



District #2 Candidate Biographies

Candidates are listed alphabetically

JAY A. NEITZELL

I was raised in the Hollandale-Maple Island area and now reside west of Lerdaahl. With 32 years of experience in the electric cooperative industry at Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative, I held various positions before retiring in 2017. My roles included installing satellite dishes, conducting energy audits, and providing support in Member Services.



As an employee, I participated in the Cooperative's budget process and strategic planning sessions, collaborating with national organizations like NRTC and CRC. I also contributed to IT committees for Dairyland Power Cooperative and NISC.

My experience with the Cooperative's budget and various committees has strengthened my ability to assist members effectively. I appreciate the opportunity to engage with cooperative members during meetings to better understand their needs. It is essential to discuss issues, analyze information thoroughly, and support decisions that reflect the member's interests.

Jay A. Neitzell was elected to the FMEC board of directors in 2022 and is seeking re-election.

JOHN M. PENKAVA

I have proudly been a member of Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative for three decades and currently reside on a farm in Moscow Township. I graduated from the Albert Lea Vo-Tech Construction Electrician Program and dedicated 33 years to my career as an electrician before retiring. Throughout my professional journey, I worked on a diverse range of projects in residential, commercial, and agricultural settings, primarily with Local 343 in Rochester. Now, my days are filled with caring for the farm, restoring tractors, and assisting others.



I possess a strong electrical background that serves as a solid foundation for my interest in being the director of District 2. I am eager to deepen my understanding of FMEC and contribute meaningfully to board discussions, drawing insights from members and my professional experiences. With an open-minded approach, I would advocate for the expansion of solar farms, ensuring that proper planning is prioritized. My commitment extends to maintaining a safe environment for both employees and members, recognizing the inherent dangers of electricity. Additionally, I strive to keep rates as low as possible while promoting the adoption of renewable energy sources.

I would greatly appreciate your vote, as I am a dedicated and open-minded candidate eager to learn from others while valuing diverse perspectives. As a retiree, I have ample time to commit to FMEC, and I genuinely enjoy collaborating with others in the electrical sector.