

# GOING THE EXTRA MILE

**DISTRICT 5:** Candidate  
**IPL MEMBER:** Since 2023  
**EDUCATION:** Some College  
**EMPLOYMENT:** DOI - Reclamation (retired)  
**AFFILIATIONS:** Harvard School of Government  
**MISC INFORMATION:** US Navy - Nuclear Power Division

*Cliff Foster*



## Candidate Statement:

I have worked in the power generation and commercial maintenance industry for 25 years. For the past 13 years, I have worked at the federally-owned and operated Grand Coulee Dam, the largest hydroelectric facility in the United States and the sixth-largest hydroelectric facility in the world. My last job assignment was to serve as the manager of all operations and maintenance. My area of responsibility was to oversee five power plants and five switchyards, along with over 300 employees who maintained the facilities to ensure they remained operational.

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

With my work experience and background, I have a strong understanding of the nature of the electric grid and its complexities. The ever-growing public need to increase the infrastructure, but the competing requirement is to keep electric rates as low as possible. Additionally, the constant frustration of ever-changing regulations that are implemented without regard to their financial implications. My goal is to leverage my knowledge and experience to contribute to the board's efforts in balancing these competing forces for the benefit of Inland Power members.

## What strengths would you bring to the board of trustees?

With my work experience and background, I have a strong understanding of electrical maintenance and operations of the electric grid, including emergency response for ice, wildfire and solar winds. I have a strong sense of the relationship between FERC, NERC, and WECC, as well as their regulatory oversight of the electric grid and the governing policies that these invoke on power companies. I have a strong understanding of OSHA and National Electric Code, and their impacts on construction and maintenance work in the field by electrical workers.

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

There is a strong push for renewable energies, such as solar and wind; however, these have positive and negative effects on the electric grid that are not adequately advertised. I would work to balance the addition of solar and wind to bring stability to Inland Power members to prevent injecting instability by making too many changes too quickly. Similarly, there is a strong push for electric vehicles by consumers, but without adequate infrastructure to handle the increased power demand. This requires balance to prevent instability in the electric grid, which could impact Inland Power members.

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

In January 2026, I will accept the voluntary early retirement from federal service to serve the general public as a full-time pastor and first-responder chaplain. With my work experience and time availability, I will be uniquely positioned to serve on the board of trustees and represent Inland Power members.