

August 30, 2018

Co-op Annual Meetings

Mike Malandro Details R⁴URALBAND Launch; Paul Brown, Denya Hankerson & Christopher Parker Re-elected at PGEC Annual Meeting

Enjoying a **fried chicken dinner** and **ice cream treats**, **120 members and guests** gathered Aug. 27 for **Prince George Electric Cooperative's 79th annual meeting** at co-op headquarters in **Waverly**. **Donnie Drew** provided the invocation, observing a moment of silence for **PGEC Vice Chairman Herbert F. Scott, Jr.**, who had passed away just a few days earlier after nearly 30 years of service on the co-op's board of directors.

Recognizing representatives from the VMD Association and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, **Board Chairman Paul Brown** joked in reference to the steamy weather, "if you happen to have a fan, share it with the person next to you!"

CFO Robert Hall reported on the co-op's recent successful audit and review of internal controls, noting PGEC retired **\$930,000 in patronage capital** at the end of 2017, for a historical total of more than \$30 million.



CEO Mike Malandro (r) talks with a PGEC member before the meeting.

After providing a brief history of the cooperative business model, **PGEC President & CEO Mike Malandro** detailed progress on PGEC's **fiber to the home program**. Following a successful **pilot** and aided by public/private partnerships in **Prince George, Surry and Sussex** counties, PGEC debuted the name **R⁴URALBAND** on Aug. 16, announcing its goal of providing a "4th utility" to benefit rural residents as electricity did 75 years ago.

"You don't like slow internet, I don't like slow internet, so we're going to make it happen – and make it fast!" Mike said. He showed an Association-produced video on broadband's benefits for education, small business and medical providers before concluding, "We plan to expand service by about 1,000 connections a year, until all of our members have access."



(L-R) PGEC CFO Robert Hall, PGEC board member and VMD Association Chairman Herbert Patrick & VMD Association VP of Member & Governmental Relations Brian Mosier.

Marketing Manager Glenn Horst recognized local business partners, including Fort Lee Credit Union and the Prince George Fire Department, which brought its safety trailer for the annual meeting. He also recognized the **two high school seniors** who received **scholarships** funded by the **VMD Association's Education Scholarship Foundation** and **four high school juniors** who participated in **NRECA's annual Youth Tour**.

Co-op attorney **Lewis Wyche** conducted the election of directors for Districts 2, 5 and 7, in which directors **Paul H. Brown** of Petersburg, **Christopher T. Parker** of Wakefield and **Denya C. Hankerson** of Disputanta were re-elected by acclamation to three-year terms.

The meeting was capped with drawings for **three \$250 bill credit certificates** given to both attendees and those voting by proxy. The door prizes continued with co-op employees hand-delivering a variety of gift certificates plus some special prizes for youthful attendees.

Congratulations to **Mike, Paul** and the entire staff and **Board of Directors** on a successful year and annual meeting!

-Report by Mary Howell, VMD Association Communications & P.R. Coordinator.



PGEC Board Chair Paul Brown (l) talks with ODEC CEO Marcus Harris after the business meeting.

Christopher Bott, Ralph Dodd, Garrison Drummond & Penney Holland Re-elected at A&N Annual Meeting

A hint of fall was in the air as **A&N Electric Cooperative President & CEO Belvin "Butch" Williamson** welcomed attendees to the cooperative's **78th Annual Meeting**, held Thursday evening, Aug. 23, at Nandua High School in Onley.

After a stirring rendition of "the Star Spangled Banner" by Elizabeth Grandey of Arcadia High School, **Secretary-Treasurer Robert Nock** provided the invocation, observing a moment of silence for departed co-op members, including **Phil Tankard** who had served 54 years on the A&N board before retiring in 2012.

Vice Chairman Christopher Bott introduced special guests, including **Delegate Robert Bloxom**, retired ANEC CEO **Vernon Brinkley** and representatives from the **VMD Association** and **Old Dominion Electric Cooperative**, ANEC's power supplier.

After noting that the cooperative retired **\$1.7 million in capital credits** in 2018, bringing the total to nearly **\$24 million** since 1981, **Board Chairman Addison W. "Add" Nottingham, Jr.** thanked farmers who helped speed the Eastern Shore's recovery from a **late-winter blizzard** by clearing back roads so co-op crews could more quickly respond to outages and cited recent improvements to Tangier Island's substation. He concluded, "We want to exceed your expectations as a trusted energy source!" On behalf of the ANEC board, Add then presented a framed memorial resolution to **Cindy Lattimore**, Phil Tankard's daughter.

Butch began his address by noting recent co-op achievements, including **upgrades to the SCADA system** and phase-in of **automated metering equipment** over the coming year that will aid with outage management, improving service and reliability. He explained that an approved increase to the co-op's base rate, the first since 1991, will more accurately cover distribution costs and may result in lower electric bills during cool weather. "Your participation in our **Beat the Peak** program will help us keep costs as low as possible during the summer months," he added.

Announcing, "A&N is among the first Virginia co-ops approved to **offer solar energy** as a choice for our members," Butch said members can subscribe to 50 kilowatt blocks of energy through the **Cooperative Sunshare** program, with much of this generated at the nearby 20-megawatt **Cherrydale Solar Farm**.

In his address, **ODEC's CEO Marcus Harris** detailed the power supply cooperative's **diverse assets** and reminded attendees of A&N's representation on the ODEC board. He said, "Our goal is to be **evolutionary, not revolutionary**, so that we can provide you with **affordable and reliable** energy for decades to come."

A stirring video encouraged attendees to join A&N's **Members Helping Members** program. Assisting those of limited means in paying their electric bills, this embodiment of the 7th cooperative principle ("Commitment to Community") has raised \$257,000 since its inception in 2009.

Patsy Goard, who has served as **Youth Tour chaperone** for more than two decades, introduced the five high school students who participated in this year's event. Attendees then **enjoyed a video** with highlights of this NRECA leadership development program that gathers co-op youth from around the nation for a week in Washington D.C. In their own words, the students described what it was like to meet with **Congressman Scott Taylor**, visit **Fort McHenry** in Baltimore, and witness the **Changing of the Guard** ceremony at **Arlington Cemetery**.



Retired ANEC CEO Vernon Brinkley (l) chats with ANEC President & CEO Butch Williamson prior to the business meeting.



Cindy Lattimore, whose father Phil Tankard served 54 years on ANEC's board, claims her door prize from R. J. Johnson as Butch Williamson's wife Sheryl joins in congratulating her.

Co-op attorney **Henry P. Custis, Jr.** conducted board elections. In addition to 2,430 votes cast by proxy, the 165 members present re-elected **Christopher D. Bott** of Chincoteague, **Ralph Dodd** of Eastville, **E. Garrison Drummond** of Parksley and **Penney P. Holland** of Franktown to three-year terms.

Butch answered several questions from members before the annual meeting wrapped up with a drawing for numerous door prizes. Congratulations to **Butch Williamson, Add Nottingham** and the rest of ANEC's board and staff on a **successful year and annual meeting!**

-Report by Mary Howell, VMD Association Communications & P.R. Coordinator.

Commitment to Community

MEC Donates Computer to Local Food Bank

When the Clarksville Food Pantry wanted to modernize its operations, **Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative** stepped in to help, providing a desktop computer in a demonstration of the 7th cooperative principle of "Commitment to Community."

"Having an updated computer will enable the food pantry to use a new online system that will help them collect accurate data, minimize paperwork and enable volunteers to be more engaged with their clients," said **MEC's Vice President of Information Technology, Dwayne Long.**

Added Robert Haxton, the Clarksville Food Pantry's president, "Having a real-time reporting system will also help us better assess our needs and be ready to apply for more grant funding for this worthy cause."

-Report by Debbie Blue Winn, MEC Member and Public Relations Specialist.



MEC VP of Information Technology Dwayne Long (standing) helps Robert Haxton, president of the Clarksville Food Pantry, set up a computer donated by the cooperative.

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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