

August 30, 2019

## Co-op Annual Meetings

### REC Reports 2018 Was 'Amazing Year'

Member-owners of **Rappahannock Electric Cooperative** heard a report on a **successful year**, applauded a young co-op member for a **stirring speech**, and **re-elected three directors** at the co-op's annual meeting on **Aug. 22**.

**Director Sanford Reaves Jr.** delivered the **invocation** while the **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by **REC delegates** to the annual Electric Cooperative **Youth Tour**. More than **7,000 member-owners** participated in the election by returning their proxy designation card or attending the meeting.

"Your cooperative, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, **exists to serve you**," **Christopher Shipe**, chairman of the REC board of directors, said as he opened the meeting at the **Fredericksburg Conference Center**. "The entire REC team takes great pride in fulfilling this mission."

Chris noted REC's **commitment to listening** to and **responding** to feedback from member-owners and called 2018 "an **amazing year**" for the co-op and its member-owners.

Highlights included board action to **approve** additional **funding** for **vegetation management** to enhance reliability; initiating a **Governance and Document Center** for REC's website; took steps toward an **800-mile** network of **fiber optic cable**; and launched **Cooperative Sunshare** so member-owners can participate in renewable energy without installing solar panels.

**Treasurer Randy Thomas** reported that REC revenues and expenses both **increased in 2018**, compared with 2017. The co-op ended the year with a **\$21.3 million** margin and an impressive **\$406.2 million** in total equity.

In his CEO report, **Kent Farmer** described how REC is **committed to community**, with its employees participating in more than **300 events** a year across its **22-county** service territory. The co-op awarded **40 scholarships** to students in 2018, Kent added.

"The employees at REC, myself included, get the opportunity to wake up every day knowing that the service we are delivering to you – electricity – is **powering your everyday lives**, powering your businesses, powering schools, powering hospitals and powering the future," Kent said.

Some of the most moving moments of the night were delivered by **Joseph Flynn**, a **Youth Tour delegate** and the **Virginia** representative on the **National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Leadership Council**. He is a **senior** at **William Monroe High School** in **Greene County**.

"It is essential that cooperatives continue to exist. The **Youth Tour** has helped me to understand that as a future leader in America. I have a responsibility to work to ensure the continued existence of electric cooperatives. The knowledge I have gained will allow me to do just that," Joseph said.



*Member-owners cast their ballots for directors at the Rappahannock Electric Cooperative annual meeting.*



*Kent Farmer, president and CEO of Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, describes the steps the co-op continues to make to ensure safe, affordable, reliable power for its member-owners.*

**Michael Lindsay**, the board vice chairman, was re-elected from **District 1**, which covers the counties of **Frederick**, **Shenandoah** and portions of **Page**, **Warren** and **Rappahannock**. **Linda Gray** was re-elected from **District VI**, which covers **Caroline County**. **Mark Wood** was re-elected from **District VII**, which covers **Louisa County**.

Congratulations to REC on another successful year and annual meeting!

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

**Member Engagement, 'Great Workforce' Celebrated at ANEC Gathering**

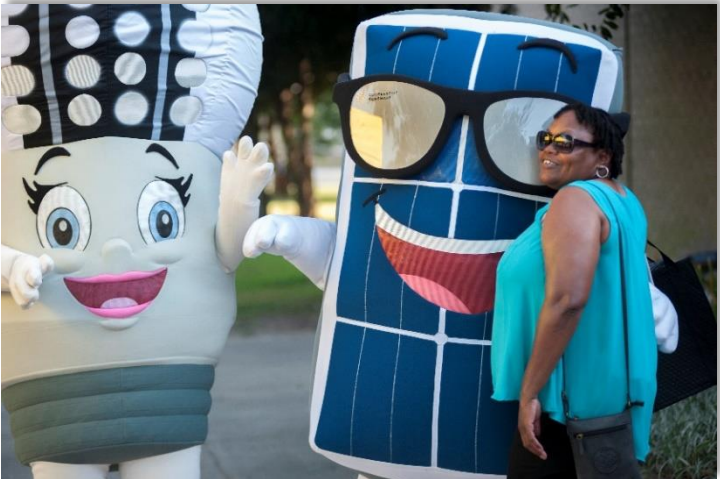
A&N Electric Cooperative President and CEO **Butch Williamson** was quite possibly upstaged at his cooperative’s annual meeting by **a pair of mascots**.

As Butch waited **August 22** at the front of **Nandua High School in Onley** to greet incoming members and special guests streaming into the cooperative’s **79th annual meeting**, the co-op’s energy-saving mascots **LED Lucy** and **Solar Sam** were nearby garnering attention and posing for photos with friendly fans.

Once inside the school’s auditorium, the evening began with **Chairman Addison Nottingham Jr.** welcoming members and guests, and thanking fellow board members and the cooperative’s staff. “They’re truly a great workforce,” he said of the co-op’s staff.

Addison also reported that ANEC has enjoyed **389 days with no lost-time accidents**. He also discussed the volunteer work done by employees through **Lighting the Way**, **AMI network installation**, the **re-engineered safety program**, and the cooperative’s **continued commitment** to providing Virginia’s Eastern Shore, Tangier Island and Smith Island, Md., with **safe, reliable and affordable electric service**.

C&E Committee Chair **Janette Edwards** announced the determination of a quorum with **155 members registered in person** and **2,175 by proxy count**. The cooperative’s lawyer, **Henry P. Custis Jr.**, announced the re-election of directors **Edward Parks Jr.** and **Addison Nottingham Jr.** to serve three-year terms on ANEC’s board of directors.



*Energy-saving mascots LED Lucy and Solar Sam greet an ANEC member arriving at the co-op's annual meeting at Nandua High School in Onley.*



*ANEC CEO Butch Williamson welcomes an attendee at the co-op's Aug. 22 annual meeting.*

When Butch took the podium, he also **recognized ANEC staffers** for their dedication to serving members, saying, “I can’t say enough about our employees. These fine men and women are rock stars. They are committed to you, and to providing safe, reliable power. It is an honor to work with them on a daily basis.”

He noted the cooperative’s efforts to continue focusing on **member engagement** and **utilization of technology** and its **advanced metering infrastructure** with system upgrades having a target completion of 2020. “System improvement and affordability is a critical measure of success for your cooperative,” he told the crowd.

Board Secretary-Treasurer **Robert Nock** announced that ANEC had concluded 2018 in a **strong financial position** with net margins **over \$5.2 million**, and **returned \$1.5 million in capital credits** to members in 2019.

Old Dominion Electric Cooperative President & CEO **Marcus Harris** took to the podium as the meeting’s guest speaker and gave a presentation on **ODEC’s current electric projects** around the region. “We serve a broad area, more than 1.5 million people, and we have a very experienced board. We ultimately look out for the best interests of you, and we thank you for the opportunity to serve you, the owners of A&N Electric Cooperative,” Marcus said. He discussed ODEC’s changing, **diverse fuel mix** and the transition from being a market purchaser to being a **generator of power**.

**Patsy Goard**, who has served as **ANEC’s Youth Tour chaperone** for more than **two decades**, introduced the membership to the **five high school students** who participated in this year’s event.

Congratulations to ANEC on another successful year and annual meeting!

*-Report by Laura Emery, VMD Association Field Editor/Social Media Coordinator.*



Co-op Lineworkers Excited About Overseas Mission

Lineworkers from **eight co-ops** gathered **August 20** at the **VMD Electric Cooperative Training Center** in Palmyra, Virginia, to make final preparations for the **trip of a lifetime**.



John Medved, team leader for United We Light: Project Bolivia, shows off the official trip T-shirt.

The 15 crew members are headed **4,000 miles from home** for **two weeks** of work in September as part of **United We Light: Project Bolivia**, sponsored by the **VMD Association** and **NRECA International**, with support from the **National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp.**

Team leader **John Medved**, director of safety and compliance at **Rappahannock Electric Cooperative**, went down a long checklist of items that the men will need as they work on **11 miles of line to power five Bolivian communities**.

“When we arrive, it will be a very surreal feeling. It’s like somebody squirted you with a hose. It’s like an out-of-body experience,” said John, drawing on his experience from a NRECA International electrification project in **Haiti**.

**United We Light: Project Bolivia** is the **first VMD overseas project**. **Richard G. Johnstone Jr.**, president and CEO of the Association, said he hopes it will lead to additional trips involving VMD member cooperatives.

“Cooperatives are all about **people working together to make great things happen**, and there’s no better way to show that than to bring **power to communities** that have never known the blessings of electric service,” Richard said.

The **volunteer group** includes **lineworkers** from **A&N Electric Cooperative; BARC Electric Cooperative; Central Virginia Electric Cooperative; Choptank Electric Cooperative; Northern Neck Electric Cooperative; Rappahannock Electric Cooperative; Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative; and Southside Electric Cooperative**.

Plans call for the lineworkers to fly next week from Reagan National Airport to **Miami**. From there, they will fly to **Santa Cruz, Bolivia**, the country’s largest city and commercial center. That will be followed by a **90-minute** flight to **Cochabamba** and a **six-hour** van ride to **Challapata**.

They will be divided into **two teams** for an estimated **12 days of work**. Among the duties: **construct** primary and secondary lines; **string, sag and tie-in** conductors on the structures; **hang transformers** and **make connections**; and **provide hands-on training** to local utility workers. In all, **52 households** will be powered.

On **Sept. 19**, a **lighting ceremony** will include the **lineworkers**, as well as an “**inauguration**” team of **Kent Farmer**, president and CEO of REC; **Greg White**, president and CEO of NNEC; **Butch Williamson**, president and CEO of ANEC; **Ingrid Hunsicker** of NRECA International; and **Alan Scruggs**, VMD Association vice president of safety and training services.

After a day of rest, the lineworkers will return home on **Sept. 21**. “I’m pretty **excited** but **nervous** at the same time,” said **Cody Minter** of BARC. “I’m excited to see the reaction on everyone’s face down there when we **actually light up the community**.”

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

Member Engagement

REC Hosts Second Telephone Town Hall Meeting of 2019

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative hosted its **second Telephone Town Hall** of the year on **Tuesday, Aug. 27**. REC invited a **random sample of 50,000** member-owners to participate in the call. **Nearly 5,000** members accepted the call to participate.



*Bolivia-bound lineworkers pose outside the VMD Electric Cooperative Training Center in Palmyra.*

**Kent Farmer**, President and CEO, answered questions live during the event that lasted just over an hour. At the conclusion of the call, **more than 40 voicemails** were left for follow-up questions.

The topics members asked about were **solar power, electric rates, energy efficiency, broadband, reliability, and Cooperative Sunshare.**

REC hosts these opportunities for member-owners to be able to **ask questions directly to Kent.** Over the next week, members who did not have their questions answered live and those who left a voicemail will receive **follow-up calls** from REC's management team and others.

Members who missed the call are able to listen to the recording in the **Newsroom** on the **REC website:**  
<https://www.myrec.coop/newsroom/TTHAUGUST2019.cfm> .

*-Report by Casey Hollins, REC Director of Communications and Public Relations.*

**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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