



Director Candidate for District Four



Jerry Beckering

Tell us a little bit about yourself:

I was born and raised on a farm in Leota Township. I live there with my wife, Linda. We are the parents of three grown children and have twelve grandchildren.

Employment and business experience:

After graduating from college, I started a trucking business called Beckering Gravel Hauling. This business included hauling gravel and other material to townships, farmers and contractors in our local area. At the same time, I was

involved in a crop farming operation.

Community involvement/service/leadership positions:

I have been on numerous boards, including our local grade school board, our high school board and was past president of a financial foundation for our high school. I am an active member of the Leota Christian Reformed Church, where I have held various positions on the church council. I am currently the president of the church board. I have also served on our local town and park board where I was past president. I have served on the Nobles Cooperative Electric Board of Directors for the past three years and have fulfilled the requirements of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) education program to become a Credentialed Cooperative Director. I am currently working toward completing the NRECA Board Leadership program.

What are the primary issues facing the electric industry and NCE? Why I want to serve on NCE's Board of Directors?

It has been a pleasure to serve on the NCE Board with the other directors, and I would like to continue to work as a representative of this cooperative on the local, state and federal level. We must continue to fight legislation and mandates that are counterproductive to our cooperative. The electric industry is changing rapidly, replacing fossil fuel with renewable energy. We, as directors, must keep pace with all this change and be ready to adapt and implement new infrastructure, rates and policies for our members. We must also be aware of the future of electric vehicles (EV) and other innovations that may impact our cooperative in the future.

Director Candidate for District Four



Ronald Honken

Tell us a little bit about yourself:

My wife, Cathy, and I were both born in Luverne, Minnesota, and are graduates of Luverne High School. We have been married for 30 years. My career has taken me to Nebraska, Indiana, Tennessee, back to Indiana and now it allows me to return to Minnesota. We have two sons. The oldest is a gradu-

ate of Middle Tennessee State University, and is currently in the process of becoming a captain in the U.S. Army. Our other son is a member of the Army National Guard in Tennessee, and is currently attending Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee.

Employment and business experience:

My early career was working for my father in the construction industry. This skill set actually led to my calling to the insurance industry, where I began my career with Tri-State Insurance Company of Minnesota located in Luverne. In 1990, I accepted a new position in which I was blessed to advance quite quickly and have spent the bulk of my career in executive leadership

positions in the insurance industry.

Community involvement/service:

Since my early 20s, I have been involved in local government or community organizations. These positions have involved local housing authorities, economic development groups, governing boards of churches, alderman for the town of Farragut, Tennessee, Farragut Municipal Planning Commission, Farragut Beer Board, Knoxville Area Chamber of Commerce (Tennessee), Knox County Charter School Review Committee, mentor for Youth Villages, and member of the Westfield, Indiana, Youth Assistance Program.

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Leadership positions:

As mentioned previously, I have been in executive leadership positions in my career for the past 25 plus years. I have also been a member of several boards. I was a member of the executive board for the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, and was an elected official as alderman for the Town of Farragut (this would be equivalent to a city council).

What are the primary issues facing the electric industry and NCE?

Being a relatively new resident to the area, I am not yet intimately familiar with specific issues, but believe they would consist of ensuring that the infrastructure is maintained and updated as needed, that there is com-

pliance with any federal, state or local regulations, and that the cooperative continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of its members. I also suspect that cybersecurity, as well as other forms of security, are near the top of the list.

Why I want to serve on NCE's Board of Directors?

As previously mentioned, I have always had a desire to be involved in local groups. My desire revolves around wanting to give back to the community, work to elevate the community as a whole and I enjoy the opportunity to learn as well. I believe that my combined past experiences would be of benefit to the group and allow me to get up to speed and contribute in an expedited manner.

About our board:

- The board of directors are elected by members that govern Nobles Cooperative Electric.
- Seven directors serve with staggered three-year terms.
- Directors must receive NCE's electric service and have their primary residence in the district they represent.
- Directors must meet the qualifications listed in the bylaws.
- Basic commitment:
 - Monthly board meetings
 - Committee assignments
 - Education seminars

Director Candidate for District Four



Timothy Taylor

Tell us a little bit about yourself:

I was born and raised near Adrian, Minnesota, and live on an acreage north of Adrian with my wife, Deb. We have three daughters, two of them live in Sioux Falls and one daughter is deceased. I have farmed for 25 years. After that I worked for a dental equipment repair company. Then later owned and operated my own dental equipment service company. I am now retired but still advise and assist with

dental office installs.

Employment and business experience:

I attended school for electronics technology and diversified agriculture. Once out of school, I built and repaired computers and electronics. Then I farmed grain and raised cattle and swine (farrow to finish). Later, I did dental repair and the installation of equipment in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and other states.

Community involvement/service/ leadership positions:

I am a member of St. Adrian Catholic Church and a board member of the Nobles County Farm Bureau, Nobles County Pork Producers and serve as chairman on the Kanaranzi Little Rock Watershed Board.

What are the primary issues facing the electric industry and NCE?

- I feel these are the primary issues:
- Government regulations on how electricity is produced,
 - Cost of power today and in the future,
 - Cost and management of all lines and substations in our represented area,
 - Build now for future needs and use, and
 - Looking at all power resources to help in times of peak load (individual standby generators).

Why I want to serve on NCE's Board of Directors?

This is a way I can serve my community in retirement. I have always been interested in the electric cooperative and would like to be more involved.



Get to know your director candidates even more on NCE's YouTube Channel.

Director Candidate for District Six



Bruce Barber

Tell us a little bit about yourself:

I live on an acreage in Lorain Township, with my wife, Sara, and our three children. I enjoy hunting with my son, watching all of my kids play their various sports: soccer, football, basketball and volleyball. I hold a private pilot's license and enjoy flying with family and friends.

Employment and business experience:

For the last six years, I have been the Nobles Cooperative Electric District Six Director. For the past 12 years, I have held two different positions with the Veterinary Medical Center/Prairie Livestock Supply in Worthington, technical projects manager and director of operations. Prior to that, I worked for two Minnesota based rural electric cooperatives, East Central Energy and Nobles Cooperative Electric. I was in the member services departments serving residential, nonprofit, commercial and big box retailers.

Community involvement/service:

- Ten years in the Worthington Civil Air Patrol Composite Squadron MN-113 (an all-volunteer civilian USAF Auxiliary) achieving a rank of 1st Lieutenant
- Active in church security at Solid Rock Assemblies of God Church in Worthington
- Member in Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE)

Leadership positions:

While working as the director of operations for Veterinary Medical Center and Prairie Livestock Supply, I helped manage and direct the day-to-day operations and decisions affecting the staff and four locations. I have had extensive training regarding employee management, inventory, safety and emergency planning, conflict resolution and customer service.

What are the primary issues facing the electric industry and NCE?

One issue that currently is affecting both our local cooperative and the entire industry is Distributed Energy Resources (DER). In a general sense, electricity initially flowed one way from the power generation plant through transmission lines to distribution cooperative stations and then finally to the residential and business consumers. With DER, such as wind, solar, power walls, bio-methane and other renewable generation technologies, the grid is becoming more complex. Energy flows in multiple directions, being produced at different times and differently than the coal-based power stations we became accustomed to. Our challenge and opportunity is to help shape the future of our transmission and distribution infrastructure, meet ever changing energy needs and provide cybersecurity between the multitudes of communication devices interacting within DER.

Why I want to serve on NCE's Board of Directors?

When I first ran for the open board position, my desire was to use my rural electric background in member services and key accounts to help aid in the transition of members from the various service territories in southern Minnesota (that were being purchased from

Alliant Energy) into members of NCE.

It's during those first years that I became even more excited with the challenges and opportunities facing our cooperative, and how I, as a representative of our members, could bring their voices and concerns back to the cooperative.

I have furthered my understanding and education in the electric industry by achieving my Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate with classes focused on further understanding the electric business, board operations and process, strategic planning, financial decision making and director duties and liabilities.

In the subsequent years after my second re-election to the board, I have continued with my electric industry education. I am 80 percent complete working towards my Board Leadership Certificate with a deeper dive into the risk management, power supply and governance issues.

This ongoing education on top of my NRECA Certificate of Achievement for Certified Key Accounts Executives drives me to continue to be an advocate for the members in my district at a local level, and also as a voice for all members at a state and national level.

The challenges of DER, as well as other federal and state governmental policy decisions, need to be met by someone who is trained and engaged in the industry. It requires being in tune with the past industry successes, educated in developing technologies, with forward thinking and planning skills to help make decisions for our local community and the industry so we can continue to have affordable, safe electricity for generations to come.

Nominating Committee Candidates



Nominating Committee Candidate DISTRICT THREE

Lyle Kramer

Leanne and I have lived on the family farm for six years in Seward Township. We have three children and eight grandchildren. I went to Fulda High School and graduated in 1981.

I have farmed for 39 years and been employed at Bedford Industries for 20 years. I also officiate high school volleyball and basketball.

I've been a member of the Fulda Community Ambulance Association for 27 years and a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church where I have served on the church council.



Nominating Committee Candidate DISTRICT FIVE

Randy Buntjer

I was born and raised in Nobles County and have been a member of Nobles Cooperative Electric for over 30 years. My wife and I have four children and four grandchildren. Some of my interests include going to my kids and grandkids sporting activities.

I am the owner/president of Randy Buntjer Auction and Realty, LLC and have been in business since 1987. We

specialize in real estate and farm equipment auctions, as well as private treaty residential and farmland listings. Our firm also specializes in farm equipment and farmland appraisals.

I am a member of the Ellsworth School Board, Ellsworth Community Club (treasurer), Bethel Reformed Church (deacon) and the National Wild Turkey Federation. You can also find me volunteering my time for several fundraising auctions throughout the year.



Nominating Committee Candidate DISTRICT SEVEN

Daniel Bierma

I farm, drive truck and have been on the Iona Township Board for 15 years. I am also on the Murray County Zoning Board and Murray County Variance Board.

I have been actively farming since 1997 and have worked various jobs in construction. I worked for Schmitz Grain for ten years driving truck and as an applicator and chemical manager. I now own my own semi and am leased to Moline Trucking.

About the nominating committee:

- They find and help select a slate of candidates to present for membership vote.
- The nominating committee meets at least twice a year.
- Directors must receive their electric service from NCE and reside in the district they represent.
- Nominating committee members are elected by the membership.
- Seven nominating committee members serve the seven cooperative districts.

The nominating committee's efforts to find other director candidates in District Six and nominating committee candidates for Districts Three, Five and Seven were unsuccessful.



2020 Nominating Committee

Front: Jim Buschena, Lyle Kramer and John Ahlers. Back: Verlyn DeKam, Randy Buntjer, Stacy Barstad and Chuck Vasgaard.

Watch the mail for your special invitation and registration card. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, April 6 at the Memorial Auditorium in Worthington.