

Patrick Dennis
District 1 Director
Term Expires: 2019

Patrick Dennis has owned a home in Walla Walla and has been a Columbia REA member since 2007. He holds a PhD degree from the University of Minnesota and spent 27 years as a Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. For ten years (between 2000 and 2010) he held the position of program director at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Washington DC. The NSF is an agency of the Federal Government with an annual budget of 7.5 billion dollars that supports basic science and engineering research primarily at American universities and colleges. His NSF responsibilities included comprehensive management and oversight of several different programs with annual budgets of 10-20 million dollars. He holds a Masters Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University. Currently he is a research associate (volunteer) at Whitman College in Walla Walla where he continues his own research and in addition, works with the Whitman College Grants Office to help individual faculty members organize, prepare and submit their research proposals to regional and federal granting agencies.

“My years as a university professor and as a program director at the NSF have given me extensive experience in identifying emerging areas of opportunity, establishing priorities, planning budgets, and providing project management and oversight. My goal as a board member is to serve the membership by insuring that the overall organizational standards within Columbia REA are maintained and at the same time, that new and emerging opportunities that impact the reliability, efficiency, cost effectiveness and social and environmental awareness within the organization are recognized and appropriately pursued...”

Greg Knowles
District 1 Director
Vice President
Term Expires: 2020

Greg Knowles, of 1830 Last Chance Rd., Walla Walla, was born and raised in Walla Walla. He graduated from Walla Walla High School in 1978. He worked for Walla Walla Grain Growers (now Northwest Grain Growers) until going into partnership with his parents, John and Dorothy Knowles at the Bicycle Barn in 1992. Greg and his wife Shareen have two adult children. Greg attends Pioneer Methodist Church, is a member of Wheatland Wheelers (a local bicycle club) and is a dedicated volunteer.