

Meet The Candidates

AT-LARGE



Melinda Lautner

(Incumbent)

Leelanau County resident

Cherryland member since 1981

What is your occupation?

I am a lifelong farmer raised on a cherry farm in Grand Traverse County. Now, along with husband Jim and son Clint, own/operate the 6th generation family farm. The farm has been a Cherryland member since the cooperative formed in 1938. I also operate two seasonal farm markets. With the help of our three daughters we grow and harvest the produce, teaching the grandchildren along the way.

What organizations are you currently involved with?

I am a proud to be a Lion in the Cedar/Maple City Lions club, volunteer at the Cedar Rod and a Gun Club, member Holy Rosary Church, member Leelanau County Parks and Recreation, and Leelanau County Planning Commission, Benzie Leelanau Board of Health, and Leelanau County commissioner responsible for budget and policy development.

Why are you interested in serving on the board of directors?

I find it fascinating to take on the challenges of

the electric industry, and hope to continue to help Cherryland balance it's power mix. We are at 62% carbon free, and continue to explore ways to do even better, while delivering affordable and reliable electricity. It is rewarding to be part of a team that has made Cherryland a cooperative leader.

How will your skills, connections, resources, and expertise benefit the cooperative?

Being available to the cooperative members is very important, and being self employed allows me the time needed to put members first. I have continued my education, and have earned the NRECA Credentialed Co-op Director certificate.

As a small business owner I understand the need for reliable power. Having served on boards and commissions, I also understand the role of a director and how to study every issue from every angle to always make decisions that are in the best interest of both the member and the cooperative. I bring accountability, honesty and accessibility. I have never been afraid of hard work and will continue to work hard for you.



John Olson

(Incumbent)

Grand Traverse County resident

Cherryland member since 1984

What is your occupation?

- Associate Broker with Real Estate One in Traverse City
- Co-Owner of Elmbrook Golf Course, Co-Partner of Ole Partners-LLC, Real Estate Investment

What organizations are you currently involved with?

- Currently serves on the Cherryland Electric Cooperative Board—I was elected to the board in 2000 and serves on Board Auditing Committee
- Serves on Michigan Electrical Cooperative Association (MECA)
- Accredited mediator for Conflict Resolution Services
- Member of Rotary Club
- Member of Traverse City Chamber of Commerce
- Member of Michigan Golf Course Owner Association
- Member of First Congregational Church

Why are you interested in serving on the board of directors?

As a board member for over 18 years I have witnessed the progression of Cherryland's success

and I want to continue to use my experience to further CEC positive direction.

I believe in our mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Cherryland continues to be a leader in renewable energy. In 2019 we will be 19% renewable and 62% carbon free.

Cherryland returned \$2.2 million to its members in 2018 through patronage capital.

How will your skills, connections, resources, and expertise benefit the cooperative?

As I stated prior, I have used my experience and education to be an active board member in the decision making process at the board level.

I am a Traverse City native, a graduate of Traverse City Central High and graduated from Ferris University with a BS in Business Administration. My wife Carolyn and I have lived in Acme Township since 1984. We have two grown children and five grandchildren.

Thank you for your past support and I would appreciate your vote again this year.

AT-LARGE



Nicola Philpott

Grand Traverse County resident

Cherryland member since 2014

What is your occupation?

I have a doctorate in biochemistry and spent 16 years working in research science. After 5 years running my own laboratory as a research professor, I became a mom and took a career break. Becoming a parent has heightened my concern about climate change, particularly its impact on global stability. For two years I have been a volunteer Coleader of Grand Traverse Area Citizens' Climate Lobby.

What organizations are you currently involved with?

I am president of Westwoods Elementary School PTO. Thanks to Cherryland, I have obtained funds for school library books and organized rebates for parents that purchased LED light bulbs.

Why are you interested in serving on the board of directors?

Northern Michigan is experiencing the impacts of volatile weather in farming, winter sports and tourism. Development of renewable energy projects will provide year-round jobs and thus boost our local economy. Currently, Cherryland

customers receive 19% of their electricity from wind and solar sources. Increasing renewable energy production in our area will provide local skilled jobs, stabilize our economy, protect our local farming and tourism, and ensure a safe, healthy future for our children.

How will your skills, connections, resources, and expertise benefit the cooperative?

Climate change is a local, national and global problem. It is overwhelming and often paralyzing. But it is not insurmountable.

Energy efficiency rebate programs provide incentives; they should be promoted and made more accessible. Small renewable energy projects must be encouraged and incentivized, so they multiply. Cherryland should call upon environmental groups to help generate public support for large-scale renewable operations.

As a board director, I would work to promote local renewable energy projects thus providing skilled jobs, boosting the economy and tackling the global climate crisis.

BENZIE/MANISTEE/WEXFORD COUNTY



Jon Zickert

(Incumbent)

Manistee County resident

Cherryland member since 2006

What is your occupation?

I am the Lead Realtor on The Jon Zickert Group at Real Estate One. We offer a specialized team approach to buying and selling real estate. With four full-time professionals, the Team can focus on building client relationships with the highest level of personal service and communication. We have a mission to help others and give back to people and our community.

What organizations are you currently involved with?

I have been a member of the Cherryland Electric board of directors since being appointed in December 2009. I am a member of the Special Olympics Polar Plunge committee where I have personally raised over \$39,000 for Special Olympics since 2013. I also am the office representative for The Real Estate One Charitable Foundation which raises money for local community organizations.

Why are you interested in serving on the board of directors?

I have enjoyed serving on the Cherryland board of directors for the past 10 years. I am proud to

call Thompsonville, in Manistee County, home. Originally from Wisconsin, I have enjoying living the beauty of northern Michigan for the past 18 years with my wife Karen and our three children—Quinn (15), Flora (13) and Rowan (11). I have always been concerned with responsible energy consumption for many years. Helping to provide a sustainable environment for my children and future generations is important to me.

How will your skills, connections, resources and expertise benefit the cooperative?

With over 22 years of experience in the service industry, I have developed strong leadership skills. My current role as a licensed Realtor with Real Estate One puts me in touch with our members and business owners daily. I understand how important customer service and member communication is to an organization. Recognizing that members want to receive quality electrical services at competitive rates now and in the future is at the forefront of my thinking. I believe this can be accomplished by long-term investments in Cherryland's employees, equipment, technology and infrastructure