2024 VOTER GUIDE



Cuivre River Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 🔨

The 2024 ballot

The ballot includes the names of candidates in each of four districts. You are eligible to choose one candidate for each district. You may vote online or request a paper ballot by mail. Instructions for marking your ballot are stated on the paper ballot and are available through the online ballot portal.

Online ballots must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. CST on Monday, August 19**; paper ballots must be delivered to Survey & Ballot Systems by mail before the close of business on **Monday, August 19**.

Ballots may not be delivered to CREC offices or brought and cast at the Annual Meeting. However:

- If you request a paper ballot and don't use it, you may attend the meeting at our Troy office on Thursday, August 22, and receive a new ballot when you register.
- If you're not sure you mailed your ballot in time you may attend the meeting and verify receipt of your ballot. If your ballot did not arrive by the August 19 deadline you may receive a new ballot.

All members who vote (either online, by paper ballot or at the annual meeting) will be entered into a drawing for free electricity.

<u>Regarding prize drawings</u>: you are NOT required to attend the annual meeting in order to win prizes. The names of winners will be drawn in the week following the annual meeting for these free electricity awards:

- One member will receive a \$1,500 bill credit
- Two members will each receive a \$500 bill credit
- Two others will each receive a \$250 bill credit
- Twelve members will each receive a bill credit for a month's use of electricity *(up to \$200)*

Vote online

If you have a valid email address on file, you may receive an email containing a direct link to your ballot. No email? If you do not receive the email link or prefer not to use it, type **directvote.net/crec**/ directly into your web browser (*not into a search engine*) to access the login page of the 2024 Cuivre River Electric Cooperative Ballot. You will be asked to provide your member number (*without the dash or numbers after the dash*) and the zip code of your billing address.

Vote by mail

Send your ballot in the postage-paid return envelope to: **Survey & Ballot Systems**, 7653 Anagram Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Do <u>not</u> mail your ballot to Cuivre River Electric Cooperative. Please allow time for delivery by August 21.

About your ballot

The ballot order for all candidates was drawn randomly by the Nominating Committee. An asterisk (*) denotes current officeholders. Candidates were asked to respond to five questions.

Candidate questions

- What knowledge, experience or special abilities would you bring to the board?
- What are some of the important issues you believe the board needs to focus on the next few years?
- Which of the following is the most important feature of the electricity Cuivre River provides: (1) Affordable, (2) Reliable, (3) Environmentally clean.
- What is the best way to meet present and future energy needs?
- What interests you most about serving on the board?

Meet Your Director Candidates

Please choose one candidate in each district

LINCOLN COUNTY DISTRICT 3

> Vote for One of Three



John has been a member of Cuivre River Electric since 2012. John and his wife of 47 years, Carol, have three sons and seven grandchildren.

He was born and raised on a grain and livestock farm in Central Illinois. His background includes serving on boards and leadership roles in various local, state, and national organizations, such as church, community, civic, philanthropic, government, and professional associations. He is currently an elder of his church.

John holds a Bachelor of Science degree, a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, and an Executive MBA. Following graduation, he entered a large animal veterinary practice in Nebraska. After 30 years, he joined Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, a multi-national animal health company as a technical services veterinarian. He currently leads a team as the director of five veterinarians.

He says he would bring a diverse experiential business enterprise background to the board based on a career of serving production agriculture and livestock producers in rural communities. "I've always considered it a duty and honor to serve the communities within which I live and work, and by default have accepted leadership roles."

John Waddell TROY, MO

<u>His views</u>: John says that CREC has a reputation as a leading and growing electric cooperative in the region, known for its reliability and dependability of service to the communities it serves. "Reliability is due in large part to the outstanding, well-trained, and dedicated workforce," he says. "Retaining and hiring top talent is essential to future success."

Having lived in rural areas his entire life, John says reliability is the most important feature of the electricity Cuivre River Electric provides. "Cost is a distant second," he says.

Diversity of sources decreases the risks of relying on a single supplier, partner, or energy source, John says. "Being part of a large community of like-minded cooperatives offers assurance and a common voice to resist unfunded mandates and regulations that may limit or hinder future reliable sources for our communities."

With humility, John says he is most interested in serving on the board as a way to give back to the community while being associated with an outstanding and admirable organization. "I also see this as a learning opportunity to meet, work, and learn from the leaders and others of diverse backgrounds who also have a passion for service."

Issues voting online?

Call 952-974-2339 or email support@directvote.net. Support is available 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on weekdays.

LINCOLN COUNTY DISTRICT 3

Vote for One of Three



Mike joined Cuivre River Electric in 2023. He is married and serves as a district sales manager for Burrus Seed and was formerly with Monsanto/Bayer. His 24 years of experience includes selling seed and improving ROI for area farmers in Mississippi, Iowa, and Missouri.

His college education is from Three Rivers Community College and the University of Maryland. Mike is also a former Army serviceman and spent time as a paratrooper at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After leaving the military, he administered a job training program for the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission and assisted in research grant writing. His knowledge and expertise include living and operating businesses on a strict budget. He served on the Chamber of Commerce in Mason City and was an Iowa Ag Committee member.

Mike Dicken TROY, MO

<u>His views</u>: Mike says that the cooperative board needs to focus on maintaining reliable service while staying affordable for everyone, be it a business or residence. He believes reliability is the most important feature of the electricity that CREC provides. "Other than an accident with someone hitting a transformer pole, power has never been off for more than two minutes," he says.

Researching what is available to the cooperative, he says is the best way to learn how to meet present and future energy needs. "Digging into the data to further move the cooperative into the future is what interests me most about serving on the Cuivre River Electric Cooperative Board of Directors," Mike says.

CREC Mission and Vision

As a cooperative, it is CREC's responsibility to serve our members today, and tomorrow. CREC's Board of Directors adopted both mission and vision statements to help continue guiding us as we move forward to fulfill that responsibility.

Mission

Cuivre River Electric Cooperative will be a progressive leader in the energy industry, empowering employees to serve our members using innovative energy solutions, while safely providing reliable service at the lowest possible cost.

Vision

Cuivre River Electric aspires to be a trusted energy partner that is prepared to embrace opportunities in a changing utility industry while providing our members with maximum value and improving our communities.

LINCOLN COUNTY DISTRICT 3

Vote for One of Three



Kim has been a member of Cuivre River Electric since 2022. She is married with two children attending colleges in Missouri. Kim has been a fitness instructor for ten years, currently at Club Fitness and CDY Fitness in Troy. Her experience also includes 17 years with Francis Howell School District as an early childhood developmental screener where she collaborated daily with parents delivering screening results.

Kim's leadership skills and community background include leading group fitness classes, volunteering with the Oasis Food Pantry, and serving as a Girl Scout leader for eight years. She is an active member of Trinity Lutheran in Troy and the director of their summer VBS program. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Sciences from Truman University.

Kim Dannegger TROY, MO

<u>Her views</u>: Kim believes that access for all and non-interrupted service is among the most important issues the cooperative board needs to focus on in the next few years. Reliability is the most important feature of the service CREC provides. "Electric power is important to maintain households," she says.

Looking ahead to find out where and/or how services can be maintained regardless of disasters, weather, etc., she says is the best way to meet present and future energy needs. Helping in her community is what most interests Kim about serving on the Cuivre River Electric Board of Directors.



What is Touchstone Energy[®]?

It is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, like **Cuivre River Electric Cooperative**, which commit themselves to providing high standards of service to customers large and small.

There are Touchstone Energy[®] cooperatives in 45 states. Together we deliver energy and energy solutions to more than 30 million customers every day.

Touchstone Energy[®] cooperatives serve their members with **integrity**, **accountabili-ty**, **innovation** and a long-standing **commitment to our communities**.

WARREN COUNTY DISTRICT 2

Vote for One of Two



Caleb Logsdon MARTHASVILLE, MO

Caleb has been a CREC member since 2014. He is a credentialing manager for Bravo Consulting Group. His background has mainly been within the retail and financial service industries while focusing on customer service and analytics (intelligence, loss, and finance). His current role oversees a program with more than 20,000 active members with multiple credential validations. Also, Caleb is in his 17th year serving in the Army National Guard with four deployments to Jordan, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and is working on an MBA from Columbia College. He is married with one child. His wife serves on the Warren County Developmental Disabilities Board.

Caleb's community experiences include serving in various leadership positions in the military, including team leader, section sergeant, 1st sergeant, and sergeant major, encompassing more than 120 soldiers across two states and three locations. Caleb says he has a fair amount of organizational and analytical experience lending to logical decision-making, a keen sense of altruism, and a good understanding of common sense, enabling the betterment of an organization and those who are a part of it. <u>His views</u>: Caleb says reliability is the most important feature of CREC's service. "Cost can be low, but if you cannot count on it, the low cost is just a waste. Balance must be met between cost and reliability. The environment will follow." Keeping reliability in mind, the board should focus on the continued ability to operate, providing benefits for its members. This should encompass attracting and keeping talent, balanced expansion, keeping rates low, and verifying infrastructure is not only sustainable into the future but also prepared for and able to prevent power issues due to disasters.

The best way to meet present and future energy needs, Caleb says, is to keep a combination of energy production, be that internally or externally, based on cost. However, he says, as needs grow, new sustainable methods will need to be located and invested in. Likely, renewable energies will become more cost-effective than traditional means as they will likely follow traditional technological trends, exponentially improving in function and efficiency while dropping in price.

The experience of being on the board and providing a positive influence and benefit to the organization, its members, and the community interests Caleb the most about serving as a CREC board member.



- Q. Can I bring my paper ballot to the office?
- A. No. Paper ballots should be mailed to SBS in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Q. Can I bring my paper ballot to the meeting?

A. No. Paper ballots will not be accepted at the meeting. If you request a paper ballot you do not use, you can receive a replacement ballot when you register at the meeting.

WARREN COUNTY DISTRICT 2

Vote for One of Two



Steve has been a member of Cuivre River Electric since 2015 and currently serves as a CREC Board director. He is married and has two children and four grandchildren.

Steve is an electrical general foreman. He served as an electrician for most of his career, gradually working his way up to his current position.

He served a three-year term on the school board of Holy Rosary School in Warren County and has also volunteered for other functions of the church and school over the years.

His experience as an electrician for the last 28 years and in his current role as a general foreman includes leading crews of up to 50 workers at a time, setting tasks and timelines for completion of work, and coordinating with clients to complete on time, on budget to accomplish their vision of the completed project. "I've been part of a team that established a successful electrical construction division for a company in St. Louis, Mo.," he says.

<u>His views</u>: A top priority that the board needs to focus on in the next few years, Steve says, would be to find the best

Steve Coffey* WARRENTON, MO

ways to provide affordable and reliable energy sources. "And providing management and the crews in the field with the best training and tools to do their jobs safely and efficiently," he says.

Steve also believes that the co-op should put every effort into providing affordable, reliable, and environmentally clean energy to members. "But at the end of the day, the cooperative is tasked with providing electrical service and should work to be the most reliable provider they can be," he says.

The best way to meet present and future energy needs, Steve says, is to find a balance between being environmentally responsible and keeping costs down but still providing the members with their energy needs.

"I am excited to dig in and work with the rest of the board on efforts of planning and execution of plans to make energy from Cuivre River Electric more reliable and affordable for all members of the co-op," Steve says.



About Cuivre River Electric Cooperative

Cuivre River Electric's service area has more than 5,700 miles of electric distribution line.

The original 12 incorporators of our cooperative were from Foristell, Wentzville, Foley, Winfield, Troy, Wright City, Warrenton, O'Fallon, Elsberry and Clarksville.

Vote for One of Two



Mark has been a Cuivre River Electric member since 1984 and currently serves as a CREC Board director. He and his wife Tina have three children and six grandchildren.

Mark is a retired IBEW Local 1 Journeyman Electrician. He is a member of St. Paul Catholic Parish and St. Paul's Knights of Columbus. His college education is from St. Charles Community College. He enjoys working with Habitat for Humanity and helping family, friends, and neighbors with odd jobs.

With many years of experience working as an electrician working on the receiving end of the electrical spectrum, Mark says that cooperative electrification is interesting to him.

<u>His views</u>: Mark says that in the next few years, the cooperative board needs to focus on charging stations, alternative energy, and continuing to build member trust and loyalty

Mark Schulte* 0'FALLON, MO

for safe, reliable, and affordable energy. The most important feature of the electricity that CREC provides is reliability. "Society is lost without reliable electricity," he says. "With so many working from home, they need a reliable energy source to run PCs, heating and cooling, lights and water, to name a few."

Meeting present and future energy needs, Mark says, is using gas, coal, hydropower, solar, and wind, and then embracing the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon future with the use of renewables.

Mark says what interests him most about serving on CREC's Board of Directors is being a part of a team that works hard to find ways to keep electricity affordable, clean, and reliable. "I have learned so much about this cooperative in the last 20+ years of being on the board and I truly appreciate it," he says.

Voting FAQs

Q. During the voting period, can I request a paper ballot kit for another person?

A. No. You may only obtain a paper ballot kit for yourself by calling SBS at 952-974-2339. You may also vote online through August 19 by using a secure web portal at directvote.net/crec/. Verification of your membership will be required. Ballots are not available at Cuivre River Electric offices, however a computer station is available for members' use to vote online during normal lobby hours through August 19.

Q. Can my spouse and I both vote?

A. No. Only one vote may be cast per member—household or business. To be eligible, your name should appear on your family's account.

Vote for One of Two



Dennis joined Cuivre River Electric in 2021. He is married and currently serves as the City Administrator for Flint Hill. Dennis also spent six years in the U.S. Army and is a member of the American Legion Post #124 and the North Carolina Bar Association. He formerly served as an attorney in private practice and corporate legal, concentrating on contracts, bankruptcy, and real property, and is licensed in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina.

Dennis holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Elmira College and a J.D. from Widener University School of Law.

His community service and leadership experience includes volunteering with multiple organizations and managing small and large teams. "I possess a wide range of knowledge both practical and learned. As an attorney, I have had to deal with many types of people and can communicate with a wide range of personalities and education levels," he says.

Dennis J. Sargent Jr. FLINT HILL, MO

<u>His views</u>: Dennis says that renewable energy is a hot topic these days and should be carefully considered along with traditional forms. "Balancing the needs of the environment and the needs of the population should be the board's primary focus," he says. "Other issues include infrastructure upgrades and protections." Dennis believes the cooperative must balance affordability, reliability, and environmentally clean energy, but the primary concern is reliable affordable energy. A balance of traditional and renewable energy is the best way to meet the present and future needs of the members. "Moderation is the key. Extremes on both sides have their limitations and balancing future energy needs has to be the priority," he says.

When asked about what most interests him about serving on the Cuivre River Electric Board of Directors, Dennis says that he believes residents should be involved to help guide the direction of municipalities and service providers. "My interests lie in the development of long-term energy growth to protect what we have and make sure we can provide for future generations," he says.

Voting Facts

CREC members may vote for up to four directors — one director in each of the four districts with seats for election this year. You may choose one candidate in each district regardless of where you reside. Each member household or business may cast one ballot.

Vote for One of Six



Mike joined Cuivre River Electric in 2021. He is married with one daughter. Mike works as an IT Manager with Centene and served in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years.

In the military community, he was always encouraged to embrace opportunities to volunteer within the community. Joining the Cuivre River Electric Board of Directors is another opportunity for him to help the community and make a difference for the membership.

<u>His views</u>: Mike's goal is to always try to improve his team and organization to run most effectively and efficiently.

Michael DeWitt LAKE SAINT LOUIS, MO

Using new technology, process improvements, and questioning the status quo creates conversations and opportunities to accomplish his goal.

Within his term, Mike would like to help drive projects to completion. Understanding what projects are currently underway and then engaging with the other board members to understand what we can accomplish in the near term and plan for the future. Reliable power is the most important aspect of any utility, but affordability is crucial for our sustainable future.

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

- **1. Open membership**: Cooperatives are open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.
- 2. **Democratic control**: Members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and participate in decisions which affect the organization.
- **3. Economic participation**: Members contribute equally to the capital of their cooperatives and allocate surpluses, if any, to develop the cooperative and benefit members in proportion to their transactions.
- 4. Autonomy & independence: Cooperatives enter into agreements on terms that ensure democratic control and maintain the cooperative's autonomy.
- **5.** Education: Cooperatives should educate members, employees and the general public, especially youth, about democratic principles and the benefits of cooperation.
- **6. Cooperation among cooperatives**: Cooperatives work together locally, nationally and internationally to serve their members and strengthen the cooperative movement.
- 7. Concern for community: While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

Vote for One of Six



Brad White LAKE SAINT LOUIS, MO

Brad has been a Cuivre River Electric member since 2021. He is married with a daughter and a son. Brad has 28 years of experience in the agriculture industry, including Ag retail, seed, and chemistry sales. He currently serves as a customer business advisor in Ag Sales for Bayer Crop Science. His education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Ag Mechanization from the University of Illinois and an MBA from Missouri Baptist University.

Brad's expertise lies in an extensive understanding of most issues around business such as profit and loss. "In my current and previous jobs, I have prepared ongoing business plans with B2B businesses and direct customers," he says.

<u>His views</u>: Regarding what the board should focus on in the next few years, Brad says that with the inevitable increased demand of power for EVs and other home and lawn products, it's important to be able to grow to meet that demand yet stay within a reasonable price per kilowatt hour.

Reliable power is the most important feature of the electricity that CREC provides. "I hope we won't have to deal with rolling blackouts as some other states have to. I strongly believe we can have a balance in affordability and reliability." He says the best way to meet present and future needs is to be open to all energy sources. "I don't believe we can provide reliable and affordable energy by partnering only with one particular source. While solar and wind power sound wonderful, I believe that their power production reliability is suspect and will, for the foreseeable future, require traditional energy sources."

After moving from Illinois to Missouri five years ago and recently moving his daughter to Texas, Brad has seen varying electric rates and understands that we are blessed to have reasonable rates in Lake Saint Louis. "I would like to keep those rates at an affordable rate yet be able to responsibly meet increased production."



About Cuivre River Electric Cooperative

CREC has over 70,000 meters on its system, serving homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and more.

A unique benefit of being served by an electric cooperative is capital credits. Similar to profit margins in other businesses, capital credits represent members' ownership equity.

Vote for One of Six



Nick joined the cooperative in 2021 and brings a blend of data engineering and client management experience to the board. Currently a senior manager at a technology consulting company, Nick has a proven track record in leading complex technical projects for major energy companies.

Nick understands the importance of reliable electricity for a thriving cooperative. He shares the Board's vision for robust capacity planning and infrastructure development, ensuring CREC continues to meet and exceed our communities' growing energy demands.

Driven by a desire to give back to the community, Nick believes his experience can inform sound decision-making by the board. He hopes to leverage his technical expertise in

Nick Agos LAKE SAINT LOUIS, MO

the data, AI, and energy sectors to ensure a dependable and adaptable energy plan for the cooperative.

<u>His views</u>: Nick says capacity planning for a growing community and a continued emphasis on infrastructure reliability is what the board should focus on in the next few years.

Reliability is the most important feature of the electricity that CREC provides, Nick says. "Each community that CREC services is experiencing unprecedented growth. Capacity management, planning, and deployment of infrastructure are critical to stay ahead of. Robust planning and forecasting efforts are the best way to meet present and future energy needs."



Q. Who counts the votes?

A. Survey & Ballot Systems (SBS), the independent firm assisting CREC with voting, will process and tally all ballots collected throughout the voting period. This includes the July 15-August 19 online voting period through the collection of ballots available during the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee and election officials deputized by the cooperative's attorney will also be present to assist with questions. Results are to be certified by Survey & Ballot Systems.

Q. If I vote online, can I still attend the meeting?

A. Yes. You will not receive another ballot, but you can be present to hear remarks from CREC's CEO and the Board president, as well as the results of the election.

Vote for One of Six



Tamika has been a member of Cuivre River Electric since 2021. She is a regional business operations manager for Walker-Miller Energy Services. She leads a team of 40 professionals dedicated to energy efficiency/clean sustainable energy initiatives, and partnering with utilities and local, state, and federal entities. Her 26 years of business development experience includes 14 years in the energy industry, working for an electric/gas utility, an independent power producer (IPP), and an energy services company in business development and business operations.

Tamika is a member of the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA), the American Association of Blacks in Energy (ABBE), and the Association of Energy Services Professionals (AESP). She holds a marketing degree from Wilberforce University and pursued an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh Katz School of Business. She is married with a son and daughter.

Her community service includes serving as a Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. member, where she has chaired the "Dive Into Books with Delta" Childhood Literacy Initiative. She also serves on the Leadership Board for "We Run the Lou," a local not-for-profit running club.

Tamika J. Cole 0'FALLON, M0

<u>Her views</u>: As both a consumer and professional, Tamika believes the CREC board should focus on initiatives that ensure sustainability and reliability. "It is also important that there is adequate outreach to educate members on the role that they play in sustainability in the future," she says.

The most important feature of the electricity that CREC provides is reliability, Tamika says. "Reliability should always be the most important feature to meet members' needs," she says. "Reliable energy is critical in our everyday lives."

Tamika believes that the cooperative must always be forward-thinking in the way that it delivers energy to its members. "From taking a critical look at energy supply/generation to maximize cost savings to members, to exploring sustainability efforts that ensure the viability of the co-op in the future; the co-op must look for continuous improvement," she says.

The opportunity to combine her passion for community with her expertise and her passion for all things energy is what interests Tamika most about serving on CREC's Board of Directors. "It would be a personal opportunity to positively affect energy decisions and change in the community in which I live," she says.

CREC

Is governed by a policy-making board of 12 directors, three of whom reside in Lincoln County, one who resides in Pike County, five of whom reside in St. Charles County and three of whom reside in Warren County. The directors serve terms of three years each.

Vote for One of Six



Timothy joined Cuivre River Electric in 1996. He is a retired information technology executive. His background includes companies such as Hallmark Cards, Anheuser-Busch (A-B InBev), Maritz Motivation Solutions, and Nortek Air Management. In his tenure at A-B InBev, he was part of and led many cutting-edge changes in the beer industry supported by technology. He continued to lead changes as VP of IT at both Maritz and then Nortek Air Management. A common theme of those changes was the centralization of IT services to large data centers that represent "the cloud." It is no coincidence that this is one of the biggest drivers of change for electric co-ops across the country, along with modern manufacturing, artificial intelligence (AI), increasing regulations, green energy movements, and overall growing power demands.

Timothy is married with three children and three grandchildren. He was a church leader at Apostles Lutheran Church in Dardenne Prairie, including roles as president, treasurer, and building committee chairman.

Timothy Welker LAKE SAINT LOUIS, MO

<u>His views</u>: Timothy says that in the next few years, the board should focus on a stable energy supply as demand increases, scalability of new technologies, maintaining a high-quality employee workforce and leadership team, and monitoring and responding appropriately to government regulations and cybersecurity threats.

Timothy says that reliability is the most important feature of the service that CREC provides. "Reliability is the number one priority provided in a fiscally and environmentally responsible manner," he says. "The best way to meet present and future energy needs is a continued balance of coal, natural gas, and renewables (water, wind, and solar), along with nuclear energy."

Timothy has family roots in St. Charles County that were original CREC members. When asked about what interests him most about serving on CREC's Board of Directors, he says, "I cannot think of anything more important and relevant than our electricity co-op."

ONE MEMBER = ONE VOTE

The term "cooperative member" refers to a person, family, or business which purchases electricity from the cooperative.

- Each cooperative member household or business may cast one ballot.
- You may vote for one candidate in each board district, regardless of where you reside in CREC's service area.

Vote for One of Six



Dale joined Cuivre River Electric in 2006 and has served nine years as a CREC board director. He has been married for 53 years and has three children and seven grandchildren.

Dale holds a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Management and Administration. He retired from a forty-three-year career with two major corporations: Westinghouse Electric and General Motors. Thirty-seven years of his career were spent in leadership positions in engineering, industrial maintenance, and facilities support. During the last twenty years of his career, he held senior management positions.

Dale has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification, the Board Leadership Certification, and the Director Gold Credential. This classroom training combined with his nine years of experience as a CREC director has enhanced his leadership skills, enthusiasm, and the vision needed to be a productive and well-informed director.

<u>His views</u>: Dale believes we must be prepared for the future and not allow ourselves to be blind-sided by technological or regulatory issues, or energy market shifts. To do this, CREC needs to continue to diligently monitor the rapid changes in technology that can impact our business model. Energy suppliers and their sources need to be monitored for us to be prepared for changes in availability and pricing. Domestic and international environmental initiatives must be followed and understood. "We must also explore additional revenue sources that can add to our financial security and deliver new services to our members," he says, "lastly, we need to understand what the next generations of cooperative members will expect from their electric, cooperative."

Reliability is our members' most important priority, according to Dale. "Our members enjoy a 99.96% Average Service

Dale Anderson* LAKE SAINT LOUIS, MO

Availability Index (ASAI). The ASAI tracks our system uptime, and 99.96% uptime is amazing system performance, the direct result of great employees and their dedication to excellence," he says.

CREC regularly surveys a portion of our members with a satisfaction survey. Survey results assist CREC's Board of Directors in making decisions consistent with members' priorities," Dale says. "Members' priorities are the board's priorities and, therefore, my priority. Before any board decision is finalized, the board always asks, 'how does this decision affect our fellow members?""

Dale understands that our residential and commercial energy consumers control the present and future energy needs. "Our electric suppliers are diligently working to find and develop affordable, sustainable, and environmentally friendly sources of power," he says. "The task of the energy consumer is to reduce consumption by embracing innovation and utilizing energy-efficient appliances, lighting, HVAC, and smart building design. Energy conservation technology has a positive, impressive impact on energy consumption."

Dale thoroughly enjoys being an informed and productive member of the board. He finds our cooperative business model to be unique in that members have a significant voice in the business, through the co-op's elected directors. "There are no outside shareholders to influence our decision-making," he says." We have the freedom to manage the business in our members' best interests. We are also fortunate to have a business culture that is guided by common sense and clear priorities that are set by our members. Thanks to the efforts of our members, our employees, and the board of directors, we are the largest and most successful of the forty electric cooperatives in Missouri."

THANK YOU for participating in the 2024 election of your Board of Directors!