

Bill Severson's responses to the Ten Questions for Opalco Director Candidates

Here are a series of questions which could be addressed to the candidates for the Opalco

1. What qualifications, prior experience or contributions do you hope to bring to the position, which might add value to the Opalco Board of Directors?

A career with General Electric Company spanning close to five decades helping Industrial and Utility customers around the World solve their energy problems. From delivering distributed power to earthquake victims in Japan to supplying emergency electricity in Peru during their Hydroelectric crisis.

I finished my career as a manager for GE's Distributed Power then Wind and finally Solar businesses.

The training and experience with Leadership San Juan Islands will help me be an effective facilitator a positive force on the Board and with the membership.

2. Please tell us about any other experiences you have had, serving on a board of directors.

Very active as a volunteer:

- Have served on the American Red Cross Chapter Board and presently lead for the San Juan Islands Unit.
- On the Board of the San Juan Island Trails Committee, past Chairman and presently serving as Treasurer.
- On the Board of the Mount Dallas Road Association and previously served as President for three years.
- On the Board of the Friday Harbor Sailing Club, presently serving as Commodore.
- Member of Session, the governing body of the Friday Harbor Presbyterian Church.

3. As you look at Opalco, what do you see as OPALCO's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges?

OPALCO's strength is in fulfilling their mission to provide affordable and reliable electricity to the members of the Cooperative. However, this success has allowed the membership to be complacent about our energy future. So, the opportunity and challenge is to engage the membership, inspire enthusiasm and action.

4. What strategies do you have in mind to help OPALCO navigate through these challenges?

Engage the membership's resourcefulness, energy and enthusiasm through a series of workshops, town hall meetings and action committees to implement the Cooperative's Integrated Resource Plan.

5. Opalco's 2015 Integrated Resource Plan addresses those types of planning issues. Are you comfortable with that document, or do you feel it is time to revisit and update it?

The Cooperative's Integrated Resource Plan is an excellent document, the result of hard work by the Board, Management and the consultant. It is time to implement the plan, not spend any more time or money revising it only to put it back on the shelf.

6. What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected or re-elected?

Strengthen our Cooperative through member participation, increased transparency and communication. With member support, we can start now toward local alternative energy.

7. Do you feel it should be a priority to try to reduce our reliance on BPA as Opalco's primary source for our power?

I believe our priorities should be toward self-reliance, taking control of our energy future. We have no control of the future of Bonneville Power Administration and I believe in the adage: *Don't put all your eggs in one basket.*

8. What role do you think Solar Energy should play in Opalco's future?

Solar energy has always played a big part in the San Juans. We were the bread basket for the region before Grand Coulee. We enjoy over 240 days of sun so why wouldn't we want to take advantage of this resource and start developing local alternative energy?

9. What is your vision for OPALCO's subsidiary Rock Island?

I recently connected to Rock Island's LTE service pleasing my family to no end, however I do have concerns with mixing a for-profit company with a member owned Non-Profit Cooperative where transparency is vital.

10. Do you have any ideas about improving communications between Opalco and the membership, or about increasing member participation?

Making a Cooperative successful is tough work and navigating our energy future is going to be a challenge. With the privilege of membership in a Cooperative comes the responsibility of participation. Success depends on education and participation in the democratic process through town hall meetings, workshops, action committees and heck, let's have some picnics. This should be fun!