

# October is Co-op Month. As a member of our cooperative, you have a say in how we are governed.



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No, it was not Czech Days 2.0 on August 10 in Tabor. It was B-Y Electric's annual meeting. Last year we struggled to get our 50-member quorum, but not this year! 505 registered members attended; this is over 200 more than pre-Covid annual meetings. The Drive-Thru meeting provided two steady lines of cars from the front of our main office to Highway 50.

It was exciting to see the strong showing of our membership, and we appreciate your patience since you may have waited in your cars longer than expected. To be honest, we did not expect this and are curious why a Drive-Thru provided more engagement from our members than the traditional indoor meeting.

Was it the meal certificates or was it the minimal time commitment? Whatever drew 15% of our membership to exercise their democratic rights was a win. What? Democratic rights?

Yes! You, our member-consumers, have a say in how B-Y Electric is locally governed by voting in Directors to represent you at the Board table and voting on the regular business. You received a ballot during the Drive-Thru and voted on whether to approve the cooperative business and Directors for Districts 3 & 5. Both Dave Sykora and John Lillevold were re-elected for a three-year term.

It is fitting to talk about membership and democratic member control, two of the Cooperative Principles, as October is National Co-op month. There are seven cooperative principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness, and service to the greater community good.

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The seven principles are:

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic member control
3. Member's economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training, and information
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. Concern for community

These principles have stood the test of time, but they also provide a framework for the future. B-Y Electric will continue to find ways to support activities around these principles to keep us strong, viable, and relevant to our members.

With all this being said, a cooperative is nothing without its members. The Board of Directors and I thank you for being part of the B-Y Electric cooperative and thank you for showing up for the annual meeting. We look forward to your engagement and support in the future.

**For more information, call our office at (605) 463-2507 or email horst@byelectric.com**

**Attention: Due to the national shortages and long delivery times, it is extremely important that you contact us early with any projects you have going on! Contact us about service upgrades, new bin construction, and any new projects. (605) 463-2507**