



**Cuivre River  
Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# 2021 VOTER GUIDE

**T**he 2021 ballot includes one proposed change to CREC bylaws, and the names of candidates in each of four districts. You are eligible to vote yes or no on the approval of the proposed bylaw change, and to choose one candidate for each district. You may vote online or request a paper ballot by mail. Instructions for marking your ballot are stated on the paper ballot and are available through the online ballot portal.

Online ballots must be submitted by **11:59 pm CST on Monday, August 23**; paper ballots must be delivered to Survey & Ballot Systems by mail before the close of business on **Monday, August 23**.

Ballots may not be delivered to CREC offices or brought and cast at the Annual Meeting. However:

- If you request a paper ballot and do not use it, you may attend the meeting at our Troy office on Thursday, August 26, and receive a new ballot when you register.
- If you're not sure you mailed your ballot in time you may attend the meeting and verify receipt of your ballot. If your ballot did not arrive by the August 23 deadline you may receive a new ballot.

All members who vote (either online, by paper ballot or at the annual meeting) will be entered into a drawing for free electricity. **Regarding prize drawings: you are NOT required to attend the annual meeting in order to win prizes.** The names of winners will be drawn **in the week following the annual meeting** for these free electricity awards:

- One member will receive a \$1,500 bill credit
- Two members will each receive a \$500 bill credit
- Two others will each receive a \$250 bill credit
- Twelve members will each receive a bill credit for a month's use of electricity (*up to \$200*)

## Vote online

If you have a valid email address on file, you may receive an email containing a direct link to your ballot. No email? If you do not receive the email link or prefer not to use it, type **directvote.net/crec/** directly into your web browser (*not into a search engine*) to access the login page of the 2021 Cuivre River Electric Cooperative Ballot. You will be asked to provide your member number (*without the dash or numbers after the dash*) and the zip code of your billing address.

## Vote by mail

Send your ballot in the postage-paid return envelope to: **Survey & Ballot Systems**, 7653 Anagram Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Do not mail your ballot to Cuivre River Electric. Please allow time for delivery by August 23.

## About your ballot

The ballot order for all candidates was drawn randomly by the Nominating Committee. An asterisk (\*) denotes current officeholders. Candidates were asked to respond to these questions.

## Candidate questions

- What knowledge, experience or special abilities would you bring to the board?
- What are some of the important issues you believe the board needs to focus on the next few years?
- Which of the following is the most important feature of the electricity Cuivre River provides: (1) Affordable, (2) Reliable, (3) Environmentally clean.
- What is the best way to meet present and future energy needs?
- What interests you most about serving on the board?

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# Bylaw Proposition

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Ballots also include a proposition to amend the cooperative bylaws. The ballot includes a summary of the proposition.

- **PROPOSITION A:** Shall the bylaws of the Cooperative be amended to allow the Board to specially retire capital credits of inactive members?

The text of the amendment in its entirety follows. Please vote either yes or no for the proposition.

## **BYLAW PROPOSITION A: Shall the bylaws of the Cooperative be amended to allow the Board to specially retire capital credits of inactive members?**

**Rationale:** *Electric cooperatives operate according to a set of core principles, putting the needs of their members first. The third principle, Members Economic Participation, means that all members invest in and contribute equitably to the capital of the cooperative. One of the benefits to members of this principle—when there is a surplus or margins and the financial condition of the cooperative will not be impaired—is the return of a portion of capital to the members, in direct proportion to their transactions with the cooperative. When members move away from the service area and become inactive members, it can take many years before all of the capital credited to those inactive members’ accounts is fully retired. Meanwhile, the cooperative has a fiduciary obligation to attempt to find and return the remaining capital to these inactive members. This bylaw proposal allows the board of directors to retire any remaining capital owed to these inactive members once the members leave the system, within a determined length of time that the account has been inactive, and using a discount method, similar to the process used to fully retire capital accounts for estates of deceased members, as long as the financial impact does not impair the cooperative. The CREC Board of Directors supports this amendment.*

**ARTICLE VII: NON-PROFIT OPERATIONS**  
**Shall Section 2. Patronage Capital in Connection with Furnishing Electric Energy be amended to add the text (in red) that follows:**

“ ... Notwithstanding any other provisions of these bylaws, the Board of Directors, at its discretion, shall have the power at any time upon the death of any patron who was a natural person, if the legal representative of

his estate shall request in writing that the capital credited to any such patron be retired prior to the time such capital would otherwise be retired under the provision of these bylaws, to retire capital credited to any such patron immediately upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors, acting under policies of general application, and the legal representative of such patron’s estate shall agree upon provided, however, that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby.

**Notwithstanding any other provisions of the bylaws, the Board of Directors shall also, in its sole discretion, have the power at any time, to specially retire monies in the form of capital credits to any patron whose membership with the Cooperative is inactive upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors, acting under policies of general application to situations of like kind, provided, however, that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby.**

The patrons of the Cooperative, by dealing with the Cooperative, acknowledge that the terms and provisions of the Articles of Conversion and bylaws constitute and be a contract between the Cooperative and each patron, and both the Cooperative and the patrons are bound by such contract, as fully as though each patron had individually signed a separate instrument containing such terms and provisions. The provisions of this article of the bylaws shall be called to the attention of each patron of the Cooperative by posting in a conspicuous place in the Cooperative’s office.”

*The bylaw and section in its entirety can be found on pages 9-10 in the cooperative’s bylaws on CREC’s website at: <https://www.cuivre.com/bylaws>.*

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# Meet Your Director Candidates

*Please choose one candidate in each district*

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## Lincoln County District 3: Vote for One of Three



**David R. Henke, Sr. • Moscow Mills, MO 63362**

David joined Cuivre River Electric in 1987. He is married and has six children, three grandchildren, and one on the way.

David is the general manager for Mimir Flexo Printing. For the past 35 years, he has worked in the printing industry from large to small corporations in over 40 states and 30 countries. He is a member of the St. Theodore Strategic Planning Committee, Flint Hill Knights of Columbus, and St. Theodore Parish Council. Other community service includes serving as the Lincoln County Republican Central Committee chairman for six years, Sacred Heart Men's

Club treasurer for seven years, and as a member of the Expansion Committee for Sacred Heart School.

David's expertise includes serving as a consultant for several years. "I have been put in many situations from the board room to the factory floor always striving to make those companies run more efficiently," he says. "I accomplished this with training and cooperation by working with management and employees. I have worked for small companies up to Fortune 500 companies in many different countries."

**His views:** David says that the board's top focus should be efficiency and training in the near term future. "We want to keep our reliable service while training current and future employees while continuing to be a leader as an electric cooperative," he says.

Reliability is the most important feature of the electricity Cuivre River Electric provides, he says. "As we become more and more dependent on electricity due to new technology, reliability is the most important factor." The best way to meet present and future energy needs, he says, is with new technology and an open mind to all current and future generating capabilities. "Nothing should be off the table; wind, solar, nuclear, coal."

David is most interested in serving on the board as it would allow him to use his talents to help make things better for all by serving the needs of our community. "My family and I believe in the sense of community and giving back. You should leave this world better than the way you found it," he says.

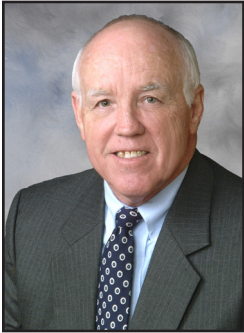
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## Issues voting online?

Should you encounter a problem while voting online, call 952-974-2339 or email [support@directvote.net](mailto:support@directvote.net). Support is available 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on weekdays.

## Lincoln County District 3: Vote for One of Three



**Michael "Mick" Burkemper\* • Moscow Mills, MO 63362**

Mick has been a member of Cuivre River Electric since 1977. He currently serves on CREC's Board of Directors and has been a board member for 27 years. For many years he owned and operated an insurance broker office in Troy. He is married to Donna and has four children and four grandchildren.

Mick is a St. Louis University graduate. He served in the United States Army and spent part of that time serving in Vietnam. He is a member of St Theodore Church in Flint Hill.

**His views:** Important issues that Mick believes the board needs to focus on in the coming years include alternative energy sources and the co-op preparing for an influx of electric vehicles.

Reliability is a top concern. To meet present and future energy needs, Mick feels that we need to keep doing what we're doing.

He is interested in serving on the board to continue watching the growth of our cooperative.



**John T. Waddell • Troy, MO 63379**

John has been a member of Cuivre River Electric since 2012. John and his wife of 44 years, Carol, have three sons and six grandchildren.

He was born and raised on a grain and livestock farm in Central Illinois. His background includes serving on boards and leadership roles in various local, state, and national organizations, such as church, community, civic, philanthropic, government, and professional associations.

John holds a Bachelor of Science degree, a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine, and Masters of Business Administration. He served as a consulting veterinarian in rural Nebraska for 30 years and is currently the Director of Key Account Veterinarians in the swine division of Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, a global veterinary pharmaceuticals and vaccine company. He says he would bring a diverse experiential business enterprise background to the board based on a career of serving production agriculture and livestock producers in rural communities. "Veterinarians serving in rural areas of the United States are generally the most educated members of the community and by default are thrust into diverse leadership roles."

**His views:** John believes that important issues that the board needs to focus on in the coming years include reliability and dependability to the communities it serves. "CREC has a reputation as one of the leading and best run electric cooperatives in the region," he says, "while cost per kilowatt is always important, reliability is of the utmost importance in maintaining that reputation of great service in a rapidly growing market area."

Having lived in rural areas his entire life, John says reliability is the most important feature of the electricity Cuivre River Electric provides, and tops affordability and environmental suitability. "Without reliability, the others pale," he says.

Diversity of sources is paramount in meeting the growing demand for Cuivre River Electric today and in the future, John says. "Maintaining flexibility across energy sectors while embracing the diversity of sources and partnerships mitigates risks and enhances reliability."

He is most interested in serving on the board as a way to give back to the community while being associated with an outstanding organization. "I look forward to meeting, working with, and learning from others of diverse backgrounds who also have a passion for service."

# Warren County District 2: Vote for One of Two



**David Avis • Warrenton, MO 63383**

David has been a Cuivre River Electric member since 1983. He recently retired from Deere & Company, is married, and has four children and nine grandchildren.

David spent over 40 years in the agricultural and industrial equipment industry, working with dealers and agricultural merchants in their sales, financing, and accounting departments.

His background includes business accounting and financial services, and he is familiar with large cooperative organizational structures and operations. David also has experience in founding and directing a non-profit organization. His education includes earning a Design and Drafting Certificate from Truman State University and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

David's community service includes serving three terms as a council member and as treasurer at Friedens United Church of Christ in Warrenton. He is a member of the WISE Foundation, a non-profit scholastic award organization, and has served as its treasurer since 2009. He is currently the president of the Warren County Historical Society, serving two terms as a board member, and past treasurer.

**His views:** David believes that planning the cooperative's future infrastructure and its fiscal needs to provide energy service to the new member-owners who are relocating in the cooperative's service area is an important issue that the cooperative board needs to focus on in the coming years.

"The most important feature of the energy that CREC provides," he says, "is its reliability, particularly during severe weather events when energy is crucial and, in some cases, life-saving."

Good fiscal management and thoughtful forecasting of the cooperative's capital requirements to continue to provide first-class energy service to its members is the best way to meet present and future energy needs, David says.

He is most interested in serving on the CREC Board of Directors to be a part of decision-making for an organization that provides for a critical need of its member-owners as well as its goodwill that gives back to the community.

## Voting FAQs

**Q. During the voting period, can I request a paper ballot kit for another person?**

**A. No.** You may only obtain a ballot kit for yourself. Until August 13 you can request a ballot by calling SBS at 952-974-2339. You may also vote online through August 23 by using a secure web portal at [www.directvote.net/crec/](http://www.directvote.net/crec/). Verification of your membership will be required. Ballots are not available at Cuivre River Electric offices, however a computer station is available for members' use to vote online during normal lobby hours through August 23.

**Q. Can my spouse and I both vote?**

**A. No.** Only one vote may be cast per member—household or business. To be eligible, your name should appear on your family's account.

## Warren County District 2: Vote for One of Two



**Steve Coffey • Warrenton, MO 63383**

Steve has been a member of Cuivre River Electric since 2015. He is married, has two children and three grandchildren.

Steve is an electrical general foreman. He served as an electrician for most of his career, gradually working his way up to his current position.

He served a three-year term on the school board of Holy Rosary School in Warren County and has also been a volunteer for other functions of the church and school over the years. He's also recently has become active with the Greater Warren County Economic Development

Council.

His experience as an electrician for the last 25 years and in his current role as a general foreman includes leading crews of up to 50 people at a time, setting tasks and timelines for completion of work, and coordinating with clients to complete on time, on budget to accomplish their vision of the completed project. "I've been part of a team that established a successful electrical construction division for a company in St. Louis, Mo.," he says.

**His views:** A top priority that the board needs to focus on in the next few years, Steve says, would be to find the best ways to provide affordable and reliable energy sources. "And addressing all safety issues for the crews working to provide electrical service and looking to provide proper equipment and training for the crews performing their duties," he says.

Steve also believes that the co-op should always strive to provide the community with an environmentally clean energy source. "I would like to look for clean coal, solar, and wind options to generate the electrical source," he says, "in doing so responsibly, we are looking out for our future."

The best way to meet present and future energy needs, Steve says, is to find a balance between being environmentally responsible and keeping costs down but still provide the customer with their energy needs.

"I am excited to dig in and work with the rest of the board on efforts of planning and execution of plans to make energy from Cuivre River Electric more reliable and affordable for all members of the co-op," Steve says.

## Voting FAQs

**Q. Can I bring my paper ballot to the office?**

**A. No.** Paper ballots should be mailed to SBS in the postage-paid envelope provided.

**Q. Can I bring my paper ballot to the meeting?**

**A. No.** Paper ballots will not be accepted at the meeting. If you request a paper ballot you do not use, you can receive a replacement ballot when you register at the meeting.

# St. Charles County District 1: Vote for One of Two



**Bruce Miller • St. Paul, MO 63366**

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Bruce has been a Cuivre River Electric member since 2005. He is married and has two children.

Bruce is a senior systems engineer with Hewlett Packard Enterprise/Aruba Networks. He has also worked for Lockheed, Southwestern Bell, MCI, and 3Com in various engineering roles. He holds a BSEE in Engineering Technology and an MBA. Bruce has served as a technical lead and subject matter expert on Hewlett Packard/Aruba Networks teams and would bring technical expertise in networking, security, and IT and business background to the board if

elected.

Bruce has served as board president of the Summit Estates Homeowners Association for six years. He has volunteered as a soccer coach for five years and has helped with the Academy of Sacred Heart fall fundraisers.

**His views:** In the next few years, Bruce says that the cooperative board needs to focus on safe reliable power and looking forward to greener energy. He believes that the most important features of the electricity that CREC provides are reliability, followed by affordability, and being environmentally clean.

"Natural gas, solar, and wind are the best way to meet present and future energy needs," Bruce says. Serving the community and utilizing his skills to help bring safe, reliable, and green energy is what interests him most about serving on CREC's Board of Directors.

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**Mark Schulte\* • O'Fallon, MO 63366**

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Mark has been a Cuivre River Electric member since 1984 and currently serves as a CREC board director. He and his wife Tina have three children and six grandchildren.

Mark is a retired IBEW Local 1 Journeyman Electrician. He is a member of St. Paul Catholic Parish and St. Paul's Knights of Columbus. His community service background includes working with Habitat for Humanity and helping family, friends, and neighbors.

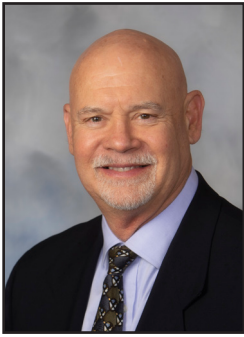
With many years of experience working as an electrician working on the receiving end of the electrical spectrum, Mark says that cooperative electrification is interesting to him.

**His views:** Mark says that in the next few years, the cooperative board needs to focus on charging stations, alternative energy, and continuing to build member trust and loyalty for safe, reliable, and affordable energy. The most important feature of the electricity that CREC provides is reliability. "Society is lost without reliable electricity," he says. "With so many working from home, they need a reliable energy source to run PCs, heating and cooling, lights and water, to name a few."

Meeting present and future energy needs, Mark says, is using gas, coal, hydropower, solar, and wind, and then embrace the transition to a sustainable, low carbon future with the use of renewables.

Mark says what interests him most about serving on CREC's Board of Directors is being a part of a team that works hard to find ways to keep electricity affordable, clean, and reliable. "I have learned so much about this cooperative in the last 20+ years of being on the board and I truly appreciate it," he says.

# St. Charles County District 3: Vote for One of Three



**David Schuler • Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367**

David became a member of Cuivre River Electric in 2002. He is married, has two grown children and three grandchildren.

He spent 30 years in the silicon semiconductor/solar materials industry, serving in several key engineering and global management positions. David holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and an MBA. He is currently working in real estate and travel sales.

David is a member of Ambassadors of Harmony, an acapella choral group, also serving the organization with performance and theatrical productions. Free time activities include gardening, hiking, biking, boating, cooking, dancing, golf, travel, and volunteering at the St. Louis Science Center.

David's business and technical skills in project management, execution, and capital planning, as well as an industrial electric services background, would be an asset to the board.

**His views:** Providing reliable power to our members by providing cost-effective solutions with lower emissions energy generation is one of the most important issues the board will face in the next several years. "As we expand our customer base and services we should embrace the reality that our planet is at risk for our grandchildren and future generations," he says.

David believes that the best way of meeting present and future energy needs is to seek out energy suppliers that are making significant progress toward low emissions power generation. He promises to serve on the board to help CREC become one of the top-rated environmentally responsible energy providers.

## Voting FAQs

**Q. Who counts the ballots?**

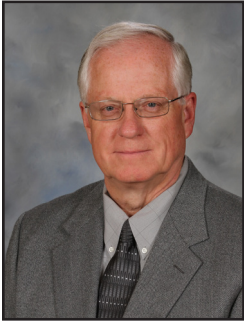
**A.** Survey & Ballot Systems (SBS), the independent firm assisting Cuivre River with voting, will collect and count the online ballots and paper ballots from the July 19-August 23 voting period, and certify those results. Our cooperative's attorney and the Nominating Committee will count and certify ballots collected at the Annual Meeting on August 26; they will add these ballots to the total online/paper ballot count from SBS and then certify all. The Nominating Committee and election officials deputized by the cooperative's attorney will also be present to assist with questions.

**Q. If I vote online or by paper ballot can I still attend the meeting?**

**A. Yes.** You will not receive another ballot, but you will be able to be present at the meeting if you wish.



## St. Charles County District 3: Vote for One of Three



**Dale Anderson\* • Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367**

Dale joined Cuivre River Electric in 2006 and has served nine years as a CREC board director. He has been married for 50 years, has three children and seven grandchildren.

Dale holds a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Management and Administration. He retired from a forty-three-year career with two major corporations: Westinghouse Electric and General Motors. Thirty-seven years of his career were spent in leadership positions in the areas of engineering, industrial maintenance, and facilities support. During the last twenty years of his career, he held senior management positions.

Dale has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification, the Board Leadership Certification, and obtained the Director Gold Credential. This classroom training combined with his nine years of experience as a CREC director has enhanced his leadership skills, enthusiasm, and the vision needed to be a productive and well-informed director.

Since his retirement, Dale has volunteered with several charities and functioned as a fund-raiser for several non-profit organizations. Additionally, he serves as a fishing guide to his grandchildren.

**His views:** Dale believes that we must be prepared for the future and not allow ourselves to be blind-sided by technological or regulatory issues, or energy market shifts. To do this, CREC needs to continue to diligently monitor the rapid changes in technology that can impact our business model. Energy suppliers and their sources need to be monitored for us to be prepared for changes in availability and pricing. Domestic and international environmental initiatives must be followed and understood. "We must also explore additional revenue sources that can add to our financial security and deliver new services to our members," he says, "lastly, we need to understand what the next generations of cooperative members will expect from their electric, cooperative."

Reliability is our members' most important priority, according to Dale. "Our members enjoy a 99.96% Average Service Availability Index (ASAI). The ASAI tracks our system uptime, and 99.96% uptime is amazing system performance, the direct result of great employees and their dedication to excellence," he says.

We also have a satisfaction survey that our members participate in. CREC has regularly surveyed a portion of our members with a satisfaction survey. The most recent survey results show that our members are very satisfied with the performance of their cooperative. "The survey results assist CREC's Board of Directors in making decisions consistent with members' priorities," Dale says. "Members' priorities are the board's priorities and, therefore, my priority. Before any board decision is finalized, the board always asks, 'how does this decision affect our fellow members?'"

Dale understands that our residential and commercial energy consumers control the present and future energy needs. "Our electric suppliers are diligently working to find and develop affordable, sustainable, and environmentally friendly sources of power," he says. "The task of the energy consumer is to reduce consumption by embracing innovation and utilizing energy-efficient appliances, lighting, HVAC, and smart building design. Energy conservation technology has a positive, impressive impact on energy consumption."

Dale thoroughly enjoys being an informed and productive member of the board. He finds our cooperative business model to be unique in that members have a significant voice in the business, through the co-op's elected directors. "There are no outside shareholders to influence our decision-making," he says. "We have the freedom to manage the business in our members' best interests. We are also fortunate to have a business culture that is guided by common sense and clear priorities that are set by our members. Thanks to the efforts of our members, our employees, and the board of directors, we are the largest and most successful of the forty electric cooperatives in Missouri."

## St. Charles County District 3: Vote for One of Three



**Darrell Dechant • Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367**

Darrell joined Cuivre River Electric in 1987. He is married and has three children and three grandchildren.

Retired from AT&T, Darrell served as a manager with the company for 28 years. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Master's in Public Administration. Darrell also served as the president of the East Central Missouri Water and Sewer Authority, and currently serves as board president of Public Water Supply District #2. His community service includes membership with the Lake Saint Louis Ambassadors, a community service group that funds scholarships and sponsors community events.

Darrell also has experience in the field of governance of a water/wastewater utility as a board member overseeing management billing and engineering operations as well as oversight of overall customer relations.

**His views:** Darrell believes that CREC's board needs to focus on the reliability of our electrical system and constant maintenance of its generation and distribution components to avoid the blackouts as experienced in Texas this past winter.

Reliability is the most important feature of the electricity that CREC provides according to Darrell. "We need to make sure that we continue to keep the power flowing via access to our existing transmission and distribution cooperatives," he says. "We also need to make sure we have a balanced mix of generation sources to include clean coal, natural gas, hydropower, and wind."

Darrell's interest in serving on the board is working with fellow CREC members to provide guidance and direction to the cooperative for the continued betterment of operations.

# Thank you for participating in the 2021 election of your Board of Directors!