

Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Minutes of the Special Meeting
May 21, 2020
Via Conference Call

Call to Order and Roll Call

The special meeting of the Board of Directors of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via conference call, pursuant to notice given. The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the Annual Meeting. President Ann Schwarm called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The following directors were present constituting a quorum:

Jerry Gaffner
Sandy Grapperhaus
Rich Gusewelle
Annette Hartlieb
Bill Jennings
Sandy Nevinger
Ann Schwarm
Jared Stine
Ted Willman

Staff members present were Graphic Artist Mike Barns, VP of Member Services Susan File, VP of HR Carrie Knebel, VP of Communications Joe Richardson, Chief Executive Officer Bobby Williams, Chief Financial Officer Becky Jacobson, and Executive Assistant Brooke Scott.

President Schwarm called a special board meeting to discuss how to hold a safe and effective Annual Meeting during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Several topics were discussed, including:

- The 2020 Annual Meeting timeline and deadlines for *The Southwestern*,
- Venue,
- Quorum,
- Voting,
- Credentials Committee,

- Logistics,
- Sound system,
- Maintaining health and safety guidelines,
- Scholarships,
- Youth involvement,
- Entertainment,
- Cost considerations,
- Potential changes to guidelines,
- Inclement weather.

On April 22nd, several staff members and Schwarm participated in the Electric Cooperative Member Meeting, Board Meetings, and Director Elections During the COVID-19 Pandemic webinar hosted by the Electric Cooperative Bar Association. The board discussed the unknowns regarding future guidelines and restrictions for the pandemic. They agreed that this year's annual meeting needs to be simple and effective. It will differ greatly from past meetings. The board discussed the cooperative's bylaws, technology, and incentivizing absentee voting and use of registration cards. Several ideas were shared. Staff will gather the ideas discussed and have a final proposal for the board at May's regular board meeting.

New & Unfinished Business

The scholarship committee is taking a new approach to celebrating our scholarship recipients this year due to COVID-19. The board was invited to parade to each scholarship recipients' home to place a sign in their yard.

The board discussed the possibility of having an in-person meeting for the regular board meeting in May.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Annette Hartlieb, Secretary

Attest:

Ann Schwarm, President