

# NORTH PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 1008 • Perryton, TX 79070 • Phone (806) 435-5482

## STEADY AND STRONG Co-op Celebrates 60 Great Years, Honors 'Mr. NPEC'

“We owe a tremendous debt to Ira Harbour and the other men who formed North Plains EC,” fellow board member Jimmy Greene said at the co-op’s 60th anniversary membership meeting. “Their determination and action made it possible for our communities to grow during tough times. I think ‘Mr. NPEC’ is the title we should give Ira tonight.”

Harbour, one of the founding members of NPEC and the current board president, received a standing ovation from the crowd in attendance at the April 19th meeting in Perryton. It was ‘Mr. NPEC’ night all around, as members and guests congratulated Harbour and his wife, Oudia. A special award presentation to the board president was made by Greene, who remarked, “More than half our current board members weren’t born yet when Ira was working to get this co-op established.”

Harbour was presented with an engraved rifle for his six decades of service to the co-op members. “As far as anyone can tell, Ira holds the record for the most years as an electric co-op board member,” Greene said. “They told us at NRECA [the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Washington, D.C.] that they don’t even have records going back that far.”



More than 400 members and guests of North Plains Electric Cooperative attended their annual membership meeting April 19 in Perryton.

A thunderstorm rolled in just before the start of the business meeting at 7 p.m., with a heavy downpour creating a thunderous racket on the metal roof of the Ochiltree County Expo Center. By the time the business meeting started, only light showers were falling and most members were smiling, happy to get the “wet stuff.”

“Two words can be used to describe North Plains’ financial condition: steady and strong,” Bob Beam, auditor with Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert

& Moss, said. “The co-op is steady in that its assets continue to grow, and strong, as shown by its equity which has increased by \$1 million from last year. These are good, strong indicators of North Plains’ financial strength.”

In his manager’s report, General Manager Randy Mahannah told co-op members that the net margin for 2003 was \$1.7 million. Most of that was generated by sales, with Golden Spread EC’s capital credit allocation totaling nearly \$460,000. He said, “The energy that



NPEC General Manager Randy Mahannah updated members on the co-op’s operations.



North Plains members recognized Ira Harbour for his 60 years of service on the cooperative’s board.



Sandra Drake was the lucky winner of this year’s grand prize, a \$500 energy certificate.



Little Crystal Cantu is all smiles after winning a prize in the children’s drawing.



North Plains EC gave out \$5,250 in college scholarships at this year's annual meeting.



Volunteers from the Ochiltree County 4-H clubs were on hand to assist with serving, seating and helping members during the evening.

you purchased last year cost almost 1 cent per kilowatt-hour less than our effective rates, due to a negative power cost recover factor [PCRF] for 10 of the 12 months last year. This reduction was partially related to 2003 credits that flowed back through our wholesale power bill to you each month last year.

"Subtracting an average of one penny per kWh each month adds up to \$1.34 million worth of savings that members were able to use on anything except electricity," Mahannah said.

The general manager also noted that the employees of North Plains Electric have not had a lost-time accident in the past 37 months, quite an outstanding achievement.

In a video slideshow, Mahannah showed members the new transformer installed in the Perryton substation last November and improvements made to the Miami breaker station.

"Our crews are in the process of installing motor operators with radio communication supervisory controls

at three critical transmission switching locations where we now have manual switches," he said. With the new motor-operated switches and remote switching capability, "a transmission feed can be changed before our line-men get out of town."

After votes were counted in the directors' election, all three incumbents—Dorsey Schad, Lyndon Imke and Craig Young—were returned to their respective positions.

Each member received a welcome packet that included a *Texas Co-op Power Cookbook*, newsletter, 60-minute phone card and an energy survey to be filled out at the meeting. Several door prizes were given away and Sandra Drake claimed the grand prize of a \$500 energy certificate. The completed member surveys were entered in a special drawing at the end of the evening. Johnny Luthie was the winner of a \$100 bill credit for completing his survey. The results of this survey will be presented to members in a future edition.

Members of the Ochiltree County 4-H clubs were on hand to assist members in the serving line and with seating. These volunteers also assisted with drinks and desserts. A donation was made to the clubs for their generous service.

With 430 members and guests in attendance—and 167 members signing up to cast ballots—NPEC Office Manager Galen Cooksey noted that "this 60th annual meeting had one of the largest attendances I can remember in recent history."

## Missing Your Annual Report?

If you did not receive your 2003 Annual Report from North Plains Electric Co-op, please call (806) 435-5482. You can view the annual report on our website at [www.npec.org](http://www.npec.org).



Johnny Luthie was the winner of a \$100 bill credit for completing and turning in his energy survey at the meeting.



Seth Carson gives NPEC mascot Willie Wiredhand a "high five."



Dana Donahue, representing the Perryton Chamber of Commerce, was the lucky winner of a portable DVD player.



Mark Coleman was the winner of a meter lamp, which employees collectively purchased as a prize.