

Watt's Happening



A Publication of the Red River Valley Rural Electric Association August 2022

Drive-Thru and Vote at Annual Meeting Aug. 8

AGENDA

1. Quorum Call
2. Notice of Meeting and Place of Meeting
3. 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Election Results
5. Reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

We're Getting Ready!

(Right) Start the drive-thru at the east (lower) entrance of REA Headquarters. **To avoid backup on Highway 32, please do not arrive before 2 p.m. but do try to arrive before 5 p.m.** **(Below)** As in 2021, co-op employees will hand out goody bags.

In drive-thru fashion, Red River Valley REA members will register and vote in the 2022 Trustee Election from 2 p.m.-7 p.m. August 8, at REA Headquarters, 8574 State Hwy 32, Marietta, OK.

Returning home, members may watch the 85th Annual

Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on their computers or other devices.

The meeting will be live-streamed from the Co-op Training Room to Red River Valley REA on YouTube, or Facebook, or the website, rrvrea.com.

The agenda for the Annual Meeting is at the left.



Cash Rebates in 2022 For Energy Efficient Purchases

Red River Valley REA will issue cash rebates, while funds last in 2022, to qualifying members who replace or install new energy efficient air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps or electric water heaters.

Here are examples of rebate amounts:

- New Geothermal:** \$1,000/ton up to 5 tons*
- Retrofit Geothermal:** \$500/ton up to 5 tons*
- Air Source Heat Pump:** \$200/ton up to 5 tons*
- GTE Water Heater (Gas to Electric):** \$250 per site*
- New NC Electric Water Heater:** \$250 per site*

*Minimum energy ratings apply (Continued on page 7)

DEAR MEMBER

This is your official notice of the 85th Annual Meeting of the Red River Valley Rural Electric Association. The business meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Monday, August 8, 2022, at Red River Valley REA Headquarters, 8574 State Highway 32, Marietta, OK.

Remote Viewing

The format will be a live stream viewable remotely by members or the public who access the Red River Valley REA website rrvrea.com or Red River Valley REA on Facebook or Red River Valley REA on YouTube.

Registration

Registration for the Annual Meeting will be from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Red River Valley REA. Bringing your personalized registration card (back page) with you saves time.

Voting

Voting at the time and place of registration will be by secret ballot. A member can vote for only one of the two Board candidates on the 2022 ballot.

Each member of the co-op may vote. A member is an individual, business or association that has paid a membership fee for electric service. A husband and wife are considered one member and may cast a single ballot between them. **Note:** The spouse of a member must show proof of marriage and residency.

A member who has more than one account is considered an individual member with one vote.

The person designated in writing by a corporate entity to cast its vote must present the authorization to the election committee at the voting area.

Election Committee

Votes are tallied and the results announced during the meeting by the Credentials and Election Committee. The Committee is appointed by the Board of Trustees and is made up of co-op members. It does not include any Board members or co-op employees. Its decisions are final.



Manager's Message

By Brent Sykora

Handling Price Increases, Conserving Power at Home

Spring storms have been devastating to co-op infrastructure. Red River Valley Rural Electric Association (RRVREA) has lost around 250 poles in 2022 due to tornadoes, straight-line winds, fires, etc.

The volume of loss and where structures are located dictate outage times, and unfortunately some members are off longer than they are accustomed to. I can't say enough about how well the employees of RRVREA embraced the challenge of storm restoration to keep outage times at a bare minimum.

These are challenging times with the high rate of inflation, supply chain issues, and the increased wholesale power costs due to surging fuel prices. With limited supplies, natural gas prices have tripled in price.

It's unfortunate we are having to deal with these costs, and the increases to wholesale power costs are passed

on to the membership in the form of a power cost adjustment (PCA). These pass-through charges go directly to our wholesale power provider, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC).

Conservation is warranted with no near-term certainty of price stabilization. Things as simple as turning lights off when rooms aren't occupied helps. Home appliances such as water heaters, HVAC systems, clothes dryers, ovens, etc. are all heavy consumers of electricity. Shortening the duration of run times as well as limiting your total load during peak times on called peak days are very important.

RRVREA remains in great financial shape and, as a cooperative, in a profitable year we allocate capital credits to our members. This past December, our RRVREA Board of Directors retired around \$1,000,000 in capital credits to the membership.

Taking Pride in New Equipment



(Left) Bryce Bumpas, Lineman, demonstrates the jib and hoist added to a bucket truck. The vehicle-mounted equipment replaces a ground-based pulley system for lifting 300-500 pound transformers onto electric poles.

(Right) Lance Butler, Line Foreman, poses with the compact excavator, a new machine for the co-op. It replaces hand-shoveling around structures or obstacles when a trench is being dug to install underground electric lines. The excavator often is deployed to complete the trench cut started by a trenching machine.



Meet the Candidates for District III, Office 2



1973-1975. He grew up in Roff and has been married 53 years to his wife Junita. They have two grown children and six grandchildren.

Childs has served on the Johnston County Cattlemen's Association, Farm Bureau, Fair Board, and Peanut Cooperative, as well as the Mannsville School Board.

Dan Childs established his Red River Valley REA membership and his farm 44 years ago in Mannsville. The operation specializes in no-till farming and stocker cattle.

He also serves as a consultant with the Noble Research Institute, specializing in economics. He is qualified by the IRS as an Enrolled Agent and by the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers as an Accredited Farm Manager.

Childs holds bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University. He served in the U.S. Army from

He has chaired state and regional boards of the Farm Credit System. He teaches a men's Sunday School class and is a deacon.

"I have always admired co-ops for their service and dedication to rural America. Red River Valley REA has new challenges as society places more emphasis on renewable energy to generate electricity and to meet the increased demand for charging electric vehicles. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve on the REA Board to help solve these challenges and position the co-op for continued success," Childs said.



Pepper Melton and his wife Exa own a cow-calf operation near Lebanon, where they have been Red River Valley REA members for the past 18 years.

The son of Don "Salty" Melton and Dana Wyatt, Pepper was raised in Marshall County.

He graduated from Madill H.S. in 1998 then attended Murray State College.

In 2004, he established Melton Construction, which specializes in metal buildings. Recently, his son Riggan, age 20, joined him in the business. The Meltons also have daughters Kyann, 21, and Emery, 15.

Melton started a tree service, then a fence company,

before forming the metal building company.

Until 2009, he traveled with Flying C Rodeo Company, working rodeos and fighting bulls. He won 'Bullfighter of the Year' three times in the United Professional Rodeo Association, and he served as its contract personnel director.

He cited Oakview Baptist Church as another important influence in his youth.

The sum of his experiences and self-employment, Melton said, is "confidence in making decisions, problem solving, thinking things through, and doing proper planning."

Melton currently serves on the county office committee for the federal Farm Service Agency. He stated his reason for running for the REA Board:

"I feel at the age of 41, this is a perfect time to get involved with one of the most essential parts of our lives. I look forward to the knowledge and experience I will gain from the current directors to assure that I am an asset to REA customers for years to come."

Candidates Running Unopposed

The following incumbents are running unopposed for three-year terms on the Red River Valley REA Board:

District I, Office 2: Johnny Dewbre

Johnny Dewbre has filed for re-election to District 1, Office 2. Dewbre was first elected to the office in 2016.

He and his wife operate a cow-calf/stocker business and raise wheat south of Ringling. Dewbre retired from Michelin Tire Company in 2010 following 30 years of service.

He retains close ties to the Courtney/Petersburg community where he grew up, and he is also active in Ringling volunteerism.



Johnny Dewbre

District II, Office 2: Jerry McGill

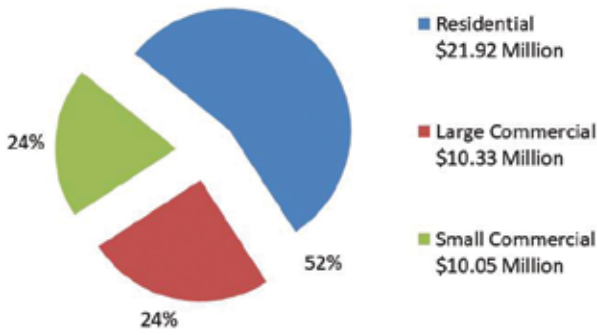
Jerry McGill, Marietta, who spent his career as a general contractor, is seeking re-election to District II, Office 2.

He has been a member of the REA Board for 33 years. He is a former Love County Commissioner. He is a past president of the Marietta Lions' Club and former administrator of the City of Marietta. McGill started his business in 1975, specializing in preparing foundations and putting up metal buildings.

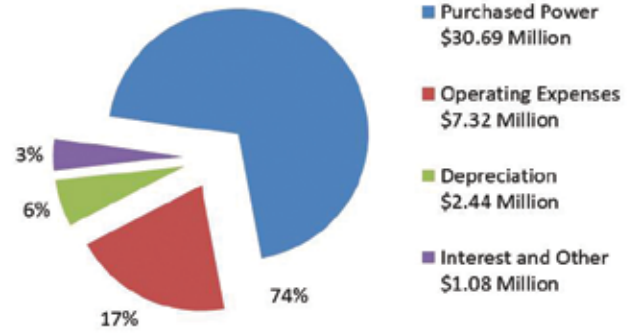


Jerry McGill

WHERE THE DOLLAR COMES FROM



WHERE THE DOLLAR GOES



Red River Valley REA Balance Sheet

What We Own:

Lines, Buildings, Equipment	
Construction work in progress	
<i>Total property</i>	
Less: Reserve for Depreciation	
<i>Net Value of Property</i>	
Investments Due from Associated Organizations	
Cash on Hand	
Owed to Us for Electrical Service	
Material & Supplies in Stock	
Deferred Debits	
Owed to us for Loans	
Other Assets	
TOTAL ASSETS	

2021

2020

85,736,610	83,071,114
499,264	-70,407
86,235,874	83,000,707
-27,999,143	-26,044,385
58,236,731	56,956,322
16,673,274	16,012,837
2,051,240	2,695,448
5,714,825*	2,940,218
45,712	67,208
4,725,902*	237,315
124,687	145,534
115,800	72,899
\$87,688,171	\$79,127,781
37,501,971*	31,888,681
118,050	120,536
2,947,948	3,018,993
1,494,682	1,144,902
861,143	504,037
4,041,284	3,023,489
46,965,078	39,700,638
56,585	55,640
35,975,817	35,012,662
378,053	415,445
4,312,638	3,943,396
40,723,093	39,427,143
\$87,688,171	\$79,127,781

What We Owe:

Long Term Debt
Line of Credit
Accounts Payable
Consumer Deposits
Deferred Credits
Other Liabilities
TOTAL OWED

Our Net Worth:

Membership Fees
Patronage Capital
Other Comprehensive Income
Other equities
<i>Total Equity</i>
Total Liabilities & Net Worth

*The balance sheet shows substantial increases in "owed to us for electrical service," "deferred debits" and "long term debt." These increases relate to WFEC's five year program for recovering \$6,787,463 from the co-op for the increased cost of power during Storm URI, the severe cold weather event of February 2021.

Red River Valley REA Income Statement

	2021	2020
TOTAL OPERATIONAL REVENUE RECEIVED:		
Residential, Commercial, and Other Sales and Fees	\$42,536,028	\$37,086,353
Cost of Electric Service:		
Purchased Power	30,694,110	25,082,837
Line Operations & Maintenance	4,024,740	3,889,823
Consumer Accounting & Collecting	1,439,261	1,425,159
Administrative & General Expenses	1,857,249	1,847,010
Depreciation	2,444,440	2,401,294
Interest on Long Term Debt	1,024,023	1,167,579
Other Interest and Deductions	41,124	35,785
Taxes	19,434	17,577
TOTAL COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE	\$41,544,381	\$35,867,064
Patronage Capital & Operating Margins:		
<i>Net Operating Margins (Total Revenue Minus Total Cost)</i>	991,647	1,219,289
Nonoperating Margins Including Interest & Other Income	73,835	1,400,468
G&T & Other Capital Credits	834,949	785,869
NET MARGINS FOR YEAR	\$1,900,431	\$3,405,626
Plus: Patronage Capital at Beginning of Year	35,012,662	32,998,702
Retirement of Capital Credits	-937,276	-1,391,666
TOTAL PATRONAGE CAPITAL END OF YEAR	\$35,975,817	\$35,012,662

To ask questions or receive a copy of the complete financial statements, contact the co-op at (580) 276-3364.

System Statistics

	2021	2020	2019
Meters Served	17,077	16,601	16,263
Miles of Line	2,806	2,795	2,787
Total kWh Purchased	457,630,050	433,907,066	449,400,370
Average Monthly Residential Usage-kWh	1,103	1,097	1,133
Average Monthly Residential Bill	\$121	\$115	\$116
Peak Usage (kw) summer	88,819	87,282	84,407
Peak Usage (kw) winter	135,946	86,300	100,136
Full Time Employees	40	40	40
Average Wholesale Power Cost-kWh	\$.065	\$.058	\$.056
Average Residential Price-kWh	\$.110	\$.105	\$0.103

Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting

The Eighty-fourth Annual Meeting of the members of Red River Valley Rural Electric Association was held virtually at the Red River Valley REA Headquarters in Marietta, Oklahoma, at 7:30 p.m. on the 9th day of August 2021. President Larry Hicks welcomed cooperative members watching online and the meeting was called to order.

President Hicks declared a quorum present with a preliminary count of one thousand thirty-six (1,036) members registered in person (final registered member count: 1,130), these being in excess of five (5) percent of all 11,238 members of Red River Valley Rural Electric Association. Upon call from the President, co-op employee Frank L. Lornes gave the invocation.

President Hicks then called on Johnny Dewbre, Secretary of the Cooperative, to present and read copies of the Notice of the Meeting and Proof of Due Mailing thereof. This Notice and Proof to be attached to the minutes of this meeting. Dewbre brought for consideration and action the Minutes of the Eighty-third Annual Meeting of the Members held on August 12, 2019. He stated that a copy of these minutes had been included with the 2019 & 2020 Independent Auditor's Annual Report and mailed to all members on July 27, 2021 within the Watt's Happening. Dewbre then declared the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes approved based on a majority vote by the membership.

Election of Trustees

President Hicks then called upon Willis McKay, Chairman of the Credentials and Election Committee appointed by the Board of Trustees on May 25, 2021 as required by Article III-Section 3 of the official bylaws of the Cooperative. McKay recognized the members of the Committee as follows:

Willis McKay, Chairman; Francis Nelson, Co-Chairman; Ramona Willis, Secretary; Wetona McCarty, and Terry Eldridge.

McKay then gave a report of the Committee's actions prior to the Annual Meeting. He reported that the Committee met on July 16, 2021 in the boardroom of the Cooperative to discuss the voting process and to examine the records of Nomination by Petition and the Filings of Notification and Declaration of those persons standing for election at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

McKay reported that the Committee found and declared of record that the following named petitioners had filed all required documents to stand for election as required by the Cooperative's bylaws for District 3 Office 1 seat:

Dan Childs, Thomas Herndon, Brian Muncrief, and John Runyan.

Next, McKay reported that the Committee found and declared of record that the following named incumbent board members of Red River Valley Rural Electric Association had filed a Notification and Declaration to stand for election as required by the Cooperative's bylaws:

District 1	Office 1	Harold Lester
District 2	Office 1	King Martin
District 3	Office 1	OPEN

McKay declared that the Election was conducted in all respects according to the rules and regulations as set forth in the bylaws of the Cooperative, under complete jurisdiction of the properly formed said Committee; the voting being conducted with printed ballots being issued and cast during the hours of 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm on the 9th day of August 2021 for District 3, Office 1 director.

McKay then declared of record that the results of said voting was as follows:

Dan Childs	167 total votes
Thomas Herndon	247 total votes
Brian Muncrief	598 total votes
John Runyan	74 total votes

Upon certification of the election results by the Elections & Credentials Committee it was determined that Brian Muncrief won the election for the District 3-Office 1 seat with 598 votes.

Financial Report

President Hicks then called Roger Rhoades, Director of Accounting, to present the 2019 and 2020 Audited Financial Statements for consideration and approval. Mr. Rhoades stated that each member had received the financial report by mail along with the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting. He asked for any questions or comments concerning the report. There being none, he declared the 2019 and 2020 Financial Statements approved based on a majority vote by the membership.

Manager's Report

The President next called CEO Brent Sykora to give the Manager's Report. Sykora welcomed the members to the Annual Meeting and expressed appreciation to the Love County Sheriff's Office, Love County Commissioners, Highway Department, Credentials & Elections Committee, Ballot Counters, Ken Delashaw, Computing Edge, and the REA Employees for everything they have done to help with this Annual Meeting. He also thanked the cooperative members for being allowed to serve on their behalf in such a great organization.

Sykora next introduced the directors of the Cooperative and their spouses. He also remembered Randy Hagood (board member) and his wife Martha who both passed away earlier this year.

Sykora briefly spoke on the two major historical events that have happened since our last Annual Meeting in 2019: the coronavirus pandemic and the polar vortex winter weather event. With RRVREA being an essential service provider, the employees worked hard through both of these events to make sure there were no major issues. He thanked the employees for their hard work and dedication to serve our members and thanked the members for their vital role of conserving energy during the polar vortex.

He said that during the 12 days of sub-zero temperatures, the price per MMBtu of natural gas skyrocketed to record prices and all Oklahoma utilities will be faced with a pass-thru of these increased costs in the near future. These costs will be of no financial gain to RRVREA or our wholesale power supplier, WFEC. RRVREA has always had some of the lowest rates in the state of Oklahoma, but due to these increased costs and narrowing margins a detailed cost of service study has shown that a limited rate adjustment is necessary.

Other Business

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned. President Hicks then announced that the prize drawing for the grand prize and the cash prize would be streamed the next morning at 10:00 am on RRVREA's Facebook page. All other prizes would be drawn after that and the winners would be posted on the co-op's Facebook page and contacted. These minutes were recorded by Ashley Hambrick at the request of Johnny Dewbre, Secretary of the Cooperative.

Your Personalized Registration Card Is on Reverse

Bring this card to the co-op between the hours of 2 p.m.- 7 p.m. to register for voting and prize drawings and to receive your free gift.

CAUTION: To avoid backup on Highway 32, please do not arrive before 2 p.m. but do try to arrive before 5 p.m.

**Red River Valley REA
Drive-Thru Annual Meeting
MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022
8574 State Hwy 32, Marietta, OK**

**NOTE: Co-op Business Office
Closes at Noon, August 8**

Apprentices Complete Training Schools

Chance Lunsford and Randy Stowers recently completed OAEC Pole Climbing School. They, along with Felipe Reyes, Dalton Brown, and Paul Downs also completed WFEC Switch Training School. All are Red River Valley REA apprentice lineworkers.

The classwork included theory and practice in climbing electric poles and using switching equipment to manage the flow of electricity. Wesley Elmore, Director of Loss Control, oversees apprentice training.

SmartHub Is for All

Any REA member can gain access to helpful features of rrvrea.com simply by establishing an email address and password at the site. Click on View or Pay Your Bill to comply. That opens one of the best attractions, the Smart Hub Application.

SmartHub's home screen provides an overview of your account information and displays the total balance. Any alerts, such as notification of a delinquent bill, are seen there as well. Links on the screen allow you to quickly navigate to various sections of the application, such as to make a

payment, view past billings, and view payment methods.

Another SmartHub module is "My Usage." Click there to review your past and current electric usage by day, month, or year. Compare usage for two billing periods side by side.

A black line on each chart plots the average daily outdoor temperature. Usually, it is temperature spikes that drive extra electric usage and create higher bills than expected.

The control the consumer has is to set your thermostat a degree or two lower on very cold days or a degree or two higher on very hot days. This will limit the spikes in energy consumption and help keep your monthly usage a predictable level amount.

Rodney Blankenship, Member Services Lead helps REA members learn to use SmartHub.

Beat the Peak Is Voluntary

Thousands of members have signed up on rrvrea.com to voluntarily help the co-op reduce the use of electricity during designated peak hours. Thank you!

Under "Beat the Peak,"

participants receive e-mail, Facebook, or text notification in advance of declared peak power usage days of the summer. (System Statistics on page 5 shows actual peak power usage).

The program is completely voluntary. There is no fee for signing up and no disadvantage in personal electric rates either way.

The volunteers simply endeavor to shift their use of electrical appliances to before or after the hours of 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on each peak day.

Lowering peak demand enables the co-op to buy wholesale power cheaper for the following year. Over time, this translates into lower electric rates to pass on to all members.

"Western Farmers, our power supplier, calls at least three peak days every year, so we know they're coming sometime," said KorDale Lornes, Director of Member Services.

Once enrolled, participation is automatically renewed year to year unless the member opts out.

Rebates - (Continued from page 1)

The website rrvrea.com/member-services-rebates has more information. Important: Before making a purchase, call Member Services at (580) 276-3364 to confirm the product's eligibility.



RED RIVER VALLEY

P.O. Box 220
Marietta, OK 73448

PRSR STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
Tulsa, OK
Permit No. 2146

Annual Meeting Registration

2-7 p.m. August 8, 2022

8574 State Hwy 32,

Marietta, OK

- Please bring this card -

MEMBER BARCODE

RED RIVER VALLEY REA ANNUAL MEETING DRIVE-THRU

2 TO 7 P.M. MONDAY, AUGUST 8

at Co-op Headquarters

8574 State Hwy 32, Marietta, OK

100 Adult, Kid Prizes In Drawing

Every member who registers and is eligible to vote at the Drive-Thru Annual Meeting on August 8, 2022, will receive a gift bag from the co-op, containing assorted useful items. In addition, their names will be entered in a drawing for the awarding of valuable door prizes. Here is a partial list of approximately 100 prizes:

- fans
- shop tools
- blenders
- cookware
- microwaves
- electric drills
- crock pots
- coffeemakers
- electric saws
- electric weed eaters
- electric griddles
- wet/dry vacuums

GRAND PRIZE: 2022 Bad Boy Magnum Lawn Mower with a 54" deck.

CASH PRIZE: \$250

REA DOLLARS: 500 REA \$ to apply to electric bills.

KIDS PRIZES: 10 bikes and electronics prizes for kids.

Entry August 8: Entry into the drawing is from 2 to 7 p.m. on August 8, 2022 at co-op headquarters at 8574 State Hwy 32, Marietta, OK. **To stay safe on Hwy 32 try to avoid arriving before 2 p.m. or after 5 p.m.**

Drawing August 9: The drawing for grand and cash prize winners will take place live on the Red River Valley REA Facebook page at 10 a.m. All other drawing winners' names will be posted to the Facebook page, and they will be notified by telephone. They may make plans to pick up their prizes from the co-op.



co-op

CONTACTS

BY PHONE



24 Hour Outage Reports

Toll-Free: 1-800-749-3364
Local: (580) 276-3364

All Other Electric Services

Marietta, OK Office
8574 State Highway 32
P.O. Box 220 (Mail)
(580) 276-3364

Weekdays

7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (lobby)
7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (drive-thru)

Toll-Free 1-800-749-3364

Kingston, OK Branch
801 State Highway 32
(580) 564-1800

Weekdays

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



ONLINE
www.rrvrea.com

