



Pioneer Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees decided nearly two years ago it was time to rewrite the Cooperative's Bylaws. Our current Bylaws were revised in 2004 and have been amended four (4) times since then, but even with those changes the Bylaws are confusing at best. The Board's desire was to simplify, clarify and update our Bylaws with the idea of promoting their use in Pioneer's only business, electricity. The current set of bylaws were developed during a time when Pioneer was involved with several businesses and RUS (Rural Utility Services, formerly REA) and other lenders were promoting diversification. Today the Board and management believe our core focus should be the safe, reliable delivery of electricity to our members.

Your Board realized this project required a consultant with cooperative bylaw experience and hired Chris Simmons of Rushton, Stakely, Johnston and Garrett attorneys, a well-known Cooperative legal team in Montgomery to direct the rewrite process. After several meetings between the Board, staff and Chris discussing topics of concern the proposed draft was finalized. See the "Summary of Proposed Bylaw Amendments".

I ask you to make time to read the proposed Bylaws, the current Bylaws and the "Summary of Proposed Bylaw Amendments" found on the Pioneer website (www.pioneerelectric.com). If you don't have internet access you can stop by a Pioneer Electric Cooperative office and ask for a copy of each. Also, you will receive a copy of the proposed Bylaws in your September *Alabama Living* magazine.

The Board believes the proposed Bylaws meet the needs of our Cooperative's membership today and into the future. The proposed Bylaws state how the coop is to operate legally and make sure the Board, staff and employees function to serve Pioneer's members. If you have any concerns after reading the proposed Bylaws please contact your Board member or a Pioneer staff member.

Finally, as your Board Chairman, I ask you to support this rewrite by voting yes to adopt these proposed Bylaws when you receive this year's election packet in late September. We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on October 15th, 2016!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tommy Thompson', written in a cursive style.

Tommy Thompson
Board Chairman, Pioneer Electric Cooperative