



Ozark Border Electric Cooperative

October 2025

Owned by those served

Annual Membership Meeting August 8, 2025

Ozark Border Electric Cooperative's Annual Membership Meeting was held on Friday, August 8, 2025, at the cooperative headquarters in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Once again, we hosted registration and voting at our four sub-offices in the days leading up to our drive-thru event in Poplar Bluff. In total 2,743 members attended the meeting. During the meeting four members were elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Cooperative. The following were those elected:

1. Jordan Collins – Ellsinore – District 1
2. Judy Lunsford – Poplar Bluff – District 2
3. Bill Hager – Harviell – District 3
4. Chad Payne – Puxico – District 4

There is a total of twelve members who serve on the Board and the other eight directors are as follows:

1. Darrell Atchison – Ellsinore – District 1
2. Vacant – District 3
3. Curtis Clark – Puxico – District 4
4. Jim Hover – Harviell – District 2
5. Dennis LeGrand – Poplar Bluff – District 2
6. Dewayne Ligons – Ellsinore – District 1
7. Chad Parker – Campbell – District 4
8. Lee Wright – Qulin – District 3

At the conclusion of the annual membership meeting, the Board held a reorganization meeting and elected the following officers;

Jim Hover, President
Judy Lunsford, Vice President
Curtis Clark, Secretary/Treasurer

In that same meeting, the Board selected Derek Boyers to complete the unexpired term of Charles Bunting in District 3, who had resigned the previous month. Board President, Darrell Atchison thanked everyone for their participation in the business of the cooperative and highlighted the following items from 2024 and 2025:



*Darrell Atchison
OBEC Board President*

- Voting and registration at our four suboffices in advance of the Annual Meeting has proven to be popular, and involvement by the membership continued to increase in both 2024 and 2025.
- The Cooperative refunded over \$1.1 million in capital credits to our members in 2024, and another \$1.8 million in 2025.
- Extreme weather events in both years resulted in nearly \$5 million of damage to the cooperative's distribution system. He stated that we are working with FEMA to offset some of those costs and thanked our sister coops in Missouri who provided assistance.

He also stated that the Cooperative's aggressive and innovative approach to right-of-way clearing in recent years was producing amazing results in terms of reliability and cost savings, but that Ozark Border continues to deal with cost and supply chain issues that have developed in recent years. Despite the latter, the cooperative continues to be one of the largest in Missouri and still ranks among the lowest in the state when it comes to operating expense per consumer.



*David Schremp
OBEC General Manager*

General Manager David Schremp talked about what was driving the cost of power and the recent rate increases the membership has seen. He referenced articles he had written in the Rural Missouri magazine earlier this year regarding the Missouri 3-tier system and the cost components of the power OBEC sells its members. Schremp stated that increased demand for power during extreme heat and cold events is driving the need for more power plants, thus significantly impacting current costs.