



A BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP

Exercise your right to vote for your cooperative's board of directors

As a member of Richland Electric Cooperative, you have a direct ownership stake in your cooperative. Member/owners have various rights and responsibilities as described in our Articles of Incorporation and our Bylaws, which the members of the cooperative have developed, adopted, and amended over the years.

Every member has the right to vote for candidates who have been nominated in accordance with our Bylaws to serve as directors for the next three years. Each member can expect to receive a ballot with information about each candidate in the mail in mid-March. All ballots must be returned to the Richland Electric Cooperative office by March 31, 2017, at 4:30 p.m. Any ballots submitted after that time will not be counted. **Members must sign their return envelope or their vote will not be counted.**

On the following two pages, you will find information about each of this year's director candidates. We will also once again conduct director candidate interviews and post those video interviews to our YouTube Channel, which you can find by visiting our web page at <http://www.rec.coop> or simply go to YouTube.com and search for Richland Electric Cooperative.

In the event that you do not have internet access and would like to view the online interviews, please feel free to stop by our office to watch them. You may also choose to seek out free internet access available from community organizations such as libraries, schools, and universities.

Please take a moment to learn about each of the candidates and cast your vote for the candidate of your choice.

Also, please make sure to sign the outside envelope as this is required to certify that you are the one casting the ballot. By placing your ballot in the ballot envelope prior to placing it in the mailing envelope, you ensure the secrecy of your vote as only ballot envelopes and ballots are provided to tellers.

Thank you for participating in this important process, which ensures members are represented according to their desires.

MEET YOUR DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Judy Murphy

Judy currently resides on her farm in the Bosstown area of Sylvan Township. She has two children, Dan and Dianna; both of them live in the La Crosse area. She has two grandchildren, Luke and Riley Clements.

She is a teacher at the St. Mary School in Richland Center. Judy and her late husband, Joe, dairy farmed in the Bosstown area. She received her bachelor's degree in social sciences from the University of Wisconsin–Platteville and completed her graduate studies at Viterbo University. Judy is currently the Town of Sylvan clerk and a member the St. Mary Catholic Church.

Her hobbies include reading, walking, watching football games and PBS.

When asked why she is interested in serving as a Richland Electric Cooperative director, she replied, "I am interested in serving as a director of Richland Electric because I find pleasure in serving others. Being a director has many obligations. One must continue to study and read available information to make intelligent decisions. My interest is to serve our members by bringing safe and efficient energy to their homes and businesses at the most economical price. I pride myself in the fact that I have served REC in this capacity working with other directors and staff as a team. I am interested in continuing to serve as a director so that I may be able to serve the needs of our members."



Connie Champnois

Connie and her husband, Arthur, reside in Akan Township. Connie and Arthur moved to Richland County in 2000 and have re-modeled what is believed to be an original homesteader cabin. Connie is currently retired from a career as a human resources executive in both the private and public sectors.



She has earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. She has been involved on a variety of different boards and committees. She is the former president of the Richland Area Arts Council and Red Door Gallery, former chair of the Akan Township Comprehensive Planning Committee, former chair of the Akan Township Planning Committee, co-chair of the Richland Stewardship Project, citizen member of the Richland County Frac Sand Mining Advisory Committee, and Richland County coordinator of the Citizens Climate Lobby.

In her spare time her hobbies include photography and gardening.

Asked why she was interested in serving as a REC director, she responded, "I am interested in serving as an REC director because it is important to give back to our community and because I support the Richland Electric Cooperative's mission and vision of providing the greatest value to people in our community by delivering products, services, and technologies with integrity and to be a trusted provider of power and to provide leadership to enrich the lives of people in our community."

"I believe rural electric cooperatives are in a position to take a leadership role in reducing carbon emissions. The cooperative principles of sustainability, democratic control, education and training can further the discussion of carbon pollution and climate change. Rural electric cooperatives can provide information and education on the impact of climate change and carbon pollution to their members and lead the way to transition to a more sustainable and renewable energy source for their members while ensuring a low-cost transition off carbon."

"The transition away from carbon-based energy will not happen overnight and will require leadership to ensure our members are informed and to provide affordable energy for our members."

Calvin Sebranek

Calvin and his wife, Joyce, have three children, Tim, Kimberly, and Terry, all of whom are married. They have nine grandchildren. Calvin and Joyce live near Gillingham in Marshall Township, where they have a 375-acre beef farm with over 400 head of livestock.

He is employed by S&S cycle as a CNC machinist as well as being a farmer. He is a graduate of Richland Center High School.

Calvin is the Marshall Township supervisor, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus member, a member of the Honor Guard at St. Mary's Church, and is involved with the Richland County Beef Producers.

He is a dedicated husband and caregiver (faith, family, and farming).

When asked why he was interested in serving as an REC director, he replied, "It's been both a pleasure and an honor to serve the members of Richland Electric for the past 27 years. While affordable electric power delivery is the primary focus of the cooperative, other initiatives that benefit the members and communities our co-op serves are vitally important. Our ability to deliver technology options, economic and sustainable development, and 'keep your lights on' is because Richland Electric has an exceptional team of linemen, dedicated office staff, and passionate management. And, it's our democratic member control (YOU) and commitment to enriching the lives of people we serve that has allowed our cooperative to remain vibrant for 81 years."

"As a member of the board of directors, I'll continue to contribute my ideas as a homeowner, farmer, small businessman, and employee of S&S Cycle while being fiscally responsible, innovative, and consistent. If you haven't taken time to visit the new Transition Energy Solar Project near the Ash Ridge Substation, I personally encourage you to!"



Leonard Frye

Leonard and his wife, Connie, currently live in Rockbridge Township. They have two children, a daughter and son. Their daughter is married and works for the Department of Corrections as a social worker, and their son is also married and works as an electrician. They also have one step-granddaughter.

Leonard served in the United States Army in the 198th Infantry during the Vietnam War. He served from 1968–1969.

Leonard works at the local Sears store part-time in retail sales and also works for the Richland Center Parks Department six months out of the year mowing and performing miscellaneous tasks. He has 25 years of retail store management and was a carpenter for Heal Building Firm for seven years. Leonard has served on numerous boards, including Kinship of Richland County (treasurer), High Ground Board of Directors out of Neilsville, Wis., and a finance officer for Wisconsin Vietnam Vets Inc. Leonard is currently a member of Vietnam Vets of America, Wisconsin Vietnam Vets, Chapter 7, and Veterans of Foreign Wars American Legion.

In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking, reading, hiking state parks, deer hunting, and outdoor lawn maintenance.

When asked why he was interested in serving as an REC director, he replied, "I have always wondered about the power grid systems. The ecological and economical aspects are of great importance. I highly respect any person, entities, and co-ops that are involved with providing our energy needs."



Daniel Hillberry

Dan and his wife, Cheryl, currently reside in Richwood Township. They have three children, Jacob, Caleb, and Tristan. He stated they have no grandchildren but do have "grand-cats." The Hillberry family has 116 tillable acres and 200 wooded acres. They dairy farmed for 25 years.

Dan has a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point in forestry management. He is currently a mechanic operator for Hartung Brothers Inc., a business involved in seed corn production.

Dan is currently a member of the Blue

River Fire Department and the Greenwood Cemetery Association. In his spare time, he enjoys bowling, deer hunting, and forestry consulting.

He stated why he would like to continue serving as an REC director: "As a director I want to make the best informed decisions for our membership by working with our REC employees and the rest of the board. Continuing to help with the interaction of REC with the Richland area community to further the future of our membership and the area as a whole is also very important to me."





LAMPS AND LANTERNS

Electricity didn't come to our rural community until the spring of 1947,

so for most of my growing up years the only light I knew was that from a kerosene lamp or lantern. During the long winter nights, kerosene lamps provided light for our home.

We had two of them in the kitchen. One sat in the middle of the kitchen table from late October and until early April. The only time Ma moved the lamp was when she filled it with kerosene—we had a one gallon can of it that we stored in the woodshed—and when she washed the lamp's glass chimney, both activities at the same time and about once a week. An Aladdin lamp sat in the middle of the dining room table. Although fueled with kerosene, it offered about twice as much light as the kerosene wick lamp in the kitchen. The Aladdin lamp, similar to gasoline lanterns, did not have a wick but had a mantle, a fragile little piece of cloth-like material that glowed brightly when the lamp was lit. For reading, mending, and other close work, family members sat at the dining room table where the Aladdin light always stood.

I had my own bedroom lamp, a small lamp with a carrying handle. The lamp had been my grandmother's, so I was cautioned to take good care of it and not drop it. Dropping it would do more than break the lamp; it could set the house on fire. A house fire any time is a disaster; a house fire in winter is a catastrophe. When we went upstairs to bed in winter, I led the way with my little lamp providing all the light we needed to make our way up the steep stairway and along the unheated, frigid hallway to our bedroom. I'd put the lamp on the dresser while we undressed for bed—the rule was the last one in bed blew out the light.

This rule was followed downstairs as well. The last one out of a room blew out the lamp—in the case of the Aladdin light, turned off the kerosene supply. When my children, who had

always known electricity, were small I often caught myself saying “Blow out the light when you leave your room.” The answer I got was, “Huh?”

We had two barn lanterns, the kind with a wire-protected globe and a heavy wire handle that you could hang on a nail in back of the cows. Pa and I each had our own lantern. He hung his on a nail on one end of the cow barn; I hung mine on a nail on the other end the building. The lanterns provided enough light to milk cows by hand, but just barely as many corners of the barn remained dark or in deep shadows.

Having a considerable imagination, I still do, I imagined all kinds of interesting things happening in the dark corners and shadows where the dim lantern light never reached. I imagined creatures mythical and real that I had read about in school residing there—ghosts and ghost-like apparitions, dragons and wild animals of ferocious dimensions. All of this swirling around in my mind as I milked cows by hand on cold, dark winter mornings and equally dark winter evenings.

All of this is on mind these days, as I remember those long ago days on the farm.



Go to www.Jerryapps.com for information about Jerry's books and TV shows.

Shannon Clark, Manager/CEO

1027 N. Jefferson St., P.O. Box 439, Richland Center, WI 53581

608-647-3173

www.rec.coop

Find us on Facebook 



**Richland Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Board of Directors

Calvin Sebranek, President • Gerald Wendorf, Vice President • Judy Murphy, Secretary • Daniel Hillberry, Treasurer
Don Huffman, Jim Goplin, Tim Tiller, Steven Fuller, Jeff Monson