

POWERING PROGRESS INTO THE FUTURE



Annual Meeting
3.29.2025



Kristina Bahr

District 4 Candidate

Incumbent
Member/Owner since 1994

Education: Washington State University, BA Business/Finance

Employment: University Insurance Administrator

Affiliations: NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) WRECA (Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association) past President

Misc. Information: Board of Trustees-National Cooperative Services Corporation (NCSC). Current Board Secretary and past President of Inland Power & Light

Candidate statement:

I am proud to be an IPL member and truly honored to have served the Inland membership as an elected trustee/board member. Some highlights during my years of board service have been:

1. According to a 2023 KRTA report by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, our residential rates are among the lowest 2% in the nation when compared to 812 electric distribution cooperatives across the country.
2. Investing in an AMR (Automatic Meter Reading) program which has enabled us to better track outages and restore power quickly and efficiently, as well as improve billing accuracy and troubleshoot and diagnose issues over nearly 8,000 miles of line.
3. Establishing long-term financial stability through investment in a Bonneville Power Administration pre-payment of services program benefiting our members for 15 years.

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

While our future looks bright, we do have some challenges ahead. I'm a true believer in the cooperative model that is guided by the cooperative principles and our member participation. As a non-profit electrical distribution cooperative, keeping rates low, expenses lean and reliability high, remain my focus in serving our members. I want to help prepare our cooperative to continue to operate successfully in the coming years. We need to be strategic in our ability to procure our power supply and be ready to provide our members with their future power needs.

What strengths would you bring to the board of trustees?

Some core strengths I bring to our board are: legislative lobbying experience at both the state and federal levels to promote and protect our low-cost and carbon free hydropower for the Pacific Northwest. I have over 20 years of professional experience working in risk management which has been beneficial in board decision making. Also, I bring skills such as leadership, financial acumen, strategic board planning, policy setting and networking with external organizations that may have influence over aspects of Inland's operations.

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

Our greatest challenge going forward will be to protect and maintain our amazing hydropower, which is a carbon free and renewable resource for our consumer owners and our irrigators in the farming communities. Interestingly, we're at a crossroads with some interest in removing dams at a time when the demand for more power is ramping up due to electric car mandates coming our way in 2030 as well as increased consumer demand across the state. Specifically, we're facing increased costs due to Washington legislative mandates such as CETA, Initiative 937 and others, which have resulted in escalating costs of doing business. Our cooperative is financially strong, which has enabled us to take advantage of long-term strategies that will benefit our members for the future. My goals continue to be focused on keeping our power costs low and our service and reliability high for our future.

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

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as an elected trustee. It has been my honor to serve. I have seen first-hand the inner workings of a truly remarkable organization with our engaged membership, amazing employees, and our dedicated leadership team. We fulfill important services to our membership each and every day in rain or sun or snow: providing unparalleled customer service whether you are speaking to our linemen, tree trimmers or member service associates, IPL exists to serve our members. I am committed to ensuring that IPL remains an industry and community leader. I'm a life-long resident of the Pacific Northwest, my husband Dave and I reside in the Spokane Valley. In my spare time, I enjoy boating, family events, travel, WSU football & Gonzaga basketball.