

Meet your DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



**Richland Electric
Cooperative**
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Each year members of the Richland Electric Cooperative (REC) nominating committee take time out of their busy schedules to provide REC with several potential candidates to run for a seat on the board of directors. This year two candidates have applied for the seat of retiring director Gerald Wendorf. We believe it is very important to provide our membership with director candidate profiles. This provides members with a brief insight into the lives of our candidates, so members may select the best candidate to represent them on the REC board of directors. Please take a moment to educate yourself on our candidates and place your vote when you receive your ballot.

We also offer a director interview that can be viewed on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

Steve Carrow

Steve and his wife, Patsy, reside in Forest township where they operate a 44-acre hobby farm. They have three grown children: Joe, Bri, Lindy, and three grandchildren. Their farm consists of 25 acres of tillable land presently in hay and they are currently transitioning the remaining acreage from prickly ash, briars, and sumac to oak, maple, chestnut, and hazelnut trees.



Steve holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the Rose Hulman Institute in Indiana. He retired from Chicago Bridge and Iron after a 35-year career as a design engineer, project manager, and estimator. He stated, "Most projects were in the energy industry and I continue to follow energy and industry news."

He is currently on the board of directors for the Driftless Folk School based out of Viroqua and has served on another non-profit board. He has been a Scout leader and a foster parent. His hobbies include beekeeping, ham radio, gardening, permaculture, and tinkering in his workshop.

When asked why he was interested in serving on the REC board of directors, he replied, "I feel that co-ops and utilities are faced with challenging times ahead, with increased complexity and volatility of both costs and regulations. From what I can see, the co-op has so far steered a prudent path, and I would hope to join and contribute to that effort. Being retired, I have the time, and am willing and able to spend the time, to study the issues the board will need to deal with to maintain a stable and efficient electric supply. I think my background makes this a good way for me to give back to the community."

Steve and Patsy were raised on farms in Indiana but left the farm for careers in the city. They were able to retire and return to the country four years ago and feel lucky to have found a nice community in Richland County.

Kevin Kepler

Kevin and his wife, Joan, make their home in Bloom Township. They have three children: Jennifer, Elise, and Luke, and they also have seven grandchildren. Currently Kevin is the one of the owners of Junlyn Farms Inc., which operates a dairy herd of registered Holsteins that includes 320 cows and 330 heifers. They raise all their feed on 400 acres of alfalfa, 425 acres of corn, and 175 acres of soybeans.



Kevin has been very involved with the community by serving on many boards. He has served eight years on the Land O'Lakes Board and over 15 years on the Richland County Holstein Board, four as president. He has also served 20 years on the Richland County Outstanding Young Farmers Board, two as president. He has been a delegate for WI Dairies & Foremost farms for over 30 years. He has been on the ordinance committee for Bloom Township for 15 years and a member of the West Lima Church of Christ for 35 years.

Kevin has been a pitcher for church league softball and enjoys spending time with his grandchildren at their events or on their farm.

Asked why he was interested in serving as an REC director, Kevin replied, "I have always felt a responsibility as a member/owner of a cooperative to be involved. I have always believed in the co-op system, and I want to represent my area to make sure REC remains a strong co-op."



Tim Tiller (Incumbent)

Tim and his wife, Carolyn, reside in Akan township on the family farm where he grew up. Tim is a retired mechanical engineer in product design from S & S Cycle in Viola, where he had worked since 1986. He milked dairy cattle, raised crops and beef cattle on the farm from 1975–1980, but since then has only raised beef cattle and hay.



Tim has been on the REC board of Directors since 2010. He was a graduate of Richland Center High School in 1976 and from the UW-Platteville in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering. He has also served on the Mechanical Design Advisory Board at Southwest Technical College since 1993. In addition, he has served on the Mechanical Advisory Board at the Western Technical College since 2010.

In his spare time Tim enjoys boating and gardening.

Asked why he was interested in continuing as an REC director, Tim replied, “I am running for another term as director to work with management and the other directors to keep your electric service safe, reliable, and low cost. Serving on the board for the past eight years has increased my knowledge in the areas of electrical distribution and electrical generation using fossil fuels and renewable energy sources. I have had the opportunity to attend meetings and educational seminars on these topics. This has enabled me to understand the system and make better decisions for the cooperative. My time on the board has also helped me gain valuable insight on how cooperatives function and the importance of working together to maintain quality service. I have enjoyed serving on the board and would appreciate your vote.”

Don Huffman (Incumbent)

Don Huffman has served on the Richland Electric Cooperative board of directors since 1992. Don lives in Henrietta Township where he took over the farm in 1970 that his parents had moved into in 1949. He currently has 30 head of Holstein heifers and steers and also sells hay from the 150-acre farm.



Don was born and raised in Richland County and he graduated from Richland Center High School. He had 3-1/2 years of GI schooling in ag training and also served two years in the Army in the 208th Military Police Co. from 1964–1966 during the Vietnam War era. Don also serves on the Tech Com board and is a member of the Hillsboro American Legion Post 223.

Don’s wife, Sherry, passed away several years ago. Their son, Jason, and his wife, Hollie, have seven children: Hope, Ethan, Lydia, Caroline, twins Mathew and Autumn, and Rose.

Asked why he is interested in serving as an REC director, Don replied, “I want to continue providing safe, reliable, and affordable electric service to our members, which is hard to do these days. I like to be a part of an organization which is so community oriented. I like to help this cooperative grow and stay diversified in products which are needed in our service area and beyond.”

You're invited to the Richland Electric Cooperative
ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, April 6
Breakfast served at 7 a.m. • Business meeting 8 a.m.

WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR YOUR DIRECTOR BALLOTS

Director votes are cast by mail. Ballots are typically mailed to members approximately 21 days prior to the date of the cooperative's annual meeting; this year's that date is **April 6**.



Why should you vote in Richland Electric Cooperative's director elections?



It's a privilege.

Voting for the directors who represent your interests is one of the benefits of co-op membership. If you got your electricity from an investor-owned utility, you'd have no say in the matters involving your utility.



It's your responsibility.

You're not a customer of Richland Electric—you're a member, and that makes you a part owner. You share a responsibility in the co-op's well-being.



It matters.

Many elections have been decided by just a handful of votes. Every vote counts.



It's healthy, and not just for your co-op.

Studies have shown that those who vote regularly report greater well-being and life satisfaction, and stronger social connections.



It's easy.

REC directors are elected by mail ballot only. Ballots are mailed to you in mid-March. All you have to do is make your choice and return your ballot!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 15



Richland Electric Cooperative offers scholarships to qualified members or their children who are enrolling in a post-secondary degree program or vocational program. Applications are available at the Richland Electric Cooperative office and from area high school guidance counselors. Completed applications should be returned to the office of Richland Electric Cooperative by March 15. To learn more, please visit www.rec.coop and click on Scholarship under the News and Events tab.



Richland Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



WINTER THOUGHTS


On a cold winter day, when the snow is piled high and the temperature hangs around zero, here are some thoughts to consider:

- Knowing when to stop doing something is often more difficult than knowing when to start.
- Going slow is usually the way to go.
- No one can steal a memory.
- During a journey, often we discover another destination far more important than the one planned.
- Sometimes the hardest thing to do is to keep doing.
- It's easy to smile on a sunny day; it's the cloudy days that challenge us.
- Look away from the bright lights; it is in the shadows that we find the timid and thoughtful.
- Waiting for opportunity to knock on your door is like waiting for a train after the tracks have been torn up and the depot closed.
- Listen to the views of others, but trust your own as well.
- When the temperature hangs around zero, listen for the sound of a chickadee calling its name over and over. A chickadee is a tough, persistent little bird with a black cap and winter personality.
- Winter is the best time to split wood with a maul, because the frozen blocks split easier than in summer.
- On a cold winter afternoon, page through a new seed catalog that has just arrived in the mail. It is an early reminder of summer, and its colorful pictures evoke both memories and promises.

Excerpted from "Living a County Year: Wit and Wisdom from the Good Old Days."




Go to www.jerryapps.com for more information about Jerry's writing and television work. Contact Jerry at jerryappsauthor@gmail.com with questions or comments.

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