

2019 Candidate Biographies

District 1



Patrick Dennis

My name is Pat Dennis and I have been a member of Columbia REA since 2007. I am currently a Region 1 representative on your Columbia REA Board of Directors and am seeking your support in re-election to the Board. The electric utility business is extremely complex and many issues are emerging on the horizon that represent both opportunities and threats to our Cooperative. As your Board representative, I pledge to continue to work very hard to protect and promote our Cooperative as a vital part of our community.

During my working career, I was a Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia and after that, a Program Director in the Federal Government at the National Science Foundation (NSF). I have had extensive training and experience in project management and risk management. During the last year, I completed a week-long Director Certification Program offered through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Currently, I am a Research Associate (volunteer) at Whitman College where I work with the Grants Office on the organization, preparation and submission of faculty research proposals to Federal granting agencies.

My years as a Professor and a Program Director at the NSF have given me extensive experience in identifying emerging areas of opportunity, establishing priorities, planning budgets, and providing management oversight. My objectives as a member of the Board of Directors over the last two years have been and will continue to be: (i) to maintain the physical and organizational excellence of our Cooperative and (ii) to recognize and promote opportunities that impact the reliability, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the electrical services that we provide to our valued customer-members. I would greatly appreciate your support in helping me achieve these goals. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and your past support.



Todd Kelly

Todd Kelly of 533 Rainville Rd., Touchet, lifetime Walla Walla County Resident and 11-year REA customer. Graduated Touchet High School in 1997. Attended Walla Walla Community College graduating in 2001 with an AA degree and Diesel Mechanic Degree. Todd worked for Walla Walla Farmers Co-op for 4 years. After Walla Walla Farmers Co-op he was employed as farm manager for Scott Moore of One Moore Ag in Kahlotus, WA for 4 years. While Working in Kahlotus Todd was a volunteer firefighter at their local rural fire department. To be closer to his family he took a job closer to home with Mike Hand of Michael Hand Farms, where he is currently employed. Todd holds his Agronomist

License along with a chemical and pesticide license. Todd has been married to his wife Andrea for 13 years and has two children. Their oldest daughter is a phlebotomist at a local clinic in Walla Walla and their youngest is in 6th grade and involved in many community sports.

District 2



Dan Dotta

Dan Dotta of Burbank, is the Facilities Services Manager for the City of Pasco and has worked there for 20 years. He manages up to 60 employees who maintain all 42 city-owned buildings, 28 parks and the City View Cemetery. Dan excels in long range planning, budgeting and project management and is driven to provide the community with the best services fiscally possible. His strong belief in community involvement is what motivated him to apply for the Board of Directors. Dan is Past President of the Pasco Kiwanis, a charter board member of Forge Youth Mentoring, on the Pasco School District Technical Committee and is the current Toastmasters Area Director. As a small business owner

with his B.S. in Business Management and M.S. in Management and Leadership, Dan feels he has a unique background that would make him an asset to the board and the community.

For the last 20 years, Dan and his wife, Kim, have raised their three children in Burbank. They are very involved members of Burbank First Baptist Church. Life is just a big adventure and now they are enjoying camping, fishing, hunting and sometimes just plain traveling, with their four grandchildren and their families.

District 2 (continued)



Dennis Munden

Dennis Munden, with his wife Lori, are long-time residents and members of Columbia REA at 27143 Ice Harbor Dr., Burbank Heights. Dennis is a retired Agriculture Science and Natural Resources instructor serving the students of the Burbank School District and a number of schools in the Tri-Cities area. He is a graduate of Washington State University with majors in production agriculture, agriculture science education, and agriculture mechanization. Dennis served his community as a firefighter/EMT with Fire District #5 for 27 years, was a member and volunteered at First Baptist Church and has worked on school and community facilities planning committees. Dennis is a graduate of the Washington Ag. Forestry adult leadership training program, is a recipient of the Crystal Apple Teacher Award for Excellence in Tri-City area schools, and has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification and the Board Leadership Certificate presented by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Dennis and Lori are the parents of three adult children and enjoy six grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and four step-great grandchildren.



Michael Scrimsher

Columbia Burbank HS class of 1978 and a manufacturing engineering degree from BYU. Farmed with my dad Gary Scrimsher during my HS and college years and evenings. Worked in So Cal on the B-2 Stealth Bomber and then Boeing on military and commercial planes working in coordinate metrology, photogrammetry and other precision measurement systems. Excitedly returned to Burbank in 1991. Employed at a high tech manufacturing site in Richland for the past 28 years supporting a vital and stable base load of on-demand non CO2 emitting electrical generation. Happily married for 35 years, with a super supportive wife and 5 now adult sons; all Eagle scouts. Have successfully served on 2 other boards; the Columbia Burbank School board for over 23 years, and Junior Achievement, a nonprofit serving financial education/literacy in the school system for 9 years. I have a lot of energy and passion about public power and the REA system, the industry changes with rooftop solar, and the need of a resilient power grid while keeping rates down. I would bring to the REA board my previous board experience.

District 3



Jay DeWitt

Jay lives in rural Walla Walla county with his wife of 39 years, Debbie. They have two grown children. He grew up in this area and graduated from WSU in 1980 with a BS in Agronomy. He's had a varied career including crop protectant sales, crop consulting, and farming. He and a partner founded Dumas Station Wines in 2003, he now makes his living growing grapes and making wine. He has been a small business owner for 30 years and is experienced in all aspects of business management including finance, personnel, compliance, and customer service. He is a skilled communicator and a team player. He has served on the board of Columbia REA since 2015. He earned his certification from the National Association of Electric Cooperatives during that time. Previously he served for nine years as a director for Northwest Grain Growers, one year as chairman. He also served as a director for the Walla Walla Wheat Growers Association, Walla Walla Wine Alliance, Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce and the Washington Wheat Growers Association.



Miriam Grant

Miriam Grant was born and raised in the Walla Walla Valley. She attended grade school and junior high in Walla Walla then moved to Clarkston, Washington where she attended high school. She then attended college at Lewis Clark State College and Eastern Washington University. Miriam is married to Mark Grant. Miriam comes from a farming/ranching heritage. Her father was a cattleman and owned Spencer Livestock in Lewiston where she assisted with many of the weekly livestock auctions. Miriam lives on a family farm and actively participates in farming and ranching activities. She and her husband, Mark, are a real estate team with Blue Mountain Realtors in Walla Walla. They are the parents of five children and grandparents of three. Miriam's work resume includes several years in merchandising and retail sales as well as experience in interior design and decorating. She is also active in non-profit organizations, most notably the Blue Mountain Humane Society, Milton-Freewater Pioneer Posse and Walla Walla Fair & Frontier Days. Most of all, Miriam brings a strong work ethic and a zest for life to the work table each day. She has a lifetime of experience and knowledge of the valley.