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RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

Manager's Message

22nd Annual Meeting

by Darick Eisenbraun



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September 6th—Labor Day

Back to school! Slow down, watch for kids, watch for busses, stop at crosswalks and be safe in school zones!

2021 has been a year that will go down in history as “Post Covid-19 and the return to normal”, or something like that! As we are all aware 2020 was the year of Covid-19, lockdowns, mask mandates, and more importantly a year of great tribulation and loss. Because of Covid-19 in 2020 High Plains Power was not able to hold our annual meeting to conduct the business of the cooperative. Normally our annual meeting would be held in March of 2021, but because of uncertainty with where we would be in our recovery, the HPP Board of Directors made the decision to hold the meeting in July, in conjunction with the Riverton Rendezvous Days.

I know this was my first annual meeting at HPP, but I think the weekend overall was a success. We started the weekend off with a pre-registration event on Main Street during the Rocky Mountain Rebels Car Show, where we handed out swag-bags with merchandise from HPP and Tri-State, HPP hard hats for the kids, and meal vouchers for members that could be used at 6 different participating locations in Riverton. On Saturday morning registration resumed at 8am with our business meeting beginning at 9.

During the meeting we had a very special presentation to the Boys and Girls Club of Riverton in memory of our late director Hearley Dockham. Hearley devoted 25 years of his life to HPP and his entire life to helping children. The Board of Directors donated \$5,000 which was matched by Basin Electric and CoBank for a total donation of \$15,000 in Hearley’s honor towards establishing the Boys and Girls Club of Riverton. With Hearley’s family in attendance many kind words were shared about Hearley and his dedication to the youth and the cooperative family.

Following the presentation, we took care of the business of the membership for both fiscal years 2019 and 2020. Members heard reports from outgoing Board President- Mark Park and I, the financial report from Board Treasurer- Jim Miller, a report from our power supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission CEO- Duane Highley about the future of TS and their transition to becoming a more sustainable G&T, and last a report from Wyoming Rural Electric Association’s Executive Director- Shawn Taylor about the

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22ND ANNUAL MEETING

We would like to thank all of the member/owners that attended the 22nd Annual Meeting in July, and also those that sent in their proxies.

The Annual Meeting format was different this year and was very well received. We began with registration on Friday evening at the Friday Night Cruise on Main Street in Riverton and continued with registration and the business meeting on Saturday at the Fremont Center. Saturday began with registration and was followed with the invocation by retiring Board Director Richard Haun, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and then was followed up by the National Anthem performed by staking technician, Josh McFarland.

The meeting continued with a donation to the Boys and Girls Club of Riverton, followed by declaration of a quorum, nominating committee reports, reports from the candidates and then voting. While the votes were being tallied there were reports from outgoing Board President-Mark Park, CEO-Darick Eisenbraun, Board Treasurer-Jim Miller, Tri-State Generation and Transmission CEO-Duane Highley, Wyoming Rural Electric Association Executive Director-Shawn Taylor.

Raffle tickets, food vouch-

ers, and \$10 energy credits were given to members during registration on both Friday and Saturday. We had some great door prizes again this year such as cash, gift cards, Milwaukee Sawzall set, and a Remington tree trimmer. Members only needed to be present to win the grand prize which consisted of an electric lawnmower (donated by Tri-State), Pelican cooler (donated by Anixter), pellet grill (donated by Border States), and a BBQ meet bundle from Frank's in Hudson (donated by High Plains Power).

A huge thank you to the Rocky Mountain Rebels Car Club for letting us be a part of your great event! Also thank you to Bomb Digs, Bunk's BBQ,



Phil's Dog Shak, Sundowner, Trailhead, and Wyo Philly Wagon for participating in our food vouchers. By using these food vouchers we were able to support more of our business owners and at the same time let our Members enjoy the events that were taking place that weekend.



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current legislative climate in the state of Wyoming. Beyond those reports the membership voted in for 3-year terms, 6 directors that will help shape the future of HPP and continue to lead this great organization.

We ended the meeting by recognizing the service of former CEO Marlene Morss for her 33

years of service and retiring board members Richard Haun, Gary Gordon, and Mark Park who served a combined 78 years representing your cooperative. Beyond the board members we also recognized the service of the dedicated employees of HPP who were celebrating work anniversaries.

5 years- Angie Wallace, Joe Whiteplume, Nick Vermiere
10 years- Trent Slagowski, John Magnan, Nate Fincher, Ross Smith

15 years- Eon Rose, Corey Vogelsang
25 years- Eric McDonald

I am beyond humbled to work for, and with, these great people. We will continue to try to find ways to improve our service and better meet the needs of you, our member-owners! We hope to see you all in 2022 at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the High Plains Power membership.



Marketing Intern Kodi Christensen

Final Thoughts

First and foremost, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at High Plains Power. Everyone was so gracious and welcoming to me while teaching me and reteaching me about all the many things! One of the biggest goals of my position this summer was to increase public relations and help to strengthen our community. I

have found, since my first day, a strong community in this cooperative. I truly think that each person in this office works hard to create this atmosphere of hard work and kindness every day.

This carried true even when I went into the field. This may have been one of the highlights of the summer! I learned a ton from all the guys! They took the time to explain to me what was happening and the processes of what they do every day. This experience truly gave me an inside look at everything that happens in the industry. Not only this knowledge, but the knowledge and improvement of my customer service and communication. I learned skills such as organization, multitasking and time management, along with the design and data analysis of the insights on the Facebook posts and page. I feel as if I learned what serving and providing to others, the best service we possibility could, truly means.

This summer internship has given me vital skills that I will use for the rest of my life. When I grow up, I will be a teacher. The skills that I have learned this summer will most definitely help me through my career in ways like communication with students and their parents, and working and building a community within the classroom. All awhile staying organized and being able to constantly multitask!

I feel very blessed and happy that I have had this opportunity to learn so much and be a small part of this cooperative. I can't wait to be back at Christmas!

High Plains Power

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