Calling on South Kentucky RECC Members to Vote

History is being made at South Kentucky RECC this month, as members are being asked to select four new directors for the co-op’s board of directors for districts 1, 2, 5, and 6.

As we told you in last month’s magazine, each membership in the South Kentucky RECC system should have been mailed a ballot on April 1 with the selections for each district.

In district 1, candidates are Rodney L. Ballenger, Cathy Crew Epper- son, Michael B. Erp, Scott R. Evans, Greg Gover, Joseph “Pat” Green, Steve Hatfield, Judy Lynne Martini, Stanley “Stan” Oliver, Eugene Rogers, Neal Shoemaker, Larry Stewart, J. C. Tucker, Ray Tucker Jr., Monika Coomer Wiles, and Penny Woods.

District 2 has three candidates—Roy Lee Helm, Greg Redmon, and

Watch for this envelope to arrive in the mail and vote for one candidate in each district.

Gene V. Smith.


Finally, three are vying for the seat in district 6. They are Vernon Gilreath, Boris Haynes, and Braxton N. King.

For brief candidate profiles and photographs, please see pages 42 D through 42 H of this magazine. Full biographies can be found online at our Web site, www.skrecc.com. We encourage our members to view these prior to making your decision.

You are allowed to vote for one candidate per district. This means that each ballot will have up to four votes.

Please mark your ballot with either a black or blue ink pen. Place an X in the box by the candidate for whom you are placing your vote.

Once completed, place your ballot into the enclosed, official envelope and place in the mail to be mailed to Survey and Ballot Systems, Eden Prairie, Minnesota. There is NO postage necessary.

Ballots must be received by April 24 to be counted. Any received after that date will not be valid.

If you have any questions pertaining to the voting process, call South Kentucky RECC at 800-264-5112.

Story by Joy Bullock
In Memory...

Glen Massengale
Beloved Director from
May 29, 1986 - June 5, 2012
Take Care When Planting Trees

Spring is a good time for tree planting. April weather is known for being wet and not too cold or hot for a new tree. In fact, Arbor Day—a national observance and celebration of the importance of trees—takes place in April.

One important step when planting a tree is to decide where you will plant your tree. For a windbreak, plant trees to the north and northwest. For shade, plant trees to the east and west of your home.

Remember that fast-growing trees are more brittle, and likely to be damaged in a storm. Plant these trees farther from your home to protect your home from damage.

South Kentucky RECC recommends that you select planting locations that will not interfere with your utility lines or power poles.

Tall-growing trees with a mature height of greater than 40 feet should be planted 50 feet away to avoid future pruning. A mature height of less than 25 feet is recommended for trees planted near power lines.

Keep in mind that trees should never be planted directly under power lines, near poles, or too close to electrical equipment.

From the South Kentucky RECC archives, left, the original Whitley City office sat across from the current Hickman Strunk Funeral Home; right, SKRECC used to be known as REA (Rural Electric Administration).

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South Kentucky RECC Director Candidates

The following pages contain a photo and short biography of each candidate in each director district. For a more complete biography, please visit our Web site at www.skrecc.com. District 1 is primarily western Pulaski County; District 2 is mostly Russell County; District 5 is all of Clinton County, southwestern Wayne County, and a very small portion of southern Russell County; District 6 is all of McCreary County and southern Pulaski County. If you have any questions, or do not receive a ballot, please call 800-264-5112.

Rodney L. Ballenger—District 1
Rodney Ballenger, formerly of Russell County, has been a resident of Horizon Hills Subdivision in Pulaski County since 1994. He was Assistant Director for Lake Cumberland Community Action, Inc. for 21 years, Lead Technician for Ballenger HVAC, Refrigeration and Electrical for 15 years and is Owner/President of Ballenger Enterprises, LLC. Rodney has an Associate's of Applied Sciences degree from Somerset Community College and additional credit hours in Electrical Engineering from the University of Kentucky.

Cathy Crew Epperson—District 1
Cathy Crew Epperson was born in Russell County and has resided in Pulaski County for 36 years. She graduated with a Master of Science degree from the University of Kentucky. Mrs. Epperson is the Executive Director of NAMI Kentucky, a membership organization. She was the CEO of the Adanta mental health for 12 years. Mrs. Epperson served as President of the Somerset-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce. She is married and has three children.

Michael B. Erp—District 1
Michael B. Erp is a Professional Civil Engineer and a lifelong resident of Pulaski County in Southern Kentucky. He graduated from Pulaski County High School in 1975 and later from the University of Kentucky in 1979. He has been self-employed since 1990 as President of Southeast Technology, Inc., an engineering company that focuses on energy production and governmental regulatory compliance. He is a parent/grandparent, and a Deacon at Langdon Street Baptist Church.
Scott R. Evans—District 1
Scott Evans and his wife Angela Smith-Evans are lifelong residents of Pulaski County. Mr. Evans graduated from PHS in 1989, and studied business at SCC for two years. He started his business career in 1995 when he founded Cumberland Marine Coverings Inc., which he currently serves as President. Mr. Evans also serves as President for S&A Leasing LLC and as Managing Member of EE Marine LLC.

Greg Gover—District 1
Greg is a resident of Pulaski County. He graduated from Union College, with a degree in Accounting. Greg has been married to his wife Marylee for 26 years, and they have two children, Morgan and Taylor. Greg and Marylee, along with his parents Luid & Sue Gover, have owned Oakhill Food Mart for the past 26 years. He also works closely with the youth in Pulaski County through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Joseph “Pat” Green—District 1
Joseph Patton Green was born and raised in Somerset, and has resided in Pulaski County for the last 30 years. He graduated with degrees in Agriculture from the University of Kentucky and the USDA Graduate School. For nearly seven years, Pat worked in eastern Kentucky as District Conservationist for the USDA-NRCS. Since then, he has served as Area Resource Conservationist and RC&D Project Coordinator in Somerset, retiring in the fall of 2011.

Steve Hatfield
Steve Hatfield is owner of Masterclean, a cleaning and restoration company in business for the past 25 years. He is a United States Army Veteran. He graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a degree in Business Administration. Steve was a district hotel manager for a large hotel chain, where he was in charge of several hotels with numerous employees and large budgets. He served for one year on the Citizens National Bank Economic Advisory Committee.

Judy Lynne Martini
Prior to making Kentucky her home, Judy Martini was a public servant for 18 years in Illinois serving as Director on the Fox River Waterway Agency, a Lake County Board Member, and Vice-Chair to its 23 Member Board. Martini served on 20 various committees including Planning, Development, Land Acquisition, Legislation, and Intergovernmental Affairs. Judy Martini was also a member of NaCo’s Agriculture and Rural Affairs, which made recommendations to the White House on farming issues.

Stanley “Stan” Oliver
Stanley Oliver married Melissa (Lisa) Horton in the summer of 1978 after graduating from Eastern Kentucky University with a B.S. degree in Industrial Technology earlier that year. He is a Life Member of V.F.W. Post 269, currently serving as Surgeon. Stan is also Past President of the Somerset Kiwanis Club and is a Past Master of Freedom Masonic Lodge in Sunnybrook, Kentucky. Stanley and Melissa have 2 children and 2 granddaughters.

Eugene Rogers

Neal Shoemaker
Neal Shoemaker is a retired Chief District Engineer with the Transportation Cabinet. He supervised a 10-County area with 320 employees, annual budget of $18 million and several hundred million in construction projects. Neal and family are active members of High Street Baptist Church, where Neal serves as a deacon. Neal seeks the position to represent the members with the goal of assisting the Board and Management in continuing to provide competitive rates and reliable service.
**Larry Stewart—District 1**
Larry Stewart is a lifelong resident of Pulaski County. He graduated from Pulaski County High School, earned his Bachelors from Eastern Kentucky University and his Masters from the University of Kentucky. He was a teacher and Principal at Pulaski County High from 1971-1989. He retired from education in 1998 and has since been very involved in the business community within Pulaski County. He currently owns and manages a local insurance agency.

**J. C. Tucker—District 1**
J. C. Tucker is the son of the late Mildred Taylor and Arthur Tucker. He has two brothers, Charles and LK Tucker, and one sister, Jenny Morris. J. C. grew up in the Burnside/Somerset area. J. C. has been married to Della Gossett for 38 years. He has two children-Jason and Daphne Tucker and Carrie and Seth Atwell. J. C. is blessed with five grandchildren. J. C. and Della are members of the Slate Branch Baptist Church.

**Ray Tucker, Jr.—District 1**
Ray Tucker, Jr. is a farmer in Pulaski County. He has a long history of working for strong, involved communities through his professional experiences and his participation in community groups. As a member of Pulaski County Concerned Citizens, he fought for local control over solid waste issues. He has worked in non-profits dedicated to community improvement, and is a past chairperson of Kentuckians For The Commonwealth, a statewide social justice organization.

**Monika Coomer Wiles—District 1**
Monika Coomer Wiles is a lifelong resident of Pulaski County. The daughter of Clara Coomer and the late Larry Coomer, she grew up in the Burnetta community. Mrs. Wiles has worked in the legal field for 29 years as a legal assistant and title abstractor. Through the years, she has worked closely with community agencies, business leaders, elected officials, bankers, and realtors. She and her husband, Ricky Wiles, have one child, Sarah, a senior at PCHS.

**Penny Woods—District 1**
Penny Woods is a lifelong resident of Pulaski County. She has 25 years experience in cable, cable tv, and online advertising industry, and is currently employed by Viamedia. She has brought national recognition for her work as the 2011 Cable Advertising Bureau National Award Recipient and a National Finalist in 2012. Penny currently sits on the Pulaski County KY-ASAP; Pulaski County Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Board. Penny and her son, Chandler, attend Parkers Mill Baptist Church.

**Roy Lee Helm—District 2**
Roy Lee is a lifelong resident of Russell County. He’s been married for 37 years, has 2 children and 4 grandchildren. He’s been in the satellite tv business since 1981. He has served on the Board of KY Wireless Association for 2 years and the Board of Lakewood Country Club for 3 years, with 2 years as President.

**Greg Redmon—District 2**
Greg Redmon resides in Russell County. He is a 1977 graduate of RCHS and a 1979 graduate of Kentucky School of Mortuary Science in Louisville, Ky; earning his funeral director/embalmers license, which he maintains today. In 1994, Greg became owner/operator of Redmon Rentals, Inc., then in 1997, he became a retailer in manufactured housing. He has served on Clayton/WP advisory committee and is currently serving as a trustee at Union Baptist Church.

**Gene V. Smith—District 2**
Gene V. Smith, lifelong resident of Russell County, is a local businessman, active community leader, U.K. graduate, and a Vietnam Veteran. Gene and his wife are members of the Methodist Church. Gene currently serves as Board Chairman of 1st National Bank. He has served as past President and member of R.C. Industrial Development Authority for 22 years, co-founder and President of Lake Cumberland Equine Association, and partner in Med Park West, Somerset.
Greg Beard—District 5
Greg Beard is a lifelong resident of Clinton County. He graduated from Clinton County High School in 1978. For over 30 years, Greg has owned and operated a farm in Clinton County. Greg and his wife Janice reside in the Maupin Community and have raised 2 children; Jessica is in her 2nd year of Law School at the University of Kentucky, and Ethan is a junior at Berea College majoring in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

David L. Claywell—District 5
David Claywell is a resident of Clinton County since 1985. He graduated from Bowling Green Technical College with certification in Heating, Air Conditioning, Electrical, and Refrigeration. For 28 years David has owned and operated Claywell Heating and Air Conditioning in Clinton County. He is married to Debra Mc-Whorter Claywell of Clinton County. They have two children, Courtney and Lance Claywell.

Lynn Conner—District 5
Lynn Conner is a native of Monticello and graduate of Monticello High School. Lynn and her husband Larry reside on a farm in Clinton County. Lynn is a R.N with a degree in Applied Science from Somerset Community College, working for Dept. for Medicaid, serving 15 counties. Lynn is an active member of Albany First Baptist where she's a choir member and youth leader. Lynn enjoys hunting, fishing, boating, and spending time with family (grandsons).

Mark A. Dalton—District 5
Mark Dalton has lived Albany for 40 years. He graduated high school in 1980. For 30 years he has owned retail, construction, and service businesses in Albany and surrounding counties. He served on the Foothills Festival Planning Committee, 15 years, 6 as vice-president; Mountain View Rec. Park Board 8 years; Peolia Methodist Church Board of Trustees 6 years, 4 as Chairman. Mark has also coached Little League sports for 6 years.

Melvin Daniel—District 5
Melvin Daniel, lifelong Clintonian, has been married to Veta Guffey Daniel for 30 years. He spent 7 years with Osh-Kosh B'Gosh. He began as shipping foreman and was later promoted to engineering staff. When the church, which he served, was destroyed by a tornado, he left the factory and led in the rebuilding process. Afterward, he continued work in construction, as well as pastoring Albany Independent Baptist Church for the last 20 years.

Dale Denney—District 5
Dale Denney, born in Clinton County, has resided in Wayne for most of his life. After graduating from Wayne County High, Dale spent some years in the oil fields of Oklahoma before moving back to work as a lineman. For the last 25 years, Dale has been a full time farmer, managing 2 chicken house complexes, in addition to cattle and hay operations. Dale served on the Board of Directors for the Soil Conservation Committee.

Jay L. Garner—District 5
Jay Garner resides in Clinton County. He was raised on a farm being taught to work hard and pray harder. Jay has experienced all types of work: blue collar, management, business owner/operator to successful companies including City Florist and Memorial Hill. He is actively involved in church and community projects. He has served in multiple offices in his church, President of Project Graduation, Chamber of Commerce, volunteer on Foothills Festival Committee, and many more.

Tommy Nelson Jr.—District 5
Tommy Nelson Jr. has lived in Wayne County for fifty years and graduated from Wayne County High School. He worked with cooperatives in seven states. For twenty-two years he worked directly with members, staff, and their Board of Directors, also helping with market development. He served on the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development. For the last ten years, he has been employed by a local bank.
James "Jim" Pennycuff—District 5
James "Jim" Pennycuff lives in Clinton County. He graduated from Western KY University with B.S. degree in Engineering. Mr. Pennycuff worked at Belden in Monticello, KY where he held various engineering, supervisory, and management jobs. After Belden, he served as Clinton County Property Valuation Administrator and is currently the Clinton County Road Department Supervisor. Jim co-founded an adult day care business 13 years ago in Cumberland County that he continues to own and operate.

Donald Poore—District 5
Donald Poore is a resident of Clinton County. Mr. Poore graduated from Western Kentucky University. He served as Clinton County Judge Executive. Donald currently owns and operates Porco Fertilizer, Porco Propane, Majors Pizza, Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken, and has farmed for over 25 years. He has served on the Agriculture Advancement Council, Kentucky Fertilizer Board, Housing Board, and was Chairman of the Lake Cumberland Area Development District Board.

Vernon L. Gilreath—District 6
Vernon Gilreath is a lifelong resident of McCreary County. He obtained a BS degree from Cumberland College with a major in Mathematics, minor Chemistry, and an Area in Physics. Mr. Gilreath taught Math, Science, and Physics in McCreary for over 30 years. He was Principal Teacher at Revelo Elementary for two years. He established Gilreath Insurance Agency in 1978, which he operated successfully until it was sold in 2008.

Boris Haynes—District 6
Boris Haynes is a lifelong resident of McCreary County. After attending Somerset Community College, he purchased his first Service Center in 1978, which resulted in a successful career in retail business. Being involved in the WCFD, he served as a fire fighter for 12 years then began serving as secretary for the Board of Commissioners. He has served as treasurer of the local Gideon Camp and serves as deacon and treasurer of his church.

Braxton N. King—District 6
Braxton King is a lifelong McCreary County resident. He graduated from McCreary Central High School in 1984. For over 27 years, he has been a pastor. He is the founder/director of the Lord's Gym Sports Outreach Center. He was the recipient of the Operation Unite mentor of the year award and the Rising above award by Congressman Harold Rogers. Mr. King is the youth coordinator for Champions for a Drug Free McCreary County.

Jeff Smith, D.C.—District 5
Jeff Smith, D.C., owner and operator of Smith Chiropractic, has thirteen years of small business experience. Dr. Smith is a graduate of Alice Lloyd College with a B.S. in Biology and Parker College of Chiropractic with a Doctor of Chiropractic degree. Dr. Smith is a former treasurer for the Kentucky Association of Chiropractors Political Action Committee and a local civic club. He is currently a volunteer firefighter with 13 years of service.

Joe F Summers—District 5
Joe Summers is a lifelong resident of Clinton County. He graduated from Western Kentucky University with a degree in Education. Mr. Summers was employed with the Clinton County School District for 27 years. He and wife Michelle along with their 3 children reside on their farm in Clinton County. Mr. Summers is involved in church and family activities. He enjoys hunting, sports, and raising Angus cattle.