

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



David H. Peters (Incumbent)

62 years old
Manteno, Ill.
(815) 405-6022
dhpetersa@me.com
Farm Credit Member since: 1996

Family: Wife, Janis, farms with me and is a member of the FSA County Committee. Daughter and son-in-law, CJ and Katelyn

Hawksford. Katelyn is a physician and CJ is a senior buyer. Daughter, Jocelyn, attended Shepherds College for adults with disabilities and lives with us. Son, Dylan, is a research scientist for the University of Wisconsin.

Brief description of agricultural operation and employment/business experience over the past five years: Family owned operation consisting of corn, soybeans and winter wheat in northeast Illinois. Custom operations include seeding, harvest and application services. I have also been active on the Compeer Board of Directors in many capacities.

Boards or committees you currently serve on and boards or committees you have served on in the past five years: Currently serving on the Compeer Board Enterprise Risk Committee. Chair of the Board 2022-23, Vice Chair of the Board 2020-21, Audit Committee 2022-23, Chair - Enterprise Risk Committee 2018-19, AgriBank District Farm Credit Council member 2018-2021, ADFCC PAC Committee Chairman 2020, Legislative Affairs Committee 2018-24, Compeer PAC Chair 2018-19, Compeer Fund for Rural America Trustee 2022-present. Farmer's Elevator Company of Manteno – Secretary 2010-2022, Kankakee Co., SWCD-Treasurer 2003-2020, Manteno Fire Protection District-Trustee/Secretary 2012-present.

Community involvement/government service: Member of Kankakee Co. Corn Growers, Illinois Farm Bureau and Manteno Sportsman's Club, past president of the Manteno Fire Commission, former coach and board member of the Manteno Youth Soccer Association, former Manteno youth football coach. Member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus.

Education: Kankakee Community College 1980-1982. Following college I spent 20+ years in the IT/tech industry implementing data infrastructure in K-12 institutions and held certifications from Apple, Hewlett Packard, CompTIA, Cisco, and others. I have attained Director Certification through completion of the FCC Services Premier Governance series.

What is your vision for the future of agriculture? The first word that comes to mind is "adaptation". Risk management will be paramount as the agricultural sector tries to weather many external forces. There will be a continued integration of technology in precision farming practices, including remote sensors, drones, and data analytics to optimize resource use and increase yields. Shifts in global trade patterns due to geopolitical factors, trade agreements, and market demand, influencing the distribution of agricultural products will drive future agricultural policies and profitability.

What do you believe are the primary issues facing agriculture and Compeer Financial? Compeer clients often have long-standing personal relationships with their local financial officers, built on personal relationships, trust and mutual understanding. Our team combines industry expertise, risk management skills, and customized financial solutions for our shareholders. As future technology advances become more commonplace, Compeer's role as provider of consistent, reliable credit to our clients will need to evolve. Online tools and AgTech solutions aim to increase efficiency, productivity and profitability by providing our customers with real-time data, predictive analytics, and decision support systems. But, our role as a relationship-based lender should be the foundation moving forward. These approaches are not mutually exclusive and can complement each other to support the sustainable growth of the agricultural sector and ensure that Compeer clients continue to enjoy the benefits of personal service, cooperative ownership and the patronage returns that go with it.

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Compeer Financial? I have been honored to sit on the Board of Directors since the merger in 2017. I have served in many capacities including a term as Board Chair. I believe I can offer a unique perspective in the boardroom as a farmer/shareholder with a technology background, and would like to aid in our conversations on implementation of digital tools and future collaborations/partnerships in the AgTech sector.

At the time Compeer was formed, the Board had 17 members and all had served their legacy associations prior to merger. Currently, there are only 4 elected directors left from the merger. Combined with several new ELT members and a newer CEO, some continuity and experience in the boardroom becomes very important. For newer directors, it takes some time to build the institutional knowledge, create the FCS relationships, and understand the complex business structure. The current mix of experience, diverse operations and skill attributes, makes for a great board of directors. Current results, including record earnings, client satisfaction, and patronage returns reflect that. Retaining some experienced members on the board can strengthen governance practices, enhance strategic decision-making, and contribute to the long-term success and sustainability of the association. As an experienced board member, I respectfully ask for your consideration for another term on the Compeer Board of Directors. Thank you!