

Access Energy Cooperative  
President Report for 2021 Annual Meeting of Members

Hello, I am Marvin Newton, President of the Access Energy Cooperative board of directors.

Your cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable, and efficient service to you with a clear focus that stays intact 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year. I want to thank the employees, the staff, and the directors for their commitment to serving you - our members - with excellence during all that the world has been through the past year. And thank YOU members, for your patience and grace as we adapt to new circumstances.

A cooperative functions most effectively with committed and informed leadership. It is essential to Access Energy Cooperative, and we are blessed to employ many hard-working people who manage the day-to-day operations of the co-op and keep your lights on. Your board also exemplifies strong leadership for the cooperative. Directors are democratically elected from the membership to represent your interests, and to provide long-term vision and direction, and to hold the cooperative true to our mission of providing safe, reliable, efficient service to you. I would like to recognize your board at this time.

From District 1: Fred Hickenbottom, David Hollingsworth, and Marvin Larson.

From District 2: Jerry Barker, Robert Smith and Larry White. And from District 3: Robert Chesnut, Michael Holtkamp, and myself, Marvin Newton.

Thank you to all members who voted in the election this year. A \$10 bill credit will be applied to each of their cooperative electric account. Members should see it on your bill next month.

The results of the election will be made available on the website and announced publicly on our Facebook page.

The Access Energy Cooperative Board of Directors voted to return dividends early to members this year. After reviewing the operating revenues for 2020, the board approved a dividend retirement of 1.04 million dollars, and payments were processed in June, rather than waiting for the normal distribution in August. This dividend retirement included portions of allocations from: 1999, 2000, 2006, 2007 and 2020.

Returning a mix of a deferred year's dividends with some of the current year's dividends allows both long-time and new co-op members to receive economic benefits of cooperative membership.

The cooperative financial reports were mailed in the packet of voting materials to all members on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Your board of directors reviews financial information each month at our regular meetings, and with the board-appointed auditor on an annual basis. As you will see in the annual report, our auditors reported that "Your cooperative's financial numbers are in line with your cooperative's mission statement to provide safe, reliable, efficient service." If you missed the report, you can contact the office and they will be happy to provide you with the information.

For Access Energy Cooperative, our greatest asset is our ability to balance doing what's right for our members while working to ensure the long-term sustainability of your cooperative. There were no rate increases in the year 2020, and there are none anticipated for 2021. Your cooperative is researching rate design options, based on cost-of-service analysis. We are evaluating breaking down members' monthly bills into three categories: a fixed facilities charge, a demand charge that covers costs associated with what it takes for us to get the amount of power to you that you need; and third: the energy cost that charges you for the electricity you use. A rate design change is not the same as a rate increase. Breaking out the costs into these categories could position your co-op for an evolving energy future that will give members more choices and control. Your board is working hard to determine a fair and balanced rate approach that will position the co-op for a rapidly changing future.

Access Energy Cooperative will continue to stay focused on your needs and on moving your cooperative forward to meet whatever challenges the future brings. We will continue to provide our members with safe, reliable, efficient service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

If you have any questions about this report, please call our office.