

NEWS



Crawford Electric
A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

10301 N. Service Rd., PO Box 10 * Bourbon, MO 65441 * 573-732-4415 * www.crawfordelec.com

DATE: Sept. 17, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Crawford Electric members elect two incumbents, one new director

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Cheryl Cain
Direct: 636-888-0336

BOURBON – Crawford Electric Cooperative's 86th Annual Meeting of Members was held on Sept. 16. Members elected two incumbents and one new director and passed Proposition A.

In District 1, incumbent Richard L. "Rick" Adams defeated Janet Morrow, receiving 1,010 votes to Morrow's 919. In District 2, members elected unopposed candidate Michael Blankenship. He received 1,676 votes. In District 3, members re-elected unopposed incumbent Joe Cason with 1,666 votes. All directors were elected to serve a three-year term.

Proposition A limits director participation in cooperative group insurance to the director only and dependent coverage may be permitted at the director's expense. The approved change in benefits can only be made during the open enrollment period and will be effective January 1, 2027.

A total of 1,951 ballots were cast, 1,797 during the monthlong early voting period and 154 at the meeting. This represents 11% of eligible members.

The early vote ran from Aug. 14 to Sept. 14. Most early voters used the secure digital options; 68 members used a mail-in ballot. Co-op member Tina Bilbruck of Sullivan won the early-vote grand prize of \$500 of free electricity.

This year's annual meeting drew 437 members and guests, who enjoyed a hot breakfast catered by Simply Sweet in Owensville and pastries from Cuba Bakery and Deli while listening to live music by *Wolf Creek Bluegrass*. They also participated in random drawings for prizes. James and Catherine Chandler from Cuba won the in-person grand prize of \$300 electric credit.

Board President Justin "Bink" Blankenship welcomed members and guests and recognized retiring board member and vice president Debbie Willette. He presented her with a proclamation honoring her years of service. She served more than 20 years on the board.

CEO/General Manager Michael Cremer addressed members during the meeting. He emphasized the unique benefits of being a member of the electric cooperative including its not-for-profit model, return of capital credits to members and members' ability to vote for directors. Cremer also emphasized the importance of training and education for both directors and employees due to the complexities of the industry and the impact of important strategic decisions on the future of the cooperative. He also stressed the vital role of employees in providing safe, dependable power for members.

Members also heard from Joe Wilkinson, senior vice president and chief member relations officer at Associated Electric Cooperative, the co-op's generation partner.

In the new business portion of the meeting, members heard three motions for proposed bylaw amendments but voted against moving them forward. Parliamentarian Shawn Battagler facilitated open discussions before the motions were brought to a vote.

Crawford Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of locally owned, community-minded electric co-ops with high standards of service. Crawford Electric serves about 21,000 meters along almost 3,000 miles of distribution lines mainly in Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Washington and Dent counties.

