

MINUTES OF 2024 MEETING

Wharton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. held its 86th annual membership meeting Wednesday, May 29, 2024 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, 2024, each member of the cooperative was mailed, in the 86th Annual Meeting brochure, an Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members to be held May 29, 2024.

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

Registration began at 3:30 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 2023 Annual Membership Meeting, the 2023 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 a digital clock/phone charger. Any children in the vehicle received a coloring book, crayons, and a snack.

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, and Mary Arredondo, Manager of Consumer Services to assist if needed. The Ballot Committee consisted of Joey Polak, District 1; Madelyn Zbranek, District 2; Keith Koudela, District 3; Debbie Lutringer, District 4; Lloyd Klatt, District 5; Nancy Lilie, District 6; Cheryl Roach, District 7; Mary Lou Ellett, District 8; and Nancy Pfeil, District 9.

The Director Nominees were: District 3 – Gary Charbula; Judy Peter, Incumbent; District 6 – Gus Wessels, Jr., Incumbent; Hector Gutierrez; District 9 – George "Buddy" Dornak, Jr., Incumbent, Gary Lamberth.

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

- District 3 – Gary Charbula
- District 6 – Gus Wessels, Jr.
- District 9 – George "Buddy" Dornak, Jr.

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

The Approval Ballots were tallied with the following results:

- The Minutes of the 2023 Annual Membership Meeting were approved.
- The 2023 Financial Report was approved.
- The President's Message and Manager's Report were approved.

Each registered member will receive a \$20.00 bill credit that will be applied to the June billing period. A drawing for twenty-seven (27) prizes took place on Thursday, May 30th 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 – Diamond Cleaning Equipment; \$150 free electricity – Wayne Kubala; \$200 free electricity – Daniel Foytik; \$300 free electricity – Greg Montello.

The final count of voting members was another successful record of 840.