

2

0

0

8

Inductees

Charles Olsen

Charles Olsen began his tenure on the Turner-Hutchinson Electric Cooperative board of directors in May 1985. In 1992, he was elected to represent the cooperative on the board of East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, S.D., and, in 1997, he was selected East River's representative on the South Dakota Rural Electric Association board of directors.

Among Olsen's most memorable co-op moments: introducing the Consumer Bill of Rights at the 1999 NRECA annual meeting in Anaheim, Calif., and then presenting the document to Sens. Tom Daschle and Edward Kennedy.

Olsen said the best part of being a member of a cooperative is the ownership role members have.

"You have a say on what goes on. You elect the directors to conduct the co-op business," Olsen said.

In nominating Olsen for induction to the Hall of Fame, Southeastern Electric manager Brad Schardin noted Olsen's leadership throughout the cooperative's consolidation and merger endeavors.

"By carefully listening during board discussions and clearly articulating his opinions, Charles quickly gained the respect and confidence of his fellow board members. With the wisdom of an elder statesman, Charles was the voice of reason that helped lead the cooperative down the right paths," wrote Schardin.

In addition to his work with cooperatives, Olsen has served on church boards in Viborg and Irene, is involved in the Masonic Lodge, was an original incorporator of the S.D. Yorkshire Association and was a member of the Irene School District board of education. Additionally, he is a member of several grain, farmers, telephone and elevator cooperatives.

He and wife, Mary Lou, live in Viborg, S.D.



Donald Fieber

Donald "Don" Fieber joined the Deuel Telephone Cooperative board in 1960 and continued to serve on the board and its successor, the Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative board in Clear Lake, for 45 years.

"His vision, involvement and leadership as an officer and board member provided for the enhancement and advancements of the telephone system that serve the members of the cooperative yet today," wrote ITC general manager Jerry Heiberger in Fieber's nomination. "Specifically, the system evolved from an aerial eight-party service in the 1960s to a buried single-party type of service that continues to provide reliable services."

Fieber was instrumental in the consolidation of Deuel Telephone Cooperative and Brookings-Lake Telephone Cooperative in 1988. The result of the consolidation was the formation of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative.

Fieber also served 30 years on the South Dakota Association of Telecommunication Cooperatives.

In addition to his work with co-ops, Fieber served two years in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, is a Eucharist minister and serves on the board at

Kranzburg Holy Rosary Church, served as a 4-H leader for 15 years and is a charter member of the Deuel County Lions Club.

He served on the Deuel County Extension board and the Advisory board of the Clear Lake FFA chapter. He designed and originated the Goodwin Volunteer Fire Department where all seven of his sons were members and served on the Goodwin Town board for 45 years, 40 as mayor.

Fieber and his wife, Orma, live at Goodwin, S.D.

