

# MINUTES OF 2025 MEETING

Wharton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. held its 87th annual membership meeting Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at the El Campo Middle School (ECMS) in El Campo, Texas. The school was chosen for its capability of allowing numerous vehicles in the registration line without hindering through traffic on the street. On May 1, 2025, each member of the cooperative was mailed, in the 87th Annual Meeting brochure, an Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members to be held May 28, 2025.

Considering the continuing success of drive-through annual meetings over the past five years, the Board of Directors of Wharton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. voted to again hold the 2025 annual membership meeting as a "drive-through." No meal was served.

Registration began at 3:38 PM. Upon entering the ECMS driveway, members paused at one of two registration tents where WCEC employees registered members and gave them a ballot that consisted of the Election of Directors and approval of the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting, the 2024 Financial Report, and the President's Message and Manager's Report.

Members then drove to the front of the building for the second stop. Here each voting member received an attendance gift of an extension cord. Any children in the vehicle received a "pop-it" toy. As members continued driving forward, the third and last stop was the ballot drop-off area. Here the Ballot Committee collected the ballots, and members then exited the parking lot.

At 7:00pm sharp, no further entries were allowed into the parking lot. Any members still in line were allowed to register and vote.

After all ballots had been collected, they were directed to the WCEC Thomas Edison Room to count the ballots with the assistance of Cynthia Hernandez, Manager of Accounting. The Ballot Committee consisted of Gabriel Villareal, District 1; Madelyn Zbranek, District 2; Tisha Zalman, District 3; Robert Schmidt, District 4; Sherri Hardin, District 5; Donna Wessels, District 6; Travis Cobb, District 7; Mary Lou Ellett, District 8; and Cathy Dornak, District 9.

The Director Nominees were: District 1 – Randy Turner and Tracy Floyd, Incumbent; District 4 – Matt Lutringer, Incumbent and Rick Graff; District 7 – Ryan Reck and John Roach, Incumbent.

After all ballots had been counted, Ballot Committee Chairman Gabriel Villareal certified winners of the Director Election. Those elected by simple majority vote were:

- District 1 – Tracy Floyd, Incumbent
- District 4 – Matt Lutringer, Incumbent
- District 7 – John Roach, Incumbent

General Manager/CEO Gary Raybon notified all candidates of the results.

The Approval Ballots were tallied with the following results:

- The Minutes of the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting were approved.
- The 2024 Financial Report was approved.
- The President's Message and Manager's Report were approved.

Each registered member will receive a \$20.00 bill credit applied to the June billing period. A drawing for a total of thirty (30) prizes took place Thursday morning, May 29th, at the WCEC headquarters office on Facebook Live. All entries were included for the final grand prize drawings. Grand prize winners were: \$100 free electricity – Gary Kemberling; \$150 free electricity – Garland Blaha; \$200 free electricity – St. Procopius Cemetery; \$300 free electricity – George "Buddy" Dornak, Jr.

The final count of voting members was 933 – an all-time high record in the history of Wharton County Electric Cooperative annual meetings.