

R.S.V.P. for EQUS' Annual General Meeting



EQUS REA LTD. is holding their 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM) over three days and locations, with voting occurring at all three sessions.

AGM Dates and Locations:

South Area - Tuesday, March 29

The Coast Lethbridge Hotel & Conference Centre, 526 Mayor Magrath Drive South, Lethbridge

Central Area - Wednesday, March 30

Sheraton Red Deer Hotel, 3310 50 Avenue, Red Deer

North Area - Thursday, March 31

Best Western Sunrise Inn & Suites, 3101 43 Avenue, Stony Plain

Meeting Agenda:

3 until 5 p.m. - Connect with EQUS and registration

Enjoy refreshments and meet with members of your Board of Directors. EQUS staff members will be on hand to answer members' questions on:

- Billing
- Community Relations
- Safety
- Construction and Maintenance
- EQUS Community Connection
- Micro-generation
- Vegetation Management

5 until 6:30 p.m. - Annual General Meeting

6:30 until 8 p.m. - Dinner

EQUS is pleased to announce that the Honourable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, will bring greetings from the Province at our Stony Plain meeting. Local Members of the Legislative Assembly will be in attendance at all meetings to speak with our members.

Members are requested to R.S.V.P. by March 22 by calling 1.888.211.4011. Please note AGMs are open to EQUS members and EQUS Board of Director invited guests only.

EQUS Board of Directors Nomination Process

EQUS has an established procedure regarding the nomination of potential Directors. Those members desiring to let their name stand for nomination, must meet the following eligibility requirements in accordance with the by-laws. The term of office of a Director is four years.

1. Any member in good standing may attend and vote at meetings and be elected a director, subject to the nomination eligibility provisions in these by-laws.
2. A member is eligible to be nominated for election as a Director if:

i. the member is 18 years of age or older and is in good standing;

ii. the member is not an employee of EQUS or an employee of a company under contract to EQUS; and

iii. the member's spouse or common-law partner is not a permanent employee of EQUS or a Director.

The procedure for board nominations is as follows:

1. the interested member must obtain a nomination package from EQUS and nomination papers must be returned to an EQUS office no later than December 15 of the year prior to the AGM;
2. nomination papers must be signed by five EQUS members in good standing; and
3. the Board Governance and Policy Committee vets all nominations to confirm that the proposed nominee is a member in good standing and the nominee's information is put forward for consideration.

Please see the next page for information on the 2016 Board of Director Nominees.

Board of Director Nominees for 2016

For the three open positions on EQUUS' Board of Directors for 2016, there are three nominees. Background information on the nominees is listed below.

Sid Doornbos

Sid was born in Red Deer and raised in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Sid and his wife Karen have five children and 10 grandchildren. After graduating from high school, he joined the family dairy farm. In 1994, he sold the farm, retired for a year and moved to Blackfalds. He currently operates a company that manufactures dairy equipment and installs the products on dairy farms in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Sid has been a member of an REA for 20 years and has served on the EQUUS Board for the past four years. He feels that the co-operative business model of EQUUS functions very well and helps in the development of rural Alberta.



Allan Nimmo

Allan and his wife Georgina live on the family farm west of Innisfail. They have two sons, Glenn and Dean, and four grandchildren. Allan was appointed to the Board of the Central Alberta REA in October of 2010 and is currently the Chairman of EQUUS' Governance and Policy Committee and sits on the Government Relations Committee.

Allan worked in the oil industry for a number of years, owned and operated a retail store in Innisfail and also a Real Estate Brokerage for over 38 years. Allan, along with wife and sons ran a cow/calf operation on the family farm west of Innisfail. He brings extensive experience as a business owner to the board.



Wanda Okamura

Wanda and her husband Dave live in the Reed Ranch community east of Olds. They recently built a new home on a quarter section of their family farm. The home site has had an REA service since the 1950's.

Wanda started her post-secondary education at the University of Lethbridge and later completed an MBA in Financial Services from Dalhousie University. Wanda joined RBC in 1976 and retired with over 33 years of service in the banking industry. Her various postings in Alberta, New Brunswick and Manitoba provided valuable experience and developed skills in operations, human resource management, project management and general business, which she applies to her role on the EQUUS Board.



Government Announces Solar Program

Last month, the Government of Alberta announced a new solar program for agricultural producers – On-Farm Solar Management – that will provide \$500,000 in provincial and federal funding towards solar energy systems on Alberta farms. The program will help producers generate their own electricity and reduce their carbon emissions. If you are currently a solar energy micro-generator or looking incorporate

high efficiency equipment in your construction and/or retrofitting projects, consult the terms and conditions of the program to see if you qualify for funding for this program.

For more information, contact the program office:
Phone: 780-427-3819 | Email: loretta.orr@gov.ab.ca
Web: www.growingforward.alberta.ca

Operation Round Up Call for Committee Members

EQUUS is looking for three EQUUS members to sit on the Operation Round Up Committee. As a member of the Operation Round Up Committee, you would contribute to the review, assessment and approval of all Operation Round Up funding applications and the review of all end-of-project reports. The Committee is responsible for the approval of all disbursement of funds as outlined in the program criteria.

Qualifications of Committee members:

- EQUUS members in good standing;
- previous experience with reviewing projects and applications is an asset; and
- provide un-biased representation for the complete EQUUS Service Area.



Potential Committee members will be required to complete an application form and initial members will serve for a two year period. Afterwards, members may be reappointed or new members appointed, for terms of two years. Applications for Committee membership will be reviewed and approved by the EQUUS Board of Directors.

If you are interested in applying as an Operation Round Up Committee member, please email communications@equus.ca for an application form or call 403.227.4011 ext. 158.

Operation Round Up Update: on your EQUUS bill this month you will see a line item for Operation Round Up of \$0.00 to give you a preview of what you will see when the program starts 'rounding up' in May (on your April energy bill). If you decide that you wish to be excluded from participation in Operation Round Up, simply contact our Main Office (mail, email or toll-free 1.888.211.4011) and let us know.

Members Matter!

Quality is one of the core values of EQUUS and is reflected through our employees' deliberate choice to aspire to the highest work standards.

As a result, after every service request, we follow up with members to see how we did. For the past few years, this feedback program has been called EQUUS' Customer Connection; however, as part of the largest member-owned utility co-operative, you are more than a customer, you are a member owner.

Moving forward, our feedback program will be known as Members Matter, because we know members matter! While we have slightly revised the feedback questions, the program itself is

remaining the same. When EQUUS members share their feedback with us they have a chance to win a \$250 power credit, which is drawn quarterly. Any EQUUS member who has a service request, construction project or requested vegetation management service completed is eligible for the quarterly draw.

Upon completion of the service, EQUUS staff will contact you for your feedback. Member feedback takes just a couple of minutes and provides valuable information to ensure continued member satisfaction and quality of service.

Feedback can be provided over the phone, email, online, fax or by mail. Please ensure that EQUUS has the most convenient

way to contact you on file. The next Members Matter Feedback Program quarterly draw for a \$250 power credit is March 31.

Congratulations to the 2015 fourth quarter Members Matter winner Maurice Layden from the Central Area. Maurice had a new service installed in 2015 and commented that he was impressed with the communication throughout the process. From the initial call through to the estimator to the service crew, EQUUS provided constant updates and Maurice felt up to date on his project. He found the staff in the Central Area office staff easy to work with and appreciated their professionalism.

Thanks for your feedback, Maurice, and congratulations!

Ebilling

Sign up for ebilling for your chance at one of five \$100 power bill credits!

Benefits of ebilling:

- **24/7 access to your power bill - you can access your bill online anytime, anywhere.**
- **It's environmentally-friendly - no more paper bills.**



To register for ebilling, please contact your Member Service Administrator toll-free at 1.888.211.4011 or email reads@equs.ca for an application form.

Already signed up for ebilling? If you are already signed up for ebilling, thanks for being an early adopter. You are automatically entered into the draw for one of five \$100 credits! The winners of the five EQUS power bill credits will be drawn December 31, 2016.

Vandalism to an EQUS Substation

On the evening of January 13, a report of a power outage near Beiseker was received by EQUS. Upon investigation of the power outage, it was found that two transformers and the oil circuit recloser (OCR) in one of EQUS' substations in the area had been damaged by gunfire.

Tampering with or vandalizing electrical distribution equipment is a dangerous crime. Not only does it cause power outages and increase the costs of distribution, it also puts lives at risk. If the transformers had blown, significant physical damage could have occurred to those involved in the vandalism.

The total damage as a result of this incident, including labour and materials to replace two transformers and the OCR, to EQUS was \$35,000.

The local RCMP are involved the investigation of this incident and EQUS members are encouraged to report any suspicious activity around EQUS' equipment to the local authorities.



Photo: One of the transformers that was vandalized near Beiseker.

It is very important to note that your electrical distribution system provider will always be EQUS, regardless of who supplies your energy. Members who choose to obtain electricity (retail electricity services) from a party other than EQUS will not be disadvantaged or in any way be treated differently by EQUS. For a list of energy retailers, visit www.ucahelps.alberta.ca.

Mailing address: Box 6199, 5803 42 Street, Innisfail, AB T4G 1S8

To report a power outage in your area, or for other services such as construction or vegetation management, please call your local Area Office.

Main Office
Phone: 403.227.4011
Toll-free: 1.888.211.4011
Fax: 403.227.1007

North Area Office
Phone: 780.967.3340
Toll-free: 1.888.627.4011
Fax: 780.967.3018

Central Area Office
Phone: 403.227.7535
Toll-free: 1.877.527.4011
Fax: 403.227.7540

South Area Office
Phone: 403.625.4154
Toll-free: 1.888.565.5445
Fax: 403.625.3569



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