

MEET THE 2025 HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION BOARD CANDIDATES

District 1 – Logan, Weld or Washington County, Colorado – Leo Brekel

Leo Brekel was appointed to the Highline Electric Board of Directors in 1995. He has served as Treasurer and President of the Board. Leo serves on the Board of Directors at Tri-State Generation and Transmission and chaired the Finance and Audit Committee until May of 2023. Leo also serves on the Board of Directors at Basin Electric Power Cooperative and is currently the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. Prior to serving on the Basin Board, he was on the Board at Midwest Electric Consumers Association.

Leo and his wife for 45 years, Debbie, have a dry land farm south of Fleming. Leo is retired from employment at Northeastern Junior College. He is a member of the Sterling Elks, served on the School Board at Fleming and on the Parish Council at St. Peter's Catholic Church. They enjoy trips to central Nebraska to spend time with their daughters and families.

Leo said, "Reliability and affordability need to remain at the top of the list so that all our members can use and enjoy the many benefits that electricity provides." As a Board member, I am committed to do the best I can to provide that to the membership. Thank you for the support during the past years. It is a privilege to serve on your Board of Directors.

District 2 – Phillips or Yuma County, Colorado – Steve Oestman

Steve Oestman was appointed to the Highline Electric Board in 2005. He was raised on the family farm north of Wray and graduated from Wray High School. Steve is retired from farming but is now ranching on his Colorado and Montana cattle ranches. Steve and his wife Lori have two children and five grandchildren. He is a member of the Wray Methodist Church and the Wray Elks Club.

Steve said, "I have enjoyed the time I have spent on the Highline Board. It has been very educational and while I have learned a lot, there is still much more to learn. I would like to continue as a board member and will do my best to serve Highline members."

District 3 – Sedgwick County, Colorado or Deuel County, Nebraska – Ted Carter

Ted Carter was elected to the Highline Board of Directors in 2007 and has served on the Western United Board of Directors for two years. He is a Credentialed Cooperative Director. Ted is a lifelong resident of Sedgwick County. After graduating from Julesburg High School, he attended Chadron State College where he studied Ag Business.

Ted and his wife, Patty, have two children and five grandchildren. The Carters reside in Julesburg and farm south of Julesburg, where they raise both irrigated and dryland crops. Ted comes from a long line of farmers and ag producers. His great-grandfather farmed in Nebraska, then purchased ground in Colorado to expand the family operation.

In the past, Ted served 12 years on the FSA Committee (chairman), the Sedgwick County Fair Board (vice-president), as a 4-H leader for 20 years, the Julesburg School Accountability Committee and the Julesburg Methodist Church Board.

Ted said, "I am proud to be a director on the Highline Electric Board. It is a privilege to serve a cooperative that continues to prioritize reliable, affordable, quality electricity. I continue to gain knowledge about the industry and look forward to serving our members in the future. I will work to keep our rates as low as possible."

District 4 – Chase, Perkins or Dundy County, Nebraska – Lisa Schilke

Lisa Schilke was appointed to the Highline Electric Board in February 2023. Lisa grew up in Holyoke, Colorado, and now lives near Lamar, Nebraska. She has been married for 35 years to her husband; Tim. Lisa has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and was a substitute teacher for many years. She now focuses her time on being the bookkeeper for the family farming operation. Tim and Lisa have two children and one grandchild. They, along with their son, farm corn, wheat, and soybeans in Nebraska and Colorado.

Lisa is vice chairman of the Holyoke/Imperial Credit Union Board of Directors. She is also the Memorial Committee Chairman at her church, along with being a member of Church Council. She served on the 4-H Council and was a club leader in Chase County for many years. Lisa has been very busy taking classes to achieve her credentialed cooperative director certificate and board leadership certificate.

Lisa said, "My time on the HEA board has been very informative with the ever-changing direction of energy resources. I believe we, as a board, will continue to provide reliable and efficient electricity to our members at an affordable rate. I look forward to continuing as a director representing District 4 by expanding my knowledge and supporting the cooperative mission of Highline."