



OREGON TRAIL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2023 VOTER GUIDE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

(OTEC has not independently verified accuracy of statements included within candidate biographies)

Position 1-Union County

Jeff D. Clark



Family

Children: Rowan, Livianna

Occupation

Real Estate Broker at Blue Summit Realty Group, La Grande

Education

La Grande High School 1999

Oregon State University 2003

Business Affiliations

Northeast Oregon Board of Realtors, Central Oregon Association of Realtors

Civic and Service Organizations

United States Peace Corps

Association with Other Cooperatives and Non-Profit Organizations

Liberty Theater Foundation, Eastern Oregon Film Festival, Solarize Union County

Issues the Board of Directors will need to deal with in the future

I believe that the board will face numerous complex issues and challenges related to the production and transmission of electricity, as well as the rapid evolution of production source and storage capacity. We will deal with increased pressure on the grid as electric cars become more ubiquitous. We may need to manage changing community dynamics as the population grows in Eastern Oregon. The transition to web 3 and the “internet of things” will result in new technologies that may be adopted and further change the way power is used and managed.

Statement to Voters

The OTEC Board of Directors is one of the most important organizations in Eastern Oregon. It represents a cornerstone of our regional freedom and independence. Traditional sources of power generation are under threat and this could result in dramatic changes to the price of electricity and how we get it. The usage of our power supply is under great pressure as the various administrations push to electrify the nation's fleet of vehicles. We must be ready.

I am passionate about serving on OTEC’s Board of Directors because I believe that our communities need a new active board member for Position One who is ready to engage with these changes, negotiate with parties involved, and manage these adaptations to the greatest benefit of our members. I have spent nearly 20 years working as a real estate broker in our region. I have developed a diverse network of connections, while gaining a complex understanding of negotiation and getting deals closed. I like to work on complex tasks and I love working with people of all backgrounds.

I come to the table ready to listen and learn from the experienced members on the board. They have served us for decades and I am ready to do the same. OTEC spends a lot of time and money educating its new board members. We need to maximize that investment with a new board member who can be in it for the long haul.

As I gain experience, I will seek to strengthen regional relationships with energy providers and community partners, while supporting investment in additional energy generation technologies that make fiscal sense and will help ensure our members continue to enjoy low energy costs and safe, reliable service.

Thank you for your consideration and your vote for Jeff D. Clark for OTEC Board Position 1



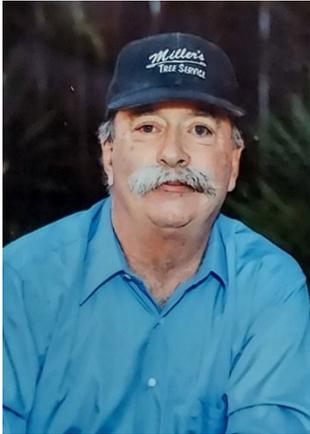
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Position 1-Union County

Jeffrey “Jeff” Don Zurbrick



Family

Spouse: Terri Ann Zurbrick

Occupation

Fireman (boiler operator) Boise Cascade Plywood, Elgin Oregon 20015 - present

Education

La Grande High School class of 1973

Eastern Oregon State College, B.S. Agri-Business Magna Cum Laude 1978

Business Affiliations

Board of Directors, Pendleton Grain Growers, 2 terms as Union County director, 1 term as an at large Director (partial term)

Oregon Wheat Growers League, Union County President

Association with Other Cooperatives and Non-Profit Organizations

Union County Grain Growers

Harvest States

Pendleton Grain Growers

Union County Co-op

Civic and Service Organizations

Volunteer Firefighter/first responder, La Grande Rural Fire Protection District, 1984 - 2007

Issues the Board of Directors will need to deal with in the future

Green Energy policies and their effects on electrical energy supplies and demand

Cyber security

Statement to Voters

I am interested in the Otecc system. I am personally familiar with a large portion of the area served, having worked with Miller's Tree Service clearing trees from the powerlines in Union, Baker, Grant and Harney Counties for ten years. I farmed for twenty-five years in Union County, and know the rewards and challenges faced by farmers and ranchers. I enjoyed serving on the Board of PGG, and would find serving on the Otecc Board to be interesting. I would like to do what I can to represent the membership and to help keep Otecc a vibrant and successful Cooperative venture. With my upcoming retirement, I will have the time necessary to devote to the position of Board member.



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Position 2-Baker County

Aletha Bonebrake



Family

3 Children

Occupation

Retired Library Director, Baker County Library District, 1985-2007

Education

Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, Maryland

Denison University Granville Ohio

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore Maryland

George Washington University, Washington D.C., A.A. History

University of Wisconsin Madison, B.A. Journalism 1982; Masters in Library Science (MLS) 1983

Business Affiliations

Oregon Library Association (1985-present, president 2006-2007)

Sage Library System Board 1995-2007

Libraries of Eastern Oregon Consortium Board (1999-2022) Founding member

Civic and Service Organizations

AAUW (American Association of University Women), past President, current Treasurer

Baker County Literacy Coalition Board, 2006-present, Treasurer

Baker County Cultural Coalition, 2003-present

Public Office(s) Held

OTEC Board (2013-2015 (appointed), 2017-2023 elected) - Board Leadership Gold Credential

Baker City Council (2009-2013) elected

Senate Interim Task Force on Library Cooperation (2002) Legislative appointment

Oregon State Library Board of Trustees (2010-2017; Chair 2013-2017)- Appointed by Governor

Association with Other Cooperatives and Non-Profit Organizations

Oregon Community Foundation Northeast Oregon Leadership Council (2009-present)

Eastern Oregon Regional Theater Board, Vice President (2009-present)

Baker Orpheum Theater Restoration Project 2016-present, Chair

Conferences and training from our industry cooperatives NRECA, ORECA, NWPPA

Active in The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon: Commission on Ministry; Diocesan Council & its Standing Committee

Issues the Board of directors will need to deal with in the future:

- Hardening the grid & vegetation management protocols to prevent wildfires caused by OTEC systems, protecting members' property and reducing OTEC's exposure to liability as the chances of wildfires increase in the West.
- Protecting exposed OTEC equipment throughout our territory from random incidents of vandalism.
- It is more essential than ever to advocate vigorously with our partners to protect our carbon-free hydropower system from consequences of regulatory overreach based on politics instead of science, threatening harm to our balanced economy and way of life.
- Responding to members' uses of technology, such as electric vehicles, smart homes etc., with system tools, training and upgrades.

Statement to Voters:

My role as an OTEC Director on your behalf is a deeply rewarding service for which I have studied diligently to keep abreast of industry change and challenges. I am always aware that our duty is to serve our owner/members with safe, reliable and affordable power. We work to bring new ways of achieving energy efficiencies into your homes and businesses and adapt to new technologies. We also stand up with our cooperative partners to protect our extraordinary hydropower resources when co-ops are challenged by over-regulation or special interests. In the 7 years I have served on the OTEC Board I have earned Board Director Certification and our National Electric Cooperative's certification of Director Gold. I keep informed of issues and opportunities in the wider cooperative energy community and network at state, regional and national conferences and trainings. Providing energy to a community is a very complex business in constant change due to market pressure of alternate power sources, opportunities for renewable energy adoption and regulatory activity that impacts your rates and power delivery. I work to serve you, the owner/members of our electric cooperative, with knowledge and judgement. I would be honored to continue representing you on the OTEC Board of Directors.



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Position 2-Baker County

Jamie Ostrander



Family

Spouse: David Kassien; 3 Children

Occupation

Owner/Operator D&J Taco Shop Llc.

Education

Bachelors in Science and Health and Business Administration

SUNY Empire State University/State University of New York

Corning Community College CCC

Organizations Business Affiliations

Baker Elks Member

Public Office(s) Held

Baker City Council 2017

Issues the Board of Directors will need to deal with in the future

Removal of the dams in the Columbia River Gorge

BTH project

Continuing to keep rates low

Statement to Voters

Have always had an interest in the utilities industry and since moving to Oregon 10 years ago have taken an interest in OTEC as a cooperative. I truly enjoy leadership and serving on a board or committee and being part of the overall big picture to help our community and our members with whatever I may be able to.



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Position 3-Harney County

Robert Cargill



Family

Spouse: Sandy Cargill; Children: Julie, Bob Jr, Michael, Jeannie

Occupation

Rancher

Education

Fairplay, Colorado High School

Colorado State University BS

Public Office(s) Held

Crane, OR High School Board, Burns High School Budget Board, Harney County Fair Board - 35 years, Harney County Budget Board, OTEC Board

Civic and Service Organizations

Kiwanis Club, Church Deason/Elder Boards, Cattlemen Associations, 4-H Leader

Association with Other Cooperatives and Non-Profit Organizations

Harney Electric Coop, NRA, Farm Bureau

Issues the Board of Directors will need to deal with in the future

Power Supply, keeping rates low for members, providing safety work areas for employees, college, linemen, and trade schools scholarships, keeping knowledgeable about industry changes, cybersecurity protections, and system improvements.

Statement to Voters

After serving many years, I would like to be reelected to provide informed and consistent direction to our Electric Cooperative's management. I have driven thousands of miles and dedicated countless hours to attend meetings and classes throughout the region - keeping abreast of issues important to the Cooperative and advocating for our members is necessary to have reliable and affordable electric power in our region.