

Candidates for District 2

Hazen Converse – Derby

As a resident of Derby, Vermont, I am interested in sitting on the Vermont Electric Co-op (VEC) Board of Directors for several reasons. I have a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and environmental conservation is one of my passions that goes beyond our climate change crisis. I enjoy many outdoor activities and want to see the environment stay healthy and clean for our future generations. As a technology educator, I understand the energy sector and where the challenges behind clean energy originate. Years ago I built a fossil free home, as I saw where this technology was going and decided to incorporate efficient electrical appliances for my heating and cooling, hot water, and drying needs. I can bring to the table thoughtful and reasonable ideas to help mitigate our energy crisis and incorporate new technologies.



I believe things are about to change drastically for people and their everyday lives as we fade out our dependency on fossil fuels. Making the shift to electric vehicles, heating, and renewable energy can be overwhelming and intimidating; I want to be part of the discussion when it comes to acting on that change. I feel my background in environmental science, technology, and education, can help people become educated about these challenges and how to adapt. The VEC is only a small portion of the bigger picture, yet to Northern Vermont, it will be our lifeline for more than our lights, it will be part of our transportation, heating, cooling, cooking, and more.

Penny Thomas – Newport

My name is Penny Thomas and I ask for your vote as a new voice and fresh perspective for Vermont Electric Co-op. During my career as a corporate leadership trainer, I taught managers to tap their vision and communicate clearly -- skills I will bring to VEC. Currently, I serve on the board of Northeast Kingdom Organizing working to improve the quality of life in the NEK. Previously, I created the Newport flower beautification project that flourishes; headed my church leadership team; and chaired ReNewport Events! a downtown revitalization program. I live in a restored 1880's Newport home, and it serves as a happy space for me, Carl, two black Labrador retrievers and a cat who rules us all.



The priorities I see include:

- Electricity. Keeping the lights on in a safe, reliable and affordable way.
- Broadband. According to realtors, the first question asked when people consider moving to the NEK is “do you have reliable internet?” Keeping our young people in Vermont and improving the quality of life of our families, students, and businesses means using VEC's infrastructure to provide economical broadband for underserved areas.
- Renewables. State mandates require that we reduce emissions and fossil fuel dependence. This impacts traditional electric utility models, heating and transportation, and we must work thoughtfully to provide efficient renewable electricity.

Clean electricity is pivotal in helping us achieve these goals. I would love to hear your concerns and comments and would appreciate your vote.

Please contact me at: Pennyt211@gmail.com

John O. Ward Jr. – Newport

I have been a director for Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC) since 2004 when VEC acquired Citizens Utilities. I would like to continue to serve you representing the Town of Coventry, Town of Derby and the City of Newport. I believe I have the life experience, skills and knowledge that can help VEC to continue to provide quality, safe, reliable power at a cost its ratepayers are able to afford. I currently serve as VEC's treasurer and I am on the finance committee and power supply committee.

I retired from active employment during July 2015. For the prior 16 years I was employed as the City Manager for the City of Newport. As part of my duties I had management responsibility for the water and sewer utilities. Prior to my City employment, for 19 years I was an owner/partner in a local mechanical engineering firm, Phoenix Engineering. I am a life long resident of the City of Newport. My wife, Diane, and I have two married children and are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren who are lucky enough to live in Vermont.



I would appreciate your vote when you receive your ballot. Thank you for your support.