

2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

LEADERSHIP BY LOCAL RESIDENTS AND MEMBERS OF YOUR COOPERATIVE

Each candidate has submitted a valid petition signed by members living within their Firelands Electric Cooperative district. The candidate in each district with the most votes will represent that district for the next three years on the board of trustees.

DISTRICT 2 – New Haven, Ripley, Greenwich, Ruggles, Cass, and Blooming Grove townships

JOSEPH WILLIAMS • 1321 Townline Road 12, Greenwich, Ohio 44837

Williams has been a member of Firelands Electric Cooperative for 23 years. He is currently the general sales manager for Ellsworth Corporation and has 25 years of experience in domestic and international industrial sales and business management. Williams also volunteers as a youth group sponsor at New London Alliance Church and previously assisted with disaster and humanitarian relief with Second Harvest Food Bank.

Receiving his bachelor's degree in business administration and organizational communication from Cedarville University, Williams also earned his master's degree in business administration and executive management from Ashland University. Williams has successfully performed regional and global responsibilities across a wide range of markets, technologies, and functions. He feels that his vast amount of experience gives him the ability to be an effective leader and trustee for Firelands Electric Cooperative.



Williams believes that his leadership skills will enable him to set policy that focuses on safety, power reliability, and affordability for electric service member-consumers. He feels an important challenge facing the electric utility industry is electric vehicles and the power demand required for charging stations across the United States' power grid.

DISTRICT 7 – Vermilion, Mohican, Montgomery, and Perry townships

JOSEPH DAVIS • 2288 County Road 2175, Perrysville, Ohio 44864

Davis has been a member of Firelands Electric Cooperative for one year. He is currently the marketing equipment manager for PepsiCo, working his way up in the company over the past 17 years. Davis also volunteers his time building homes for the less fortunate at Habitat for Humanity events.

He believes his background in operations and experience with budget management will allow him to be an effective trustee for Firelands Electric Cooperative, representing and being the voice of the members located in District 7. Davis credits his listening ability as an important qualification for finding solutions to obstacles. He plans to bring member questions and concerns to the cooperative's board of trustees for discussion, and work with management to find solutions.



Davis feels that rising inflation, which continues to cause the cost of products and services to surge, is a major concern, especially in the electric utility industry. In addition to rising costs, he feels infrastructure concerns across the nation are something that needs to be addressed to ensure we have the power necessary for our local homes and businesses.

GREG HESS • 1841 County Road 1095, Ashland, Ohio 44805

Hess has been a member of Firelands Electric Cooperative for 26 years. He and his wife, Tresa, currently own Sasco Specialty Advertising, which is a promotional products supplier for advertising specialties and business gifts. Prior to building his business, Hess studied at Muskingum University and worked in the construction industry for 20 years.

He is a member of the Hayesville Lions Club, serving in various positions for over a decade in Ohio Lions District 13 OH2; MD13 council chair 2017-2018; district governor 2016-2017; and other club offices. Hess has also supported his local community by coaching youth baseball and football. He feels that owning a business for 24 years has cultivated his people skills, and his experience from serving in various Lions Club chair positions has given him the ability to be an effective leader for Firelands Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees.



Hess believes that his skills will assist him with setting policy and making decisions to keep electric reliable and affordable. Hess believes an important challenge facing the electric utility industry is the development of dependable baseload power generation to meet increased power demand. Tightened government regulations and restrictions continue to hinder production options to meet energy needs across the country.

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(CONTINUED)

DISTRICT 9 – South of CSX rail in New London municipality and New London Township

BRIAN CUCCO • 4966 Townline Road 187, New London, Ohio 44851

Cucco has been a member of Firelands Electric Cooperative for nearly 25 years. He is currently the utilities foreman for the Village of New London, and has worked in the public utilities sector for 27 years. Cucco's supervisory role has provided him with further insight into our utilities infrastructure and challenges faced by rural utilities. Cucco is active in various organizations, including overseeing the operations of Grove Street Cemetery, and serving as president of the cemetery board. He previously served on the New London Fire Department for 11 years.



He says that his willingness to listen to what people need, along with a strong work ethic and ability to find commonsense solutions, are strengths that enable him to be an effective communicator and leader. He looks forward to being an advocate of the cooperative and working with Firelands Electric's board of trustees and management to set policies that will strengthen the cooperative.

Cucco thinks it is important for the co-op to make constructive decisions that are in the best interest of Firelands Electric and its member-owners. Maintaining an affordable supply of dependable baseload power generation for growing future demand is a challenge facing the electric utility industry overall.

JOHN MARTIN • 37 Park Avenue, New London, Ohio 44851

Martin has been a Firelands Electric member for over 40 years. He retired from CSX railroad after 37 years as a signal manager, foreman, and supervisor. Martin served in the U.S. Navy for six years, where he was responsible for maintaining communication, navigation, and propulsion systems. He also served as a Village of New London councilman for 10 years and was appointed as mayor for four years. Martin currently works part-time for Huron County Veteran Services.



He has served as a Firelands Electric Co-op Board of Trustee for nearly six years, and believes his experience has provided him with insight in making sound business decisions to benefit the cooperative and its members. Martin has been active with involvement in the New London Proceeds Corporation Board, New London Monument Committee, New London Recreation Park Committee, Rotary International, and Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #2869 in New London.

Martin feels a major challenge for electric cooperatives and the utility industry is having reliable power to meet increased power demand, especially from mandated electric vehicles. This increased demand will require utility infrastructure upgrades to transformers, lines, and substations for added load capacity. These upgrades are needed while still keeping electricity affordable for Firelands Electric Cooperative's member-owners.

