

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 38 years as a trustee. Gene is Mid-Ohio Energy's representative on the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives' board, where he serves as the group's chairman and is also a member of the education committee. As a trustee of Mid-Ohio Energy, Gene has completed coursework to be named a Credentialed Cooperative Director and has earned a Board Leadership Certificate from 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.

Ben Bowsher, 8360 Bellefontaine Rd., Harrod, is seeking election in District 7. Ben is a self-employed grain farmer, farming corn, soybeans, and wheat in Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties. He is a graduate of Waynesfield-Goshen High School and received a degree in Agricultural Business from Wilmington College. Ben participated in Mid-Ohio Energy's Member Advisory Committee program in 2017 - '18. He is a member of the Allen County Farm Service Agency committee as well as a past member of a grain condo board at Sunrise Cooperative. He enjoys coaching and helping with his kids' activities, traveling and attending community festivals to visit friends and neighbors. Ben and his wife, Stephanie, live in Harrod with their three children Charlotte, Blaine, and Allen.



- DISTRICT 8 -

John J. Thiel, 3446 Marion-Upper Sandusky Road, Marion, is seeking re-election in District 8. Jon has been on the cooperative's board for 35 years. He and his wife, Carol, have three sons (John, Jim and Jeff) and two daughters (Lisa and Lynette). John farms grain—including soybeans, corn and wheat. John is the board president of the Scioto Conservancy District and serves on the Marion County Regional Planning Commission. He has previously served as a Grand Prairie Township trustee. John has completed the required coursework to be named a Credentialed Cooperative Director by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



- DISTRICT 9 -



Robert F. Imbody, 2155 Essex Road, LaRue, is seeking re-election in District 9. Robert was first elected to the board in 2011. He has completed the required coursework to be named a Credentialed Cooperative Director (Director Gold designation) and has earned a Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Robert began helping his father and grandfather on their farm in the 1950's. Over the years, he has continued to enjoy working on the farm, and has managed it on his own since 1977. He retired from his position as a school bus driver for Elgin School District after 28 years of service and has served on the Elgin School Board since 2020. He is a long-time member of Marion County Farm Bureau, previously serving three terms as the organization's president. Robert and his wife Jennifer attend Prospect Street United Methodist Church. Jennifer is a retired registered nurse. They raised six children and have 12 grandchildren.

The 2022-23 nominating process was carried out in accordance with the co-op's by-laws. However, no eligible candidate fulfilling the requirements to be listed as a candidate opposing the incumbent trustee for election in District 8, nor District 9. With no additional candidates submitted to the nominating committee, a motion was approved to proceed with only the listed incumbent trustee candidates in Districts 8 and 9.