2017 Candidates for election to the Board of Trustees

- District 7 -

Gene McCluer, 10550 Alger Rd., Harrod, is seeking re-election to the District 7 trustee’s post. Gene currently is completing 32 years as a trustee. He is currently serving his second stint as chairman of the co-op’s board. Gene is Mid-Ohio Energy’s representative to the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperative board where he serves as the group’s vice chairman and is also a member of the education committee. As a trustee of Mid-Ohio Energy, Gene has been named a Credentialed Cooperative Director by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Gene graduated from Harrod High School, received a bachelor’s degree in Dairy Science and a master’s degree in Agricultural Education from Ohio State University. For 24 years Gene served as the OSU Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources in Hardin County. Gene and his wife, Jean, live in Allen County near Harrod, on the farm they have owned and operated since 1972. He is currently retired from OSU Extension, and continues to work on the family farm.

Russell Berger, 1896 Township Rd. 41, Ada, has been nominated to run for District 7. Russell is retired from Home Savings & Loan Company where he worked for more than 30 years, serving as president and a board member for the company. Russell is active in Kenton and the Hardin County Community. He is a charter member and current treasurer of the Hardin County Community Foundation, a member of the Kenton Elks Lodge #157 where he served as past Exalted Ruler and treasurer and is currently the treasurer for the Rotary Club of Kenton. Russell graduated from Ada High School and holds a bachelor’s degree from Ohio Northern University. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his son and grandson and doing any outdoor activities.

- District 8 -

John J. Thiel, 3446 Marion-Upper Sandusky Road, Marion, has been on the cooperative’s board for 29 years. He and his wife, Carol, have three sons (John, Jim and Jeff) and two daughters (Lisa and Lynette). Carol is a bus driver for Ridgedale Local Schools. John farms grain—including soybeans, corn and wheat. John is a Grand Prairie Township Trustee, a board member of the Scioto Conservancy District and serves on the Marion County Regional Planning Commission. John has completed the required coursework to be named a Credentialed Cooperative Director by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

James Hodgins, 3073 Morral-Kirkpatrick Rd. E., Marion, is seeking election as a trustee for District 8. James retired three years ago as Plant Engineer for HBD Thermoid in Bellefontaine. He previously worked as a Process/Project Engineer for Parker Hannifin in Green Camp. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Ohio State, and an associate’s degree from Marion Tech. As a foreign exchange student, he did graduate work at Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana, India. Formerly, he was an Assistant Scout Master for Marion Scout Troop 32 and a Cope (climbing) Instructor at camp Avery Hand. In retirement, he spends time producing stained glass panels to be auctioned to raise money for charity. His wife of 40 years, Jody Hodgins, recently retired after a long tenure as the ADAMH Director for Marion and Crawford County. Together they are involved in many charitable and/or civic projects. He has two children, Jamie and Carly.

- District 9 -

Robert F. Imbody, 2155 Essex Road, LaRue, was first elected to the board in 2011 and is currently the vice chairman. Robert has completed the required coursework to be named a Credentialed Cooperative Director by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He began helping his father and grandfather on their farm in the 1950’s. Over the years he continues to enjoy working on the farm, and has managed it on his own since 1977. He has been a school bus driver for Elgin School District since 1990. As a long-time member of Marion County Farm Bureau, Robert has been a three-time president and currently serves on their board. Robert and his wife Jennifer attend Salem Evangelical Church. Jennifer is a registered nurse at Marion General Hospital. They have six grown children and six grandchildren.

Don Wasserbeck, 10250 Wasserbeck Rd., Prospect, is running for election to serve as the District 9 trustee. Don currently works on the family farm where he grew up and has been a career farmer since graduating from North Union in 1979. Don also serves as a Jackson Township trustee in Union County and is involved in the Prospect Knights of Pythias club. In addition to farming, Don has also been active in coaching youth sports such as wrestling, football, and softball. His coaching career includes 25 years as North Union’s high school wrestling coach. He and his wife, Bev, have been married for 36 years and have four children.