



Andrew Tong

District 5 Candidate

Member/Owner since 2020

Education: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University MS; Washington State University BA

Employment: State of Idaho, United States Army (Ret.)

Affiliations: Military Order of the Purple Heart, Fisher House Foundation, Semper Fi Fund, Whitman County Landlord-Tenant Association

Candidate statement:

I am honored to be a member of Inland Power and Light. Being a member allows a unique opportunity to have a voice with the critical infrastructure providers within the community that we live and work; allowing all members to make the decisions and impact the board of trustees have on this community. I have always felt the need to give back and serve my country and community. At age 17, I enlisted in the United States Army. Giving back to my community and volunteering is always a sense of duty I have carried since a young age. After considering numerous outlets to help my community, I have determined the board of trustees would be the best fit.

Why do you want to serve on the board of trustees?

The future of the co-op looks bright and promising. Although there are challenges and long-term decisions ahead. We have a great position living in such a rich hydropower area, but we want to plan and test alternative resources that can be brought online in the future to meet our members' demands and requirements for years to come. I am committed to working with our neighbors, community and local leaders to determine the future of our resource needs for generations to come.

What strengths would you bring to the board of trustees?

I have found that the strengths I have developed on the battlefield and various leadership positions are most effective when you listen to people. I have had numerous successes throughout my career building consensus from all involved while focused on the ultimate objective. In addition to the leadership, decision making, and team building skills I learned in the Army, I have experience working with different municipalities and public service organizations, allowing me to bring a unique insight to the board. My goal as a member of the board would be to continue to strive for our leadership to deliver top performance with willingness to revisit their skills, policy, and long-term goals to determine if we are meeting and exceeding our fellow neighbors' needs.

The utility faces many challenges. Where would you focus your attention?

Living in the Inland Northwest, we are in a unique position to have safe, clean and long-lasting hydropower. Although our position in the region and the country is unique, we must write policies and guidelines as a board that will protect our natural resources for future generations. We must be open to alternative energy resources that are safe and reliable that we can use a our alternative capabilities that will always keep the lights on for our membership! I will always have my attention focused on ensuring we have back-up resources available, along with affordable power to our membership.

What else would you like the membership to know about you as a candidate?

I am a big supporter of community and team member involvement between neighbors and local business. I truly believe the future is in our hands to develop and implement. I think with workshops, open houses and outreach, we can make the decisions needed to lead our co-op.