

# GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD TRUSTEES

## District 2: Uncontested

Van Wert County, Ohio



Incumbent

### William Dowler of Convoy, Ohio

**OCCUPATION:** Farmer | **YEARS A PPEC MEMBER:** 49 years | **SPOUSE:** Kathleen

**ACTIVITIES/MEMBERSHIPS:** Member of the Redeemer Lutheran Church.

**HOBBIES AND INTERESTS:** Attending his grandkids' various school events.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Has served since 2003; completed trustee training including the Board Leadership Gold level.

**CO-OP CHALLENGES:** I believe controlling costs and EPA regulations are challenges. I will continue to promote doing more with less and supporting legislation to keep coal and nuclear power plants running.

**FOCUS:** Continue to lead the shining star that PPEC is and maintain the high satisfaction scores that the co-op has received.

## District 4: Uncontested

Crane, Emerald, Jackson, Blue Creek, and Paulding townships in Paulding County, Ohio;  
Delaware Township in Defiance County, Ohio.



Incumbent

### William 'Bill' Beckman of Paulding, Ohio

**OCCUPATION:** Nutrient Specialist with the Ohio Department of Agriculture

**YEARS A PPEC MEMBER:** 24 years | **SPOUSE:** Rachel

**ACTIVITIES/MEMBERSHIPS:** Divine Mercy Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, Paulding Athletic Boosters

**HOBBIES AND INTERESTS:** I enjoy spending my free time with family and traveling. Some of my favorite activities include going to Buckeye football games, going on pheasant hunting trips, and farming.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I believe my educational and professional work experience provides a strong asset to the cooperative. I have received my Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate, which consists of attending five courses that provide essential knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors. I have taken three of the 10 courses needed for the Board Leadership Certificate. Additionally, I feel the knowledge I have gained through attending conferences and meetings has helped me grow as a board member.

**CO-OP CHALLENGES:** Government mandates and cybersecurity are the biggest challenges to the electric industry. However, other significant challenges faced are transitioning to renewable energy sources, managing aging infrastructure, integrating energy storage solutions, and dealing with rising input cost, all while trying to provide affordable, reliable power.

**FOCUS:** I will advocate to our lawmakers for policies that support consumers' interests while encouraging members to personally engage with our lawmakers through supporting America's Electric Cooperative PAC. We also must continue monitoring and managing cyber risks through collaboration among cooperatives and by providing our I.T. department with the resources to implement security protocols and utilize innovative technology to protect our critical infrastructure. PPEC needs to continue to be a leader in our communities, providing reliable and affordable energy like we have for the last 90-plus years. We must continue to embrace innovative technologies as we enter the broadband market while prioritizing member engagement and local community development. We must do all this while maintaining our Seven Cooperative Principles.

**BOARD  
ELECTION UPDATE**



Because no other members in districts 2 or 4 submitted petitions to run for the board, no formal election is needed in those districts; these trustees will be re-elected by affirmation. Members in District 5 will receive a trustee election ballot; all members will receive a ballot to vote for recommended Code of Regulations changes.

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## District 5: Incumbent

Adams Township in Allen County, Indiana



Incumbent

### Steven McMichael of New Haven, Indiana

**OCCUPATION:** Mayor of New Haven, Indiana | **YEARS A PPEC MEMBER:** 23 years | **SPOUSE:** Judy  
**ACTIVITIES/MEMBERSHIPS:** I attend Impact Community Church-New Haven, am a Board and Executive Committee Member of Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative, Board President of Indiana Electric Cooperatives, the past chair of the Northeast Indiana Mayors and Commissioners Caucus, current Treasurer with Northeast Indiana Strategic Development Commission, Indiana Mayor’s Roundtable, and an active member of the US 30 Coalition.  
**HOBBIES AND INTERESTS:** I love to travel, including trips to Disney, relaxing by the campfire, and spending time with my children, who are both PPEC members, and wife, Judy.  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** I have over 12 years of experience on the PPEC board, during which I have completed my credentials with NRECA for Cooperative Director classes status, taken Board Leadership certificate training, and additional classes to stay current. During my tenure, I have traveled to Guatemala to train international directors and am frequently a guest speaker to train new co-op directors from across America. I also serve on multiple boards, commissions, and community services.  
**CO-OP CHALLENGES:** There are numerous challenges facing the electric industry, from distributed generation to regulatory measures at both the state and federal level. PPEC needs to continue to monitor government policy.

**FOCUS:** I have a focus on a commitment to sustainability while making sure that PPEC continues to adapt to the changing energy landscape. This includes distributed generation and new regulatory challenges. As a trusted community leader as Mayor of New Haven and my work with electric cooperatives, my focus is always on the long-term sustainability and resilience of the community and the cooperative. My vision for the future is focused on ensuring that PPEC remains a trusted provider of both electricity and internet services while keeping the cooperative responsive to the needs of the community. I am committed to maintaining strong ties between the cooperative and its members while looking forward to the future of energy with innovation, sustainability, and resilience.

## District 5: Candidate

Adams Township in Allen County, Indiana



Candidate for District 5

### Stephan Poiry of New Haven, Indiana

**OCCUPATION:** Highway Engineering Assistant | **YEARS A PPEC MEMBER:** over 30 years | **SPOUSE:** Lisa  
**ACTIVITIES/MEMBERSHIPS:** Former member of the New Haven Police Department — served as Chief of Police. Former member of the New Haven Baseball Association, current member of New Haven Masonic Lodge, Mizpah Shrine, and Fort Wayne Scottish Right.  
**HOBBIES AND INTERESTS:** Anything that involves activities with my family and classic vehicles.  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** Served the community for 30 years as a member of the New Haven Police Department, during which I served the community in the best of times and during disasters. This experience helps me better understand the importance of the utility. I currently work with all types of utilities as an engineering assistant.  
**CO-OP CHALLENGES:** As society moves toward a more green economy, more demand is being placed on the electric impacting generation and distribution; this is the most important issue for PPEC. It’s imperative that the board and its partners stay ahead of forecast demand with reasonable solutions with the least financial impact on the members.  
**FOCUS:** It will be important for PPEC to frequently meet and maintain an open dialogue with our partners, elected leaders overseeing electric policies, and members as we address the increasing movement to electric energy. I want to see PPEC as

a leader in the electric cooperative sector, pioneering ideas and solutions in the industry. I wish to maintain an unparalleled level of power reliability and continue the high standard of customer service while keeping rates favorable for members. I have been a member for 30 years and understand the cooperative system. I wish to serve my neighbors by bringing tangible knowledge to their service. I am a natural communicator and enjoy interpersonal interactions. I believe in a strong collaboration and wish to bridge members’ ideas and concerns.

## WATCH YOUR MAILBOX FOR YOUR BALLOT!

Ballots will be mailed this month and must be returned by February 26. Members can also vote online through their SmartHub account or on our website ([www.PPEC.coop](http://www.PPEC.coop)) by February 26 using their ballot instructions.

