

**2014 Annual Meeting of the Membership  
Gunnison County Electric Association, Inc.  
June 24, 2014**

The 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Gunnison County Electric Assn., Inc. (GCEA) was held Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at the Headquarters Building 37250 West Highway 50 in Gunnison, Colorado.

President Chris Morgan welcomed GCEA's members and guests and noted the attendance of Mr. Joe Danni who has been a member since the cooperative's inception on September 21, 1938.

President Morgan announced registration closed and called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. GCEA Consumer Services Supervisor Dan McDonough led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Morgan introduced Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mike McBride, directors Greg Wiggins (District 1), Chris Morgan himself (District 2), Bart Laemmel (District 3), Steven Schechter (District 4), Paul Hudgeons (District 5), John Vader (District 6), Chuck Cliggett (District 7), and Attorney David Dodero of Hoskin Farina and Kampf.

President Morgan also recognized Tri-State Generation & Transmission (Tri-State) Executive Vice President and General Manager Mike McInnes, Colorado State Representatives Mike McLachlan and Millie Hamner, and Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) Executive Director Kent Singer. President Morgan also acknowledged Executive Director Mike Prom of Western United Electric Supply Corporation (WUE), Donna Wallin of CREA, and Myles Jensen of Tri-State. Additional noted guests included GCEA co-legal counsel Gregg Kampf, CEO Jasen Bronec of Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA), Brian McCormick, board director from United Power, Inc., former GCEA CEO and 39-year employee Mike Wells, and distinguished guest speaker Dr. Duane Vandenbusche.

President Morgan called for quorum determination. Chief Financial Officer Marcia Wireman reported a quorum of 50 was met with 123 members registering.

President Morgan advised the Membership that the Notice of the Annual Meeting was published, along with the 2013 Annual Report, and acknowledged the certificate of mailing to all Members. He also advised that the minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting were previously made available on the GCEA website and per request. These minutes were also available at the registration desk. President Morgan entertained a motion for approval of the 2013 minutes.

**Motion** by member Jerry Long to dispense with the reading of last year's minutes and to approve the June 25, 2013 minutes carried unanimously.

Attorney David Dodero was called to the podium to conduct affirmation of directors. Incumbents Greg Wiggins, District 1, Steven Schechter, District 4, and Paul Hudgeons, District 5, ran unopposed. Mr. Dodero explained GCEA Bylaws, Article II, Section 5.B, allowing for resolution of cancellation of voting in lieu of an uncontested election.

**Motion** by Paul Hird to affirm uncontested incumbents as elected directors carried unanimously.

President Morgan addressed the meeting attendees with examples of trends in the industry, including a move away from coal generation toward renewable resources. President Morgan's presentation included highlights acknowledging the challenges in the energy industry in its attempts to integrate environmental concerns and compliance issues with today's current affordable technology from fossil fuels. President Morgan likened the energy business to a class IV river rapid.

Audit committee chair Greg Wiggins was called to the podium and pleased to announce a clean 2013 financial audit without exception as determined by independent audit firm Schmidt & Co.

President Morgan acknowledged scholarship committee chair Bart Laemmel and asked Dan McDonough to provide the scholarship report. Mr. McDonough noted contributors to the scholarship fund, including unclaimed capital credits and the Operation Roundup funds. Mr. McDonough acknowledged the efforts and appreciation for the scholarship committee including chair Bart Laemmel. Mr. McDonough noted recipients of the 2014 Washington DC tour, Calvin Sabrowski, Gunnison High School; Lindsay Johnson, Crested Butte Community School; and Leila Nichols, Crested Butte Community School. Youth Camp participant Kathryn Ketcham was also recognized. Mr. McDonough announced the 48 names of the 2014 scholarship recipients and asked each attending recipient to stand in recognition.

President Morgan introduced and welcomed CEO Mike McBride. CEO McBride's entertaining demonstration included comparison of 100% of GCEA membership versus the 80% who have indicated support for renewable energy resources versus the 40% who are willing to pay more for those greener options versus the 3.5% of members who participate in

GCEA's "green" power program. Safety glasses for the nearest seated guests were required for the demonstration. (Safety first!)

Mike McBride expressed that GCEA does not want opportunities for GCEA programs to be missed hence he welcomed contact for questions and interest. He explained the opportunity to utilize SmartHub; e-bill/ paperless billing; energy savings calculator, energy audits, energy rebates via Tri-State programs including appliances and LED bulbs, Marathon water heaters, ConvectAir space heaters and Steffes electric thermal storage heaters; income-qualified weatherization program; commercial lighting rebates; green power blocks; net-metering; community solar garden; demo projects and the data GCEA collects and shares for member information and interest.

Mike concluded with acknowledgement that the GCEA Board of Directors consistently ask themselves what is best for our members and he assured the members of GCEA employee's same dedication as well. He noted 42 employee ideas for improvements in 2013 which generated \$380,000 in savings for members. Twenty-one ideas have been implemented so far for 2014 in \$194,000 in cost saving innovations.

CEO McBride introduced admired longtime local and Western State Colorado University professor of history, Dr. Duane Vandebusch. As he did so, Mike relayed that Dr. Vandebusch's presence generated members' unsolicited RSVPs for the first time in the cooperative's recollection.

Dr. Vandebusch began with recognition for GCEA Manager of External Affairs Vicki Spencer, author of GCEA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary history book.

Dr. Vandebusch proceeded to share his personal and earliest memories of the Rural Electrification Act developed under the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Administration's 1935 New Deal program. His father was a Michigan Upper Peninsula dairy farmer in 1944 and told his son the greatest invention for the farmer was the REA. Dr. Vandebusch relayed further stories of family life without electric power and said that after REA infrastructure was installed the power became a luxury.

Continuing with an overview of the area's history and the history of electric power, Dr. Vandebusch spoke to the challenging lives of folks in 1870 Gunnison Country settlements having developed long before electricity. He noted that reliable power finally made sustainability possible in the valley.

In conclusion, Dr. Vandebusch highlighted eight key factors, some historical, geographical and economical, which all contribute to our area's sustainability. He noted these as: geography; water; the Denver Rio Grande Railroad; federal guardianship of Gunnison Country land; mining; our cattle industry; tourism; and finally, the eighth key and biggest impact on the Gunnison Country is electricity.

President Morgan returned to the podium to continue the remaining business of the meeting. He asked for and noted there was no unfinished business or new business.

CEO McBride oversaw the prize drawing with assistance from Dan McDonough, a young audience member, and GCEA operations personnel.

The Grand Prize of \$300 was awarded to Jack Cummins.

President Morgan asked for a hand of applause for GCEA employees. There being no further business, President Chris Morgan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

/ John P. Vader /  
President

/ Paul Hudgeons /  
Secretary

July 28, 2015  
Date