



Battle River POWER COOP

MEMBER OWNED • COMMUNITY POWERED



Annual General Meeting Reminder

This year the 2020 and 2021 Annual General Meetings are scheduled for July 22, 2021 starting at 6:00 pm.

The virtual meetings will take place via Zoom, so you will be able to attend in the comfort of your home.

Members are encouraged to register by Thursday, July 15th so your AGM package will arrive in advance of the meeting. Not only will the AGM package contain reports and financials, but it will also include a voting ballot to elect Directors (see Board of Director’s message on back page).

So don’t delay – register today by calling the office (1-877-428-3972) or by email (brpc@brpower.coop).

Nomination Process for Director of the Board of Battle River Power Coop

This year’s nomination process involved a comprehensive communication strategy to members to consider standing as a Director of the Board. Activities included reminders on monthly bills, radio commercials on CFCW and Country 98.1 from May 1-30, a detailed article in the newsletter on the nomination process, a notice on the website home page, numerous posts on our social media platforms and a segment in our on-hold message.

Members wishing to stand for election were required to complete and submit a nomination form by May 31, 2021.

Successful nominations required a nominator and seconder, and nominees had to provide the Nominating Committee with pertinent information regarding their interest, some professional background details, the skillsets they would bring to the Board, their length of time as a member and any previous experience that would be applicable.

The Nominating Committee reviewed the applications and is pleased to present 6 candidates to stand for the 5 vacant positions. Excerpts from their responses and other details are on page 2 and 3 of this newsletter. (Note – nominees are listed in alphabetical order by last name.)



Nominees for Director of the Board of Battle River Power Coop



Dan Astner
Coop member for 43 years

Background and Skillsets

“After graduating from university, I was employed with a national firm dealing in commodities and agricultural supplies until I started farming full time. I have sat on numerous boards, councils and committees – locally, provincially and nationally and frequently held an executive position.

Through my exposure to multiple types of organizational structures over the years and the various professional and director training sessions that I have participated in, I have become aware of a common thread of what makes a successful progressive organization.”

Why I want to be a Director

“It is my pleasure serving the members of Battle River Power Coop and I am appreciative of the members’ strong support in assisting us in building this wonderful organization that we have today.”



Leonard M. Blumenthal
Coop member for 50 years

Background and Skillsets

Leonard’s profession began as a teacher that evolved into a career with the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission where he eventually became President/CEO of the organization. Leonard continues with private consulting upon retiring from AADAC in 1998.

Leonard’s skillsets include “governance experience, problem-solving, and strategic planning” in addition to previous board experience with the Capital Health Board (10 years); Edmonton Airports (8 years) and Alcoholics Anonymous-USA/Canada (20 years).

Why I want to be a Director

“To ensure that electricity continue to be available in a reliable and economical manner.”



Bruce Carlson
Coop member for 44 years

Background and Skillsets

“I have been a farmer in the Meeting Creek district for many years and I worked for Camrose County for 11 years.”

Bruce’s skillsets include “management skills and the ability to work with the Board” in addition to previous board experience with Evergreen Rural Electrification Association (REA); Meeting Creek Church; Meeting Creek Cemetery and Battle River Power Coop.

Why I want to be a Director

“I believe it’s important for the REAs to continue to be the benchmark in the industry and to bring quality service to members. I want to keep Battle River Power Coop investing locally as much as possible.”



Neil Fenske

Coop member for 22 years

Background and Skillsets

Neil is a retired educator (teacher, principal and associate superintendent) with the Black Gold School Division. He held executive positions with Alberta Education and, in his retirement, teaches the occasional undergraduate or graduate course at Concordia University.

Neil brings education (PhD) and experience, complemented by practical work, in policy, governance, and multi-million dollar budget administration to a Director position. He is a certified national level curling coach and feels “coaching skills are important to an organization.” He operates a small farm and has a “deep appreciation for rural life.” Board service experience includes Director-Battle River Power Coop, Director-Beaumont Credit Union (incl. Board Chair and Audit Committee Chair) and participation with various church and community committees.

Why I want to be a Director

“Our predecessors created Rural Electrification Associations to provide electricity to rural Alberta when existing companies had no interest in serving the rural areas. Now, more than ever, it is important for our electricity to be provided by a local Coop that has members as a first priority rather than a multi-national corporation whose primary concern is profit for shareholders. If I can help further our vision, I would be pleased to serve a second term on the Board.”



James Matthews

Coop member for 49 years

Background and Skillsets

James has a diploma in General Agriculture Technology from Vermillion College and has been operating a mixed farm operation that consists of beef cow/calf and grain since 1972.

Complementing his 35 years of wide-ranging Rural Electrification Association board involvement, his experience includes time as a Councillor for Flagstaff County, Director for the Flagstaff Farm Promotional, Chairperson with the Hardisty/Hughenden United Church and Chairperson with Battle River Power Coop Contract Policy Committee.

Why I want to be a Director

“I live in the Hardisty area of the Coop. My focus is in building into the future to provide reliable and affordable electric service to our members. This is a competitive world. The investor-owned utilities want to take over and dissolve the Power Coops but I feel the cooperative business format has a definite advantage. I am willing to make the commitment to be a Director on the Battle River Power Coop Board.”



Stan Rose

Coop member for 32 years

Background and Skillsets

Stan has worked as a site superintendent in commercial construction in central Alberta for 30 years. His profession has given him a varied skillset including organizing/coordinating sub trades, staff management, site budget management, reporting to senior management at site meetings, overseeing site safety and coordinating site activities with various local bodies that had jurisdiction.

Stan’s previous board experience includes 3 years with the Wizard Lake Area structure plan.

Why I want to be a Director

“I want to help keep the independent cooperative in control of local business – to give back to local business.”

Message from the Board of Directors

We have all heard the expression “every vote counts.”

Well that is never more accurate than when it applies to members who vote for Directors who will govern their Battle River Power Coop.

Directors must be committed to work for the continued and increased effectiveness in Battle River Power Coop’s ability to serve its membership and ensure the Coop’s interests are paramount above any personal gain or position.

They need to devote the time needed to fulfill the duties of a Director including:

- regular attendance at board meetings
- commitment to read Board materials and come to the monthly meetings prepared to provide input,
- attendance at stakeholder sessions as required, and
- adhoc representation at forums or committees relating to the Coop.

Additionally, Directors have ancillary responsibilities and key duties that are outlined in the *Rural Utilities Act*.

Members are encouraged to take these responsibilities and obligations into account when voting for a candidate.

One of the distinct advantages of being a member of a cooperative is **your right to vote**.

This year, members will be voting for Directors with a secret ballot (see image right) that will be mailed with your AGM package.

Members will have the opportunity to choose 5 candidates they feel will best represent their Coop.

Your AGM package will contain other details about the ballots and voting process.

Ballot 000

2021 Voting Ballot

Place an **X** beside the candidate(s) you are voting for.
(Vote for a maximum of five (5) candidates.)

Vote X	Candidate (Surname, First)
	ASTNER, Dan
	BLUMENTHAL, Leonard
	CARLSON, Bruce
	FENSKE, Neil
	MATTHEWS, James
	ROSE, Stan

*Voting is for BRPC Members only.

SAMPLE

REGULATED RATE OPTION



The RRO may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. It is not a ‘regulated’ rate, rather it is a default rate. If you do not have an energy contract, then you are on the RRO.

For June 2021, the RRO is priced at \$0.07665 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed blue bill. For July 2021, the REA monthly rate as calculated under the RRO regulation is \$0.09544. Detailed information on the monthly RRO is available on: www.brpower.coop.

Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit ucahelps.alberta.ca or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

BATTLE RIVER POWER COOP IS AVAILABLE FOR POWER TROUBLE CALLS 24/7/365 CALL TOLL-FREE: 1.877.428.3972

