

NEWS



Crawford Electric
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Cooperative 

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Big early voting turnout launches Crawford Electric annual meeting

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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BOURBON – More than 1,700 Crawford Electric members took the time to vote in the co-op's annual director election. This occurred despite the outcome of the vote not being in doubt since only incumbent directors filed petitions to be on the ballot. Member votes created the quorum needed to conclude the required annual business in a virtual format on Wednesday, Sept. 15. There was no in-person member meeting again this year due to the ongoing pandemic.

All voters were entered in a random drawing for more than 80 prizes. Electric credit prizes range from \$10, \$20, \$50, \$75, \$100, and \$200 to a grand prize of \$500 in free electricity. Member Jennifer Brooks of Bourbon was the lucky grand-prize winner. Thirty-five-pound beef packs, created from steers purchased at this summer's youth livestock auctions, will go to 24 lucky members. Winners will be contacted individually, and a list of all winners will be included in the November *Rural Missouri* magazine.

"We're so thankful to have such supportive members," said Laura Hengstenberg, who organizes the co-op's annual meeting. "Their voting participation made our meeting possible. And we're pleased that we had so many prizes to award."

The annual business session premiered online at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 15. Anyone who missed the premiere can still view the meeting by visiting www.CrawfordElec.com.

The cooperative contracted with Survey & Ballot Systems to conduct the director election. Members had a month to vote, either with a mail-in ballot or a via secure online portal. When voting concluded on Monday, Sept. 13, more than 200 members had voted by mail; 1,495 chose the online option, for a combined vote total of 1,702. This was the highest number of voting members in more than 25 years.

Online voters had an opportunity to participate in a survey, with 92% of responses indicating satisfaction with the process. "This voting process was extremely simple, quick and easy... from getting the member info and passcode to marking the ballot," said one respondent.

In the virtual annual meeting, the meeting's parliamentarian certified the re-election of Justin "Bink" Blankenship of Sullivan, Doug Murphy of Bourbon and Jim Cottrell of Cherryville to three-year terms on the board of directors. CEO Tony Mallory remarked on two big system improvement projects from the past year. He also thanked members for their actions to conserve energy during the polar vortex event in mid-February. Short videos of the system improvement projects and the polar vortex are available on the co-op's website.

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 20,000 meters along almost 3,000 miles of distribution lines in Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Washington and Dent counties.