

2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP BY LOCAL RESIDENTS AND MEMBERS OF YOUR COOPERATIVE



Firelands Electric serves over 9,200 member-consumers throughout rural areas of Ashland, Huron, Lorain, and Richland counties. The cooperative's service territory is composed of nine districts, each of which are represented by a member who is elected to serve on the board of trustees that governs operations of the electric cooperative. Each candidate has submitted a valid petition signed by members living within their Firelands Electric Cooperative district. The following candidates will represent districts 1, 3, and 6 for the next three years on the board of trustees.

DISTRICT 1 – Richmond, Norwich, and Greenfield townships in Huron County

DAN SCHLOEMER • 2545 Niver Road, Willard, Ohio 44890

Schloemer has been a member of Firelands Electric Cooperative for 38 years. He recently retired as the executive vice president and chief lending officer for Croghan Colonial Bank, after working in the business and financial management industry for over 40 years.

He has served on the cooperative's board of trustees for 15 years, currently serves as board president, and is an America's Electric Cooperatives PAC Century Club member. Schloemer also serves on the boards of several community programs, including 5 years on the Huron County Reach Our Youth mentoring program board; the Starting Point Outreach Center; and the Erie Basin Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D).

Schloemer believes a major challenge facing the utility industry is maintaining reliable and affordable electric service for our member-owners. Continued improvements to the cooperative's distribution system, using modernized equipment to meet our members' growing needs and expectations concerning power quality, distributed generation, and EV charging are all challenges facing the industry. Schloemer believes his knowledge and solid background in business and finance have provided him with insight for making sound decisions, which benefit the cooperative and its members.



DISTRICT 3 – Peru, Bronson, Fairfield, and Hartland townships, and Fitchville Township west of State Route 250 in Huron County

TOM LUCHA • 473 Edwards Road, North Fairfield, OH 44855

Lucha has been a member of Firelands Electric Cooperative for 17 years. He is an associate sales representative for Pioneer agronomy products and works for Walcher Seeds. Lucha has past experience as a cable technician and served in the United States Army.

He has been an active board member at South Central Local Schools for the past 7 years, and has served as a legislative liaison for the Ohio School Board Association. Lucha feels that serving on a school board has provided him with valuable skills necessary for updating policies, regulations, and procedures in the constantly changing educational process. He also has extensive volunteer experience, including his current contributions to the South Central FFA Alumni and past involvement with the Girl Scouts of America program.

Lucha has served on the cooperative's board of trustees for the past 3 years and is an America's Electric Cooperatives PAC Century Club member. He enjoys working with Firelands Electric's other board members and management to set policies and make financial decisions that will strengthen the cooperative for future generations. Lucha believes the ability to generate enough reliable and affordable power for a society with ever increasing electric needs is a major challenge for the electric utility industry.



2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEE CANDIDATES (CONTINUED)

DISTRICT 6 – Butler, Clear Creek, Orange, Weller, Milton, Mifflin, and Madison Townships north of State Route 42 in Ashland and Richland counties

KEVIN REIDY • 1394 County Road 1008, Ashland, Ohio 44805

Reidy has been a member of Firelands Electric Cooperative for 26 years. His past experience includes the building trades, as well as many years in public sector instruction and education management.

He currently serves as an officer for several organizations, including: 31 years on Lions Clubs International; Savannah Lions Club; and Ohio Lions District OH-2, serving as governor in 2012-2022 and MD13 council chair in 2022-2023. Reidy is an active member of Ashland First Presbyterian Church and also serves on Crestview Local Schools' Levy Committee.

Reidy has served on the cooperative's board of trustees for six years and is an America's Electric Cooperatives PAC Century Club member. He was awarded the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in 2021, followed by the NRECA Board Leadership Certificate in 2023.

As a trustee, he feels a responsibility to be an advocate for the co-op and its membership at both the state and national levels. Reidy believes overregulation by government entities and baseline energy generation that provides safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electricity are important challenges facing the electric utility industry.



SAMUEL AHRENS • 1215 Grimes Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44903

Ahrens has been a member of Firelands Electric Cooperative for 4 years. He is an independent timber faller and regenerative farmer. Over the past 20 years, Ahrens gained diverse work experience, including in the oil and gas exploration and production industry, which he did for nearly a decade across six different states. This work also empowered him to be a great problem solver. In addition to trimming trees, Ahrens has installed electrical systems and been responsible for gas and oil sites valued up to \$120 million.

He feels that his vast amount of experience gives him the ability to be an effective leader and trustee for Firelands Electric Cooperative. With rising inflation causing the cost of products and services to increase tremendously, great planning is needed to maximize performance and minimize waste in order to provide reliable and affordable power.

Ahrens believes poor planning leads to poor performance, and as a trustee for the cooperative, he is ready to be a responsible advocate for the co-op's membership at both the state and national levels. Ahrens believes the heavy push to "go green" is and will continue to be a major cost and challenge for the electrical industry. Technology has not caught up yet with the craze and our electrical utility infrastructure was not built for it. Navigating government regulation along with cost, production, and an ever-aging electrical grid will always be a challenge for the electric utility industry.



PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN YOUR CO-OP'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESS!

2023 CO-OP ELECTION RESULTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED DURING FIRELANDS ELECTRIC'S ANNUAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, JUNE 24. RESULTS WILL ALSO BE POSTED ON THE CO-OP'S WEBSITE AND PUBLISHED IN OHIO ECCOPERATIVE LIVING MAGAZINE.