

# POWERING

*a new tomorrow*

## 2025 ANNUAL MEETING



Butler Rural Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



# AGENDA

Call to Order.....	David Evans <i>President, Board of Trustees</i>
Invocation.....	Jay Hasbrook <i>Member, Board of Trustees</i>
Pledge of Allegiance.....	Butler Rural Electric Cooperative Employees
Board Introduction.....	David Evans
Official Notice .....	David Evans
Annual Audit Report.....	David Evans
2024 Annual Meeting Minutes.....	David Evans
Nominating Committee Report.....	Michael Egbert <i>Nominating Committee Chair</i>
2026 Nominating Committee.....	David Evans
General Manager's Report.....	Tom Wolfenbarger <i>General Manager</i>
President's Report.....	David Evans
Ohio's Electric Cooperatives Report.....	Craig Grooms <i>Ohio's Electric Cooperatives President and CEO</i>
Service Awards .....	Tom Wolfenbarger
Questions.....	David Evans, Tom Wolfenbarger, and Lee Geiger
Election Results.....	Lee Geiger <i>Attorney</i>
Adjourn.....	David Evans



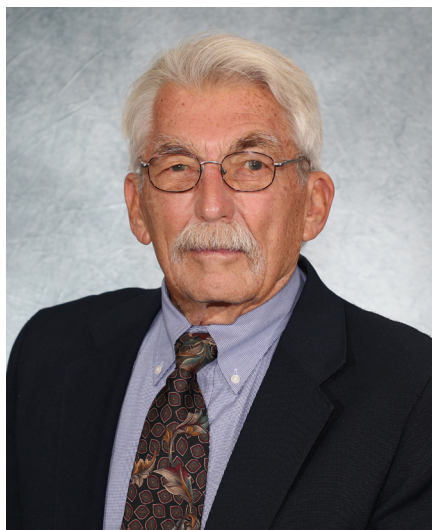
**Butler Rural Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# SPEAKERS



**David Evans**  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Jay Hasbrook**  
MEMBER, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Michael Egbert**  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR



**Tom Wolfenbarger**  
GENERAL MANAGER



**Craig Grooms**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, OHIO'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES



**Lee Geiger**  
ATTORNEY

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Back row, from left, Jay Hasbrook, Thomas McQuiston, Bob Spaeth, Ron Kolb, James O'Brien, and Vickie Jo Barger. Front row, from left, Mike Tilton, David Evans, and Jim Meador.



# 2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Members**

**April 25, 2024**

The Annual Meeting of Butler Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at Spooky Nook Sports Champion Mill in Hamilton Ohio on April 25, 2024. The meeting was attended by 335 members for a total of 762 members, employees, and guests. Additional members and guests viewed the meeting on Facebook Live.

### **Registration & Dinner**

Registration of members and guests began at 4 p.m. A buffet meal was served from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

### **Business Meeting**

David Evans, president of the board of trustees, called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m. and welcomed members and guests. Board member Jay Hasbrook gave the invocation. 2023 Youth Tour delegates Grace Lee and Lily Spenceley led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Reading of Official Notice of Meeting**

David Evans stated the Official Notice was posted in the lobby of the cooperative and published in the March issue of *Ohio Cooperative Living*, which can also be found on our website. He entertained a motion to waive the reading of the notice. Motion accepted and approved by the members in attendance.

### **Annual Audit Report**

David Evans reported an audit of the cooperative's financial statement was conducted in 2023 by BHM CPA Group. This audit is completed annually. The auditors found the financial statements fairly presented the financial position of the cooperative.

### **Approval of the 2023 Minutes**

David Evans directed members to view the 2023 annual meeting minutes in their programs. A motion was made to accept the minutes. Minutes were approved by the members in attendance.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Michael Egbert, nominating committee chair, gave the committee report. Egbert announced the following candidates were on the ballot: District 1 – David Evans; District 2 – Jim Meador; District 5 – Vickie Jo Barger, Mike Wolf.

### **2025 Nominating Committee**

David Evans directed members to the list of 2025 nominating committee members in their programs. Evans made a motion to confirm the slate of nominating committee members. The slate of nominating committee members was approved by the members in attendance.

### **General Manager's Report**

Thomas Wolfenbarger explained the change of venue for this year's meeting. Miami University was doing construction that could have impacted the accessibility of Millet Hall. He asked members to give their feedback on this new meeting location.

Wolfenbarger reported that existing, reliable generation sources are being shut down prematurely and being replaced with generation that is intermittent in nature. This could result in tight supply margins and any event could put the reliability of the grid at risk. He explained mandated rolling outages were implemented by nine states during Christmas 2022 to protect the integrity of the grid. Wolfenbarger reported cooperatives in Ohio have more generation than we have load, but we are connected to the grid, which is operated as a market, and

we could be impacted by regional generation shortages unrelated to our generation portfolio. Wolfenbarger explained Ohio cooperatives talk to elected officials about the need for sensible policies and regulations. The same week as the meeting, a contingent from Ohio's electric cooperatives had been in Washington D.C. to carry out that message. There are efforts being made to encourage the EPA to modify its proposed Green House Gas emissions rule and to work with the labor industry to find ways of maintaining affordable power. Wolfenbarger asked members to consider joining Voices of Cooperative Power to talk with their elected officials and to take action by keeping informed about current issues. He also shared ways to contact elected officials.

Wolfenbarger explained the cooperative has developed a comprehensive communication plan if a grid emergency occurs. He spoke about a new backup generator program in which the cooperative will provide low interest loans for members looking to install a whole house backup generator. For those not needing whole house generators, the cooperative will offer members the ability to purchase a behind-the-meter transfer switch called a Trifecta.

Wolfenbarger reported Duke Energy's plans to improve the reliability of the transmission system in the western part of Butler County and work has begun for their new Ross Substation along State Route 27. This project will have a positive impact on the reliability of the cooperative's substations. Wolfenbarger reported the cooperative is seeing subdivision growth after many years of little to no growth. He reported that, to meet these growing loads, the cooperative completed a new three phase circuit on Lee's Creek Road in Harrison Township and that we are converting Morgan Ross Road between State Route 748 and Hamilton New London to a three phase circuit. The cooperative will also upgrade Kehr Road on the south side of Oxford with larger conductors for increased capacity. He also reported in 2025, our Milford substation east of Oxford will be upgraded and a new circuit is planned for development at the Huston substation near Collinsville.

Wolfenbarger explained staffing at the cooperative continues to evolve. Since July 2020, five of the seven senior staff members have retired with a combined 138 years of experience. He also reported four of the five new staff positions were hired from internal positions. He explained all employees know their focus is on the membership. Wolfenbarger concluded by stating the cooperative is looking forward to meeting the many challenges of the future and realizes the opportunities that come with those challenges.

### **President's Report**

David Evans explained the cooperative works hard to keep costs down and maintain safe, reliable electricity. Evans reported we do not plan to have a distribution rate increase this year. He explained the three steps to deliver electricity: generation, transmission, and distribution, and that the cooperative is only responsible for distribution. He explained while we are not increasing the distribution rates, wholesale power prices from Buckeye Power are increasing due to rising transmission and fuel costs. These costs are projected to increase and will impact future rates.

Evans reported we will roll out an electric vehicle charging rate this year, which provides incentives for charging during the night. He also reported the cooperative will simultaneously roll out a time of use rate which will help those willing to modify behavior to maximize savings.

Evans reported in 2022, electric cooperatives in Ohio developed the Rural Electric Cyber Advancement Program, or RECAP, to help co-ops assess their cybersecurity posture and identify areas of improvement. Butler Rural Electric Cooperative held its first RECAP in May 2023.

Evans spoke about Butler Rural Community Connection celebrating 30 years. He explained the impact it has had on our communities and that Butler Rural Community Connection has funded over \$1.5 million in grants to local nonprofit groups. In celebration of 30 years, a new Community Connection logo was introduced and Evans thanked the members and employees who donate.

Evans concluded by acknowledging two Spotlight on Excellence awards received by the cooperative, gaining national recognition in the area of internal communication.

### **Ohio's Electric Cooperatives/Buckeye Power Report**

William Roberts, vice president of finance/CFO, introduced a video update from Ohio's Electric Cooperatives/Buckeye Power CEO Patrick O'Loughlin.

### **Special Recognition**

David Evans announced Bob Hoelle, a cooperative member in Wayne Township for 45 years and a board member for 24 years, was retiring from the board of trustees. During his tenure, Bob was the vice president of the board for 22 years. Evans congratulated and thanked Bob for his wisdom, knowledge, and guidance which has contributed greatly to the success of the cooperative.

### **Election Results**

Lee Geiger, attorney for the cooperative, reported the board election was conducted by an independent third-party company, Survey and Ballot Systems. The following members were selected to serve three-year terms:

District 1 – Israel and Oxford townships  
David Evans

District 2 – Milford Township  
Jim Meador

District 5 – Madison and Wayne townships  
Vickie Jo Barger

### **Entertainment**

Rum River Blend entertained members and guests with bluegrass and folk music.

### **Adjournment**

David Evans declared the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Meador, Secretary/Treasurer  
May 29, 2024

# 2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Butler Rural Electric Cooperative's nominating committee is responsible for choosing candidates to run for the board of trustees. The committee is composed of 18 members from all districts. The committee met in July, September, and November 2024 to prepare for the 2025 election.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2025 ELECTION

### July 15, 2024

The committee met with the cooperative's attorney, Lee Geiger, to discuss the committee's duties and responsibilities. Members reviewed the election process and selected Mike Egbert as the committee chair.

### September 16, 2024

The committee discussed board of trustee candidates and developed a plan of action if they lacked qualified candidates.

### November 18, 2024

The committee interviewed members running for the board of trustees. Committee members asked candidates about their background and experience, their views on Butler Rural Electric Cooperative and the electric industry, and their commitment to serving the community. All candidates were interviewed, including incumbent board members. The committee chose candidates from each district to run for the board of trustees after the interviews.

#### DISTRICT 1

##### **Oxford and Israel townships**

Larry Niehoff  
Susan Rooney

#### DISTRICT 2

##### **Milford Township**

Bob Ison

#### DISTRICT 3

##### **Somers Township**

Ted Cornthwaite  
Lewis Willeford

#### DISTRICT 4

##### **Gratis and German townships**

Karen Emerick  
Christine Geisen

#### DISTRICT 5

##### **Wayne and Madison townships**

Christopher Flowers  
Steven Wells

#### DISTRICT 6

##### **Reily Township**

Mike Egbert  
Ernst Schlichter

#### DISTRICT 7

##### **Hanover and St. Clair townships**

Ralph Gross  
Edward Ulreich

#### DISTRICT 8

##### **Morgan and Harrison townships**

Tom Boyd  
Ryan Shupp

#### DISTRICT 9

##### **Ross, Fairfield, Crosby, and Colerain townships**

Kenneth Estep  
June Niederman



# 2025 CANDIDATES

Butler Rural Electric Cooperative is governed by an elected board of trustees. Board members are members of the cooperative just like you — they pay the same electric rates as you and live in your community. Board members represent all members as they set policies, monitor the cooperative's performance, approve the annual budget, work to ensure rates are fair, and listen to concerns from members.

## 2025 election

Three board seats are up for election this year — District 3 (Somers Township), District 4 (German and Gratis townships), and District 9 (Colerain, Crosby, Fairfield, and Ross townships). Members living in these districts received mail and email notices in August 2024 to let them know they were eligible to run for the board.

All members had the opportunity to vote for one candidate in each district and received ballots in the mail, along with voting instructions, candidate information, and postage-paid return envelopes. Ballots were mailed March 10 and the election ended April 22. Members could vote by mail, online, or through SmartHub.

## Election results

All cooperative elections are conducted by an independent third-party company. This year's election was completed and certified by Survey and Ballot Systems. Using a third party maintains the integrity of our elections. Cooperative employees and board members do not have contact with ballots or voting results before they are announced. Lee Geiger, Butler Rural Electric Cooperative's attorney, received the election results and will announce the results this evening.

The candidates for this year's election are listed below. Thank you to these members for running for the board of trustees.



**Thomas McQuiston**  
DISTRICT 3



**Jay Hasbrook**  
DISTRICT 4



**Scott Lessing**  
DISTRICT 9



**James O'Brien**  
DISTRICT 9

# 2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

These members are responsible for choosing qualified candidates to run for the board of trustees for the 2026 election. The committee will meet in July, September, and November 2025 to prepare for the election.

## **2026 board of trustees election**

District 6 (Reily Township), District 7 (Hanover and St. Clair townships), and District 8 (Harrison and Morgan townships) are up for election in 2026. Members living in these districts will receive notices in August 2025 to let them know they are eligible to run for the board of trustees.

If you live in one of these districts and are interested in running for the board of trustees, contact the cooperative at 513-867-4400 or e-mail [butler@butlerrural.coop](mailto:butler@butlerrural.coop) to learn more about board member requirements and the election process.

### **DISTRICT 1**

#### **Oxford and Israel townships**

Larry Niehoff  
Susan Rooney

### **DISTRICT 2**

#### **Milford Township**

Kevin Blakley  
Bob Ison

### **DISTRICT 3**

#### **Somers Township**

Ted Cornthwaite  
Lewis Willeford

### **DISTRICT 4**

#### **Gratis and German townships**

Karen Emerick  
Christine Geisen

### **DISTRICT 5**

#### **Wayne and Madison townships**

Christopher Flowers  
Steven Wells

### **DISTRICT 6**

#### **Reily Township**

Mike Egbert  
Ernst Schlichter

### **DISTRICT 7**

#### **Hanover and St. Clair townships**

Ralph Gross  
Edward Ulreich

### **DISTRICT 8**

#### **Morgan and Harrison townships**

Tom Boyd  
Ryan Shupp

### **DISTRICT 9**

#### **Ross, Fairfield, Crosby, and Colerain townships**

Kenneth Estep  
June Niederman

# SERVICE AWARDS



**Thomas McQuiston**  
45 YEARS



**Ron Kolb**  
35 YEARS



**David Evans**  
20 YEARS



**Jim Meador**  
20 YEARS



**Jay Hasbrook**  
5 YEARS

# *Thank you!*

Thank you for joining our virtual annual meeting.

We will send a survey after tonight's meeting.

Please share your thoughts and feedback with us.

We appreciate your opinion.



Butler Rural Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

