



La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

May 16, 2015

NEWS

Results of LPEA director elections announced at Annual Meeting

Two incumbents re-elected; two new directors join the board

DURANGO, Colo. – Proving once again that every vote counts, results of director elections for La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) were announced at the electric cooperative’s Annual Meeting, held Saturday, May 16, 2015, at Pagosa Springs High School.

Incumbents Bob Formwalt and Britt Bassett retained their seats in Districts 1 and 3, respectively, with new candidate Karen Barger unseating incumbent Heather Erb in District 4. In the District 2 race between two new candidates, Kohler McInnis was voted in over Gregg Dubit.

In accordance with LPEA’s bylaws, annually one seat in each of LPEA’s four districts comes up for election.

Out of the 31,829 ballots mailed, 7,209 LPEA members cast votes for an approximately 22.6 percent return. This is down from the 25 percent ballot return in 2014, but on par with the 22.5 percent return in 2013.

In District 1, Archuleta County, 1,578 of the approximately 7,900 LPEA members returned ballots with incumbent Formwalt receiving 1,143 votes and challenger Nicholas “Koli” Kazarinoff receiving 435.

With 8,360 ballots mailed in District 2, south and west La Plata County, results of the new candidate competition showed McInnis with 1,083 votes cast to 769 cast for Dubit. District 2 incumbent Jerry McCaw did not seek re-election in 2015.

In District 3, the City of Durango, incumbent Bassett received 1,144 votes with challenger Jim Wotkyns receiving 775 votes. District 3 included approximately 7,600 ballots mailed.

Challenger Barger received 936 votes to incumbent Heather Erb's 914 in District 4, which covers north and east La Plata County. Approximately 7,900 ballots were mailed in District 4.

Some 220 attended the LPEA Annual Meeting, with 185 voting members registering. Balloting and tallying was overseen by the La Plata County Clerk's office, retained by the LPEA Board of Directors as an independent third party.

At the Annual Meeting, following welcome remarks from Board President Michael Rendon, reports were presented by CEO Michael Dreyspring, Board Treasurer Mark Garcia, Round Up Foundation representative Bruce Keuning, Colorado Rural Electric Association delegate Jeff Berman, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association delegate Joe Wheeling, and attorney Barry Spear.

Service awards were also presented to board members Jeff Berman (10 years), Bob Formwalt (15 years) and Davin Montoya (25 years). Jerry McCaw, who was not able to attend the meeting was nonetheless recognized for his 15 years of service to the cooperative.

"As a rural electric cooperative, LPEA exists to serve its members. Everyone has an economic interest and voice in LPEA's future," said CEO Dreyspring. "We thank those who cast their votes and took time to participate in the cooperative process."

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the LPEA Board of Directors is Wednesday, May 20, 2015, beginning at 9 a.m. at LPEA's headquarters, 45 Stewart St. (Bodo Park), Durango. Per the bylaws, officers will be elected.

LPEA, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative established in 1939, provides to its more than 31,000 members, with in excess of 42,000 meters, safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost, while being environmentally responsible.

For additional information, contact LPEA at 970.247.5786 or visit www.lpea.coop.

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