

ONEIDA-MADISON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

81<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 4, 2024

*MINUTES*

The 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Members was held October 4, 2024, at the Madison Central School, located at 7303 State Route 20, Madison, NY. Prior to the meeting, a dinner was catered by Brooks' House of Bar-B-Que from Oneonta, NY.

President Rudy Brouillette called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He then recognized the entertainment, the Nelson Brother's Band. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Jennifer Neidhart from the Madison Methodist Church, gave the invocation.

President Brouillette then introduced OMEC's current Board of Directors, CEO and General Manager, Brian Bell, employees, and cooperative attorney, Bob Birch, followed by the Cooperative's special guests including Assemblyman, Brian Miller, Otsego Director Pat Hooker, Delaware CEO, John Gasstrom, and OMEC retiree, Bob Markowski. Mr. Brouillette then introduced John Salka, Director of Community Relations for Congressman, Brandon Williams, and invited him to address the membership on the Congressman's behalf as he was slated to attend, but unable to at the last minute.

Secretary/Treasurer, Dan Saulsgiver then took the podium. He asked if there was a quorum, and it was determined that there was. Mr. Saulsgiver then asked the membership to take a moment of silence in honor of the passing of longtime member, Lee DuSell.

Mr. Saulsgiver then invited Tom Stone to pull the winning ticket of the \$100 Early Bird bill credit, which was George Barnard. He then read the Official Notice of the meeting. Mr. Saulsgiver then asked for a motion to dispense the reading of the Minutes of the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. A motion from the floor for the approval was made and seconded with the motion being carried.

The presentation of the Treasurer's Report was then given, and Mr. Saulsgiver stated that copies of the "Member's Financial Reports for 2023" were available if any member should want one. He then asked if there were any questions regarding this report and as there were none, a motion was made and seconded to accept the report and the motion was carried.

Mr. Saulsgiver then introduced Patty Bikowsky, a member of the Nominating Committee. Ms. Bikowsky stood up from her seat in the audience to read the report from the Committee, nominating Rudy Brouillette and Scott Bugbee for three-year terms. Mr. Saulsgiver said that no nominations had been made by petition and asked if anyone wished to make one from the floor. After no responses, Mr. Saulsgiver asked for a motion to elect both nominees, which was then made, seconded, and carried, with no voice votes in opposition. Mr. Saulsgiver then introduced CEO and General Manager, Brian Bell.

Mr. Bell addressed the membership by first recognizing Tom Stone and his 29 years of dedicated service to the Board of Directors before his retirement last year. Then, he welcomed Scott Bugbee as Mr. Stone's successor on the Board and introduced him to the audience as a great new addition who is a "great fit and [will] represent the membership well." Mr. Bell then gave a short, but to-the-point speech, touching on the major topics of:

1. The accomplishments of the office staff and line crew from the last year, including the major storms in August where mutual aid from Hamilton and Sherburne municipalities were instrumental in getting power restored in a timely manner.
2. The \$160,000 retired by the Cooperative in capital credits last year.
3. The youth scholarship and Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C. that is offered annually as well as the internship opportunities for students through the BOCES New Visions program. Mr. Bell used James Dapson as an example of a successful intern who then became a full-time employee.
4. Operation Round Up and the Breast Cancer Awareness fundraiser.
5. The Board of Directors' accomplishments including a cost-of-service study, various grant applications, a proposed new headquarters, and a ten-year financial plan.

He wrapped up his speech by acknowledging each one of the staff members.

Before inviting President Brouillette back to the podium to speak, Mr. Bell presented President Brouillette with a certificate for 35 years of dedicated service to the Cooperative.

President Brouillette then gave his "President's Comments" where he spoke more in depth on Operation Round Up and its relation to the seventh Cooperative Principle, Concern for the Community.

He then asked the Membership if there was any old or new business to be discussed, and with there being none, he asked Mr. Bell to return to the podium to speak about the proposed bylaw changes.

The members were given a copy of bylaw changes, and Mr. Bell briefly reviewed what the Board would like to change. Mostly language and updated policies regarding virtual attendance to annual meetings and electronic communications, in addition to the removal of nominations for directors from the floor. He asked for questions from the audience.

One member asked about the changes regarding member-generated electricity (Article I, Section 6). Mr. Bell explained that while the Cooperative has been allowing members to generate their own energy via solar panels, it had not been written in the bylaws until now. Hearing no more questions from the audience, Mr. Bell called for a motion to pass the bylaw changes. A motion was made, then seconded and passed unanimously.

Vice President, John Lehr, then took to the podium to announce officially that President Brouillette and Scott Bugbee had in fact been elected to their respective seats on the Board of Directors.

President Brouillette then returned to the podium to remind everyone of the \$25 bill credit that they will receive for attending the meeting, then a motion was made, seconded, and carried to close the meeting at 7:52 pm.

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Daniel Saulsgiver- Secretary/Treasurer

Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Rudy Brouillette- President

Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc.