

October 3, 2019

## Co-op Annual Meetings

### Large Crowd Enjoys Southside's 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting

**Southside Electric Cooperative's (SEC) 82nd Annual Meeting** was held Saturday morning, **Sept. 28**, at **Hooper Park** near the Cooperative's **Crewe headquarters**. Each member received a **cutting board** as a gift for attending.

Hundreds of members received **free health screenings, flu shots** and **health information** at the **Health Fair**. Members also visited informational booths on the Co-op's **programs** and **services, safety, engineering, vegetation/ROW management** and **energy efficiency**. SEC also invited **NRECA Co-ops Vote, ODEC, Virginia Clean Cities** and the **Virginia State Beekeepers Association** to provide educational material for attendees.

**Mama Crockett's Cider Donuts** provided doughnuts for those members who arrived early to enjoy with their coffee. **Southbound**, a local favorite, performed throughout the event. Even **LED Lucy** made an appearance and greeted attendees.



**SEC Board members (l-r) Frank Bacon, Earl Currin and Sarah Saunders pose with LED Lucy ahead of the business meeting during SEC's annual meeting at Hooper Park.**

After a first round of door-prize winners, presentation of colors by the **Nottoway County High School ROTC** and performance of the **National Anthem**, the business meeting began. Board Chairman **Dr. Frank Bacon** welcomed attendees and recognized special guests, including state **Sen. Frank Ruff, Del. Tommy Wright, Marcus Harris, CEO of Old Dominion Electric Cooperative**, and VMDAEC CEO **Richard Johnstone**.

**NRECA Youth Tour** participant **Chris Bailey** from **Amelia County High School** shared highlights of his participation in the **Washington Youth Tour**.

In their addresses, Board Chair **Dr. Frank Bacon** and President & CEO **Jeff Edwards** updated the membership on the **developments of the past year**.

Announcing that a quorum of **1,824 members** was present in person or by proxy, Cooperative attorney **Frank Rennie** announced the re-election of board members **Sarah Saunders** from District I, **Dr. Frank Bacon** from District II and **Brenda Johnson** from District III.

The day's festivities ended with more **door-prize drawings** and the co-op's **famous barbecued chicken lunch**.

**Congratulations to SEC on a successful year and annual meeting!**

*-Report by Lauren Irby, Southside Electric Cooperative Communications Specialist.*

### High Tech Is Focus of Prince George's 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Prince George Electric Cooperative** is doing what it has done for **80 years** — **meeting its members' needs**. It's just that it is doing so in a more **high-tech** way.

That was one of the messages as about **300 members** and guests gathered **Sept. 30** at the co-op's **Waverly headquarters** for the **80th annual meeting**.

High on the agenda was an update on **Ruralband**, the co-op's initiative that is bringing **high-speed, fiber-to-the-home internet service** to its unserved members, just as PGEC first brought **power** to them in the **1930s**.

“As we sit here tonight, our community has come to us with another need,” President and CEO **Casey Logan** told about 300 members and guests. “We stepped up. We stepped up for our community, the one we live in.”

So far, Ruralband is available to **1,600 homes**, with that number reaching **2,500** by the end of 2019, he said, emphasizing the **quality of the connection**. “We were not going to have our members settle for anything less than the **best in the**

**market** when we decided to enter internet,” Casey added.



*"We're here to serve you," CEO Casey Logan told 300 members and guests at PGEC's 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Sept. 30.*

Also, by the end of the year, Ruralband will have a map available to identify when it will be available in various parts of PGEC's service territory. “Every member of our community will know exactly when internet is going to be available in their area and that means a lot for our members,” Casey said.

Pre-meeting activities included a variety of **exhibits and displays** on Ruralband, the Fort Lee Federal Credit Union, Prince George County Fire and EMS, and photo ops with the LED Lucy character. Orange-shirted PGEC employees directed members to a covered area in back of the headquarters, where they enjoyed a **complimentary meal of fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, green beans and ice cream**.

Board Chairman **Paul H. Brown** called the meeting to order and the co-op's **Donnie Drew** delivered the invocation. Paul recognized several guests including former co-op employees.

**Robert Hall**, vice president and chief financial officer, gave the treasurer's report and told meeting participants that the co-op remains in a **strong financial position**. The co-op had **\$75.5 million** in assets and **\$42.2 million** in liabilities at the end of 2018, with **\$30.9 million** in equity.

PGEC had **\$38.6 million in sales** in 2018 with a load that is almost equally divided between **residential and commercial/industrial/governmental** customers, Robert added. Electricity accounts for about **68 percent of total operating expenses**, he said.

Three directors were re-elected without opposition for new three-year terms: **Brian E. Coey** of District 1, **John M. Brock Jr.** of District 4 and **Randolph G. Williams** of District 6.

In other reports, Casey noted that PGEC donated some **\$50,000 to charities** and other causes in 2018 as part of its **commitment to community**. And since **2000**, PGEC has retired more than **\$11 million in capital credits**. “We're a not-for-profit organization. We're here to serve you,” Casey said.



*PGEC Board Chairman Paul Brown shares some of the co-op's highlights during a highly successful 2018.*

In his chairman's report, Paul challenged members to reduce their bill a little bit at a time by replacing one incandescent bulb with a LED bulb every month. “Just do one a month and over time, it will become a LED lit-house and it will help you on your electric bill.” Paul also noted the co-op has had success participating in the **Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo** and the **lineworker program** operated by **Southside Virginia Community College**, which has yielded **three employees** for PGEC.

**Renee Chapline**, vice president of communications and government affairs, commended **two students** who received **\$1,000 college scholarships** through PGEC and the VMD Association. She also gave a shout-out to **Sarah Marks, Gabbey Miner, Alyssa Stadler, and Sara Radford**, who represented PGEC on the prestigious **Electric Cooperative Youth Tour** with chaperone **Cynthia Hasley**. Alyssa stepped forward to help draw for a variety of **prizes**, including **electric bill credits**, as the meeting ended.

**Congratulations to PGEC on a successful year and annual meeting!**

*-Report by Steven Johnson, VMD Association Director of Member & Public Relations.*



## BARC Connects Its 1,000th Internet Subscriber

BARC Connects hit a major milestone on September 9. The subsidiary of BARC Electric Cooperative installed ultra-high-speed internet to its 1,000th subscriber. BARC celebrated this milestone by rewarding the lucky subscriber with a free upgrade to “gig service” or 1,000 megabits per second speed. As expansion continues for the groundbreaking fiber construction project in Rockbridge County, Virginia, reaching this milestone demonstrates the need and desire for broadband service in this rural service area.

Richard and Susan Wager of Fairfield, Virginia had the good fortune of being BARC’s 1,000th subscriber. The Wagers’ residence and farm are located in Rockbridge County and receive electric service from BARC as well.

The Wagers, who own and operate Somerset Farm in the northern part of Rockbridge, described access to reliable broadband as a life-changer for their home and farm business. “BARC’s broadband affords us the convenience of modern living as we build our life in this beautiful, rural location in Rockbridge County with the perfect views,” Richard Wager said. Susan Wager is also excited about the opportunities it will provide for the farming business. “We can now communicate directly and immediately with customers, letting them know when our products of eggs, meat or milk are ready. And with internet service we are able to process credit card payments for easier transactions.”

“Ours is a story about the cooperative spirit — working together with the local community and our customers for the betterment of everyone,” said BARC CEO Michael Keyser. “The Wagers’ story really echoes our cooperative roots, when we were first formed to connect rural homes and farms with electricity. It couldn’t be more fitting.”

BARC broke ground on the project in the county in 2017 and continues to connect both electric service consumers and non-BARC consumers with reliable broadband services, including high-speed internet, local and long-distance telephone, and cable television. BARC’s project promotes quality of life, provides necessary infrastructure for economic development opportunities and provides access for educational resources. By year-end, BARC will be expanding the project to Bath County, as well.

“To bring internet service to unserved consumers where our headquarters is located will be yet another huge milestone for BARC and for the electric consumers we have served for over 80 years with reliable electricity. That the people of the tiny village of Millboro will soon have better Internet than people in Los Angeles, Chicago or New York will be quite remarkable,” Keyser said.

Updates on the broadband project can be found on the companies’ websites: [www.barcelectric.com](http://www.barcelectric.com) and [www.barconnects.net](http://www.barconnects.net). Congratulations to BARC for achieving this important milestone!

*-Report by Tish Blackwell, BARC Electric Cooperative Communications Specialist.*

## Help Us Keep You Informed!



If you have story ideas, news or information of interest and benefit to other members of the electric cooperative community in our three-state area, please contact:

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