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# 2022 YOUTH TOUR

## SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WINNER



**O**UR 2022 NRECA Youth Tour winner hails from the big city of Plevna, Montana. Whitney Thielen was chosen to represent Southeast Electric Cooperative at the 2022 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. in June. She is the daughter of Bob and Melissa Thielen. Whitney attends Baker High School and actively participates in basketball, volleyball, band, choir and student government. She is also very involved in 4-H, FFA and rodeo.

The second cooperative principle is Democratic Member Control. Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Representatives (directors/trustees) are elected

from among the membership and are accountable to the membership.

Whitney was asked to write an essay on what that principle means to her and her community. Whitney stated that as an electric cooperative, not only does the community benefit from it as a power source, but also as the cooperative upholds a nonprofit status, and those members have a vote toward the affairs of the organization. The cooperative also shares profits with their members. Whitney shared that many of her experiences would not exist if it were not for the electric cooperative that serves her family.

Congratulations Whitney, and enjoy this trip of a lifetime! 



Whitney Thielen from Plevna was selected as the Southeast Electric Cooperative 2022 Youth Tour winner.



### DON'T FORGET

SMARTHUB the on-line bill payment system is now available. It is convenient and easy!

## Spring Forward



Move your clock ahead one hour on March 13, 2022

# Be a part of your co-op

## BOARD POSITIONS ARE UP FOR RE-ELECTION

**I**n June, at the 2022 Annual Meeting, elections for board members will be held. The positions open for election this year are those in District 2 – currently held by Doug Gardner, and District 8 – currently held by Dave Hayden.

In April the board will appoint a nominating committee. The committee will then meet in May and discuss candidates for the districts mentioned above. If you are interested in running for the board, please contact our office, and we will then have the nominating committee contact you.

History proves that this obligation is usually a long-term position. There has been a total of 38 board members since 1946, only four of which have been women. There was a board member who only served for nine months but most board members served anywhere from one two-year term up to 45 years, which was Lester Williams. Meetings are held the last Wednesday of every month. There are many opportunities for further education and to become involved on the state and national levels.

Be a part of your cooperative, and be dedicated to making Southeast Electric Cooperative continue to succeed. RM

## ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting will be held in June. A nominating committee will be appointed in April. Trustee positions up for re-election are as follows:

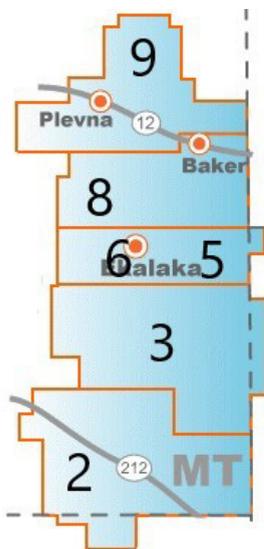
**District No. 2** – Doug Gardner

**District No. 8** – Dave Hayden

Further nominations may be made by petition of 15 or more members, acting together not less than 15 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations by petition, received at least five days before the meeting, shall be included on the official ballot. Later nominations received by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor. The chairman shall also call for nominations from the floor for a period of one minute during the time for nominations. No member may nominate more than one candidate.

## CURRENT DIRECTORS:

- District 2:** Doug Gardner
- District 3:** Michael Hansen
- District 5:** Clayton Jardee
- District 6:** Karen Kreitel
- District 8:** Dave Hayden
- District 9:** Albert Paul



# NRECA EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT TYE WILLIAMS

**T**YE Williams, general manager, was featured in the NRECA Rural Electric Magazine in the Employee Spotlight. *Want to know more about your new manager?*



### Hobby:

My wife and I are remodeling our home.

### What type of projects are you doing?

Our house was one of the original homes in the area. It was actually used as a midwifery. We've torn out the carpet, removed wallpaper and paneling, and painted. We turned the garage into a large family room and are building a new deck. Once that's complete, we want to install new flooring, landscape the front yard, and put in a garden. (Update – these projects are done, and they have a new list that includes the kitchen.)

### Have you done this kind of work before?

No, we have never done anything like this before. We are just figuring it out as we go.

### What were you doing before you joined the co-op?

I was a manufacturing engineer in North Dakota, and worked on anything from electronics to chemistry experiments.

### How did you hear about the job at the co-op?

Family in Ekalaka told me there was an opening.

### What do you like most about working at the co-op?

I really enjoy the range of work I get to do. I also like the co-op model. As a non-profit, we ensure continued service to our members and promote the welfare of our community.

### What else do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I enjoy watching movies, playing with my kids, reading and playing games.

### Education:

Bachelor's in applied mathematics with a minor in economics from Montana State University. A bachelor's in applied physics from the University of Wisconsin - River Falls, and a master's in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota.

### One random fact about you:

I was born on April Fool's Day and Good Friday, so you could say I am a good fool.