

# NEWS



**Crawford Electric**  
A Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative



10301 N. Service Rd., PO Box 10 \* Bourbon, MO 65441 \* 573-732-4415 \* [www.crawfordelec.com](http://www.crawfordelec.com)

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Crawford Electric cancels in-person event, encourages voting to win prizes**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Laura Hengstenberg, CCC  
573-679-2014

BOURBON – At its August meeting, the board of directors of Crawford Electric Cooperative made the difficult decision to cancel plans for an in-person annual meeting of members. Due to the ongoing pandemic, a large gathering in the co-op's facility is simply not prudent. Annual meeting typically draws more than 500 registered members and about 1,000 total attendees and workers. Again this year, all voting in this year's director election will be via absentee methods.

"The status of the pandemic is not good now due to low vaccination rates in our areas," said Laura Hengstenberg, who organizes the co-op's member meeting. "We had wanted to return to mostly normal, and we had all the plans in place. But for the health and safety of our members and employees, it was the right decision to cancel the large gathering."

Instead, the annual business session will be livestreamed starting at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 15. Viewing details will be made available on the co-op's website, [www.CrawfordElec.com](http://www.CrawfordElec.com). A recording of the meeting will be posted after the event.

When the candidate nominations period closed on Friday, July 30, only the three incumbent directors had submitted nomination petitions.

"Even though there's not a contested race, we encourage members to vote," Hengstenberg said. "All voters will have the chance to win one of more than 75 prizes." The majority of the prizes are electric credits – free electricity – ranging from \$10 to \$500. There also will be dozens of beef packs, processed from animals purchased this summer in support of local youth agriculture. Submitting a ballot enters a co-op member in the prize drawings.

Voting this year opens on Aug. 13 and runs through Sept. 13. Members may vote using a mail-in ballot, via a secure portal online, or through the SmartHub account management app. To request a mail-in ballot, members should call the co-op's independent voting contractor, Survey and Ballot Systems, at 888-401-0169.

As a community-focused organization, Crawford Electric Cooperative is led by a board of nine locally elected consumer-members, who understand and listen to the community. The board sets policy and develops long-range goals, always safeguarding the interests of fellow co-op members. Each year, one-third of the board is up for election.

Three three-year board positions – one from each of the co-op's three geographic districts – are up for election at each annual meeting. The expiring director positions currently are held by Justin "Bink" Blankenship of Sullivan (District 1), Doug Murphy of Bourbon (District 2) and Jim Cottrell of Cherryville (District 3).

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.