

Delbert Bushong



Delbert Bushong began his tenure on the Ree Electric Cooperative board of directors in 1980. In 1995, he was elected as board president of Dakota Energy Cooperative, Huron, S.D. Since 1995, Bushong has represented Dakota Energy Cooperative on the South Dakota Rural Electric Association board of directors.

Among one of Bushong's greatest accomplishments in cooperative development was his strong leadership in the first consolidation of rural electric cooperatives in South Dakota.

Bushong's "achievements have been his efforts to help reshape the cooperative power supply in Beadle, Hand and Hyde counties by advocating the consolidation of Ree and Beadle Electric to form Dakota Energy. This change has led to improved service and lower costs for the rural electric member-owners in that area," wrote Jeffrey Nelson, general manager of East River Electric, Madison, S.D., in Bushong's nomination.

He has been committed to numerous cooperatives throughout the years including Farmers Union Oil Cooperative, Farmer's Elevator Cooperative, St. Lawrence Farm Cooperative and the South Dakota Wheat Growers.

Giving back to the community, Bushong has contributed to numerous organizations. He is a member of the United Church of Christ Congregation. He has served in numerous capacities in the American Legion, Tulare Masonic Lodge, Burdette Township school board, Hand County Agricultural Stabilization Conservation board and Farm Credit Advisory board and 45 years in the Burdette Township board.

"Bushong and his wife, Donna, live in Tulare, S.D. and have a daughter and two sons.

Owen Jones



Owen Jones served on the 4 Seasons Cooperative of Britton and Farmers Union Cooperative Association of Marshall County for more than 20 years. In addition to his service to these cooperatives, Jones served as a board member and chairman of the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives and is currently serving on the board of the American Coalition for Ethanol as treasurer.

"I personally know of few people in our state that care as deeply, promote as widely or are involved as actively, as Owen is in cooperative businesses ... Owen is a tireless champion for farmer-owned cooperative ethanol projects in the U.S.," wrote American Coalition for Ethanol Executive Vice President, Brian Jennings, in Jones' nomination.

Jones was instrumental in the installation of a first-of-its-kind blender ethanol pump that was installed at the 4 Seasons Cooperative in Britton in 2006. This pump is believed to be the first publicly available blender pump located in the U.S. and has sparked interest throughout the nation for pumps like it.

Throughout his lifetime, Jones has been described as a visionary and environmentalist. He has received conservation awards from the Isaak Walton League and from the Marshall County Soil Conservation District. The American Coalition for Ethanol selected Jones for the Grassroots award in 2006.

Jones is a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church of Britton. He is the co-founder of the benefit cancer dance in memory of his wife, Barb, where all proceeds are donated to the Marshall County Relay for Life organization.

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