting
• Capital Electric Cooperative welcomes Greg Owen
• Sign up for Know Your Co-op
• Capital credits
• Board minutes
Capital Electric Cooperative hosts 73rd annual meeting

BY KRISTA RAUSCH

Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) held its 73rd annual meeting of the membership on June 4 at the Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Bismarck. More than 550 member-owners and their families attended the event. While they waited for the meeting to start, attendees enjoyed a free meal and music from the Lucas Bernier Steel Band. They also got an up-close look at Lignite Energy Council’s Tesla Model X and CEC’s Chevrolet Bolt, Textron electric utility terrain vehicle, bucket truck and solar well system.

Board members. The membership re-elected Sheri Haugen-Hoffart (District 1), Arlene Olson (District 2) and Kyle Hilken (District 3) to serve on the co-op’s board of directors. Each director will serve a three-year term.

Bylaw changes. The membership voted in favor of several changes to the co-op’s bylaws. These changes allow more flexibility on when the annual meeting is held each year; establish earlier lead times for posting nominations for those running for the board of directors; modify references to better reflect the result of last year’s bylaw change to allow for future voting by mail or online; and allow the board to provide an additional stipend to a board member in the event significant additional time is spent on co-op business.

Co-op members also voted in favor of bylaw changes that clarified existing but sometimes confusing language and modified the overall terminology to be gender neutral.

Business meeting summary. Board president Dwight Wrangham and General Manager Paul Fitterer provided the president’s and manager’s report. They reported on past and current events and activities at the co-op, updated the membership on power supply issues and provided an update on infrastructure improvements.

Roberta Thorson, board president of the Charitable Trust, gave a report on the co-op’s Operation Round-Up program and urged members to opt into the program if they do not already participate.

CEC Business Manager Luke Steen presented the 2018 financial report. The co-op received a clean audit opinion from Eide Bailly, LLP.

Distribution side updates. CEC continues to grow. In 2018, the co-op sold 370,636,512 kilowatt hours (KWH) of electricity, an increase of 5.75 percent from 2017. CEC experienced a net increase of 428 new accounts and returned more than $2 million in capital credits to its member-owners. The co-op continues to be in a strong financial position with equity of more than 47 percent at the end of 2018.

In 2018, CEC had net plant additions of more than $5.8 million. The co-op added 33.2 miles of underground distribution line and retired eight miles of overhead distribution line for a net addition of 25.2 miles of line. CEC rebuilt 25 miles of rural overhead line in 2018 and will rebuild another 25 miles in 2019.

The co-op also plans to continue adding three-phase underground tie lines from a substation located by the corner of Highway 1804 and
Highway 83. These underground tie lines will further enhance CEC’s backbone, infrastructure and system redundancy in north Bismarck. The co-op will also convert two new subdivisions from overhead line to new underground line for better reliability and capacity. The gross total projected expenditure for construction is $6.5 million.

CEC continues to develop and encourage the adoption of off-peak programs. In 2018, the co-op focused on educating its members through its Peak Time Rebate program (PTR) and rolled out a new off-peak air conditioning rate. The PTR program has more than 5,000 participating accounts. Similarly, members can sign up for a program that uses a device that enables the co-op to cycle their air conditioner. This allows members to remain comfortable while earning a credit for reducing CEC’s overall peak.

Transmission side updates. Central Power Electric Cooperative (CPEC) continues to make a strong commitment to the reliability of CEC’s system. In 2018, CPEC completed the installation of a high voltage substation transformer in northwest Bismarck. CPEC also rebuilt 13 miles of transmission line in East Bismarck and upgraded the Goodrich substation.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) generates and/or purchases about 90 percent of CEC’s wholesale power. The remaining 10 percent comes from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). Basin Electric continues to see overall sales growth over its nine-state region and expects this growth to continue.

Basin Electric has long acknowledged it is moving toward a carbon-constrained future, and the co-op has already taken a leadership role in the development of renewable generation. In fact, when wind and hydropower are combined, nearly 37 percent of the electric power used by CEC members is from renewable resources.

Neither Basin electric nor WAPA anticipate rate increases in 2019.

Congratulations, winners! At the end of the meeting, the co-op drew five names for the $1,000 grand prize. Those drawn needed to be present to win. Since only one was present, she took home the entire prize. Congratulations to Susan K. Olson, Bismarck!

At this year’s meeting, CEC awarded one $500 scholarship to a student who attended the meeting as a member or with a parent or legal guardian who is a member of the co-op. Eleven students entered this year’s drawing. Congratulations to this year’s scholarship winner, MiKayla Lennie, Bismarck!

CEC thanks all who participated in this year’s annual meeting. Cooperative membership is cooperative ownership, and member participation is a key element to the co-op’s success. By participating in the annual meeting, CEC’s member-owners hold the co-op accountable for decisions and help the co-op serve its members to the best of its ability. We hope to see you again next year! CEC

Business Manager Luke Steen presents Susan K. Olson with the $1,000 grand prize at Capital Electric Cooperative’s 73rd annual meeting.

Capital Electric Cooperative Board President Dwight Wrangham presents a $500 scholarship to MiKayla Lennie at the co-op’s 73rd annual meeting.
Engineering services manager reflects on the backroads that guided him to the cooperative

BY GREG OWEN, MANAGER OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

Another exciting aspect of working at Capital Electric is the progressive outlook on embracing the future. While the distribution system is built on a strong foundation, advances in consumer technology, distributed/renewal generation and battery storage are quickly approaching on the horizon. Much like the Peak Time Rebate program, solar pasture wells and electric vehicles, these systems will bring opportunities to learn and develop new ways to serve our members.

I grew up on a small grains farm north of Valley City, N.D. I have fond memories as a youth riding with my dad in our Versatile tractor and Gleaner combine, hoping someday I’d be big enough to take the wheel. As I grew older, I found plenty of opportunities to operate equipment, eventually relishing the breaks between loads to pick up a Louis L’Amour western. Farming teaches many life lessons of hard work, long hours and determination that, after our farming days were over, I could carry forward into my career.

Following high school, I attended NDSU and completed electrical engineering degrees. I began my professional career with an engineering firm in St. Paul, Minn., where I had the privilege to work on utility projects across the country. While big-city life was fun for a season, the lure of raising children closer to our families brought us to Bismarck and a position at Basin Electric. Working for a generation and transmission cooperative brought vast new experiences and connections with great people. It’s also fun to see many former classmates and their families in the Bismarck-Mandan area.

We settled in rural Baldwin, where a connection with farming and ranching is felt on the daily commute. My wife, Danika, and two girls, Eliza (5) and Harper (3), love seeing calves in the spring and equipment rolling in the fields. We find plenty to do at home between house and shop projects and amateur farming. On weekends, we can often be found camping at Lake Sakakawea or taking in the Medora musical. We consider ourselves very fortunate to live in such a great part of our state, and I look forward to my days ahead at Capital Electric.

Greg Owen joined Capital Electric Cooperative in March to manage the engineering department, replacing long-time manager Ron Lipp.
COMING SOON

CEC online member survey!

Capital Electric Cooperative’s (CEC) Know Your Co-op program will begin again in October. Don’t miss your chance to sign up and learn about the operations of your cooperative!

If you’ve ever considered getting more involved in the cooperative by serving on the CEC Board of Directors or attending Member Advisory Committee meetings, this is the place to start. Along with your classmates, you will become an expert on everything co-op related!

For more information, contact Wes Engbrecht, director of communications and public relations, at (701) 712-7923 or wese@capitalelec.com. You don’t have to attend all of the eight quarterly classes to participate. You choose your level of time commitment.

Thank you for being an engaged co-op member!

COMING SOON

CEC online member survey!

Have an opinion about your cooperative? We want to know what you think!

Sometime over the next week or so, you will be receiving an email survey from us. The short survey will include several questions about a variety of topics relating to Capital Electric Cooperative. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. The information is important for future planning at the co-op.

Member feedback gives us the information we need to improve our service to you. This is your co-op, and your opinions matter. Thank you in advance for engaging in this process!

There will be prizes awarded that will be drawn from those that complete the survey and provide their contact information.
Capital Credit Claims Notice of Redemption by Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Listed below are names of former Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CEC) members who had capital credit checks mailed to them in June of the year 2013. These checks have been returned to CEC by the postal service because they could not locate the members at the address on file. A further search by CEC personnel has not turned up their whereabouts.

If you received electrical service from CEC any time during the year 1997 and your name is on this list, please contact our office. If you know the whereabouts of members on this list who received electrical service because they could not locate the members at the address on file, please keep in mind that not all of the capital credit amounts are large. However, we desire to get the money due to those who earned it and clear up our records.

We will redeem capital credits for those members on the following list who notify us prior to Dec. 1, 2019. Notice is hereby given that any of the aforementioned unclaimed capital credits outstanding after Dec. 1, 2019 will be forfeited pursuant to Section 10-15-34.1 and 10-15-23 of the North Dakota Century Code.

3rd Notice - July 2019

ACHELTENBERG, AARON
AGARD, MAURICE
AGRIUANCE
ALBIN, TERRY R
AL-KHALID FI, RATIPI
ALLEN, LEE H
ALLERY, SHERRI L
ANDERSON, DALE O
ANDERSON, MARK
ANDERSON, PAMELA J
ANDERSON, RICHARD D
APPLEGATE, SCOTT
ARLINE, SARA JEAN
AUS, MILET V
BACHMEIER, DARREN
BACHMEIER, TAMARA
BAD MOCCASIN, SIDNEY JR
BADLAND EXPRESS
BAILEY, JOHN A
BAKER, GEORGE
BARBER, TROY
BARNES, CINDI L
BATHIE, LINCOLN
BAUER, LLOYD S
BAUMANN, TERENCE T
BEAN, GARY L
BEATTIE, LLOWELL L
BENHAM, ESTHER R
BENJAMIN, GLADYS
BENNIT, MICHAEL
BERCIER, ERNESTINE
BERGER, CARL J
BESIC, SULJO
BESTON, TARA K
BEYER, RONALD L
BIBERDOFF, MIKE
BICKEL, CASSANDRA
BIG VALLEY GRAVEL SUPPLY
BIRKBECK, BOB
BISMARK, MSA LTD PARTNERSHIP
BITZ, DARYL L
BITZ, DEBBIE
BLAIR, JULIE
BLANDFORD, EMMAC
BLATNER, LEWIS O
BLUE BIRD ATEL
BOBS TRUCKING
BOEHM, EILEEN
BOHANAN, JASON
BOLLES, EUGENE W
BORCHERT, AUGUST
BOGEN, KAREN M
BORT, LINDA
BOURNIVAL, MICHAEL L
BRACKETT, BRENTA
BRALEY, CYNTHIA
BRANDNER, JOHN
BRANDNER, KIM
BRATTVEIT, RANDY
BREIDHEART, DOLLY
BREDWICK, ELIZABETH
BRIDGES, DEBORAH E
BRODECKEL, J E
BRUNELLE, LEE
BRUSEVEN, JESSICA
BUCHHOLTZ, CHRIS
BUDGE, GARRY
BURDEN, JODI
BURGART, AMANDA
BURLAY, AMECE
CAIN, GERALD S
CAIN, TAUNILIN
CARSON, CAROL
CARSON, DOREEN
CARTER, KAY
CASPER, JAMES
CASTEL, JENNIFER
CHENOWETH, SHARMA
CHESTER, JERALD
CHRISTENSEN, JEAN
CHRISTIANSEN, VERN
CLARK, BECKY
CLARK, SARAH L
CLENDEEN, TANIFAY
CLOOTEN, JOAN E
COMMERCIAL INTERIOR SUP
OF MT
CONNOR, BERTHA
COOK, PAMELA J
COOK, SUSAN G
CORNELL, JAMES F
CRAWLEY, MELISSA
CREATIVE PRODUCTS
CRISLER, JENNIFER LYN
DAKOTA TRUST
DANIEL, PATRICIA L
DAVENPORT, SUSAN
DAVIS, EARL
DAVIS, PAUL C
DAVIS, THOMAS M
DAYSON, JODY
DELF, THEODORI M
DENNIS, KATHERINE L
DILLOW, JON L
DOON, CHERRI
DOOKER, JESSICA
DOOKER, MARLIN
DORSCHER, MARIE
DOUGHERTY, COLLEEN
DREMMANN, THOMAS R
DRENSNO, RHONDA
DUNKEL, JAMEE
DURE, ROLAND F
DIK, PETR
ELKINS, ERIK
ELLINSON, DARREN
EMER, DAWN
ENDERS, LEE
ENGELHARD, RICHARD G
ENNEN, BARBARA
ENVY, JODY LEAN
ERICKSON, CALVIN L
ERICKSON, ELISIE
ERICKSON, ROSS D
ERICKSON, YVETTE D
ERICKSTAD, KEITH
FABER, TINA
FARSTAD, TERESE
FAYL, MARK
FEIST, LISA J
FEIST, REBECCA
FELTER, RACHEL
FETTIG, BRIAN
FETTIG, LEO
FINNEMAN, SHELJA
FISCHE, DIANE
FLECK, JENNY J
FONTAINE, BRADLEY J
FOOTE, GEORGIA
FORDEIER, NEARSKA
FOSS, GLORIA
FOX, KAREN M
FRALICKS, AMY J
FRANK, SANDRA
FRANKLIN, TROY
FRAKULD, DAVID L
FREDERICK, LEONA
FRIEDRICH, BRENDA
FREY, HEATHER
FRIKOE, LEE S
FRIED, ARNOLD
FRIESE, NANCY
FRITZ, TOM
GABE, JOSH
GAIZE, LAVON
GARNER GRAPHICS
GARTNER, DAVE
GEIGE, BRIAN
GENDREN, SUSAN
GESHLENHEIM, OSBORN, MICHELE
GEYER, SHIRLEY
GLASER, TODD R
GLATT, MICHAEL
GOBEL, KRISTIE
GONDRAS, NICK
GORDON, GWYN
GOYNE, JANICE R
GR GRAPHICS
GRABER, KIM A
GREEN, CHRIS
GREEN, DALTION
GREEN POINT CREDIT
GRENDQUIST, GREGG
GRIEVE, CYNTHIA
GULKEN, YELENA
GUNTHIER, KRISTA
HAAS, JEFF
HAFT, TWILLA A
HAIDER, ARLIN
HALL, JODIE
HALSEY, JENELLE
HANSON, DONALD T
HANSON, STAN
HARDY, LINDA
HASTINGS, WILLIAM L
HAUSER, ELLEN
HAYDEN, CARY
HAYES, SHEILA
HEGEL, JACOB
HEID, ROGER G
HEIDT, TEDDI M
HEIJEN, VICKIE
HENDRICKSON, DAVID
HERTEL, ELISABETH
HESSEIN, ALLYN M
HUPPEL, RAYMOND J
HEUPEL, HEINICHA
HILDEBRAND, NANCY L
HILLARD, HOWARD
HIMMELSPOCH, LINDA
HODNEFIELD, SUSAN
HOERER, MARCY
HOFFMAN, MICHELE
HOFMAN, TONYA
HOOVER, MAURY
HORNOR, ROBERT D
HRURLE, YOLANDA
HYBULIAN, ANN K
INGA, SAMUEL
IVERSON, LINDA
JACOBS, PHILLIS
JAHNER, SHAWN
JANS, SANDRA
JANSEN-ROSOLW, KRISTI
JENJER, LORI
JESZ, CHERYL
JOHANSEN, KARI M
JOHNER, RICHARD
JOHNSON, BOYD M
JOHNSON, CARL L
JOHNSON, EDWARD
JOHNSON, HOWELL
JOHNSON, JEFF
JOHNSON, JONATHAN
JOHNSON, KEITH E
JOHNSON, KELLY
JOHNSON, MELANIE L
JOHNSON, NADEAN
JOHNSON, ROXANNE
The Board of Directors of Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CEC), held its regular meeting on Friday, May 24, 2019, at the co-op’s headquarters building in Bismarck, N.D., pursuant to due notice to all directors. All of the directors were present at that time except Board President Dwight Wrangham, who participated via teleconference. Vice President Olsen chaired the meeting. Also present were Manager Paul Fitterer, Business Manager Luke Steen, Operations Manager Rick Dressler, Engineering Services Manager Greg Owen, Energy Services Manager Josh Schaffner, Director of Communications and Public Relations Wes Engbrecht and Attorney Carol K. Larson of Pringle & Hengstler, P.C., who acted as recording secretary.

Audits: Lance Rambousek, Brady Martz, gave the audit report. The cooperative received a “clean, unmodified” opinion for the 2018 audit. This is the highest audit standard the cooperative can achieve. The Operation Round-Up agreed upon procedures were also clear of findings.

The regular meeting was adjourned to meet privately with the auditor. Following resumption of the regular meeting, it was moved, seconded and carried to approve the audit results.

Financial Review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Sheri Haugen-Hoffart and Bill Patrie reviewed the April 2019 check register and expenditures. They reported that all checks were in order. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve April expenditures in the amount of $3,701,823.45.

Management Reports (Business Department, Operations, Engineering Services, Energy Services and Public Relations/Communications):

Business Department Report: The business manager presented the April 2019 financial and statistical report to the Board. Total kWh sales for April was under budget by 9.1 percent. The actual monthly electric revenue was behind budget by 12.2 percent.

CEG’s load factor was ahead of budget, leading to a cost savings of $116,482. The total operating margin for April was $66,179, versus the budgeted amount of $72,954. The total margin for April was $194,549, versus the budgeted amount of $80,110, ahead of budget by $24,437.

Year-to-date sales are over budget by 22 percent. Year-to-date revenue is $13,294,337 in comparison with a budgeted amount of $13,279,859. The total margin was $1,291,811, versus the budgeted amount of $991,449, ahead of budget by $800,362.

CEG began billing 12 new services in April, bringing active services to 20,624 versus 20,252 at this time last year, or a net increase of 372 over the last 12 months.

The business manager reviewed the comparison of actual to budgeted expenses, cash flow statement and power costs for the month of April 2019. Accounts receivable balances as of May 22, 2019, of $4,296.24.

The IT department upgraded communication endpoints at substations across the co-op. CEC staff have worked on testing several items for the Annual Technology Expo.

CEC is doing structure and price research into electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.

A meeting with the NDDOT group is scheduled for June 13 regarding the Highway 1804 project to replace overhead underbuild with underground conductor has begun. Altec Industries has completed CEC’s annual truck testing and DOT inspections. The new line truck has been added to the fleet and is in service.

Seth Lohspeich was promoted to lead lineman.

Engineering Report: Owen reviewed the written report from the engineering department. CEC has developed a plan for serving South Central Grain accounts during the Sterling substation construction to minimize outage durations.

Automatic Vehicle Location Antennas: CEC is pursuing new GPS antennas from another manufacturer. Basin Electric Cooperative (Basin Electric) is consolidating antenna needs from participating cooperatives to receive the best volume pricing. The outage map for members is now available on CEC’s webpage.

A joint meeting was held with IT and engineering staff to address remaining punch list items for the new phone system.

The 2019 sectoralizing study with HDR engineers along with CEC engineering and staff held a kick-off meeting. It is estimated the study will be completed by Sept. 2019.

Owen met with East River Electric Power Cooperative to see their control room and display board.

Negotiations continue on the Tower Property.

Energy Services Department: Schaffner reviewed the Energy Services Report.

Twenty-eight service orders were completed in April.

EV Update: CEC is co-hosting an EV tailgate party on June 17 at the N.D. Capitol grounds.

GEC will be doing another presentation on the potential of EVs for the IEEE group on June 5.

A meeting with the NDDOT group is scheduled for June 13 regarding charging infrastructure.

Schaffner is attending a Cobank sponsored EV summit in Denver on June 13. The topics will include EV benefits, load management, rates, case studies and regulatory considerations.

Demand Reduction: CEC is doing structure and price research into Level 3 charging systems for the EV charging network.

The co-op has been working on battery storage options.

ERC Loans: There are no ERC loan applications for approval this month.

Communications, Public Relations and IT Department: Engbrecht reviewed topics of interest.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will be held on June 4. College students who are registered members or who attend the meeting with a parent/guardian who are registered CEC members, will be entered into the drawing for a $500 scholarship. Registration will be done through the NISC annual meeting app. Members who plan on staying for the meeting will put their ticket in the door prize drawing box.

Free Tree Giveaway: Logan and Justine Thompson and Duncan and Shauna Ackerman, all of Bismarck, are the winners of the paperless billing tree giveaway promotion.

Wing Movie Event: Approximately 45 people attended the movie sponsored by CEC.

IT Projects: CEC staff completed the new phone system project management and are working on the SANS RCI cybersecurity course.

CEC staff have worked on testing several items for the Annual Meeting to streamline the registration process.

The IT department upgraded communication endpoints at substations that connect via the internet. There are four substations left to upgrade and staff expects them to be connected the end of June.

Safety Report: There were no lost time accidents in April.

CEC’s Safety Committee meeting was held on April 26. Highlights of the meeting were reviewed at the all employee meeting on May 22. CEC’s System Supervisor Jeff Holzer attended NDREC’s spring coordinator’s meeting on May 13.

The cooperative received the WSI Certificate of Completion of the Safety Action Menu Program.

Without objection, the safety report was approved.

Governance Review: The governing questions and answer draft was reviewed.

2018 Strategic Planning Update: Fitterer and Steen reviewed progress to date.

2019 Labor Committee: Members will be appointed to the committee in June.

Central Power Electric Cooperative (CPEC): Haugen-Hoffart reported on CPEC matters including their strategic planning session.

Basin Electric: The May report was highlighted.

Statewide Report: There has been no meeting this month.

The committee on statewide dues and recommendations to dues adjustment was reviewed.

RESCO: Following discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried to cast a ballot for Kim Rasmussen as director.

The Midwest Board meeting held on March 4-6 was reviewed.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the meeting, without objection, the regular meeting was adjourned.