

Director Candidates: Region 3 — Ill. (4-year term), Candidate 2 of 2



Stephanie (Gripp) Wise

(Incumbent)

58 years old

Joliet, Ill.

(815) 919-8273

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Farm Credit Member Since: 2006

Family: Husband, Christopher, an attorney in Joliet, Ill.

Brief description of agricultural operation and employment/business experience over the past five years:

I am a farm-raised former banking executive, and the fifth generation, on both parents' sides of my family, to buy my own farms and invest my time and resources into growing farming and ag-business operations in the Midwest. Since 2015: service on Compeer Financial Board of Directors (and our legacy Illinois association prior to 2017); currently serving as Compeer's Board Chair. Since 2013: grain farming (corn, soybeans, popcorn and other specialty grain) and ag business (fertilizer/crop protection/other farm input products and custom farming services) operations in Bureau and Henry counties, Illinois. Prior to going all-in ag in 2013: 25 year banking career, beginning with the FDIC bank examination division, then working 23 years with First Midwest Bank (now Old National) as an executive vice president, leading multiple line and operational divisions that included regulatory compliance, community relations, project management, planning and research, cash/treasury management, e-commerce, business and institutional services, small business, insurance, mortgage, strategy, and mergers and acquisitions.

Boards or committees you currently serve on and boards or committees you have served on in the past five years:

Compeer Financial Board of Directors (current chair, prior vice-chair); Compeer Compensation and Governance Committee (vice-chair), Compeer Legislative Affairs Committee; Compeer Fund for Rural America. Farm Credit Foundations – a human resource shared service provider, serving a collaboration of Farm Credit employers across the United States (service as board chair; vice-chair; human resource and governance committees)

Community involvement/government service:

Member and Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, Ill.

Education: Manlius High School; B.A. Economics and Business Administration, Augustana College; M.B.A. University of Chicago (concentrations Finance and Marketing); Bank examiner training school (FDIC). Attained professional certifications in regulatory compliance (BAI) and treasury management (AFP). Completed executive leadership programs through the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Wisconsin. Premier Governance Certified Farm Credit Director

What is your vision for the future of agriculture?

American producers have the strength of character, ingenuity and determination to continually transform challenge into opportunity. Working with strong partners like Compeer who not only bring capital but also passion, expertise and innovative forward-thinking spirit, U.S. agriculture will lead, adapt, diversify, persevere and prosper in delivering on their vital mission to provide food, fiber and fuel to the world.

What do you believe are the primary issues facing agriculture and Compeer Financial?

Production agriculture is a cyclical and capital-intensive business subject to product price and demand volatility driven by dynamics in geopolitics, world trade, regulation and consumer preference. Rapid change in areas like AI and agronomic technology add complexity, risk and potential advantage at the desk, on the tractor and in the ground. The vitality of agriculture and rural America are interconnected, yet there are multi-billion annual funding gaps for local hospitals, senior care providers and other essential community services necessary to attract and retain an agricultural workforce.

Since its formation through a strategic merger of equals in 2017, Compeer has surpassed milestones, returned hundreds of millions of dollars in patronage to its cooperative members, collaborated to fund multiple critical community facilities, transitioned to a new CEO, added executive leadership expertise and is approaching \$40 billion in total assets. As a large, complex organization, Compeer must continue to prioritize the strategic planning disciplines that underpin strong team engagement and overall alignment, providing the focus necessary to drive innovation and maintain organizational agility, efficiency and expertise — to address risks, to communicate with the diverse participants and influencers in our industry, to make investments responsive to opportunities and rapid change, to deliver our clients practical solutions that matter to them, to maintain strong customer relationships and satisfaction and to build thriving communities.

As the third largest Farm Credit association in the nation, Compeer continues to provide reliable, consistent credit and is well-positioned to impact the future of agriculture and rural America in a powerful and positive way.

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors at Compeer Financial?

I want to continue to serve on the Compeer Board because I believe my unique set of banking/farming experiences and skills serves my fellow directors and members well, and has made a positive difference in bringing Compeer to where we are today. Being deeply rooted in both the business of banking and the business of production agriculture, I want to carry on with the Board's work of support and constructive oversight to management's execution of strategy that creates value for Compeer's clients and communities as we move forward through new challenges and opportunities.

I ask for your vote, and extend my gratitude for your consideration and the opportunity to serve our cooperative.