

Co-op members will cast first-ever mail ballots

West Florida Electric Cooperative's trustee elections are approaching, and, for the first time in WFEC's 63-year history, Co-op members will cast their ballots by mail, instead of at the polls. In fact, from now on, a mail ballot will be the only means of participating in WFEC's elections; you won't find any voting booths at the Co-op's annual meeting this year.

At WFEC's annual meeting last November, members overwhelmingly favored conducting all future voting by mail. The bylaw amendment they adopted, pertaining to member voting, provides for modification of any bylaw wording that would hinder the by-mail voting process.

Certain deadlines relating to trustee nominations have required adjustment to accommodate the new voting procedures. The following excerpt from Article IV, Section 5, the part of WFEC's bylaws concerning nominations, reflects these changes:

"It shall be the duty of the board of trustees to appoint, not less than 60 days or more than 90 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five, not more than 11, members who shall be selected from different sections of the project area so as to ensure equitable representation. No member of the board of trustees may serve on such committee. The committee shall nominate at least one member for trustee from each district in accordance with Section 2 of this article and shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least 35 days before the meeting, its list of nominations for trustee, but any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition no less than 60 days prior to the meeting and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee are posted. The secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least 15 days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of nominations made by the committee on nominations and also the nominations made by petition, if any. No nominations from the floor shall be made or allowed for trustee candidates either at special meetings of the annual membership meeting. Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of trustees. Each member may cast only one vote for each trustee to be elected. There shall be no cumulative voting for election of trustees."

September 2000 CLF



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On the road to progress

Opportunity Florida counties begin the journey

Trustee talk

Meet Eugene Alford of District 2

Board names nominating committee

Dixie Egg Co. hatches distribution center

Safety in a snap

Car seats, bike helmets protect kids

Reader's

Recipe

Taco Pie

Power


Profile

Featuring

David Register

Consumer Ads

Main Menu

In accordance with these parameters, WFEC's trustees appointed a committee on nominations at the Aug. 28 board meeting (See "Board names nominating committee"). The committee's report and all nominations by petition are due by 5 p. m. Sept. 12. Look for information about the new voting procedures in next month's *Current Light Flashes*. 

WFEC clears the way for reliable service
Opportunity Florida takes first steps
Trustee talk: Meet District 2's Eugene Alford
Board names nominating committee
Dixie Egg Co. hatches distribution center
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Consumer ads • Power Profile
Reader's Recipe • Main Menu