

MAY 2020

# Guide to the Candidates

This brochure contains the statements of the five (5) candidates seeking election to the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. After reviewing this material, please vote for no more than three (3) candidates on the accompanying ballot. Please return completed ballots in the enclosed, postage-paid envelope. All ballots, including online ballots, must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. See official notice for the 81st Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative.



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[www.nhec.com](http://www.nhec.com)

# YOUR CO-OP, YOUR VOTE



## To Our Valued Members...

As a democratically controlled cooperative, we rely on the active participation of you, our members, in the business of the Cooperative. One of your most important functions each year is electing a Board of Directors that will represent you and your interests at the highest level of the company.

This brochure is an important part of the cooperative way of doing business. It is your guide to the candidates who are running for election to three seats on the Co-op's 11-member Board of Directors. Each candidate appears with brief biographical information and a statement submitted, word-for-word, by the candidates themselves. In the interest of fairness, the listing of candidates has been rotated in the printing and electronic presentation of the ballots so that each candidate has the opportunity to appear first. Candidates' statements appear in alphabetical order in this brochure. I encourage you to read the material closely, then fill out and return your ballot **to be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2020**. This year's ballot also includes a question concerning NHEC's Certificate of Organization.

I hope you'll join me online at your Co-op's 81st Annual Meeting at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 22, 2020. Due to the ongoing restrictions on social gatherings, this will be an online Annual Meeting. Though we'll be apart, I hope we can be together online! Please see the Annual Meeting page in this brochure for details about joining the meeting. In a member-owned cooperative, you can make your voice heard. I hope you'll take advantage of your opportunity.

Sincerely,

Steve Camerino  
President/CEO

## 2020 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee unanimously nominated the following four (4) individuals to be on the ballot to fill the three seats on the NHEC Board of Directors that are up for election in 2020: Leo Dwyer, Madeline McElaney, Mark Portu, and Harry Viens. The Committee believes that these candidates are all well qualified to serve in this capacity.

The Nominating Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors in accordance with NHEC's Code of Bylaws. The Committee's primary objective was to evaluate applicants and to nominate the candidates they believe will best contribute to the governance of the Co-op. When determining its nominations, the Committee uses its collective best judgment in considering, among other things, the qualifications of potential candidates, the current and projected needs of the Board and the Co-op, challenges and opportunities facing the Cooperative, the overall best interest of the Cooperative, and the effective and equitable representation of the membership. The Committee discusses the skills, experience, knowledge, geographic location of candidates, and other relevant factors, and nominates the candidates it feels will best meet the needs and challenges of the Cooperative.

This year, the Nominating Committee met four times to assess the strategic needs of the NHEC Board of Directors, conduct interviews, and deliberate the merits of each candidate for nomination. The Committee reviewed the applications of nine (9) candidates who met the bylaw qualifications and submitted material by the January 30, 2020 deadline and interviewed those candidates before determining whom to nominate. The Committee thanks all of the applicants who participated in the nomination process.

We encourage all members to exercise their privilege, as member-owners of the Co-op, to vote in the 2020 election. We also encourage members who are interested, to consider seeking a position on the board in the future.

Respectfully submitted, Nominating Committee:  
Joanne Haight (Chair), Anthony Avrutine (Vice Chair),  
Rose-Lynn Armstrong, Virginia Stickney Erickson,  
William Fortune, Earl Hansen, Carl McNall, Anthony Ruddy, and William Webb.

*NOTE: The candidate material included in this brochure has not been reviewed by the Nominating Committee.*

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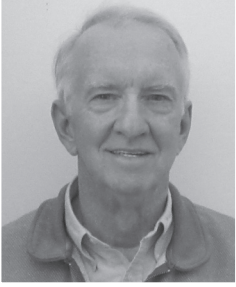
# WILLIAM R. DARCY

**NHEC Service Location:** Benton, NH

**Character of NHEC Service Location:** Residential – My Primary Home

**Primary Residence:** Benton, NH

**Nominated By:** Petition



Bill has experience as a consumer advocate and utility regulator and is running for Director to work on reducing NHEC's high electricity rates, while continuing to assure service reliability. He is currently Chairman of the Selectboard of the Town of Benton, NH where he has worked effectively to

keep taxes low.

Unlike most monopoly electric utilities, there is no statutory consumer advocate to assist NHEC customers, and the NHEC is not regulated by a state agency designed to protect customers from high rates and imprudent expenditures. The NHEC's Board of Directors must therefore perform the functions of consumer advocate and utility regulator to make sure the NHEC's management decisions and proposed rates are fair and in the best interest of its members. Bill is uniquely qualified to perform these functions.

Bill was previously the President of an environmental services and electric generation company that managed four large bio-fuel electric generating facilities. He has also held a variety of public management and legal positions.

"I ask for your vote as Director of the NHEC because I believe my experience as a utility consumer advocate and regulator, as well as my management and legal experience, will help protect NHEC members from high electricity rates."

Bill supports the petition to have NHEC "facilitate" member access to broadband internet, without incurring significant new costs (using federal grants) or interfering with the primary mission of reasonably priced and reliable electric service.

Bill is an avid hiker and maintains the Black Mountain Trail in Benton.

# LEO DWYER

**NHEC Service Location:** Sandwich, NH

**Character of NHEC Service Location:** Residential - My Primary Home

**Primary Residence:** Sandwich, NH

**Nominated By:** Nominating Committee



My three years as a board member have convinced me NHEC needs to change:

- **Costs:** Tree trimming, and linemen costs are givens, but there is opportunity to streamline administrative systems for greater efficiency.
- **Broadband:** With its poles and rights-of-way, NHEC is uniquely positioned to facilitate deployment of competitively priced fiber broadband to members who are underserved or face costly cable alternatives. NHEC needn't build/own a network but should do more to assist others who want to serve members. Given the desperate need, the board's vote to oppose a member petition encouraging broadband was short-sighted.
- **Transparency:** Get frustrated reading your bill? Don't understand what goes into your rate? NHEC needs to be more transparent about its billing and finances and make all its board/committee meetings accessible to members online.
- **Rates:** We aren't moving fast enough to update our rate structure. The proliferation of solar, electric vehicles, batteries, and heat pumps dictates that NHEC's rates encourage these innovations without disadvantaging those slower to adopt new technologies. The average real-time wholesale price for electricity available to NHEC in 2019 was 3 cents a kilowatt. Your monthly bill averaged about 19 cents. We owe it to you to explain the mark-up and reduce monthly bills.
- **Global warming:** We need to create new options for members to address this existential threat – cost-effectively.

But change is difficult. With your support, I pledge to continue working on these important issues.

BA, Washington University  
Masters Business Administration and Architecture,  
Harvard  
603-273-1323  
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# MADELINE MCELANEY

**NHEC Service Location:** Plymouth, NH

**Character of NHEC Service Location:** Residential – My Primary Home

**Primary Residence:** Plymouth, NH

**Nominated By:** Nominating Committee



I have been a NH Electric Cooperative member and resident of Plymouth for over 17 years. I am 39 years old. 11 years ago I was first appointed to the Nominating Committee on which I served for 5 years. My professional background includes a Masters Degree in Environmental Science

and Policy and a 15 year commitment to working with federal and non profit organizations focused on energy efficiency and renewable energy. I hold my real estate license with Hammond Wheeler Realty.

I have served as a board member of the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative, vice chair of the Plymouth Energy Commission, a climate and energy fellow at the Center for Whole Communities in Vermont, a member of NH's Local Energy Working Group, and presently as a board member of the Rumney Climbers Association.

As a member of the NHEC board I will work to:

- keep electricity reliable and affordable for the long term
- maintain 2 way communication with our members
- represent an age group that is not currently represented on the NHEC board

I am willing to ask questions, engage respectfully in a rich dialogue, and think critically. I am confident that my background in collaborative leadership, strategic planning, fundraising, and running a small business positions me well to represent you.

Please vote for me so I can work for you!

Email me anytime:

[madeline@hammondwheelerrealty.com](mailto:madeline@hammondwheelerrealty.com)

# MARK PORTU

**NHEC Service Location:** Lincoln, NH

**Character of NHEC Service Location:** Residential – My Seasonal/Second Home

**Primary Residence:** Stratham, NH

**Nominated By:** Nominating Committee



## Experience

- Created business employing hundreds
  - Software used by hundreds of millions
  - Companies acquired by Open Text, Adobe etc.
  - CEO/Board Member/Founder
    - HapYak Interactive Video
    - The Feedroom
    - Curo Technology
    - Tier Two Systems
- COO Trade Wings
  - SVP Corporate Development OpenText

## Education

- Undergraduate University Wisconsin-Madison
- Master's degree (Finance) Stern School of Business at New York University

## Additional Board Positions

- Service CEO
- e-Copy
- SAU 16 School District, finance chair, Treasurer
- Riverfront-Lincoln NH

The NHEC Mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Because of the importance of this endeavor, the Co-op is both highly regulated and also granted many special powers. We don't want dozens of electric companies running thousands of utility poles. We have created the Co-op to singularly manage that.

We are in the midst of the second industrial revolution powered by electricity and enabled by computer chips and connectivity. If the power we grant to the NHEC is solely for utility poles to carry electricity and not internet, how can we ever enable ALL of our members/communities to prepare for this second revolution? COVID-19 is proving that connectivity is central to our society...to education, medicine and business. To succeed in the 21st century, NHEC must vigorously pursue solutions which allow our utility poles to carry bits of ordered electricity or, stated differently, data.

I have served on public/private boards throughout my 30+ year career in technology. NHEC is at a crossroad for the future of our community. I ask for your vote to help chart that course.

# HARRY VIENS

**NHEC Service Location:** Center Harbor, NH

**Character of NHEC Service Location:** Residential – My Primary Home

**Primary Residence:** Center Harbor, NH

**Nominated By:** Nominating Committee



Today's Coop is facing rapidly changing technology and legislation that will affect all our members. Only a concentrated effort by the Board and our employees, union and non-union, will ensure we continue to enjoy lower rates, un-matched service and reliability

My efforts as Director have focused on members and employees. These include:

- Member Segmentation - Members are individuals. This study precisely identifies members' needs and wants.
- Voice of the Member – An outreach program to solicit member opinions
- Voice of the employee – Outreach to our union and non-union members to ensure their voices are heard.
- Capital Credits – In July 2021 the Coop will begin refunding equity to members

I have also been a major contributor to:

- The Strategic Plan
- Simplifying internal committee reporting
- More accountability by the Board, CEO and Management
- Promoting renewable energy projects

My experience spans 40 years as a business development consultant working with utilities such as Verizon Wireless, Yankee Gas, Northeast Utilities and Southern New England Gas, as well as Global technology companies such as Konica, United Technologies, Honeywell, Cookson Electronics.

My family has been a Coop member for 35 years. I have served my community on Planning, Conservation, Energy and Economic Development Committees. Also a Selectman, I was recently appointed by the Governor to the State Commission on Aging. Finally I serve on the NRECA Legislative Committee.

Today I respectfully ask for your vote to continue working on your behalf.

Questions? Email [hviens@earthlink.net](mailto:hviens@earthlink.net), or call my Cell 203-641-3446



# OFFICIAL NOTICE



## **81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

*Monday, June 22, 2020*

The Annual Meeting of the Members of New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held Monday, June 22, 2020. Given the current restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, this will be a virtual meeting with no physical location. The meeting will be held via Zoom Webinar and will commence at 10 a.m. Members will be asked to take action on the items listed below.

1. Secretary's report of members present
2. Reading of the notice of meeting by the Secretary
3. Reading of the minutes of the 2019 meeting for approval by the members and taking necessary action on those minutes
4. Presentation and consideration of, and actions upon, report of officers, directors and committees
5. Presentation of results of the Board of Directors' election and ballot question
6. Unfinished business
7. New business
8. Adjournment

Joan Aubrey, Secretary  
May 4, 2020

**JOIN US ONLINE!**

# **81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of Members**

## **WHEN:**

*Monday, June 22, 2020  
10 a.m.*

## **WHERE:**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Sununu's Executive Order 2020-04 and Emergency Order 12 (Temporary modification of public access to meetings under RSA 91-A), NHEC's 2020 Annual Meeting will be conducted electronically, without a physical location.

## **TO ATTEND:**

The 2020 Annual Meeting will be broadcast as a live Zoom Webinar. To register for the meeting, please visit:

<https://www.nhec.com/2020-annual-meeting/>

When your registration has been confirmed, you will receive an email link to the Annual Meeting URL, which you can bookmark and add to your calendar. Just click the meeting link a little before 10 a.m. on June 22 to listen in and/or ask questions.



[www.nhec.com](http://www.nhec.com)



