

Anderson announces plans to step down as manager at annual Wauneta Co-op Oil banquet

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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By Tina Kitt

The Wauneta Breeze

Longtime Wauneta Co-op Oil employee Harold "Peco" Anderson made a public announcement of his plans to step down as general manager during Co-op Oil's annual meeting held Sept. 24 in Wauneta.

While most everyone knew the announcement was coming that didn't make it easier for the customers and patrons who have long appreciated the energetic and personable demeanor Anderson has brought to the job.

The Co-op Oil board has been interviewing for a replacement, but is finding his shoes hard to fill. Anderson had originally intended to have completed his management tenure by the end of September, but will remain on staff until a replacement has been hired and trained.

"This place has been very, very good to me and I won't leave them hanging," said Anderson.

A retirement party is being planned in honor of Anderson's 40 years of service with Co-op Oil, said Assistant Manager Joyce Bley, with details to be announced at a later date.

Annual meeting

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Musical entertainment for the banquet was provided by Sara Behrends, Dawn Doetker and Liz Noler.

“They are talented gals and they sounded beautiful,” said Bley, expressing her gratitude for the trio’s willingness to share their talents. Bley also extended thanks to those in attendance as well as the employees who prepared and served the meal.

“We sure appreciate everyone who attended and our employees did a wonderful job in making it all happen,” said Bley.

Financial report

Sales at Co-op Oil were up slightly this past fiscal year, which ends April 30 and begins May 1. Sales in 2011 were \$4,608,561, compared to sales of \$4,095,863 in 2010, producing gross margins on sales of \$494,670. That combined with other operating revenue of \$122,384 generated total operating revenue of \$617,054.

General operating expenses of \$630,855 along with interest expense of \$18,146 combined for a local loss of \$31,947.

The writing off of \$10,000 in 50 years accumulation of outdated propane supplies added to the loss.

Patronage refund from other cooperative affiliations of \$74,344, however, helped put the bottom line in the black, with final net savings of \$35,564 realized in 2011, compared to net savings of \$59,894 in 2010.

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In board elections incumbent board members Joe Barger of Wauneta and Ray Ridlen of Palisade were unanimously re-elected running unopposed.