



District #9 Candidate Biographies

Candidates are listed alphabetically

RICHARD CONNELLY

What is your background?

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's in Business Administration. My professional career spans several decades in the manufacturing sector, with roles at prominent companies including Ford Motor Company, Honeywell, and Harley-Davidson, where I developed strong technical and business acumen. I recently relocated to Albert Lea to be closer to family after living in the Kansas City area for 40 years. In Kansas City, I spent a decade actively volunteering with the Parkville American Legion. On a personal note, I am the proud father of three children and four grandchildren.



Why do you wish to represent your district on FMEC Board of Directors?

I am eager to leverage my diverse background to contribute to the FMEC board. I believe my extensive experience in addressing complex technical and personnel issues within corporate environments will allow me to bring fresh perspectives and innovative problem-solving approaches to the board's work. Now that I am retired, I have the necessary time and energy to fully commit to board responsibilities and effectively give back to my new community.

What qualities and abilities could you bring to the board?

I am confident that my unique blend of engineering discipline and business administration expertise would be a valuable asset to FMEC. My background has equipped me with a strong set of analytical and collaborative skills. As a formally trained engineer, I possess strong logical reasoning and problem-solving skills. My MBA ensures I consistently evaluate the financial implications and ramifications of every decision. I have a proven track record of successfully navigating and resolving complex issues throughout my career. I excel as both a strong team player and an effective leader. Additionally, my extensive volunteer work, which includes community engagement through fundraising and public interaction at events like local fairs, has further refined my ability to collaborate effectively with diverse groups of people.

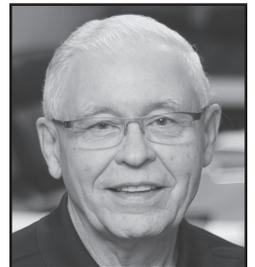
LARRY IRVINE

What is your background?

I am currently finishing my tenth year as a Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative (FMEC) board member. It has been an honor to serve FMEC and represent you, the member-owners, in District 9.

Why do you wish to represent your district on FMEC Board of Directors?

I have completed the five Credentialed Cooperative Director courses through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. I found it imperative to complete the credentialed courses as soon as possible so that I can serve as an educated and informed board member. The course subjects included Director Duties and Liabilities, Understanding the Electric Business, Board Operations and Processes, Strategic Planning, and Financial Decision-Making.



What qualities and abilities could you bring to the board?

I was raised on a family farm in southern Minnesota. I am a graduate of the University of Minnesota. I taught Agriculture/Adult Farm Management for 10 years in Albert Lea. Most recently, I worked for AgStar Financial Services for 36 years in the Freeborn and Mower County areas. At AgStar, my various duties were centered on providing financial services to our owner-member clients. The last 25 years, I was a Sr Team Leader where I managed my sales team to build our branch office into the largest ag lending company in the area. Our client satisfaction and company loyalty were of utmost importance. I have been on various boards of directors over the years. I have recently served on the 1st Presbyterian Church Council and the St. John's Board and have been a member of the Freeborn County Fair Board for the past 30 years.

After serving ten years on the FMEC Board, I have attained a greater understanding of its cooperative business model. Experience on this board is very valuable. My experience in a leadership position at a financial cooperative has given me a deeper understanding of our cooperative's structure and its member-driven values. I continue to desire to learn more about the electric industry and to serve FMEC and you, the members. I would appreciate your vote to continue to represent you in District 9.

Thank you for your consideration.