

WFEC Board officers elected for 2022-23

New officers for Western Farmers Electric Cooperative's (WFEC) Board of Trustees, for the upcoming year, were elected during an Organizational Meeting, hosted Wednesday, April 20 at the cooperative's Moore Office. This meeting followed the Annual Meeting of Members, which was preceded by the regular monthly Board of Trustee meeting.

Nominations for Board trustees and alternate Board trustees were also approved during this session, with several new members welcomed to WFEC's Board.

Donnie Bidegain, who was re-elected as president for the Board of Trustees, explained that a primary focus of the Board is to promote reliability without rising costs to members. "This focus is important as we navigate through the ever-changing, fast-paced industry," he pointed out.

Bidegain also noted the value of keeping Board members well informed, which enables educated decisions to be made.

He explained that during the past two years with the pandemic still going on, struggles continued for in-person meetings. "We now have the opportunity to meet face-to-face and work on projects that will help steer the ship in the right direction for the future," he said.



WFEC Board of Trustee officers elected for the upcoming year, include (from left): King Martin, a trustee from Red River Valley Rural Electric Association in Marietta, who was re-elected as secretary-treasurer; Donnie Bidegain, who serves on the Board of Farmers' Electric Cooperative in Clovis, N.M., was re-elected as president; Jeff Willingham, who represents Southeastern Electric Cooperative in Durant, was elected as vice president; and John Graham, who serves on the Board of Lea County Electric Cooperative in Lovington, N.M., was named as assistant secretary-treasurer. This slate of Board of Trustee officers will serve throughout 2022 and a portion of 2023 (through April), at which time WFEC will have their Annual Meeting and Organizational Meeting once again.

However, he pointed out, there also needs to be room left for flexibility.

"Our ultimate goal is to balance reliability and affordability while continuing to meet the changing needs of WFEC and its member distribution cooperatives."

wfec

Other Board members, listed by cooperative, include:

Greg Goetz, Alfalfa Electric Cooperative
Gary Crain, Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative
Charles Wagner, Central Valley Electric Cooperative
Ken Autry, Choctaw Electric Cooperative
Gene Peters, Cimarron Electric Cooperative
Clint Pack, CKenergy Electric Cooperative
Brian DeMarcus, Cotton Electric Cooperative
Max Shoemake, East Central Okla. Electric Cooperative

Jean Pence, Harmon Electric Association
Mike Lebeda, Kay Electric Cooperative
David Ray, Kiamichi Electric Cooperative
Chris Mackey, Northfork Electric Cooperative
Tyson Littau, Northwestern Electric Cooperative
(Vacant), Oklahoma Electric Cooperative
Antonio Sanchez Jr., Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative
Gary Jones, Rural Electric Cooperative
Don Ellis, Southwest Rural Electric Association
Heath Sirmons, Altus Air Force Base (non-voting member)