

# **Article IV – Board Members, Section 4. Qualifications of the Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Bylaws**

## **Section 4. QUALIFICATIONS**

Any member, except inactive, may be eligible to become and remain a Board member of the Cooperative if that member while a director and immediately before becoming a director is in good standing by the following criteria:

- (a) has had and maintains a good credit history with no outstanding balance with the Cooperative for at least one year before becoming a director;
- (b) maintains and receives Cooperative electric service at his or her primary residence in the particular district to be represented for at least one year before becoming a director;
- (c) is in no way employed by, materially affiliated, or having material or financial interest in a competing enterprise or business selling electric service to the Cooperative;
- (d) is in no way employed by or financially interested in a business primarily engaged in selling plumbing, appliances, fixtures or other supplies or services to the Cooperative;
- (e) is not an employee or has not been an employee of any electric cooperative or association within the immediate past three years;
- (f) is not a close relative of an employee or current director of the Cooperative. Close relative defined: As used in these Bylaws, "close relative" means a person who, by blood or marriage, including step and adoptive kin, is either a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew, niece or first cousin of the principal. It is specifically intended that a close relative of a current director may become a director at the same Annual Meeting at which the term of said current director expires.
- (g) has not been convicted of a felony within the last five years;
- (h) is not a candidate or incumbent for elected public office at a countywide level or above;
- (i) attends at least fifty (50) percent of the meetings of the Board in any one (1) fiscal year. Absence from three (3) consecutive meetings without just cause as determined by the Board shall automatically be considered as disqualification;
- (j) have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts.

Upon establishment of the fact that a Board member is holding the office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the Board shall remove such Board member from office. Nothing contained in the section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board.