

# NEWS



Crawford Electric  
A Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bylaw change passes, incumbent directors re-elected at Crawford Electric annual meeting**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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BOURBON – Crawford Electric members approved a bylaw proposition and re-elected three incumbent directors during the business session of the 77<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of members on Thursday, Sept. 14. Annual meeting also included lunch, entertainment and prize drawings, enjoyed by a crowd of about 800 members and guests.

Earlier this year, only the incumbent directors filed nominating petitions to seek election to the co-op's board of directors. Since they were unopposed, all three were re-elected by the membership in a floor vote at the annual meeting. District 1 Director Janice Dorson, District 2 Director Debbie Willette and District 3 Director Joe Cason will serve three-year terms. Votes were cast using voting cards handed out to the 508 members who registered at the meeting. Because the director election was uncontested, there was no voting by ballot or by mail.

The members also approved a change to the co-op's bylaws that will allow for all voting members to be counted in future meeting quorums. Before the change, only those registered members present in person at a meeting counted toward quorum, which is the minimum number of meeting participants required by state statute for co-op business to be conducted. Thanks to the change, all members voting will be counted in the quorum calculation, as allowed for in state statute. This will include all members who cast their director ballots by mail, or possibly via electronic means in the future.

Bourbon High School senior Blake Beckett entertained members just before the start of the morning business session. He sang three songs, then led the crowd in the singing of the National Anthem. In the spring, Blake earned the title of Champion, Special Talent at Missouri's BETA Club Convention. He then took third place in the National BETA Club Convention this summer in Orlando.

Lunch included sliced brisket cooked by the Crawford County Cattlemen before an afternoon of entertainment and prizes. Brought back by popular demand, the Sons of Britches band from Branson fielded audience requests for all styles of music. Crawford Electric members Bob and Carol Williams of Leasburg were randomly chosen as the grand prize winners and came away from the meeting with a \$200 electric credit.

Board President Jim Cottrell conducted the business meeting. He started by thanking Blake for his performance, noting that "this talented young man represented our co-op on the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., this past summer. We should all be proud." Cottrell discussed the board's role in approving local work plans. He noted that an electric distribution system needs nearly constant maintenance and improvements to remain effective and reliable.

Crawford Electric's general manager, CEO Anthony J. "Tony" Mallory, told the membership about the co-op's recent strategic planning efforts and discussed ideas to enhance safety and member satisfaction. He also talked about the past year's financial results. He explained that a year of generally mild temperatures has translated into flat sales, meaning revenue is down. At the same time, several strong storms and increasing wholesale power costs have strained the budget in 2017. He advised attendees that the co-op will need to raise rates in 2018. The exact amount and timing will be explained in future member newsletters.

A video of his entire remarks can be viewed on the co-op's Facebook site or at this address: <http://tinyurl.com/yagq7mn7>.

Members at the business session also heard from John Richards, the chief executive officer for the co-op's power supplier, Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative. He discussed how Sho-Me builds and maintains the substations and transmission lines that bring electricity to Crawford Electric's service area. He also introduced the Sho-Me linemen stationed in Cuba who respond to service needs in this area. Members also had a chance to examine a mobile substation parked on a specially designed trailer next to the meeting venue.

Crawford Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of locally owned, community-minded electric co-ops with high standards of service. Crawford Electric serves almost 20,000 meters along more than 3,000 miles of distribution lines in Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Washington and Dent counties.