

# 2022 Annual Drive-Thru Meeting

## A Message From Your Cooperative Leadership

On behalf of the Board of Directors of your electric co-op, Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, Inc., we welcome you to your 78th annual meeting drive-thru style on Tuesday, August 16th beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The drive-thru meeting last year was a success, and we had a record number of registered members. Pre-Covid, we struggled with how to get more members to participate in the annual meeting and be a part of the democratic process by voting directors in each year. We thrive on being locally owned and locally controlled. So it was exciting to see so many members participate in 2021, which led the Board to continue with the drive-thru meeting this year. Last year, we were not expecting the high turnout, and some members waited in line longer than expected. We have addressed the bottlenecks and hope to have a smoother time this year. Find more details on what to expect on page 3 and 12 of this annual report and page 2 and 11 of our August Cooperative Connections magazine.



**Paul Voigt**  
President  
District #1



**Stephanie Horst**  
General Manager

Now to review 2021. The Treasurer report is on page 6, and there you will see we ended the year financially strong with a clean audit. Even though at the beginning of the year Covid restrictions were rapid nationwide, it did not stop the growth. We installed 78 new services and sold 1.6 million more kilowatt hours than in 2020. Most of the new services were residential and campgrounds in the Gavin's Point area.

This area continues to require more of our attention. Because of the quick load growth, our distribution system was tested with the load demand during the 100+°F 2021 July 4th weekend. During an outage on one circuit, we had to transfer load around to handle the demand needs. To improve reliability, we invested over \$100,000 in cable upgrades in that area to handle current and future load demands. This event also got the attention of our power supplier, East River Power Cooperative (East River), who was

closely monitoring the Gavin's substation that day. We have additional load that is being added to the Gavin's area and we are working with East River on how we can continue to provide resilient, reliable power to our members. Upgrades to their transmission system and the B-Y Electric distribution system will be needed.

**The average B-Y Electric member had power 99.998% of the time in 2021.**

New services and line upgrades kept the linemen busy, but they also completed line patrol, fixed items discovered during line patrol, tree trimming, pole change outs from the pole testing, load control receiver change outs, meter change outs, and numerous other items. I commend the linemen for their hard work. They accomplished a lot in the year and did it without any injuries. The average B-Y Electric member had power 99.998% of the time in 2021. This reliability is attributed to the efforts of the operations department.

With every bit of work the operations department does, the office department processes the necessary documentation that each job creates. This is where their efforts are measured with clean audits that look over all aspects of our accounting. We can't say enough about the high-quality employees serving the B-Y Electric members.

In 2021, we focused on more member engagement since COVID distanced everyone in 2020. Since hiring Communications/Marketing Coordinator Jaclyn Arens, we were able to launch several projects. One was the Cooperative Connections Card that was sent to members in April 2021. This card provides local and national discounts saving our members money and supporting local businesses. Check out our website for the current list, and if you are a business owner, contact Jaclyn about being added. Another project was rebranding as B-Y Electric and launching a new logo. Members, employees, and outside entities were all referring to us as B-Y Electric, so it only made sense to call ourselves that. Other member engagement included participating in local parades, putting on electrical safety presentations at schools and 4-H programs, and classroom visits with Co-ops in the Classroom.

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## Cooperative Leadership Cont. & Agenda

An independent cost-of-service study was conducted and then presented to the Board by National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) in March. This information will provide guidance with restructuring current rates and designing future rates. Future load demands on our system from electric vehicles, campgrounds, irrigation systems, and other increased demands may shape the rate design of the future. Demand rates, time-of-use rates, or a combination of each may be the approach to rate design in the future.

February 2021 showed how delicate the electric grid can be with weather events. The Polar Vortex that dipped down into Texas caused the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) market to not have enough generation for the demand causing some blackouts. B-Y Electric was not affected by this, but other South Dakota electric cooperatives were. And this summer MISO, the RTO just to the east of us, expressed that they do not have enough generation to cover the anticipated demand and rolling blackouts may happen.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (Basin) in Bismark, ND is our generation cooperative serving nine Midwestern states. They are taxed with providing energy to the rapid growth in this region, and they continue to invest in new generation to meet our needs. Our power supply generation mix continues to evolve as more renewables are added in with the “All of the Above” energy strategy utilizing coal, natural gas, nuclear and fuel oil to meet our growing electrical needs. The partnership we have with East River, our transmission cooperative, and Basin, our generation cooperative, creates one of the best power supply arrangements and will continue to meet the needs of our members.

At the end of 2021, supply chain issues began to affect us with transformer lead times being over a year and increased material prices. We urge our members to contact us early in your planning process because we cannot guarantee we will be able to get material in a timely manner.

Our mission is to provide cost-effective, safe-reliable electricity to our members, and we take pride in serving our members with top-notch service, and we did just that in 2021. 2022 has been challenging with rising costs and supply

chain issues, but our mission will not change, and serving you, our members, will continue to be our top priority. We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting on Tuesday, August 16th.

*Respectfully,*

**Paul Voigt**, Board President

**Stephanie Horst**, General Manager

## 2022 Annual Meeting Agenda

- 5:30 PM Meeting Begins *broadcast via Facebook Live*
  - Call to Order *Paul Voigt Board President*
- 5:30-7:30 PM Drive-Thru Meeting
  - Registration of Members
  - Election & Democratic Member Participation
- 7:40 Meeting Resumes *broadcast via Facebook Live*
  - Official Business *Paul Voigt*
  - Secretary Business *Dave Sternhagen Board Secretary*
  - Election & Seating of Directors *Shelia Woodward*
  - Other Business *Paul Voigt*
  - Adjournment of Meeting *Paul Voigt*
  - Bill Credit Drawing

## Drive-Thru Meeting Instructions

- 5:30-7:30 PM Drive-Thru Meeting on Lidice St. in Tabor
- Remain in your vehicle and drive through 3 stations
- Station 1: Meeting Registration
- Station 2: Pick up Ballot & Receive Member Gift
- Station 3: Submit Ballot & Collect \$20 Meal Certificate
- Leave meeting by continuing down Lidice St. or turning onto Chicago St.
- We will resume official Annual Meeting business at 7:40 PM via Facebook Live
- We will draw five \$100 bill credit winners via Facebook Live after the Annual Meeting has been adjourned
- Over the next few days after the meeting, we will contact the bill credit winners

*See page 12 for a map of the event and our August 2022 Cooperative Connections Issue for more information.*