

# Meet the candidates for the Board of Trustees

Vote for one candidate per district



**James R. McConnell**, 63, of Pittsfield Township in Lorain County, has been a cooperative member for 37 years. He has been a member of the Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees 12 years. In 2004, McConnell completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Credentialed Cooperative Director Program. He has served as Pittsfield Township's fiscal officer for 13 years and is Pittsfield's representative on the Lorain County Rural Wastewater District (LORCO). He is in his seventh year as the LORCO president. McConnell has a Bachelor of Science degree in dairy science from The Ohio State University. He has been president and secretary with the Lorain County Dairy

## District 2

Camden, Florence, Henrietta,  
New Russia and Pittsfield townships

Herd Improvement Association. He and his wife, Sharon, have been married 11 years. He has three daughters. **Why are you seeking election as a trustee and what goals would you like to achieve if elected?** "During my 12 years as trustee, I've seen this cooperative face some significant challenges and, I believe, address them very well. It appears even more formidable challenges to LMRE's goal of providing adequate, reasonably priced power to our members will need to be dealt with in the immediate future. I believe my experience as a trustee can be an asset when tough decisions need to be made on behalf of the membership.

"It is apparent that many of the impending challenges LMRE and its members will be facing are the result of proposed changes in national energy policy that show little consideration for member-owned electric cooperatives. I am convinced that, working together, we as cooperative members can, and must, make our voices heard. I intend to work to amplify our voice and influence whenever and however possible. LMRE is a financially strong, efficient, well-managed cooperative with dedicated, experienced employees who serve the members well. My goal as trustee would be to build on these organizational strengths so that LMRE can continue to provide its members with the most affordable, reliable source of electricity possible."



**Neal N. Gimben**, 61, of LaGrange Township, has been a LMRE member for 11 years. After 35 years, Gimben is retired from the Local Union 129 of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He is a 1966 graduate of Admiral King High School in Lorain. He attended Lorain County Community College for two years studying electrical engineering before serving in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1972 working in missile electronics. He started his apprenticeship in 1972 with Local Union 129 in Lorain. In 1987-88 he completed courses at LCCC in Industrial Robotics. In the 1980s and again from 2001-03, he worked on nuclear and coal-fired powerhouses. The last three years, he served as an instructor for electrical industry apprentices at the Lorain County Joint Vocational School. He is a past member of the Society for Manufacturing Engineers. He previously served as a fiber optics instructor. He holds an Ohio State Fire Alarm License and an Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety card. He is a member of the Elyria Post of the American Legion. He and his wife, Sallie, have been married 11 years. Together, they have three children.

## District 5

LaGrange Township

**Why are you seeking election as a trustee and what goals would you like to achieve if elected?** "I want to better represent the people of District 5. I want for LMRE to achieve the highest energy efficiency standard of any electric cooperative in the country and to fight for a fair energy consumption program that will benefit all within the LMRE organization."



**Judy A. Pickworth**, 57, of LaGrange Township, has been a cooperative member 36 years. She is completing her first three-year term on the LMRE Board of Trustees. In 2007, she completed the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Program. Pickworth is completing her eighth year as a teacher with the Wellington Schools and currently is teaching fifth grade at McCormick Middle School. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from The Ohio State University in family and consumer science and elementary education. She has served as a 4-H and Future Career & Community Leaders of America Advisor and presently is serving on the Lorain County 4-H Family and Consumer Science committee. Her husband, Ron, is on the Lorain County Fair Board. One of his main responsibilities is overseeing Department 9, which includes Culinary Arts, Antiques and Handiwork. She is actively involved in supporting his efforts. The Pickworths have been married 36 years and have three children and two grandchildren.

**Why are you seeking election as a trustee and what goals would you like to achieve if elected?** "I believe my training in family and consumer science brings to the board my perspective of the family's needs for efficient electric appliances as well as helping budget their finances. I am seeking election to the LMRE board because in the past three years I have learned a lot about the electric utility industry by attending trustee workshops and conferences. In these difficult economic times as a trustee, I feel our cooperative must work hard to find ways to keep electricity affordable and reliable for our members. I have supported new programs to help lower our members' electric consumption, such as the compact fluorescent light exchange program, water heater switches, energy-efficient appliances and Cool Return switches. I support finding affordable, renewable and clean energy sources for the future generation of electricity. If we can continue to lower our peak demand for electricity, we can save our consumers money in future generation needs. My second goal would be to continue promoting safety with our employees. As a trustee we feel that safety on the job is very important so that our employees return home each night to their families. As a your trustee the past three years, I have promoted safety and affordability for our members."



**Keith E. Lowe**, 61, of Homer Township, has been a cooperative member for 39 years. Lowe has served on the LMRE board 12 years and is completing his 10th year as the cooperative's treasurer. In 2003, Lowe completed the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Program. He and his wife of 39 years, Pam, have two children. Lowe is president of Lowe Nutrition Sales and Service, which he has owned and operated the past 27 years, providing dairy nutrition services and products to dairy producers in eight northern Ohio counties. A Cloverleaf High graduate, Lowe attended The Ohio State University and Kent State University. He is a member of the Harrisville F&AM Masonic

Lodge, the Ohio and national Holstein associations, the Ohio Jersey Breeders and is a 2003 graduate of Leadership Medina County.

**Why are you seeking election as a trustee and what goals would you like to achieve if elected?** "Our electric industry is in the midst of a fight for survival. If we do not impact the emission controls that our government wants to implement, we will see unheard of electricity prices. We need every member to help by writing to our elected officials to voice your opinions and concerns. Together we have a much better chance of getting our views and concerns heard. During my 12 years on the board, I have always tried to make decisions that are best for our members. I will continue to work as hard as possible for you."

## District 8

*Medina County: Spencer Village and Spencer & Homer townships  
Wayne County: Burbank Village, Congress and Canaan townships*