

Douglas Electric Board Elections

Every year, at least two of the seven Douglas Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees member positions come up for election. Every third year, three positions are open. They are intentionally staggered to ensure minimal turnover in any given year. This year, the positions up for election represent Districts 6 and 7. The candidates below have qualified to run for those respective three-year terms.

Because DEC will not have an in-person annual meeting for the second year in a row, ballots can be cast by returning them by mail in the enclosed envelope or by bringing them to the cooperative's temporary office at 1600 Diamond Lake Blvd. Suite 102, Roseburg.

Ballots must be returned by Saturday, April 3, 2021.

DISTRICT 6

District is generally described as having its eastern border at the tunnel on Highway 38 extending due west to Elkton, Wells Creek, Scottsburg, Loon Lake and Dean's Creek.

Carey Weatherly, past board member, is not running for reelection. Carey served on the board for 30 years and has retired.



**David House
District 6**

David says he likes the phrase “life-long learner.”

He exhibited that trait while working with electronics during his U.S. Navy

career and then teaching science and health during a 30-year career at Elkton High School.

David is now interested in and willing to take on another learning experience. He is running for the District 6 position on the Douglas Electric Cooperative Board of Directors.

“I’m not done yet,” says the 73-year-old. “I still want to give back to my community. I’m interested in the electric world and where it is going. I want to be a part of it. I’m still interested in being a student. I’m still interested in broadening my horizons.”

David says Douglas Electric has a good reputation for providing its members with

educational material about the co-op and the power industry, and he is willing to study to be an informed board member.

David was first exposed to electronics in the 1960s after signing on with the U.S. Navy. His six-year military career included three deployments on the *USS Dixie* during the Vietnam War. The *Dixie* was the flagship of the Pacific Fleet.

David was discharged from the Navy in 1972 and returned to his home state of Ohio. He started college in Ohio that year, then transferred a year later to Oregon State University in Corvallis because of its science department. Shortly before moving west, he married Nancy. They have been married 47 years.

He earned a degree in biology, integrated science and health in 1976. A year later, he earned a master’s in education.

The couple moved to Elkton, where David taught high school science and health. David and Nancy raised son Muir and daughter Julie in the rural community. After the children entered school, Nancy earned her education degree and taught fifth grade for many years.

David and Nancy both retired in 2010. “Elkton is a fantastic community,”

David says. “We like the rural area. We’ve just loved the kids here. We never really had any problems with the students.

If there was a problem, we knew their parents and could call home and usually

the problem was rectified.

“The quality of the environment and the students overrode any desire to move for a higher-paying job.”

Since his retirement, David has stayed busy with home construction projects. He is now willing to share his time with Douglas Electric to represent the members of District 6.

“I’ve always been interested in science and I’m willing to keep that interest alive,” he says. ■

DISTRICT 7

District is generally described as having its western edge at Marvin Hill, its northern edge at Rice Hill on I-5, its southern edge at Sutherlin and Cooper Creek and its eastern edge at Mount Scott.



**Shirley Cairns
District 7
Incumbent**

“I like to keep my brain active and use the knowledge and experience I have gained,” Shirley says. “I want

our management to run an efficient and member-friendly organization that focuses on our members’ needs by providing reliable, low-cost energy and internet services.”

Shirley is a 27-year veteran of the Douglas Electric Cooperative board. She has served on the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association board for 21 years. Her fellow board members again selected her as Douglas Electric's representative.

At ORECA, she served five years as budget chairwoman and continues on the budget committee. She is the board's secretary/treasurer, and secretary of the recently formed nonprofit Oregon Empowers Foundation.

Shirley says the past three years have been the most tumultuous in DEC's history with snow, fire and the coronavirus. She says she is thankful for management and the dedicated employees at DEC and Douglas Fast Net, as well as the membership that has been so understanding and patient.

A major expense is rights-of-way clearing, but storms are proving that dead or dying trees outside rights-of-way are also causing outages. A line audit is identifying dangerous trees. Shirley hopes members will cooperate with their removal.

Long-term power supply contracts are usually 20 years and signed five years prior to expiration. During the next three years, the board will look at future power needs because the contract expires in 2028. Shirley says technological changes in energy supply make decisions critical for supplying reliable and affordable power for the future.

Shirley serves on ORECA's government affairs committee and says it is a constant challenge to keep elected officials educated on energy and broadband issues. Current issues include dam removal, broadband, wildfire mitigation and climate change.

Shirley, 83, has served on various committees and boards, including United Community Action Network, Umpqua Community College and Bureau of

Land Management Resource Advisory Committee. She is a charter member of Sutherlin Rotary.

Shirley graduated from West Virginia University and Harvard Kennedy School with a degree in public administration. She has three children and six grandchildren.

In her varied career, she was a high school teacher, department head, certified financial planner, enrolled agent for the IRS and an Oregon licensed tax consultant. Currently, she is a licensed tax consultant for a firm in Sutherlin.

"I would like to continue on the board to see the new Douglas Electric building finished, the meter update and the power contract completed," Shirley says. "I would appreciate your vote." ■



**Brian Newton
District 7
Challenger**

"I believe I have the time and qualifications to provide service for the members of Douglas Electric,"

Brian says. "I love to solve problems to make life easier."

After contemplating running for election to the Douglas Electric Cooperative Board of Directors for several years, Brian has decided the time is right to run for the District 7 board position.

"Now I have the time, I can make all the meetings, I don't have work conflicts," says Brian, who has been a Douglas County resident for 37 years. "I've always enjoyed giving back to the community. I've always tried to help people."

The 68-year-old is semiretired from a professional career that involved a variety of jobs. He now works on his property in the Rice Hill area, cleaning up after some logging was done. He and friends have donated firewood to needy families

through their church. He also works on cars, and repairs and sells used tractors.

"I have a vast array of experience in customer relations, team management, interpersonal skills, sales expertise, and oral and written communications," Brian says. "I'm not a career politician. I want to be innovative and move into the future with cost savings and accountability to our members."

Brian's past experiences include working at a grocery store in Riddle while attending Riddle High School. He graduated in 1971. Throughout the next 50 years, he worked in grocery, carpet and beverage businesses, in law enforcement as a corrections officer and a K-9 patrol officer, in insurance and for the American Red Cross. His early jobs took him from Roseburg to Reno, Nevada, to the Reedsport and Coos Bay areas, before returning to Douglas County in 1983.

He attended the University of Nevada at Reno and later earned a business administration associate degree from Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay.

"I have diverse qualifications in my background, along with a new and fresh perspective that can benefit the co-op's members," Brian says.

He says he is impressed with how the cooperative started Douglas Fast Net to get more efficient internet to the rural areas.

"I want to promote cutting-edge technology for our electric members so we can both save money and accelerate the return on our investments," he says. "With a new general manager, a new metering system, a new building coming and capital credits finally being returned on a regular basis, it's an exciting time to be involved in our cooperative. I would be honored to serve. We are member-owned and proud of it."

Brian and his wife, Joyce, have two grown children and two grandchildren. ■