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Butler REC NEWS

FROM THE MANAGER

2009 Year in Review

It's hard to believe that it is already February, which means that this year's Annual Meeting is just around the corner on March 11.

This year's meeting will be very similar to last year's. We hold the meeting on the Thursday prior to spring break. This proved to be more convenient for many of our members who plan vacations or other activities during that time. We are back at Circle High School in Towanda for the third year.

Just as we did last year, we will be sending out the meeting notice and reports in this section of the *Kansas Country Living* magazine. That means you will not receive the Annual Report booklet that you have in the past. This, along with a few other minor changes, should help us save over \$5,000 for the Annual Meeting while continuing to provide you with an excellent meeting experience. Preparations are already underway and we are looking forward to seeing you at Circle High School.

2010 Budget

In December, the Board approved the cooperative's budget for 2010. The process included significant discussions and evaluations of the cooperative's many services.

As we all know, the economy has taken a hit and times are tough for many of our members. We continue to hold the line on our expenses as much as possible.

Last year, our Trustees looked for ways to reduce their education and expense budgets and they have maintained those levels for 2010. Education and training of the Board of Trustees is crucial in giving you the best control and oversight of the cooperative. When times get better, it is important that some of those reductions be reinstated to provide the training your Board of Trustees needs.

Rate Update

The new rates that were approved by the Board in July are working well for most of our members.

Numerous members have been able to lower their electric bills by rearranging schedules for some of their household chores. They did this without changing their thermostats or doing without conveniences. A little planning can really make a difference.

Storm Update

The March ice storm and April wind storms caused another busy repair year for the cooperative's employees in 2009.

We continue, with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) financial assistance, to repair the damage caused by Mother Nature. We have our work cut out for us over the next three years.

Cooperative Month Award

Another highlight of our year was

winning the annual Cooperative Month award for the ninth year in a row. This was accomplished due to our employees' volunteer efforts in promoting the cooperative way of business in the month of October.



R. Dale Short

Climate Change

We continue to join with other cooperatives around the country to help shape any climate change legislation so that it does not disproportionately affect our rural members.

The EPA has recently determined that it has regulatory authority over carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses. Regulations that they impose have the potential to negatively affect your electric costs. I encourage you to contact your senators and representatives and encourage them to look for a solution that does not significantly affect your costs for energy.

Web Site Update

We are in the process of updating our web site at www.butler.coop. I encourage you to check out all of the new tools and options now available to you.

I would like to thank all of you for your support of the Cooperative during this past year. More on the Annual Meeting next month.

Meet the Candidates



Bryce Flaming

BRYCE FLAMING

District 3—
Andover-
Benton Area

BRYCE FLAMING and his wife, Tammy, live between Benton and Towanda with their three children.

Flaming grew up in Hillsboro and graduated from Tabor College. He has been a financial advisor for 19 years and is a Vice President-Investments at UBS Financial Services in Wichita.

He enjoys spending time with his children, and helps coach their various sport activities. He also raises and trains hunting and field trial dogs.



Riley Walters

RILEY WALTERS

District 7—
Cassoday-
Eureka Area

RILEY WALTERS and his wife, Faye, live about 18 miles northeast of El Dorado near

Cassoday.

He attended El Dorado High School and Kansas State University where he graduated with a degree in Animal Science.

Walters and his wife have three children and seven grandchildren. He is recently retired from the Butler County Weed Department where he worked for 35 years.

In his spare time, Walters enjoys spending time with his family.



Members enjoy a meal at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

Thursday, March 11, 2010, at Circle High School, in Towanda

The Annual Meeting of the Butler Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., will be held at Circle High School, 905 Main St., Towanda, on the March 11, 2010, doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served. The business meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

The membership will take action on the following proposals:

- ▶ Report of officers, Trustees, and/or committees.
- ▶ The election of two Trustees for a three year term.
- ▶ To transact any and all other business which may come before said meeting.

The Nominating Committee met



Kids Korner and presentations at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

2010 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee, appointed by the Board of Trustees of Butler Rural Electric Cooperative Assoc., Inc., met on January 4, 2010, to make nominations for the Trustees whose terms will expire this year.

The Nominating Committee was composed of :

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| ▶ Dennis Baier | ▶ Don Gfeller |
| ▶ Ferris Barrett | ▶ Gary Rowles |
| ▶ J. Marvin Conner | ▶ Don Regier |

on January 4, 2010 and nominated the following candidates for Trustees:

- ▶ **BRYCE FLAMING**
District 3 (Andover-Benton Area)
2200 SW Towakoni Rd, Benton, KS
- ▶ **RILEY WALTERS**
District 7 (Cassoday-Eureka Area)
10327 NE Ellis Rd, Cassoday, KS

Members may make additional nominations for Trustees from the floor at the meeting, keeping in mind the principle of geographical representation as stated above.

SHAWN WIEBE, SECRETARY-TREASURER BUTLER REC



Minutes of the Butler RECA Annual Meeting

Circle High School, Towanda, Kansas ~ March 13, 2008

Pursuant to notice thereof, the 2009 Annual Meeting of the members of Butler Rural Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., was held on March 12, 2009, at Circle High School in Towanda. The meeting was preceded by a dinner served to the membership and guests, with entertainment by the Smorgaschords. Information booths were maintained during the registration process.

Board President Olin Claassen delivered the invocation and the Smorgaschords performed the national anthem. President Claassen called the business meeting to order at 7 p.m. and introduced the Trustees and guests in attendance at the meeting.

The 2008 First Place Youth Tour winner, Danielle Nitcher, was introduced by Travis Griffin, Director of Member Services. Ms. Nitcher reported on and showed a video of her trip.

A quorum was determined to be present, with 177 registered members in attendance and three members present by proxy. President Claassen asked for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous year's meeting. The reading was so waived. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting as printed in the March 2009 *Kansas Country Living* and mailed to each member. The minutes were approved. President Claassen asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Treasurer's Report be approved as printed in the March 2009 *Kansas Country Living Magazine*.

President Claassen asked acting Secretary Richard Jimenez, to read the Notice of Annual Meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to waive the reading of that notice as printed in the February 2009

Kansas Country Living Magazine.

Dale Short, Butler REC Manager, was introduced by President Claassen. He thanked all of the Butler REC employees for their dedicated service. Manager Short discussed the current national economic condition and showed a video concerning energy efficiency and the potential threat of running short on electric supply.

Manager Short introduced Vice-President of Operations, Gary Dick, and his wife, Robyn. He announced that after 42 years of dedicated service to Butler Rural Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., Mr. Dick had decided to retire. Mr. Dick spoke of his years at Butler REC and how proud he was of his employees and that since 1990 there had not been a serious accident. Manager Short then introduced the new Vice-President of Operations Jeff Adams.

Manager Short introduced Stuart Lowry, the Executive Vice President of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Mr. Lowry commended Manager Short and the Board Members of Butler REC on the service provided to the members. Mr. Lowry discussed the necessity of members being proactive in legislative issues in protecting the rights of the cooperatives. He informed the membership about the negative reports on Global Warming, Cap and Trade, the current Energy Bill and renewable energy. Mr. Lowry explained the monetary effect on electric power plants and members of cooperatives, especially Kansas electric consumers. In his closing remarks, Mr. Lowry discussed the previous years' natural disasters and the assistance provided by FEMA. He acknowledged the extensive role that Manager Short had in the FEMA working group that developed a national policy to standardize future FEMA projects.

President Claassen introduced Gary Rowles, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and asked Mr. Rowles to report on behalf of the cooperative's nominating committee. Mr. Rowles reported the nominations for the three Trustee positions up for election; District 1 – Shawn Wiebe, District 4 – Richard Pearson, and District 6 – John Worrell. President Claassen conducted the Trustee election. The floor was opened for additional nominations for the three Trustee districts up for election. After the expiration of one minute, there were no additional nominations from the floor. There were no nominations by petition. A motion was then made, seconded, and carried that the nominations cease and that the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot in favor of the candidates submitted by the nominating committee. The following Trustees were elected: District 1– Shawn Wiebe, District 4–Richard Pearson, and District 6–John Worrell.

President Claassen then asked for any old business to come before the meeting. It was concluded that there was none to be discussed. President Claassen asked for any new business to come before the meeting. It was concluded that there was none to be discussed.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned. Travis Griffin, Director of Member Services, introduced the evening's entertainment: Circle High School Music Groups, "Celebration" and the "Madrigals".

The 2009 Annual Meeting was concluded with a drawing for door prizes for the general membership.

Respectfully submitted,

SHAWN WIEBE, SECRETARY-TREASURER BUTLER REC

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Attention High School Juniors

Butler REC will send TWO students on a FREE summer trip!



Will Gregg, Towanda, poses in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.



Lydia Smith, Rose Hill, (left) and Jessica Albers, Douglass, enjoy the view on top of Mt. Werner in Steamboat Springs, CO.

When departing for a trip expecting to see a great change in yourself at its conclusion, you are often disappointed. However, you can take solace in the realization that, standing next to our government's greatest creations, a change will occur in your personality; a change that in the course of a lifetime, will make an unparalleled difference.

Will Gregg

This camp made me realize that you should never pass up opportunities because they will be gone in a flash. Such as when we were at Fish Creek Falls I got completely in that freezing water! It was a once in a lifetime experience.

Jessica Albers

If you are a Butler REC member and your child is a high school junior, he or she may have a chance to win an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 10-17, 2010, or Steamboat Springs, CO, July 10-16, 2010, plus a scholarship!

During Youth Tour students will join 1,500 youth from across the nation in Washington, D.C. You will see the monuments and other attractions, as well as visit Capitol Hill to learn more about how our government works.

At camp, you will join youth from Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas. You will form your own mock cooperative, learn about leadership and also learn

about the cooperative industry.

Butler REC will provide information over which there will be a quiz, and a short oral interview to pick the two winners, which will also receive a \$300 scholarship.

All participating students will receive a prize. **Applications are due back to the Butler REC office no later than February 26, 2010.** The quiz and interviews will be held at the Butler REC office on March 22-23.

Call Travis at the Butler REC office at 800-464-0060 for more information on the 2010 Youth Tour competition.