

Ralph Williams

Manager, United Electric Co-op, Inc. Heyburn, ID

Ralph Williams is presently General Manger of United Electric Co-op located in Heyburn, Idaho. He began his career in the power industry in 1968 as a journeyman lineman for Raft River Electric. He served as line foreman until 1985, advancing into a management position with retail rate design and there became involved with wholesale power issues.

Since 1985, Ralph has had the opportunity to interact with Bonneville Power Administration concerning power and transmission issues. He has an extensive understanding of the overall structure and the complex nature of the Northwest Power industry.

Ralph was instrumental in the 1998 consolidation of Rural Electric and Unity Light and Power, creating United Electric Co-op. United serves 6000 services located in Minidoka and Cassia Counties. United also provides operation and maintenance services for the City of Heyburn=s 1200 meters.

Ralph has been a driving force behind new ideas and new organizations in the State of Idaho and the Northwest. He is the President of Northwest Irrigation Utilities Association (NIU), member of the Technical Advisory Committee of Northwest Lineman=s College, Executive Board Member of Northwest Requirements Utilities Association (NRU), Board Member of Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA), Board member and Vice President of the Idaho Energy Authority (IDEA) and is active in the Idaho Consumer Owned Utility Association (ICUA). Ralph has served in an advisory capacity through several Bonneville Power Administration processes.

Ralph attended 1.5 years of college before going into the workforce, as a cowhand, construction worker and farm laborer. He spent 10 years in the National Guard where he took extensive training in leadership and left the guard with the rank of Staff Sergeant. He credits his time in the National Guard as helping him develop skills that later benefited his career. He said most of his education has been from the school of hard knocks where he learned what didn't work.

Ralph has been very involved in his community. He is a member of the Lions Club where he has served as Secretary and President. He has served several terms as a Commissioner for the local Fire District and led the district through an annexation of territory that had been attempted several times and failed. He is presently a member of the Burley Rotary Club.

Ralph has been the Secretary and President of his High School Alumni Association and helped to organize several annual Homecoming celebrations. He has been active in Boy Scouts and has been a 4-H leader along with coaching football and basketball teams through the years. He has been a member of many community committees and is active with the Burley, Rupert and Heyburn City Governments serving in an advisory capacity in Rupert and Heyburn.

Ralph and his wife Virginia live near Burley and have shared 37 years together raising two sons and a daughter. They now have two beautiful grandsons who are the light of his and Virginia=s life. Ralph and Virginia enjoy outdoor activities including camping, golf, hunting and riding four-wheelers. Ralph has always enjoyed horses and enjoys riding and ropes for fun and competition when possible. He feels fortunate to have grown up in Idaho and wants to give back as much as possible to the communities that have been so good to him.