

WEC CO-OP CURRENTS

Gubernatorial Candidates To Attend WEC Annual Meeting

Local Food, Energy Discussion on the Menu for May 12

It's back to the Montpelier Elks Club for Washington Electric Cooperative and its members, who will be returning to that location for the Co-op's 71st Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 12, after holding the event in Barre since 2006. WEC doesn't change its meeting sites often, so it's important for Co-op members not to go to the wrong place this year.

That's especially true in 2010 because the Annual Meeting will provide WEC members and guests an opportunity to hear five out of the six major-party candidates for governor, all in one location and discussing energy-related issues. With important decisions on Vermont's energy future now taking on immediacy – most notably the future of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant after 2012, the approaching conclusion of Vermont utilities' contract with Hydro Quebec (2015), proposals now crystallizing for commercial-scale wind farms, and policy on conservation and renewable energy in the post-Gov. James Douglas era – these issues are as important as any for Vermont's economic and environmental future.

"We invited all six of the Republican and Democratic gubernatorial-primary candidates," said WEC General Manager Avram Patt. "We received positive responses from the five Democratic candidates – State Senators Peter Shumlin, Susan Bartlett, and Doug Racine, Secretary of State Deb Markowitz, and former State Senator Matt Dunne. Lieutenant Governor Brian Dubie declined our invitation; at this point he's the only Republican running and has no primary opponent.

"This is a non-partisan event,"

Patt emphasized, "and Washington Electric never endorses candidates. The campaign for governor is going to get more than the usual amount of attention this year, because Gov. Douglas is leaving office and because all six of these candidates are prominent, well-known people in their parties. Energy is going to be one of the main issues in the elections, and we saw our Annual

WEC has increased its emphasis on the "community" aspect of the meeting featuring locally grown food. The meal's aren't just good – they're good for the local economy.

Meeting as a good opportunity to put focus on that early in the campaign. We're delighted that so many of the candidates have said they will come."

WEC has titled the discussion "Energy Issues Facing Vermont" – and will set aside time for the event by moving the schedule up by one-half-hour from the usual sequence. Note the agenda on this page – especially that the doors will open for Co-op members at the Montpelier Elks Club at 4:30 p.m., rather than 5 p.m., and ballot boxes for the election of directors will open at the same time. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m. (As usual, a reservation is required, and the reservation form, which must be mailed to the Co-op ahead of time, appears on page 8.)

The official business meeting, including reports by the treasurer, manager, and president, will be slightly abbreviated to ensure adequate time for the energy forum. As always, though, the officers' formal, written reports to the membership appear in this issue of *Co-op Currents*, which serves as the Official Notice for the Annual Meeting.

"It doesn't mean that members won't have the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues from

continued on page 8

Inside

WEC's 2009 Service Quality and Reliability Performance Monitoring and Reporting Plan. The Co-op's annual "SQR" report to the state is included in this issue's Manager's Report. Page 3.

Officers' Annual Reports: WEC's President (page 2), General Manager (page 3) and Treasurer (page 6) update you on your Co-op.

Five candidates for the Board of Directors seek your support. Meet them on page 4.



WEC returns to the Montpelier Elks Club (pictured above) for the 2010 Annual Meeting.

WASHINGTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

71st Annual Membership Meeting

Montpelier Elks Lodge

Agenda

- 4:30 p.m. Registration– Ballot Boxes Declared Open
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner Served— Mostacoli and Chicken
(Reservations required– see coupon on Page 8)
- 6:00 p.m. Business Meeting Called to Order
(Ballot Boxes Open 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.)
**Employee Recognition
Reports from Officers
Election Results**
- 6:30 p.m. "Energy Issues Facing Vermont"
All announced major party candidates have been invited. The following have confirmed their participation:
 - Susan Bartlett
 - Matt Dunne
 - Deborah Markowitz
 - Doug Racine
 - Peter Shumlin
- 8:30 p.m. Tentative Adjournment

*Door prizes to be drawn at the end of the evening.
NOTE: Child care will be available (registration required).*

Official Notice and Annual Report

President's Report

Staying Busy And Staying Current: WEC In 2009 And 2010 – And Beyond

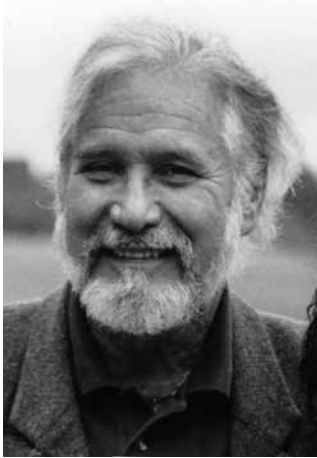
By Barry Bernstein

Spring weather has been teasing us in March, as I write this message. The sap has been flowing, the snow is disappearing, and everyone's been talking about when we will see our last snowfall. (As my friends know, I am one of the last to put away my long underwear at the end of the season.) This is also the time WEC begins final preparation for our May Annual Membership Meeting – our 71st this year – and time for me to recap our Co-op's 2009 events in my President's Annual Meeting Report for *Co-op Currents*.

Let me start, however, by mentioning some important matters for our Co-op in 2010 and beyond.

2010

Legislature. WEC will continue to urge the Vermont House of Representatives to follow the path of the Vermont Senate's 26-4 vote in late



February not to relicense the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant past 2012, when its current operating license will expire. The WEC Board of Directors passed a resolution in January, calling on both the Vermont House and Senate to vote No this session, because it is the right thing to do on behalf of all Vermonters so that we can move forward to

build a safe, reliable, renewable-energy future for our state. It is important that all state legislators cast their vote on this critical issue.

Rate Design. WEC hopes to receive approval this year from the Vermont Public Service Board of our filed Cost of Service study (COS) and proposed new rate design, our first in 20 years. Although it will mean a modest bill increase for some and a bill reduction for others, we feel that our filing represents an equitable and fair distribution of costs for all our members. Our proposed rate design retains the two blocks you're accustomed to seeing on your bill.

However, it increases the base block in the residential class by 50 kilowatt-hours, to 200 kilowatt-hours (kWh), and raises the price per kWh in the second block by less than a penny. It lowers the rates for small commercial and large power users (such as schools, larger farms, and the few industries we have on our mostly residential system) in order to represent what it actually costs the Co-op to serve them, as determined by our COS study.

Substation Project.

As a result of federal stimulus money that Vermont utilities will receive, with the help and hard work of the Vermont Department of Public Service, WEC will be able to accelerate the timeline on the rebuilding of our East Montpelier substation as well as other work included in our Construction Work Plan (CWP). This work will enable improved reliability on our system.

Rate Increase on Horizon. By the end of this year we may need to apply to the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) for our first rate increase in a decade. We are, and have been, closely following our revenues and expenses; equipped with this information, your Board of Directors, in consultation with our general manager and staff, will determine sometime this summer if and how much of an increase may be needed in 2011. Let me say clearly, however, that increases will be inevitable over the next several years, as power costs and expenses increase.

2009

Anniversary Marked. Last year represented the 70th anniversary of Washington Electric Co-op's founding in 1939. We celebrated over the course of the year by honoring all of those community leaders who served on the Co-op's Board since its inception, listing their names and board tenures, along with historical information and photographs, each month in *Co-op Currents*. Their struggles and service deserve our recognition and appreciation.

Court Victory for Wind. In February, the Vermont Supreme Court upheld the PSB's approval (in 2007) of First Wind's 40-MW wind project, planned for construction in Sheffield, Vermont. WEC will receive 10 percent of that project's energy, with the rest also going to Vermont public power utilities – the Vermont Electric Co-op (VEC) and Burlington Electric Department (BED). The project awaits a ruling on one final appeal brought by opponents, on the issue of storm-water runoff during construction. That appeal is before the

Vermont Environmental Board; we are hopeful for a ruling that will enable First Wind to begin construction of this important, local, renewable-energy resource early this summer.

Coventry Expands. In July, WEC renovated our electric-generating station at Coventry, Vermont, to add a fifth engine to the facility and increase its power output. The engines are fueled by landfill gas (methane). The additional engine brought the plant's capacity to 8 megawatts (MW), producing 50,000,000 kilowatt hours of energy – nearly 70 percent of our power needs. In November we held an Open House at the Coventry plant, which attracted more than 80 guests. A videographer attended, and produced a "virtual tour" which you

can now see on our web site and on YouTube.

Coming to Visit. As always, in October we held two of our annual community meetings, inviting members to join WEC Directors and senior staff for dinner and a discussion of the Co-op's plans, policies, poles and wires... and whatever the member/owners wanted to talk about. It's a great opportunity for the leadership and the members to learn from each other. This year's meetings were held in Cabot and Chelsea. Turnout was good, and we especially enjoyed having 98-year-old Blanche Lamore attend the Cabot meeting and help out in the kitchen.

Follow The Money. As noted above, Co-op members are sure to see a rate increase in the relatively near future. Treasurer Don Douglas outlines the economic imbalances leading to this situation in his Treasurer's Report beginning on page 6. The causes, which we continued to note in 2009, include not just higher general operating-cost trends, but a decline in the value of the Renewable Energy Credits we sell on the market; a decline in the price we get for surplus electricity which we sell back into the grid (it's a buyer's market for electricity these days); and lower revenues from electricity sales to our members, due to conservation – which we encourage – and perhaps to overall milder temperatures.

Staffing For the Future. WEC brought on new apprentice linemen Kyle Harper and Mike Baril in 2009, along with Amos Turner who was hired in December 2008, to continue to build and train a strong line crew in preparation for the inevitable retirement of some of our senior, highly experienced linemen. It takes several years to move from Apprentice Lineman

continued on page 8

Co-op Currents

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WEC is part of the alliance working to advance and support the principles of cooperatives in Vermont.

Board of Directors

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Editorial Committee

Avram Patt Donald Douglas David Magida Will Lindner

The Board of Directors' regularly scheduled meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month, in the evening. Members are welcome to attend. Members who wish to discuss a matter with the Board should contact the president through WEC's office. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For information about times and/or agenda, or to receive a copy of the minutes of past meetings, contact Administrative Assistant Deborah Brown, 802-223-5245.

Manager's Report

WEC's Service Quality and Reliability Results for 2009

Plus: First Stop for Important Issues is the Co-op's Board

By Avram Patt

WEC, along with other Vermont utilities, is required to have a "Service Quality and Reliability Monitoring and Reporting Plan ("SQRP"), reviewed by the Department of Public Service and approved by the Public Service Board. The SQRP measures the quality of our customer service and our system reliability in 12 separate categories, and we are required to report these to our members each year at this time. There are targets for each category as stated below. In 2009, we were above our targets for outages (category 11) by a hair, but within allowable margins. At the very beginning of 2009, a programming error caused our billing system to issue inaccurate bills to some members (category 3), so we missed our target for the first time since we have been recording these results.



Most small utilities of our size do not also build, own, and oversee the operation of power-generating facilities, but WEC does.

1. Calls not answered within 20 seconds. Our requirement was that no more than 15 percent of WEC's incoming calls take more than 20 seconds to answer. Our Member Services Representatives answer an average of about 38,000 calls a year, and 6.6 percent of those calls took longer than 20 seconds to answer last year.

2. Bills not rendered in seven days. Our target was that not more than 0.10 percent of our bills (one in 1,000) be issued more than seven days after they were supposed to be. No bills were issued late in 2009.

3. Bills found inaccurate. No more than 0.10 percent of all bills mailed should be found to be inaccurate. As I mentioned in my report a year ago, the Co-op did have a billing system programming error during the first billing cycle of 2009. This resulted in about a third of our residential members being under-billed on their first bill, which was then adjusted on their next bill. For the remainder of the year, only one bill was found to be inaccurate, which is more typical of our usually very low error rate. However, because of the error in the first billing cycle, 3.4 percent of bills were inaccurate over the course of the year.

4. Payment posting complaints. Members' payments should be accurately and promptly posted to their accounts. Our target was that payment posting complaints not exceed 0.05 percent (one in 2,000), and there were no posting complaints last year, or 0 percent.

5. Meter readings per month. Although there are circumstances where a member's meter cannot be read and we have to issue an estimated bill, this should be kept to a minimum. Our target was that no more than 5 percent of bills (five

in 100) be based on estimated readings. In 2009, 0.4 percent of meters were not read over the course of the year.

6. Requested work not done on time. A lot is involved in extending new lines to homes or doing other work requested by members. Although schedules for a requested project may change for any number of reasons, our engineering staff and line crews stay in touch with the members so we can actually complete the job when the member expects us to. Our goal was that no more than 5 percent of requested jobs (five in 100) be completed after we said they would. In 2009, no requested jobs were completed later than expected.

7. Average delay days after missed delivery date. None. If we had missed our time estimates in #6, we would have needed to report on the actual length of the delays.

8. Customer satisfaction. WEC's SQRP requires us to conduct a professional survey every five years that contains certain standard national customer satisfaction questions. Our last survey was conducted in the fall of 2005, and results were reported in the March/April 2006 issue of Co-op Currents. We met our targets and got generally high marks. We will be conducting a new survey later this year.

9. Complaints to DPS/Consumer Affairs. Vermonters with complaints about their utility can lodge them with the Consumer Affairs Division

of the Department of Public Service. The Department then contacts the utility to get more information or discuss the matter. In most cases, issues are resolved by discussion or the Department staff determines that there is no basis for a complaint. However, when the Department determines that a utility has not done something right and requires that it be corrected, this is recorded as an "escalation." WEC's SQRP requires that the number of escalations not exceed 0.07 percent of our membership (about seven per year). I am pleased to report that WEC had no escalations in 2009.

10. Worker safety performance.

We care about the safety of our employees for their own well-being as well as an indicator of how we operate day to day. The work that many of our employees do is strenuous and relatively high-risk. Our target is that we have no more than six incidents that result in any lost work time, and that there be no more than 39 days of lost work among all employees.

In 2009 we experienced one incident and had 23 lost work days among all employees.

11. Outage incidents. The "System Average Interruption Frequency Index" (SAIFI) measures the average number of outage incidents the occurred per member. Our target is 3.8 outages per member, and we averaged just above that, 4.0, in 2009.

12. Outage duration. The "Customer Average Interruption Duration Index" (CAIDI) measures the average time it took to restore power when there was an outage. Our target was 2.0 hours average duration, and our average in 2009 was 1.7.

A Lot is Happening at the Co-op

While the Service Quality and Reliability numbers I report annually only cover a fraction of what's involved in our work at the Co-op, they do give a sense of what most of WEC's employees do day in and day out. They keep our members' lights on in our extremely rugged, rural territory, respond to members' service requests,

bill and receive payments accurately, account for our funds, and abide by the many laws and regulations we are governed by.

But at Washington Electric Co-op, that's only part of what we do.

Most small utilities of our size do not also build, own, and oversee the operation of power-generating facilities, but WEC does. In addition to our Wrightsville hydro station, which has been in operation since the 1980s, our landfill-gas plant in Coventry now provides us with most of our power. I know members, regulators, and others agree that the Coventry plant has been a great benefit to the Co-op and our members. At the same time, it places new responsibilities and workload on the Co-op's management staff and on your Board of Directors, which we are still adapting to.

We also have a full plate of regulatory matters that are either


When we have a matter before the Public Service Board, it has already passed muster with a very tough judge, the Board that you have elected to look out for your interests.

already before the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) or will be in the near future. Our rate design, which we have discussed in the newsletter as well as at member meetings, is currently before the PSB. As I have discussed

before and as Don Douglas and Barry Bernstein note in their treasurer's and president's reports, respectively, after many years without one, we will need to be increasing rates in the near future. Although our management staff and the WEC board still have some analysis to do, we may be filing that rate-increase request later this year.

There are also a number of other matters involving WEC before the PSB right now. WEC's elected board is an active and well-informed one. Your directors set our policies and direction, have close financial oversight over our operations, and are very dedicated to looking out for you as members and as ratepayers. When we have a matter before the Public Service Board, it has already been scrutinized and has passed muster with a very tough judge, the Board of Directors that you have elected to look out for your interests.

Call, write, or stop in.

As always, Washington Electric Co-op members should feel free to contact me about any matter of interest or concern to you. (My contact information is on page 2.) 

Position Statements of the 2010 Candidates for the Co-op Board of Directors

Candidate Profiles

Five candidates are seeking election to Washington Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors in 2010. Four seats are available on the nine-member board this year; three of those positions will be for three-year terms, and those seats will be awarded to the three candidates who receive the most votes in the 2010 election. The candidate with the fourth-highest vote total will serve for two years, completing the three-year term won in 2009 by Andrea Colnes, who is resigning from the board due to other obligations.

The five candidates are **Barry Bernstein, Steven Clay, Roy Folsom, Annie Reed, and Scott Skinner**. Bernstein and Folsom are incumbent directors last elected in 2007, whose three-year terms will expire at the time of the Annual Meeting (Bernstein being the president of the Board). Clay, Reed, and Skinner all are seeking election to a first term on the Board. The third incumbent whose term is expiring this year is Director Kimberley B. Cheney of Middlesex. Cheney is not seeking reelection.

The WEC Committee on Candidates has verified that each of the five candidates meets the requirements

of the election process as set out in the Cooperative's bylaws, submitting timely petitions with the requisite number of member-signatures.

The annual elections enable the membership to elect at least a third of the Board that makes leadership and policy decisions for the customer-owned, nonprofit utility, as the terms of three members expire every year.

In ballots cast at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 12, and in mailed ballots returned to the Co-op by a deadline prior to the Annual Meeting (**check your election materials for additional balloting and deadline information**), members can vote for any four of the candidates who appear on these pages. Ballots will also provide space for voters to write in the names of alternative candidates. People must be Co-op members to serve on the board.

To help inform members about the qualifications and interests of the candidates, each candidate was asked to respond in writing to the following questions and requests developed by the Board of Directors.

The Questions

1. Please introduce yourself.

- Where do you live and how long have you lived there?
- Under what town is your Co-op membership listed?
- How long have you been a Co-op member?
- How may members contact you (address, phone number, e-mail)?

2. Please briefly describe your background – for example, your education, occupation and/or other experiences that you would like members to know about.

3. Why are you seeking a position on the Co-op Board? Why would you make a good director?

4. What do you think are the most important issues that the Cooperative must face in the next few years? What should WEC do about those issues?

5. Is there anything else you would like to tell the members?

Report of the 2010 Committee On Candidates

The 2010 Committee on Candidates convened a teleconference on Wednesday, March 24, at 7:00 p.m. to review the petitions and qualifications of those members who have submitted their names as candidates for the Board of Directors. There are four (4) positions to be filled due a vacancy caused by the resignation of Director Andrea Colnes. Five (5) members of the Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. submitted their names as candidates for the four (4) Board positions to be filled. The Committee on Candidates hereby affirms:

- that each candidate submitted a valid petition in accordance with Article III, Section 3A of the Bylaws;
- that each has signed a statement of affirmation indicating that they:
 1. have been a member of the Co-op in good standing for at least six months;
 2. are residents of Vermont;
 3. are not employees of the Cooperative;
 4. do not have a conflict of interest as defined in Article III, Section 2 of

the Bylaws; and

5. have received and understand the responsibilities and time commitments required of a director.

Therefore, the Committee determines all of the candidates to be qualified for the position of director in accordance with the Cooperative's Bylaws, and hereby presents the following official listing of candidates for the Washington Electric Cooperative 2010 election of Directors:

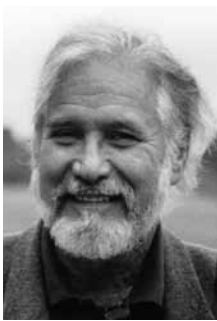
Barry Bernstein
Steven Clay
Roy Folsom
Anne Reed
Scott Skinner

2010 Committee on Candidates:

<i>Dale Bartlett</i>	<i>John Reynolds*</i>
<i>Carl Demrow*</i>	<i>Yvette Tomlinson</i>
<i>Anne Dolan</i>	<i>Charlie Wanzer</i>
<i>Brian Howes</i>	<i>Carolyn Wells</i>

**Did not participate in the teleconference.*

Barry Bernstein



1. I live on Bliss Road in East Calais, and have owned a home there since 1976. I have been an owner-member of WEC for 39 years, since 1971. WEC members should feel free to call me at 456-8843 or e-mail me at bbearvt@aol.com.

2. I graduated from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Business Administration. I attended Northwestern University Graduate School of Business, Chicago, Illinois. I am a founding partner of Better World Energy LLC., the Northeast representative for Messersmith Mfg. Inc., a leading manufacturer of automated woodchip heating plants for schools and commercial/industrial use. I have also been involved in consulting and management for profit and nonprofit organizations for 45 years.

I have served on the WEC Board of Directors since 1997 and as Board

president since November 1998. I am on the board of ILR Inc., Northampton, Massachusetts, a disability-rights organization specializing in ADA technical assistance and training. I served on the board and the Finance Committee for Woodbury College in Montpelier; as a director and treasurer of Hunger Mountain Co-op in Montpelier, and Buffalo Mountain Co-op in Hardwick; as co-founder of the Vermont Center For Independent Living, Montpelier, and its executive director (1979–1982, 1992–1993); as co-incorporator and treasurer of CVTA, a nonprofit providing transportation services to central Vermont elders, people with disabilities and others (1980–1985).

3. As President of your Board of Directors for the past 12 years I have worked closely with the Board and management to change our power portfolio from one that included Vermont Yankee to one that is based almost entirely on non-fossil fuel. In order to accomplish this, your Board in 2000 adopted a policy that directed WEC to obtain reliable and economical power, as close to home and renewable as possible. We stopped receiving power from Vermont

Yankee in 2002, developed and started up our Coventry landfill-gas-to-electric generating plant in 2005, adding additional generating capacity in 2008 and 2009. We worked with First Wind on their Sheffield project, and will receive 10 percent of the project's output after construction, with assurance that all the power produced goes to public power utilities in northern Vermont.

My goal, if re-elected, is to work with the Board and management to ensure that our Co-op's future energy supply remains secure and renewable after several of our power-supply contracts end, and to minimize the size of the multiple-year rate increases we will face after a decade of no increases.

4. Several critical issues face our co-op over the next few years.

Power Portfolio: Although WEC will not need to find new power sources until 2016, we will need to pay attention to potential opportunities. Our Hydro Quebec (HQ) contract ends in 2015 (renewal now being an option), and our small-power, in-state contracts (VEPPI) expire (2012-2017). The Coventry plant is a cornerstone for

our efforts, with potential for additional engines, along with our Wrightsville hydro plant and a 20-year contract with First Wind for power from its Sheffield project.

Minimizing Size of Rate Increases:

After 10 years without a rate increase our Co-op is projecting potential multiple-year increases totaling 30 percent to 40 percent over a four-to-five-year period, starting in 2011. The Board will have to balance providing reliable service, improved right-of-way management, and supporting our employees, while striving to minimize the rate impact on our membership, many who are reeling from the most severe recession seen in the past 70 years. The task will not be easy and will involve the patience, sharing, and support of our membership, our employees, our Board, and regulators as we move cautiously forward.

Leadership: I feel it is very important to continue WEC's history of speaking out on critical energy-policy issues that affect our membership and Vermonters statewide. We have just done so on the relicensing of Vermont Yankee, and previously in support of the state purchasing the Connecticut River

dams and against deregulation of Vermont's electric distribution system. I feel strongly that as a member-owned electric utility we have a responsibility and obligation to provide a "yardstick" for others, showcasing both good practice and good leadership on behalf of our membership and Vermont ratepayers.

Energy Efficiency: Increased energy efficiency by our members – in new purchases of energy-efficient appliances, lighting, and the use of other fuel-based appliances such as gas clothes dryers instead of electric, and using clotheslines in the summer – will save our members dollars and help your Co-op avoid having to purchase expensive power in the market. In addition it will aid our children's future by reducing the chance of the catastrophic effects of global warming and greenhouse gases.

Rate Design: This year your Co-op hopes to implement an updated rate design. If approved by the Vermont Public Service Board, it will provide a 200-kWh lower-priced base block (a 50-kWh increase), and a second, higher-priced block that will more accurately represent the higher cost of bringing on future power. The base block will guarantee that every member-household has enough reasonably priced kWhs from renewable sources to meet the electricity needs that are an essential part of life (refrigerator, water pump, lights, phone, TV, radio, etc.). The next block will provide a realistic price signal to our members, and hopefully we can all work together to reduce our kWh usage through better and more-efficient choices as we replace older appliances.

5. Although serving on the WEC board and as President of the Board demands a good deal of time and energy, and presents some challenges in terms of time commitment, I feel my efforts and work have been worthwhile, and hopefully have benefited our membership and our Cooperative. I ask for your support in this election. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or wish to discuss any issues that concern you as a member-owner of WEC.

Steven Clay



1. My wife, daughter and I live in Middlesex on Shady Rill Road near Rumney School. This is our second winter in Shady Rill. Our Co-op membership is listed in the town of Middlesex, and we have been Co-op members for three years. Before making the move to Shady Rill, we lived in East Montpelier where we were also Co-op members. Members may contact me at my home at 229-1452.
2. I grew up in Wisconsin, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin/

La Crosse with a degree in Health Education. After teaching for three years, I completed a master's program in Applied Mathematics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Since that time I have been working in the insurance industry as an actuary. Many people don't know what an actuary is or does. The simplest way to describe an actuary's work is that an actuary is a type of financial engineer, helping to design insurance programs, evaluate risk and liabilities, and pricing insurance products. I currently work for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont.

3. My family and I have been very pleased with the service provided by WEC. When I saw the article in the Currents about open Board seats, I immediately knew that I would offer myself as a candidate. I would like to help the Co-op develop policy that will maintain the level of service we have experienced in Shady Rill. I also support the business model of multiple, smaller generating facilities which take advantage of local resources, such as the Coventry operation. In short, I would like to become a Board member in order to help keep a good thing going.

I believe that I would make a good director because I have good analytical skills and business sense, and am able to sort through complex issues and get at the heart of the matter. I have years of experience in managing a business, and know the importance of controlling costs and developing a trained, experienced work force.

4. In the future, like all businesses, WEC must continue to provide good service at a fair cost. This means planning for future capacity, investing in employees through training, and wisely spending the members' dollars. I am especially concerned that WEC continue to develop local renewable sources of energy.

Roy Folsom



1. I live at 2603 US Route 2 in Cabot, possibly more familiar to you as Crooked Brooks Farm, LLC, with my wife of 30 years, Jackie. We have lived here since 1985. I have been a Co-op member since then, and have three Co-op meter accounts. I can be contacted at 426-3579 or 793-5916; by fax at 426-3107; by e-mail at RoyGrnsy@aol.com; by USPO mail at 2603 US Rt. 2, Cabot, Vt. 05647; or stop by the farm.
2. I graduated from high school in 1970 from Solon, Ohio. I attended Kent State University for one year. After that I formed a construction company with my brother. In 1973, I moved to Vermont and continued to do the same work.

A slowdown in the economy in the late 1970s allowed me to make a career change to do something I always wanted to do. That was dairy farming. In 1985 I was hired by Oberland farms in Newbury, Ohio, as their herdsman. At the end of my first year I received an award from the Lake Geauga Dairy Service Unit for the "Most Improved Herd." This helped me to decide that someday I wanted to go out on my own. In May 1985, Crooked Brooks Farm, LLC, was established. Since then there have been constant changes here. We have built all new buildings to increase efficiency. Farming methods have also changed to make work more labor-friendly. I take a business approach to farming. I look closely at my costs of producing milk. Since 1985, milk produced here has quadrupled. Cow numbers have increased by less than 50 percent, but man hours to produce our 1 million pounds of milk annually have dropped by 50 percent. The cost of producing milk has actually dropped. Last year I began working part time for Nationwide Agribusiness. This is in addition to my farm work.

3. When I decided to run for the WEC Board six years ago I had no idea the amount of learning that I would be undertaking. I have taken very seriously that task and have taken opportunities to receive training whenever possible. I am seeking another term to be able to utilize that training to better serve the Co-op membership. As chairman of the Power & Operations Committee, I believe that this committee has two very important jobs to do. One is to keep the lights on and the other is to secure power-supply sources at the lowest cost. One of the issues the P&O Committee will be focusing on is our Right-of-Way (ROW) program. Much of WEC lines were run from farm to farm across what, at the time, was open farm land. Much of that has now returned to forest, as farms disappeared. As we rebuild old lines, efforts are made to relocate those lines to roadsides where possible, for easier maintenance, while trying to maintain the aesthetic quality of our back roads. Tree re-growth rate and density is increasing each time a ROW is clear cut. A danger-tree-removal program has greatly helped to avoid outages from trees outside of the ROW or in areas that are overdue for clearing. The committee will be closely examining our ROW program and what options are available to lessen the impact of outages from trees during storms, and to make conditions for line crews safer and easier when restoring those outages. I would like the opportunity to continue to put to use for the benefit of WEC members, the knowledge that I have gained over the past six years.
4. The "bottom line." That is the most important issue facing our Co-op. Over the past few years the Co-op's growth rate has stagnated. At the same time operating costs have gone up. Complicating those two is the fact that WEC members have been more conscious of their electric power consumption. It is very important for

the future that we all use our electric power wisely and replace inefficient lighting and appliances with ones that use less electricity. The effect, though, on the Co-op is declining revenue. With tough economic times WEC has experienced a drop annually in the number of new homes constructed and of new businesses over the past few years. The costs of getting the power to you and maintaining our infrastructure have all risen. Because of this lack of growth, combined with lower usage and with increasing costs, we must generate more revenue. That, unfortunately, will mostly have to come from an increase in rates. Your Board of Directors has taken very serious steps to try to identify areas within the Co-op to cut costs without having serious effects on our main objective, serving our members' electric needs.

5. We are in difficult times. Myself, I have had to add a second job to help add income because of falling farm prices. I understand what is going on and want to assure all of you that I will do everything I can to do what is best for WEC members. The Co-op must remain strong and financially sound, but cuts must be made to get us through. Be assured that your Board of Directors is not going to take the attitude of just passing increasing costs on to members, at least while I am on the Board.

Although they are a small portion of WEC's total membership, businesses and farms are a very important part of WEC. The same cost increases that WEC is experiencing, so are they. They provide us with services, goods, jobs, food, and the rural landscape that we all love. Most of these are high-volume users of electricity. Most have taken measures to be as efficient as possible due to the need to cut operating costs, rather than being concerned about the environment. As a farmer, businessman, and Co-op board member, I will do everything I can to keep the electric rates of these important members from rising, and to be sure all members benefit from the low-cost power of Coventry.

Annie Reed



1. My name is Annie Reed and I have lived in Marshfield, Vermont, for 34 years. I have been a member of the Washington Electric Co-op since 2000. Members may contact me at 802 454-1324, or annereed48@gmail.com.
2. I graduated from Beloit College in 1970 with a B.A. in Anthropology, and in 1997 I received a Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies with a Concentration in Conservation Biology from Antioch University New England. Since 1996, I have been a freelance ecologist. For the past 12 years I have been teaching hands-on courses in college science. Currently,

continued on page 6

Treasurer's Report

WEC On Solid, But Shifting, Ground

Many Factors In Play In Energy Financing

By Donald Douglas
Treasurer



In 2009, Washington Electric Co-op continued to sell power to its members at the same rate as in 2000. Individual members' bills reflect actual monthly usage, so your bill may be higher or lower than it was nine years ago, but the rate has remained the same.

We have managed to hold our rates steady in difficult times by selling the environmental attributes, commonly referred to as Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), associated with our Coventry landfill-gas-to-energy plant. Considerable financial resources from the Co-op are devoted to ensuring that the plant runs well and that it is generating as much energy as possible. It is important to remember that the methane that is produced inside the landfill comes from living, breathing organisms. The quality of the gas is in constant flux and the quantity of the gas from the well field needs steady attention. We devote so much of our time and financial resources to Coventry because it provides us with more than half of the total amount of energy we sell to our members.

Because we borrowed to expand the facility and purchase another engine, the cost of the energy generated at the Coventry plant has increased about 25 percent since 2007, when it cost us about four cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). That cost is now about five and a third cents. Besides giving us a greater capacity for future gas production from the landfill, having five engines gives us the flexibility to run four engines at nearly 100-percent output while maintenance is performed on a fifth engine.

We are expecting to need a rate increase in 2011, and we may file for the increase sometime in 2010. We have known this was going to happen sometime, and we've been speaking and writing about it for the past year or so to try to prepare people for this eventuality. The need for an increase is largely driven by reduced revenues

due to a decline in the REC market, as well as increased operational costs for the Co-op. Many of the same cost-of-living-related factors that affect you also impact the Co-op, but on a much larger scale. Property taxes have continued to increase, along with the cost of purchasing health insurance for our employees. The cost of providing pensions to our employees continues to rise due to the catastrophe in the stock market.

The wholesale cost of energy has declined, which isn't a bad thing, but because we sell surplus power into the market it has had a negative effect on us. More than 11 percent of our power portfolio was sold in the spot market in 2009, but the price we received for that power was less than in previous years, which has the effect of increasing our total power costs.

Washington Electric Cooperative met all the debt-service covenants with our lenders. In 2005 our regulators and

lenders agreed to establish a deferred revenue account because of the large increase in revenues from the sale of Renewable Energy Certificates. Those monies were placed in a restricted cash account which has grown to \$2,073,180. From our margins in 2009, WEC deferred \$200,000 to our restricted cash account. We will be drawing on these monies in 2010 and 2011. The purpose of the restricted revenue account is to provide us the capacity for rate stabilization. Without the restricted account we would have had to file for a rate increase in 2009. As it becomes necessary to raise rates in order to meet our lenders' requirements, WEC will use those monies from the restricted account to cover operating expenses, temporarily easing the rate impact on our members.

WEC ended the year 2009 with \$654,169 in margins. We retired \$157,936 in capital credits from 1990, \$42,064 from 1991, and returned \$75,000 to members who received energy in 2009. This amounts to an approximate 1-percent decrease in your


electric rates. So far, your Cooperative has returned \$2,718,609 in retired patronage capital to the membership.

Revenue

Our operating revenue for 2009 was \$13,616,575, which was an increase of \$194,766 over the prior year's revenues of \$13,421,809. Our total cost for purchased power was up by \$45,165. This was in part due to the lower value of our surplus power.

Operations and Maintenance

The category of Operations and Maintenance covers what most of us see of WEC: the poles and wires, and the work that is performed to keep the system working. This includes storm restoration. In 2009 WEC spent \$5,174,209, which was \$104,754 less than 2008.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank the entire Finance Department for their attention to detail and hard work this past year. Copies of our audit are available at the Co-op office. 

Candidate Profiles

continued from page 5

Community College of Vermont-Montpelier has hired me to teach in their new Environmental Science degree program. My courses include Introduction to Environmental Science, Wildlife Ecology, and The Natural History of Vermont.

For fourteen years I chose to live without electricity of any kind. I learned to be conservative of resources out of necessity, and those lessons have become habitual. I am still amazed that I have the privilege of flipping a switch to get light. Energy efficiency has become a high priority for me, as has leaving a light footprint. For many years I have valued raising food, which I continue to do for myself and my neighbors. Other passions include tending perennial gardens and learning the names of every plant and animal I see.

3. Why would I make a good board member? Because I love this Co-op!! It welcomes ideas, and encourages innovation. I feel good about the way my electricity is produced. I also respect the Co-op's model of shared ownership. I am proud of the Co-op's prudent fiscal management and reputation as a democratically run organization that is responsible to its members and respectful and supportive to its working staff. I applaud the Co-op's outreach to our communities with its participation in the WARMTH Program and Operation

Roundup, and its dedication to community economic development. I believe that my leadership skills, my faith in cooperatives, and my commitment to WEC's model of delivering cheap and reliable electricity to its members in an environmentally sensitive manner will make me a good member of the team.

For many years I have been committed to being active in community matters. My civic involvement has included being a member of the Marshfield Conservation Commission, a former member of the Marshfield Planning Commission, president of the Friends of the Jaquith Public Library, and chair of the Advisory Group on Vascular Plants for the Vermont Endangered Species Committee. For three years I served on the Goddard College Board of Trustees. For eight years I have volunteered as an emergency medical technician, formerly with the Cabot Ambulance and currently with the Plainfield Fire and Rescue Squad. I am a member of two food Co-ops and the NorthCountry Federal Credit Union.

4. What do I think are the most important issues that the Co-op must face in the next few years? The most important issue will be continuing to provide cheap and reliable electricity to its members. As an ecologist, I am very proud of the work our Co-op does for the environment, specifically its awareness of the need for energy conservation. Amory Lovins, a physicist and leader in energy conservation, maintains that we don't

need more power plants, what we need is to supply energy services the cheapest way, by wringing more work from the energy we already have. To do that we need to know what tasks we need energy for, and then find the most appropriate and cheapest way to get it. This is one area in which I would like to see the Co-op continue to push forward.

The other is the exploration and implementation of renewable energy technology for our 21st-century energy needs. The Coventry plant is a stunning example of a system that mimics nature's way of recycling. Just as the forest is in a continual cycle of decomposition and regeneration, methane generation converts waste into energy. It is relatively low tech, affordable, and locally produced. I think it is necessary to continue researching strategies and technologies that work with natural systems including wind, water, and solar energy production.

5. It would be an honor to serve on the Co-op's board and I look forward to the opportunity of becoming involved with keeping electricity costs down while directing the wise use and stewardship of our precious environment.

Scott Skinner

1. I live on Leland Farm Road in Middlesex and have been a WEC member since 1977. I can be reached at 223-7123 and by e-mail at *continued on page 8*

Copies of the audited financial statements of Washington Electric Cooperative are available by contacting the Co-op's office, and will be available at the Annual Meeting. The audited financial statements are also posted on our web site under "Member Info."

Balance Sheet

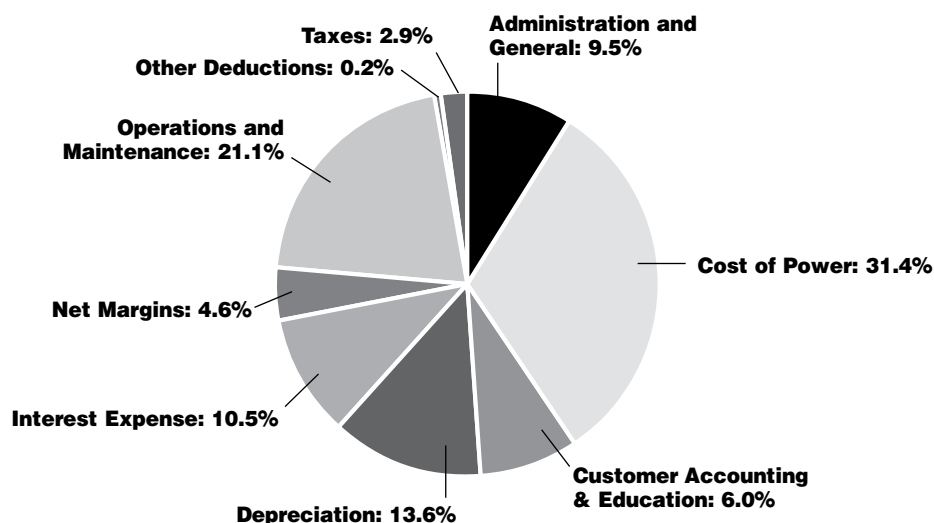
Assets and Other Debits			
	12/31/08	12/31/09	Increase (Decrease)
Utility Plant			
Total Utility Plant in Service	\$58,014,454	\$63,296,613	\$5,282,159
Construction Work in Progress	982,944	1,188,225	205,281
Total Utility Plant	58,997,398	64,484,838	5,487,440
Accum. Provision for Depreciation	17,267,098	18,546,103	1,279,005
Net Utility Plant	\$41,730,300	\$45,938,735	\$4,208,435
Other Property and Investment - At Cost			
Invest. in Assoc. Org. - Patronage Capital	150,485	162,887	12,402
Invest. In Assoc. Org. - Central Vt. Mem. Civic Center	207,080	164,216	(42,864)
Invest. in Assoc. Org. - Other	463,705	461,511	(2,194)
Other Investments	3,219,269	3,892,460	673,191
Total Other Property and Investments	\$4,040,539	\$4,681,074	\$640,535
Current Assets			
Cash - General Funds	515,708	329,570	(186,138)
Temporary Investments	143,435	1,907,470	1,764,035
Notes Receivable - Net	3,699	1,941	(1,758)
Accounts Receivable - Net	3,023,524	2,963,272	(60,253)
Materials and Supplies	264,947	304,823	39,876
Prepayments	78,021	86,772	8,751
Total Current and Accrued Assets	4,029,334	5,593,848	1,564,514
Deferred Debits	368,041	306,721	(61,320)
Total Assets and Other Debits	\$50,168,213	\$56,520,378	\$6,352,164
Number of Consumers	10,461	10,511	50
kWh Sold	68,288,645	68,407,548	118,903

Liabilities and Other Credits			
	12/31/08	12/31/09	Increase (Decrease)
Memberships			
Patronage Capital Credits	\$106,530	\$108,455	\$1,925
Contributions-in-Aid-of-Construction	6,506,713	6,874,824	368,111
Operating Margins - Prior Years	9,260,560	9,484,262	223,702
Operating Margins - Current Year	0	0	0
Non-Operating Margins	199,047	192,222	(6,825)
Other Margins and Equities	416,207	461,947	45,740
Total Margins and Equities	\$16,628,192	\$17,267,246	\$639,054
Long-Term Debt			
Long-Term Debt - RUS	24,709,944	24,018,660	(691,284)
Central Vt. Memorial Civic Center	207,080	164,216	(42,864)
Long-Term Debt - Other	4,043,199	9,506,536	5,463,337
Total Long-Term Debt	\$28,960,223	\$33,689,412	\$4,729,189
Current Liabilities			
Notes Payable	1,075,558	1,378,054	302,496
Accounts Payable	843,399	1,272,743	429,344
Consumer Deposits	158,341	170,017	11,676
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	482,936	504,097	21,161
Total Current and Accrued Liabilities	\$2,560,234	\$3,324,911	\$764,677
Deferred Credits	2,019,564	2,238,809	219,245
Total Liabilities and Other Credits	\$50,168,213	\$56,520,378	\$6,352,165

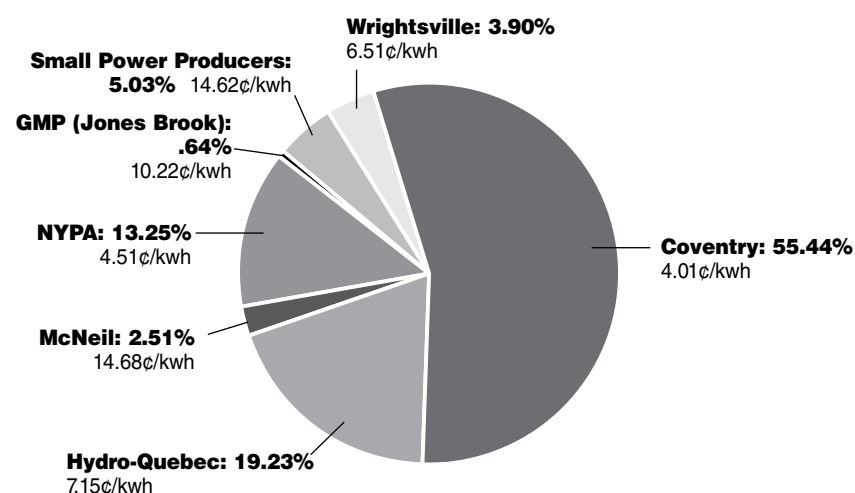
Statement of Operations

Item	Actual 12/31/08	Actual 12/31/09	Increase (Decrease)
Operating Revenue	\$13,421,809	\$13,616,575	\$194,766
Cost of Purchased Power	3,145,065	3,180,956	\$35,891
Cost of Generated Power - Wrightsville & Coventry	1,248,159	1,257,433	\$9,274
Total Cost of Power	\$4,393,224	\$4,438,389	\$45,165
Other Operation & Maintenance Expense			
Transmission Expense	18,735	22,480	3,745
Distribution Expense - Operation	1,248,400	1,352,970	104,570
Distribution Expense - Maintenance	1,643,050	1,604,045	(39,005)
Consumer Accounts Expense	760,558	720,507	(40,051)
Customer Service & Education	366,685	129,592	(237,093)
Administrative and General Expense	1,241,534	1,344,615	103,081
Total Other Operation and Maintenance Expense	\$5,278,963	\$5,174,209	(\$104,754)
Fixed Expenses			
Depreciation and Amortization Expense	1,803,352	1,920,183	116,831
Tax Expense - Property	183,038	282,778	99,740
Tax Expense - Other	112,080	129,804	17,725
Interest on Long-Term Debt	1,365,499	1,463,722	98,223
Interest Expense - Other	29,962	23,572	(6,390)
Other Deductions	56,645	35,211	(21,434)
Total Fixed Expenses	\$3,550,575	\$3,855,270	\$304,695
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$13,222,762	\$13,467,868	\$245,106
Operating Margins	199,047	148,707	(\$50,340)
Non-Operating Margins - Interest	370,225	445,752	75,527
Non-Operating Margins - Other	45,982	59,709	13,727
Extraordinary Item			
Net Margins	\$615,254	\$654,168	\$38,914
Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER)	1.45	1.45	(0.00)

Where the Dollars Went

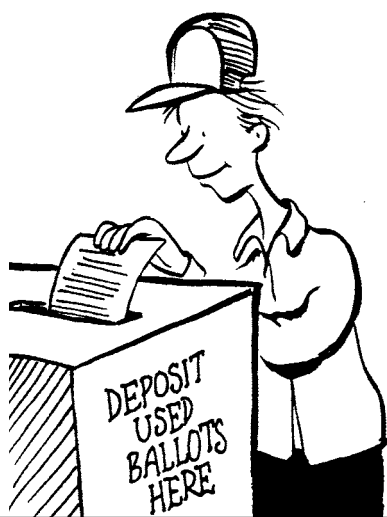


2009 Sources and Costs of Power

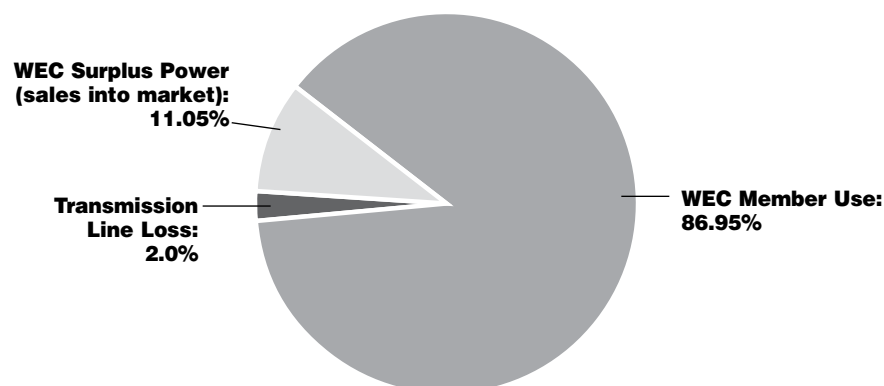


Notice

Members may vote at the Annual Meeting on May 12 or by ballots accompanying this issue of *Co-op Currents*. Mailed ballots must be received at the Barre Post Office no later than 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11. Members mailing their ballots from out of state are advised to mail them several days before the deadline to be sure that their ballots will qualify. Local members, too, are encouraged to allow a few days for postal delivery. **Ballots hand delivered to WEC's office will be treated as spoiled ballots.** Anyone with questions about voting or deadlines can call Debbie Brown at the Co-op.



2009 Energy Resource Allocation



Annual Meeting

continued from page 1

the floor,” said Patt. “That’s a critical element of the Annual Meeting and the Co-op’s democratic process. The point is just that we’re going to try to be succinct and make as much room as possible for what we think is a very important event.”

WEC will provide free childcare for Co-op members, but parents should note that they must register their children ahead of time so WEC can be sure to have sufficient staffing for this service. People can register their children for childcare when they send in their dinner reservation. Children 12 and under will be charged a reduced rate of \$4 for dinner.

“We want people to come, to be involved, and to take advantage of this opportunity,” said Patt. “That’s one reason we’re providing childcare. The other reason is to reinforce the idea that the Co-op’s Annual Meeting is a family and community event.”

In 2009 Washington Electric increased its emphasis on the “community” aspect of the annual get-together by featuring locally grown food. The meal in 2009 wasn’t just good – it was good for the local economy. This new tradition will

continue in 2010.

“We can’t say that the menu will be one-hundred-percent local,” said Patt. “But local foods will play as prominent a role as we can manage. People liked that aspect of the meeting last year, and we continued it with the community meetings we held in Chelsea and Corinth in the fall. We expect this to be a regular feature and focus of all our membership meetings.”

Finally, the Annual Meeting will conclude the balloting as WEC members elect four people to serve on the Co-op’s Board of Directors. Ballots cast at the meeting will be added to those WEC receives by the deadline before the meeting (check your ballot materials for this information) and the winners will be announced before the meeting is adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Five candidates are running for the Board, and you can learn more about them through their responses to energy- and WEC-related questions beginning on page 4. Because one director whose board seat will expire at the time of the meeting (Kimberley Cheney) has decided not to run for a new term, and because another director (Andrea



Deb Markowitz



Doug Racine



Matt Dunne



Susan Bartlett



Peter Shumlin

WEC’S 71st Annual Meeting Dinner Reservation

Mostacolli and Chicken

Deadline for reservations is **Friday, April 30.**

Please list all attendees. Be sure to indicate your choice of meat/meatless mostacolli, whether the attendee is 12 or under, and if childcare is requested.

Name _____	Mostacolli		Child 12 & Under
	Meatless	Meat	
Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Child care requested. Age(s) of child(ren) _____


Address _____

Account # _____ or Map # _____

Number of persons attending _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

\$8 per adult/\$4 per child (12 and under).
Make checks payable to WEC and return to: PO Box 8, East Montpelier, VT 05651

Colnes) is resigning with two years remaining in her term, the Board is certain to seat at least two new directors after the coming election. In all, five WEC members are running for Board, a level of interest and involvement that speaks well for the Cooperative. Through elections, WEC members

will have a say in how their electric utility moves forward in a challenging energy-policy environment. As Vermont voters, they’ll also have a say in how Vermont crafts its statewide energy policy. WEC’s May 12 Annual Membership Meeting will serve both of those purposes. Be sure not to miss the opportunity to take part. It’s a great time to be a Washington Electric Co-op member. 

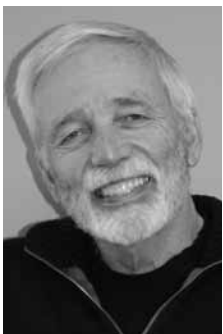
“We invited all six of the major-party gubernatorial candidates. Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie, who has no primary opponent, declined our invitation.”

— WEC General Manager Avram Patt

Candidate Profiles

continued from page 6

scottskinner@gmail.com.




2. I am a lawyer in the firm of Biggam, Fox & Skinner in Montpelier. I graduated from Dartmouth College in 1964. I was a Peace Corps volunteer for two years, working as a high school teacher in Nepal. I graduated from Columbia Law School in 1969, and after working for several years in New York I came to Vermont in 1972 as the first executive director of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG).

3. I have admired the energy, commitment and good judgment of the WEC Board for some time. I believe in the cooperative principle and would like to contribute as a Board member to WEC’s continued success. As a new member, I would have much to learn, but I do have some experience with utility issues, especially rate design. In addition, I was a Board member and officer of a solar energy

company for a number of years.

4. The challenge for WEC is to ensure an adequate supply of reasonably priced power to the members. I fully support the Co-op’s policy direction toward clean, renewable energy, believing that these choices can make sense economically in addition to being socially and environmentally responsible. I believe that a good mix of renewable energy sources is necessary to ensure rate stability over the coming years. I would like to see the Co-op’s leadership in energy efficiency initiatives continue to expand.

5. I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the WEC Board. Please give me a call at 223-7123 if you have questions or issues you would like to discuss.

CORRECTION: In our March 2010 issue each candidate was asked to provide information about his or her community service. *Co-op Currents* incorrectly quoted candidate Skinner as saying he was a member of the Board of the Vermont Historical Society. What Mr. Skinner actually reported was that he was a member of the Board of Barre Historical Society. The editor apologizes for the error. 

President’s Report

continued from page 2

to Lineman First Class, and Operations Director Dan Weston is working to ensure a smooth transition for the Co-op. Sandra Gendron, our information data technician, also came aboard to help us keep our outage-management and mapping systems updated, critical to our daily work and to outage response during storms. Maintaining a dedicated and well-trained staff, while bringing on new people, is the means by which your Cooperative can continue to serve you.

Storms. We made it through most of 2009 without serious storms, but did not escape the Thanksgiving weekend storm that caused outages for more than 2,000 of our members, some for up to 26 hours. The high winds that began on the Friday after Thanksgiving caused more than 70,000 Vermont homes and businesses to lose their power over that weekend, and were followed quickly by another storm that caused heavy and widespread power outages – though in that case we were lucky; the second storm spared our Co-op service territory.

See You on May 12

We are returning to the Montpelier Elks Club for our Annual Meeting this year, after holding it in recent years in Barre. It promises to be an interesting meeting. We have five Co-op members

running for four seats on the Board of Directors, and since one of the incumbent directors decided not to run again we are assured of having at least two new board members. Fresh perspectives are healthy for an organization. I would like to thank

outgoing directors Kim Cheney and Andrea Colnes for their time, energy and support during their period of service.

Rather than having a featured speaker, as in most years, this year we invited the Democratic and Republican primary candidates for governor to address our membership on energy issues, and all but Republican Lt. Governor Brian Dubie accepted our invitation. Their views on Vermont’s energy future might help some WEC members decide whom to support.

The date is Wednesday, May 12. We hope you will come. Participation is what it’s all about in a member-owned electric cooperative. 