



Trustee talk

Meet District 1's Ellis Nichols

A 33-year member of West Florida Electric Cooperative, Ellis Nichols has served on the Co-op's board since his appointment in April 1997. He and his wife, Betty, live in Clarksville and have four children and seven grandchildren (plus one on the way). In addition to being a schoolteacher for 34 years, he's a Clarksville Volunteer Fireman, president of Woodmen of the World Lodge #61 and a member of Poplar Head Baptist Church. Here, he takes a moment to share some thoughts about serving on WFEC's board:

How do you view your role and responsibilities as a WFEC trustee?

"A trustee needs to work with the rest of the board and management to make West Florida Electric a better co-op for all the members. You've got to focus on the interests and needs of the members. You need to be concerned with the reputation of the Co-op. You also need to have a good relationship with the government and community leaders."

What would you say is the most significant action the board has taken since you've been a trustee?

"I'd like to say one of the most important things the board has done since I've been a trustee is to hire Bill Rimes as CEO, but he was hired by the previous board. Still, I think that's one of the most significant things the board has done recently."

Since I've been a trustee, we've worked real hard the last two years getting ready for deregulation. We've done a good job with that, and we're still getting ready for it. Also, the board, as a whole, has been consistent on policies, not waivering."

What do you think the future holds for WFEC?

"I think the future's bright for West Florida Electric. We're working hard, and I think, over the last three years, we've made it a better place. It's not perfect, but we'll continue to work with the management and employees to make it better."



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August

2000 CLF



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