

MAY 2023

# Guide to the Candidates

This brochure contains the statements of the seven (7) candidates seeking election to the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. After reviewing this material, please vote for no more than four (4) 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 Thursday, June 1, 2023. See official notice for the 84<sup>th</sup> 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 four 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. We encourage you to read the material closely, then fill out and return your ballot **no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 1, 2023.**

Please join us in-person or online for the Co-op's 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. The Annual Meeting page in this brochure has details about joining the live stream or attending in-person. In a member-owned cooperative, you can make your voice heard. We hope you'll take advantage of your opportunity!

# 2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2023 Nominating Committee is composed of seven (7) members that were appointed by the Board of Directors in accordance with NHEC's Code of Bylaws. The Committee functions independently from the Board and the management team of NHEC. The committee is tasked per the bylaws - *"shall use its collective best judgment concerning the qualifications of potential candidates, the current and projected needs, challenges and opportunities facing the Cooperative, the overall best interests of the Cooperative, and the effective and equitable representation of the membership. In addition to any other criteria which the committee, in its discretion, may consider, it shall consider the geographic location of potential candidates' electric service accounts."*

The role of the Committee is to evaluate applicants and to nominate the candidates that **they believe will best contribute to the governance of the Co-op**. When determining its nominations, the Committee is guided by the bylaws including "its collective best judgment" along with "any other criteria which the committee in its discretion may consider." The Committee members reviewed 12 applications and resumes. During the review process, the committee considered not only the professional experience and education of the 12 applicants but also the candidates' board service and community involvement. The committee interviewed seven (7) candidates. In the third meeting, after thoughtful deliberations, a slate of nominated candidates was voted on.

The Committee voted unanimously to nominate these individuals to a three-year term: Patricia Barbour, Lee; Madeline McElaney, Plymouth; John Simonelli, Epping; and Harry Viens, Center Harbor. In addition, the committee unanimously nominated Leon (Lee) Pierhal, Wentworth to a one-year term.

Out of the 11 member board, there are three seats up for election to a three-year term and one seat for a one-year term in the 2023 election. The one-year term is due to a director resignation in late March of 2022. All of these candidates are well qualified to serve. A Director serves for a three-year term with a maximum of five consecutive terms per Article IV, Section 2 of the NHEC Bylaws. 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 2023 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), Paul Bolduc (Vice Chair), Michael Clark, Virginia Erickson, Evan Kaplan, Lori Saleski, and Michael Stiebitz.

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

# PATRICIA A. BARBOUR

**NHEC Service Location:** Lee, NH

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

**Primary Residence:** Lee, NH

**Nominated By:** Nominating Committee

**Running For:** 3-year term



I ask for your support for a position on the NHEC board so I can represent you.

I have been a member of NHEC for over 20 years. I am a practicing Certified Public Accountant in Stratham, former business owner, and past and present member of a

variety of boards. My breadth of business experience has made me a strong leader and effective addition to the NHEC board. My experience includes:

Town of Lee – Advisory Budget committee and Capital Improvement Plan Committee

First Seacoast Bank, Dover – Director and Chair

Foundation for Seacoast Health, Portsmouth – Trustee, member of audit and finance committees

Seacoast Family YMCA – Treasurer

Seacoast Hospice – Treasurer

The mission of NHEC is to serve our members by providing reliable, affordable energy and cable services while being an exemplary corporate citizen. My role as a board member is to ensure NHEC has the leadership and resources to overcome challenges and to capitalize on opportunities. Communication is the key to an effective board: communication within the board as well as with members, employees, and other stakeholders. We all want stable rates. We all want the lights to stay on.

I live in Lee with my husband, Al. I am a photographer, gardener, and passionate advocate for our beautiful state. My education includes a BA and an MBA from the University of New Hampshire.

I ask for your vote so I can serve you, the members. Working together we can forge a brighter future. I welcome your questions and comments 603-498-3024 [pbarbourcpa@comcast.net](mailto:pbarbourcpa@comcast.net)

# WILLIAM DARCY

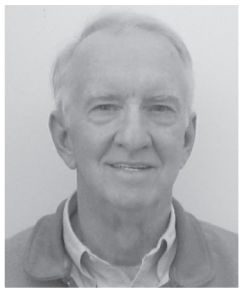
**NHEC Service Location:** Benton, NH

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

**Primary Residence:** Benton, NH

**Nominated By:** Petition

**Running For:** 3-year term



When you elected me 3 years ago I promised to use my experience as a consumer advocate and utility regulator to fight for affordable and reliable electric service and to secure grants for broadband internet initiatives. I delivered on those promises.

NHEC has done better than other NH utilities in keeping energy rates reasonable, but more needs to be done. NHEC's \$33 monthly residential member service charge far exceeds Eversource's \$13.81 fixed monthly fee. Our high monthly fee unfairly burdens members with lower annual electric usage, such as poorer and elderly members, apartment dwellers and seasonal residents. Eversource is regulated by the NH Public Utilities Commission; the NHEC Board should be no less protective of its members' finances.

On broadband, my most notable achievement was serving as project manager and principal author with Leo Dwyer of a grant application which won \$50 million for NHEC broadband! We achieved that goal against stiff competition from cable and telephone companies. This important grant will enable NHEC to make reliable, high-speed, fiber internet available to all members at reasonable prices.

With \$200 million additional in federal grant funds coming to NH, retaining the Board's grant-seeking expertise will be important to members.

As Chair of NHEC's broadband subsidiary, NH Broadband, I will also make sure we implement broadband cost-effectively and get fiber internet to members as soon as possible.

I hope I have earned your vote.

Community:

Chair of Benton Selectboard, with lowest NH incorporated municipal tax rate

Cottage Hospital, Vice-Chair

wrdarcy@gmail.com 603-254-0723

# LEO DWYER

**NHEC Service Location:** Sandwich, NH

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

**Primary Residence:** Sandwich, NH

**Nominated By:** Petition

**Running For:** 1-year term



For six years I've led a campaign to launch your Co-op into the broadband business – building reliable, affordable fiber internet for our members. Working closely with Bill Darcy, also on the ballot, we secured \$65 million in total grants that will enable broadband service for a majority of our members, bringing this vital service to unserved areas

and breaking high-priced cable monopolies elsewhere.

My future priorities:

- Simplify NHEC administration to lower costs.
- Make financial reporting transparent for our 3 operations: electric distribution/power supply/broadband. Separate financials for each should be available to board/members.
- Reform rates to encourage storage & renewables for those interested without impacting others.
- Force Consolidated Communications (Telco) to pay \$8.7 million in overdue invoices and honor contractual obligations.
- Get our share of \$200 million in additional broadband funding available in NH.
- Adopt term limits for directors.

As you vote, I urge you to keep in mind NHEC is a big business with \$185 million in annual revenue and \$326 million net assets. Just because we're non-profit doesn't mean NHEC shouldn't be run with the same hard-nosed focus on cost as for-profit businesses. It's your money we're spending!

The electric world is evolving quickly, and change is difficult. We need board members with real-world business experience who focus on cost. With your support, I pledge to continue pushing for affordable, reliable service in this dynamic environment – and to get affordable broadband to all 85,000 NHEC members.

Leo Dwyer

BA, Washington University

Masters Business Administration and Architecture,  
Harvard University

603-273-1323

Leo\_Dwyer@hotmail.com

# MADELINE MCELANEY

**NHEC Service Location:** Plymouth, NH

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

**Primary Residence:** Plymouth, NH

**Nominated By:** Nominating Committee

**Running For:** 3-year term



## Experience:

I have served as a board member of NHEC for three years. I currently chair the Member Services Committee and am the Assistant Treasurer for the NHEC Foundation. I am also a board member of the Rumney Climbers Association.

## Past roles include:

- board member of Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative
- vice chair, Plymouth Energy Commission
- climate and energy fellow at the Center for Whole Communities in Vermont
- member, NH Local Energy Working Group

## Educational Background:

I have a master's degree in environmental science and policy and a decades-long commitment to working with federal and non-profit organizations focused on energy efficiency and renewable energy. I am a licensed realtor with Hammond Wheeler Realty. I recently completed NRECA trainings to become a Credentialed Cooperative Director and to receive a certification in Board Leadership.

## Additional comments:

As your elected board member I have:

- supported and passed an environmental resolution formalizing NHEC's commitment to clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction
- voted to return capital credits to members
- regularly brought topics to our board meeting related to teamwork, leadership, and governance
- voted in favor of NH Broadband
- served as the Northeast regional representative on the NRECA legislative resolutions committee and as the NH voting delegate for the national resolutions process

While representing a new generation of leadership at NHEC I will continue to keep electricity reliable and affordable with an eye towards industry trends and future challenges.

Please vote for me so I can continue to work for you!

Email me anytime:

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

# LEON (LEE) PIERHAL

**NHEC Service Location:** Wentworth, NH

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

**Primary Residence:** Wentworth, NH

**Nominated By:** Nominating Committee

**Running For:** 1-year term



As a retired CEO and Director of an International Public Company with more than 40 years of worldwide experience in the Electronics, Telecommunications, Broadband, Semiconductor and Energy industries allows me to bring unique perspectives and be a valuable resource to the

NHEC.

A key quality of any good board member can be summarized as: Passion- deep interest in the mission of the organization and the belief that as a member of the NHEC Board that he/she will make a positive impact on the lives of the NHEC membership. I pledge to do just that and be available to our members.

Giving freely of my time to community service is a deep personal belief. I served 13yrs as Chairman of a School Board, established a self-funded Regional Special Education Co Op and began a Lions Club. For 12yrs I Chaired a Zoning Board of Appeals and am a Charter Member of American Legion Post 27. As a U.S. Marine Viet Nam veteran, I helped establish the Town Committee which developed the recently dedicated Wentworth NH Veterans Memorial Park.

In these hard financial times providing leadership and management oversight while continually investigating then implementing ways to deliver power economically including Broadband service is critical. As well, constantly searching for ways to streamline operations without sacrificing power delivery should be a never ending goal of the NHEC Board.

I will always be mindful of how Board decisions can affect “you”, the NHEC membership.

Thank you for your consideration and vote!



# JOHN M. SIMONELLI

**NHEC Service Location:** Epping, NH

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

**Primary Residence:** Epping, NH

**Nominated By:** Nominating Committee

**Running For:** 3-year term



I respectfully request your support for a NHEC board position. My long-time experience in the utility industry has taught me this is a very dynamic time presenting many challenges for the energy industry. NHEC must continue to provide members the best service at the lowest cost, remain responsive to members

needs and concerns, and continue to be a topflight organization for both members and employees. As a board member I will help strategically address upcoming challenges:

- Improve the ability to withstand ever increasing extreme weather events,
- Address growth in distributed renewable energy resources, electric vehicles, etc.,
- Manage the NH State Community Power initiative,
- Facilitate affordable broadband service for all,
- Manage member costs,
- Ensure NHEC takes advantage of grant and loan opportunities in the Inflation Reduction Act \$9.7B co-op fund.

I have 45 years in the utility industry. I started at PSNH, then moved to ISO New England, the organization responsible for the New England power system and wholesale electric markets. I represented the New England region on various committees across North America including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Department of Energy. I retired as a director in real-time power system operations and currently I consult part-time supporting efforts to reliably integrate renewable energy resources.

I have an Electrical Power Systems Engineering BS from Northeastern University and completed advanced leadership/management courses at Eckerd College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

I would be very appreciative of your vote to help the NHEC navigate the turbulent and ever-changing waters moving forward. Thank you.

# HARRY H. VIENS

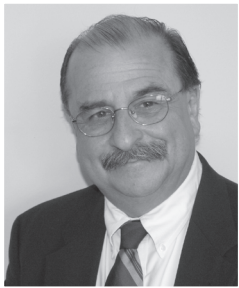
**NHEC Service Location:** Center Harbor, NH

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

**Primary Residence:** Center Harbor, NH

**Nominated By:** Nominating Committee

**Running For:** 3-year term



After a 2-year absence from the Board to care for my late wife, I returned to the Board for a special one-year term this past year where it became clear to me that the Board of Directors must refocus their efforts on several fronts. Going forward I see these critical needs:

- We must finish the Broadband build-out as soon as possible, preferably using State and Federal grants to minimize costs to the Members. This is a critical economic development opportunity that will only enrich our Members lives and that of our children.
- We must reduce electric rates dramatically.
- We must find ways to work more efficiently and reduce expenses without sacrificing the high-quality service Members currently enjoy.
- We must provide more affordable, sustainable, renewable energy options to our Members.
- We must increase and improve our communications with Members to better understand their needs and wants.

I respectfully ask for your vote so I can continue to work on these critical issues.

My family has been Coop Members for over 35 years. We love and believe in the Coop's mission of reliable, affordable electric service, and now Broadband. I am in my fourth term as Selectman in Center Harbor. In my former life I was a partner in a consulting firm working on business development for National and International companies, including electric, gas and cellphone utilities.

BA, Georgetown University

MBA, Uconn

NRECA Director Gold Certificate

603-253-6240

HJViens@gmail.com

# OFFICIAL NOTICE



## **84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. Wednesday, June 7, 2023**

The Annual Meeting of the Members of New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at Merrill Place Conference Center on the campus of Plymouth State University in Plymouth, NH. Registration begins at 9 a.m. for members attending in-person and the meeting will commence at 10 a.m. Members also have the option to attend the meeting online. A live stream of the meeting 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 2022 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 questions
6. Unfinished business
7. New business
8. Adjournment

Brenda Boisvert, Secretary  
April 25, 2023

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

# **84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Members**

## **WHEN:**

*Wednesday, June 7, 2023  
10 a.m.*

*(In-person registration begins at 9 a.m.)*

## **WHERE:**

Merrill Place Conference Center on the  
campus of Plymouth State University in  
Plymouth, NH

## **ONLINE:**

Can't make it to Plymouth? Join the Annual Meeting live via Zoom! To register, please visit the Annual Meeting page on our website. You will receive a link to join the meeting after you register:

<https://www.nhec.com/2023-annual-meeting/>

Join us on the live stream or in-person to renew acquaintances and learn more about your Co-op's performance in 2022. We look forward to seeing you!



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