

Director candidates

District Three

Gary Clarke

Gary Clarke has been a member of NCE since 1996. He and his wife, Aimee, live in Seward Township. They are the parents of Logan and Olivia.



Gary was born and raised on a dairy farm outside of Fulda and has lived in the Fulda area for 43 years.

He graduated from Fulda High School in 1991 and has an Associate of Arts degree from Worthington Community College. Mr. Clarke is a member of the Fulda Fire Department and serves as treasurer.

Gary is self-employed and the owner of C & C Flooring and Installation.

He has always had an interest in how the cooperative operates and would like the opportunity to work with the members of the district he resides in to help address their concerns and questions.

District Three

Cheryl Janssen

Cheryl Janssen has been a member of NCE since 1979. She and her husband, Ron, live in Seward Township where they operate the family farm. They have



two sons, Chris (Summer) and Eric (Hannah), along with four grandchildren.

Mrs. Janssen attended Augustana University in Sioux Falls for two years focusing on business administration.

Cheryl has been active in her church teaching children and adults and has been an adult leader in 4-H.

She is the chairperson on the supervisory committee of Fulda Area Credit Union. Cheryl was a part of the Blandin Broadband Community Program for Nobles County which led to her role in Nobles Economic Opportunity Network (NEON) representing Seward Township. Mrs. Janssen is a past secretary/treasurer for the Fulda Education Foundation and past president of the ladies church organization.

Cheryl has always followed the activities of NCE. She thought it would be interesting to understand more about the cooperative, the changing resources of electricity and regulations. Cheryl feels it would be an honor to be a voice for the area and for rural Minnesota. It is important to continue to supply the growing needs for electricity and collaborate with like-minded entities in the rural areas. Cheryl has been a country girl all of her life, yet has experience through business with people across the country, which she feels will be an asset to the board.

District Five

Cindy Hokeness

Cindy Hokeness (incumbent) has served as director for Nobles Cooperative Electric for the past six years. She has been a member of the cooperative since 1996, when Cindy and her husband, Dave, established their farming operation between Rushmore and Adrian in Olney Township. They have two sons.



After completing studies in business administration and science at Minnesota State Mankato, she was employed in a variety of businesses and owned her own business. Mrs. Hokeness worked in businesses with two to 350 employees and managed a multimillion dollar account and a department of 18 employees. Her experience includes working in both well established and rapidly growing companies, advertising, marketing, personnel, project management and negotiating contracts.

As a director for Nobles Cooperative Electric, Cindy has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification and has nearly completed the required courses to receive Board Leadership Certification. She has been active as a director, attending state and national rural electric meetings and has represented Nobles Cooperative Electric at meetings with our state representatives and senators in Washington, D.C.

In her spare time, Mrs. Hokeness has been active in church youth education for 22 years and school groups supporting the music and athletic programs for 13 years.

Cindy feels her work experiences and knowledge have served her well in the types of decisions that are required as a director for NCE. If re-elected, she looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve NCE members as a director. The cooperative and elec-

tric industry as a whole are rapidly changing. The decisions that are made today often have long-term implications as the world adopts clean electric generation options and adapts to new member expectations, while maintaining affordability and reliability.

District Five

David Mastbergen

David Mastbergen has been a member of NCE since 1994. He and his wife, Rhonda, live in Ransom Township. They are the parents of two sons, eight grandchildren and one great grandson.



Mr. Mastbergen holds a bachelor of science in computer science, masters of arts in business management, accounting diploma and has gone through advanced electricity and electronics training.

David is a retired military veteran and state employee, author and woodworking hobbyist.

He is a member of Cooperative Energy Company, American Legion Post #5, Military Officers Association, Disabled American Vet, Minnesota Association of Professional Employees Union and Osceola Rural Water Systems.

Mr. Mastbergen is interested in serving on the NCE Board of Directors to find out more about the cooperative and what he can do to help maintain the cooperative's goals and make life better for our members.

District Five

Michael Nolte

Michael Nolte is a lifelong resident of Ellsworth. He has been a member of NCE since 2015. Mr. Nolte has six children and one step-daughter.



He is the head custodian at Ellsworth High School taking maintenance classes at Northwest Iowa Technical College.

Michael would like to serve on the board to continue to keep things operating in the best interest of the members.

Nominating committee candidates

District One

Stacy Barstad

Stacy Barstad has been a member of Nobles Cooperative Electric since 2010. She lives in Lake Sarah Township and has two daughters and one son.



Ms. Barstad is the chief executive officer at Sanford Tracy Medical Center and Sanford Westbrook Medical Center. She holds a bachelor of science degree with concentrations in finance and management from Southwest Minnesota State University and a master of business administration with healthcare concentration from the University of Phoenix.

Stacy is a Tracy Chamber of Commerce Board Member, a Westbrook Kiwanis member, the current chair for the Minnesota Department of Health and Rural Health Flex Committee. She is also a past board member for Tracy KidsWorld Daycare.

District Two

Charles Vasgaard

Charles Vasgaard grew up on a dairy farm near Center-ville, South Dakota. He graduated from South Dakota State University with a BS in Agriculture. Chuck and his wife, Joan, have lived in Cameron Township since 1977. They have two sons.



Chuck manages the Minnwest Insurance Center in Lake Wilson, along with being the financial secretary and a choir member at Sillerud Lutheran Church. The family was also very active at Ellsborough Lutheran Church for 32 years prior to its closing.

He has been active in Jaycees, Lake Wilson musicals, Community Club, Scouts and insurance organizations. Chuck also raises sheep and horses, plus he has done a lot of the construction on their home and other buildings on their acreage.



2019 Nominating Committee
Jim Buschena, John Ahlers, Verlyn DeKam, Lynn Miller, Chuck Vasgaard and Lyle Kramer. Missing: Randy Buntjer.

The Nominating Committee's efforts to find other nominating committee candidates for District Two was unsuccessful.

District One

Cody Fritz

Cody Fritz and his wife, Angela, live in Ellsborough Township and have been members of NCE since 2012. They welcomed their first child into the world in 2018.



Mr. Fritz is a livestock and grain farmer. He has served on the Ruthton Fire Department since 2008 and as treasurer since 2012. Cody is also a member of Ruthton First Responders and a church council member at Sillerud Lutheran Church.

Watch the mail for your special invitation and registration card.

District Map

