

SPARKS

MAY 2025

One of the 7 Cooperative Principles includes Cooperation Among Cooperatives and in March, High West Energy was able to provide support to Perennial Public Power District in York, Nebraska, after they experienced a devastating storm.

Photo Credit: Perennial Public Power District

HIGH WEST ENERGY ANNOUNCES BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The candidates for Districts 14, 16, and 17 for the 2025 Board of Directors election have officially been determined by the nominating committee. There was one candidate nominated, John Thompson, for District 14, and one candidate nominated, Kosha Olsen, for District 16. Two candidates were nominated for District 17: incumbent Kevin Thomas and Melissa Gorsuch.

All members in District 17 will receive ballots included in their annual

report, which will be mailed out at the beginning of June. Members can mail in their ballots, bring them to one of High West Energy's drop boxes, or drop them off at our office in Pine Bluffs. Ballots must be at the Pine Bluffs headquarters no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 18, 2025. High West Energy encourages District 17 members to review each candidate's information to make an informed decision. Each candidate's information is provided on the next page.

APPRECIATION FOR JERRY BURNETT'S SERVICE

High West Energy would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Jerry Burnett for his 15 and a half years of dedicated service on our Board and your District 14 Representative. During his time on the Board, Jerry served in leadership roles as both Treasurer and Vice President, always bringing insight, commitment, and a strong sense of responsibility to the cooperative. His dedication extended beyond our cooperative, as he also represented High West on the Tri-State Board for 8 years.

Beyond the boardroom, Jerry has been a familiar and friendly face at countless High West Energy events, always showing his support and staying connected to the members and the community. His dedication



and involvement have made a lasting impact, and we are truly grateful for his years of service.

Thank you, Jerry, for your time, leadership, and commitment to High West Energy and the communities we serve!

HIGH WEST ENERGY



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2025 BOARD ELECTIONS

The mission of High West Energy is to serve our members and communities by providing safe, reliable and competitively priced energy and services.

CONTACT US

307-245-3261
www.highwest.coop

MAIN OFFICE

6270 County Road 212
Pine Bluffs, WY 82082

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
7:30 AM - 5 PM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Romsa, District 11
Gary Smith, District 12
Jessica Crowder, District 13
Jerry Burnett, District 14
Damon Birkhofer, District 15
Kosha Olsen, District 16
Kevin Thomas, District 17

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jared Routh, CEO/General Manager
Josh Gorman, Chief Financial Officer
David Crouse, Chief Information Officer
David Golden, Engineering Manager
Konnie Keehnen, Member Services Manager
Carol Macy, Employee Services Manager
Nate Begger, Operations Manager

For updates, follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES



John Thompson
District 14

John Thompson is a 1976 Pine Bluffs graduate. He moved to his grandfather's homestead east of Carpenter in 1996 and will represent District 14. He retired from Black Hills Energy in 2024 after 17 years of working as a Utility Construction Planner. Prior to that, he worked at the local cable TV company. He is currently working part-time at Tyrrell Auto Centers and DC Express.

He has been married to his wife, Julie, for 43 years, has two sons, Truett and Damien, a daughter, Chelsea, and two grandchildren. John is on the Laramie County Recreation Board and is actively engaged in St. Paul's Catholic Church.



Kosha Olsen
District 16

Kosha Olsen represents District 16 on the periphery of Cheyenne. Kosha grew up along High West lines and her grandparents were among the first members when the co-op was founded in 1937, making her children fourth-generation HWE members.

Kosha has worked in marketing, communications, and program management for 20+ years in the agriculture and engineering industries. Kosha and her family enjoy traveling around the globe, but feel very fortunate to call the high plains of southeast Wyoming 'home'.



Kevin Thomas, Incumbent
District 17 Candidate

Kevin Thomas has lived in Potter, NE with his wife, Jennifer, since 1991. He is the proud father of Alexis (Casey) and Kaleb (Becky). He is also very proud of his two granddaughters, Mila, and Annie.

Kevin has been a High West Energy member for over 30 years and Board Member for the past 7 years. Kevin also represents High West Energy on The Tri-State G&T Board. Kevin graduated from both the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Chadron State College. With a 40-year career in education, he is now retired, enjoying time on the golf course and in his garden. Furthermore, Kevin finds peace and strength in his faith and family.



Melissa Gorsuch
District 17 Candidate

Melissa Gorsuch and her family moved to Potter, Nebraska, in 2004. She has been serving her community since 2009 as the Clerk/Treasurer for the Village of Potter, Nebraska, where she is responsible for the administration operations and the finances for the village.

Melissa married her husband, Jerry, in 2019. Between the two of them, they have five grown children, Justin, Kasey, Kyle, Shawn, and Amanda, and a grandson, Rhett.

Since 2009, Melissa has been a member of the Potter Library Board. Over the years, while working for the Village of Potter, she has also worked closely with many village boards and committees.

As a community member from District 17, Melissa understands how important it is for High West Energy to continue to provide reliable, affordable electrical service to everyone it services.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JUNE 19! JOIN US FOR OUR 88TH ANNUAL MEETING — IN PERSON OR ONLINE. ATTEND ONLINE FOR A \$20 BILL CREDIT OR JOIN US IN PERSON FOR A FREE LUNCH AT NOON; THE MEETING STARTS AT 1 P.M. PRIZES AVAILABLE FOR BOTH IN-PERSON AND ONLINE ATTENDEES! STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS — WE CAN'T WAIT TO CONNECT!