

From the Boardroom by Wayne Whitaker, President & CEO

The Board of Directors held meetings on October 21, October 26 and October 27-29 to conduct its regular monthly Board Meeting and special Board Meetings to discuss and review several agenda items. During the meetings, they approved the Minutes of the last Board meeting and accepted the reports of the Attorney, President and Vice Presidents.

Agenda Items Reviewed and Actions Taken

October 21 Meeting:

The Board authorized the use of Logan & Lowrey, LLP, for the Cooperative and its subsidiary in regard to Oklahoma Law.

The Board heard a report by Conexon representatives in regard to the Cooperative's progress on the Rural Development Opportunity Fund

October 26 Meeting:

The Board accepted the patronage capital retirement payment from CRC in the amount of \$337.

The Cooperative was authorized to continue to fund the ERC Loan Program with internally generated capital or loan funds from the Rural Utilities Service Rural Energy Saving Program in accordance with Board Policy and Procedures already in place.

The Board authorized the renewal of the group benefits plan for post-65 retirees through Am Wins.

The 2021 Annual Wage and Salary Schedule for non-union employees was authorized by the Board as prepared by Winston Tan of Intandem, LLC. The Board also authorized increases to the wages and salaries for non-union employees based on performance evaluations and the 2021 Pay Grade Matrix.

The President reported on the Cooperative's involvement in assisting with repairs in Southwest Louisiana in response to recent hurricanes.

The 2020 Christmas Party was canceled because of COVID-19 concerns.

The President reported that during the October AECC/AECI Board meetings, the Distribution Cooperatives voted to support legislation that would provide distribution and G&T Cooperatives the option of becoming self-regulated in lieu of being regulated by the Arkansas Public Service Commission.

The President reported that the NRECA Annual Meeting name is being changed to NRECA PowerXchange..

105 new member applications were approved making the total number of members to date 18,777.

October 27-29 Meeting:

Vice Chairman Warren Plyler was appointed to the Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC) Director position replacing Director Don Stemple.

The Board of Directors unanimously selected Dion Cooper as the next President & CEO of Southwest Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation and Southwest Arkansas Telecommunications and Technology, effective January 1, 2021.