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August 2021

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# ANNUAL MEETING: THOUGHTS AND THANKS

By Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

**W**eather forecasting for the day of the annual meeting was interesting. In the days before the meeting, we were looking at 50-60% chance for rain; by the morning of the meeting, it was down to 20%; by noon we were at 100% chance of rain, standing in a downpour with hopes of clearing by 4 p.m. Right on cue for setting up the electronics to broadcast on the radio, the skies cleared, and we had a delightful evening for an outdoor meeting. There were 140 memberships represented at the meeting, spilling the parking out into the side lots. We moved along as efficiently as possible to accomplish the reports, elections, and bylaw amendments that were on the agenda.

Many thanks go out to the two incumbent candidates and the three new candidates who ran for the board. It is great to see the interest in serving their fellow members. I also want to thank the membership for approving the two bylaw amendments. We will have to wait and see what the future holds for the “other than in person” voting and if or when we implement those options. Hopefully it will be a choice, and not an only option due to a pandemic!

The changes to the voting process to voting by singular ballot will allow for the meetings to move along easily. Also, adjusting the time frame for the nominating committee will help get information about the candidates in the annual report so that the membership can be better informed about who they vote for. Lastly, the change for directors filling a vacancy until the end of the term will keep the election process much more orderly.

At the risk of getting going a bit early for next year’s annual meeting, here are some things to look forward to: The board will be doing a comprehensive review of the entire bylaw book to update and modernize some of the language. There will also be an open seat on the board. JoAnn Smith will be reaching her term limit and will not be able to run for the board.

If you have thoughts of running for the board or participating in the nominating committee process, an opinion on whether or not we should keep up the drive-in format for the meetings, or any other thoughts, questions, or concerns, feel free to contact me at the office, or visit with one of your board members.



After a damp morning, the weather cooperated in time for Taylor Electric’s second drive-in style annual meeting, on June 29. More annual meeting coverage can be found on the following page.



# TAYLOR ELECTRIC MARKS 85 YEARS AT ANNUAL MEETING

**T**aylor Electric Cooperative members chanced a busy weather pattern to participate in the 85th annual meeting of the cooperative. The annual meeting held Tuesday, June 29, at the Centennial Community Center, Stetsonville, was once again held outdoors, drive-in style. Like last year, this format was put in place to limit close contact. One-hundred forty

members attended and remained in their vehicles during the meeting, which was broadcast live on WKEB, 99.3 FM radio with the help of John Clausnitzer, Dave Fleegel, and Dawn Clausnitzer. Members were treated to a brown bag picnic-style dinner. Cheese and butter giveaways topped off June Dairy Month, and each registered member received a \$10 bill credit.

This year's meeting included the election of three directors. Board Chairman Brian Hallgren was re-elected to another three-year term in his seat. Director Cheri Klussendorf was elected to a three-year term in the seat left empty after the passing of Dean Tesch. Lisa Kohn was elected to fulfill the term of former board member Jeff Albers.

Bylaw amendments were passed that changed the current voting process. Jeff Springer from Dairyland Power Cooperative brought his electric car, a Ford Mustang, for members to look at. Jeff also addressed the membership regarding the future of EVs.

The \$100 on-time prize was awarded to Randy and Kathy Kuck, Athens. Names were drawn for gift certificates, with the following winners:

- Orlean Miller – \$25 Frickin' A gift certificate
- George Lukewich – \$25 Stoney Acres gift certificate
- Ed and Phyllis Faber – \$25 High View gift certificate
- Wilma Neuenfeldt – \$25 Cattail Tap gift certificate
- Gene and Sandy Rizzi – \$25 Turtle Club gift certificate
- Clayton Gore – \$25 Pot Belly certificate
- Wayne Miller – \$25 Cindy's Bar & Grill certificate
- George Look – \$25 64 North Bar & Grill certificate
- Steve and Kathy Langteau – \$25 Inn Between gift certificate.

Thanks to all who attended our 85-year celebration!

The dark skies were looking ominous as staff began setting up the Centennial Community Center for Taylor Electric's annual meeting, but just in time for the meeting to begin the sun came out.



The annual meeting was held drive-in style once again for public safety, with members remaining in their cars for registration (left) and the podium set up outside on a truck bed (above).



# UNDERSTANDING POWER SURGES AND BLINKS

**H**ave you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

## What's a power surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade, or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts—this can be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

Taylor Electric encourages all members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

## What's a power blink?

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, like squirrels, birds, or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, Taylor Electric crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling 715-678-2411.



# AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY POWERS QUALITY OF LIFE

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances, and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (washer and dryer, kitchen appliances, water heater, and the heating and cooling system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV, and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business, and in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing.

Typically when demand for goods and services goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods

or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%, medical care increased 2.8%, and education increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%. Considering all the ways we depend on



According to the Energy Information Agency, the average U.S. home now has 10 or more internet-connected devices.

electricity, it still remains a great value.

So, the next time you're sitting in your comfortable home enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series, or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

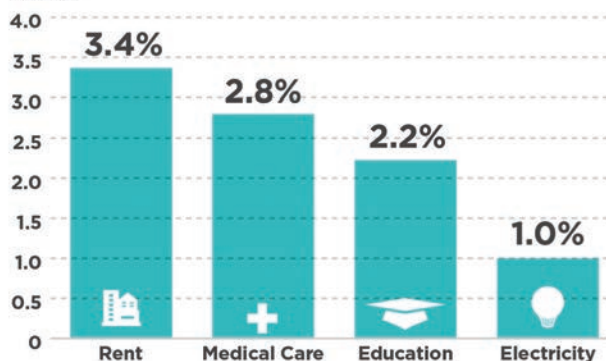
We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity—it's a necessity. That's why Taylor Electric Cooperative will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

### Average Annual Price Increase 2015-2020

Percent



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

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