

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



Stephanie Wise (Incumbent)

54 years old
Joliet, Ill.
(815) 919-8273
stephanie@brightprairies.com
Farm Credit Member Since: 2006

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

Brief Description of Agricultural Operation and Employment/ Business experience for past five years: I am the fifth generation of my family with a commitment to agriculture, with grain farming (corn, soybeans, and popcorn) and ag business (farm input products and custom farming services) operations in Bureau and Henry counties Illinois. I also have a small food manufacture operation, growing and milling heirloom corn.

25 year banking career, working 23 years with First Midwest Bank, 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, ecommerce, business & institutional services, small business, insurance, mortgage, strategy, and mergers & acquisitions.

Boards or Committees in the past five years (and principal business): Owner Gripp Farm Nutrients, LLC and Bright Prairies, LLC; Compeer Financial (Director) – Compensation & Governance Committee (Vice-Chair), Legislative Affairs Committee; Farm Credit Foundations (Board Chair), Human Resource Committee, Governance Committee (prior); 1st Farm Credit Services (Inside Appointed Director), Business Risk Committee (Chair).

Community Involvement/Government Service: Member & Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Joliet, Ill. Past service on Session (church council); chaired mission committee; member pastoral search and nominating committee.

Education: Manlius High School; Augustana College, BA Economics & Business Administration; University of Chicago, MBA Concentrations Finance & Marketing

Bank examiner training school, attained professional certifications in regulatory compliance (BAI) and treasury management (AFP), executive leadership programs through the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and University of Wisconsin.

Premier Governance Certified Farm Credit Director; Excellence in Board Leadership; Financial Direction of the Enterprise and Managing Risk; The Gettysburg Leadership Experience; and The Role of Boards in Strategy Setting, Alignment and Execution.

What is your vision for the future of agriculture? I see a vital and important future for agriculture. The U.S. has the right combination of natural resources, financial resources, human resources, infrastructure, technology and expertise to remain the leader in providing food, fiber and fuel for the world. American producers have the strength of character, ingenuity and perseverance to continually transform challenge into opportunity.

What do you believe are the primary issues facing agriculture and Compeer Financial? Technological change continues at an ever-increasing pace. Regulatory requirements are likely to evolve as environmental and animal stewardship remain public concerns. Consumer interest in where our food comes from and how it is raised influence buying patterns and the dialog between consumers, producers and legislators. Geopolitical and global trade considerations are driving volatility in the financial and commodity markets. Navigating the dynamics of all those factors presents both risk and opportunity.

In my view, the most critical issues for any business are to remain **durable** (having financial strength and access to capital and reliable, consistent credit); **agile** (capable and efficient in addressing risks, communicating with the diverse participants and influencers in our industry, and making investments to respond to opportunities and rapid change); and **relevant** (providing our clients with the practical solutions that matter to them). In the four years since coming together through the merger of three strong legacy Farm Credit associations, Compeer achieved original goals and continues to grow in terms of both the financial strength and industry expertise that it can bring to shareholders.

Why I want to serve on the Board of Directors of Compeer Financial? I am farm-raised, banking-careered, and passionately committed to the future of agriculture. Being part of a farming community and spending time with others who share that passion is what matters most to me.

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. I want to carry on with the board's work of support and constructive oversight to management's execution of strategy that moves us forward through new challenges and opportunities, keeping Compeer strong and passing the benefits of durability and agility along to our shareholders.