

Candidates Gear Up for Convention Election

The officer seat of vice president is up for election. It is currently held by John Porter, Edmond. Opponents are Monte Womack, Morris, and Eric Bilderback, El Reno.

John Porter, Edmond



John Porter, a third-generation AFR Insurance agent, was raised on a dairy and beef

farm east of Stillwater. He graduated from Quay High School, where he was involved in sports and judged beef and dairy cattle as a member of the FFA. After high school, he majored in business administration at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond and was a member of the Oklahoma National Guard from 1965 to 1971.

In July 1973, Porter was hired by Oklahoma Farmers Union to adjust insurance claims, first as a property loss adjuster and then as a multi-line adjuster. By the 1980s, he was a claims department supervisor.

During his 36-year career with AFR/OFU, Porter has worked directly with several organization presidents in various capacities. He was elected AFR/OFU Vice President in 2010 and remains an active insurance agent through the agency he shares with his daughter in Edmond.

He is a member of the Oklahoma Softball Hall of Fame, an Oklahoma High School Sports Association referee and a participant and member of the Player Youth Program. He is also a member of Lakeside Golf Course in Stillwater and has been a member of Sunnybrook Christian Church for 27 years.

Porter and his wife, Patti, have two daughters—Shandra, an AFR agent, and

Tressa, married to Attorney Jacob Diesselhorst—and three grandchildren. Porter's parents, Charles, Jr., and Alta were AFR agents and his grandfather, Charles Porter, Sr., was an OFU agent. His brother, Charles Porter III, continues the family agency in Stillwater.

Eric Bilderback, El Reno



Eric Bilderback was raised on a small farm near El Reno. He earned an associate degree

from Eastern Oklahoma State College, a B.S. in Agricultural Education from OSU and an M.S. in Educational Leadership from Southern Nazarene University.

While working as the agricultural instructor in Chattanooga, Bilderback led his students in the classroom, show ring and FFA competitions. In 2002, he was named the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education (CareerTech) Outstanding Young Agriculture Teacher of the Year.

In 2004, he became the Redlands Community College Agriculture/Equine Department Head and Livestock Judging Coach. He managed the progressive agriculture program that encompassed 600 acres, served 130 students and employed 20 people. During his tenure, the program's enrollment grew 125 percent and the budget increased 150 percent to \$1.5 million.

In 2006, Bilderback joined Oklahoma CareerTech as an agricultural education program specialist. He supervised 79 schools and 95 teachers in CareerTech's southeast district, was a liaison between school administrators and instructors and managed the entry-year teacher program with 42 new instructors.

Bilderback served on the AFR/OFU Board of Directors from 2011 to 2014. While on the board, he served as chairman of the Compensation Committee and was a member of the Audit and Building Committees.

Bilderback is currently the El Reno High School agricultural instructor and farms/ranches. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Sirloin Club, the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association and Heaston Community Church. He and his wife, Shelly, have been married 17 years and have one daughter, Lauren.

Monte Womack, Morris



Monte Womack, Morris, a 17-year AFR/OFU member, grew up in Idabel and was a state

FFA officer.

At Eastern Oklahoma State College, Womack was student senate president, Outstanding Agriculture Student and a member of the Aggie Club and livestock judging team. He earned his bachelor's and master's in agricultural education from OSU, where he was Collegiate FFA President and an Ag Council and Outstanding Collegiate member.

Womack began teaching in Weleetka as an agricultural education instructor. He received the Outstanding Young Teacher Award, was elected to the Oklahoma Agriculture Education Teachers' Board and Oklahoma and National FFA Alumni Councils, and served on the National Agriculture Education Legislative Task Force and the National FFA Alumni Legislative Internship.

Womack has served in administration for 17 years in Valliant, Hinton, Madill and Morris. He has been the Mar-

shall County Chamber President, a 4-H program leader and a member of the OSU Extension Advisory Council, Lions Club, Kiwanis and Masonic Lodge.

Womack is past FFA Alumni Council Chairman and a member of the FFA Foundation Board. He is in the State FFA Officer Hall of Fame, holds Honorary State and American FFA Degrees, volunteers at OYE, and is the music director at Morris First Baptist Church.

Womack has been involved with the AFR/OFU Japan Exchange Program, judging and speech contests, Youth Advisory Council, scholarships and achievement awards.

Womack and his wife, Reina, have been married 34 years. They have five sons, all lifetime FFA Alumni members. Two have served on the AFR/OFU Youth Advisory Council.

The director seat for South west District 2 is up for election. Currently held by Joe Ed Kinder, Frederick, Lee Horton, Lone Wolf, opposes.

Joe Ed Kinder, Frederick



Joe Ed Kinder grew up on a farm near Chattanooga in Tillman County and graduated

from Chattanooga High School in 1960. He has been a member of Oklahoma Farmers Union since the late 1950s and has had Oklahoma Farmers Union or AFR Insurance since that time.

Kinder and his wife, Jo Ann, were married in 1961 and have lived in the Chattanooga and Frederick area since then. The Kinder farming and ranching operation consists of wheat, cotton and cow/calf pairs on 2,920

owned acres and 320 rented acres. The Kinders have two children, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Kinder has served on the AFR/OFU Policy Committee and Bylaws Committee, the NFU Policy Committee and the NFU Policy Working Group twice. He has also participated in the organization's legislative action "fly-ins" to Washington, D.C., was an NFU national delegate and has served the last 4 years on the AFR/OFU Board of Directors, working with the rest of the board to rebuild the AFR Insurance surplus.

In addition to his service to AFR/OFU, Kinder served on the Tillman County Rural Water District #1 for 12 years, with 9 years as president, and on the Chattanooga Town Board for 18 years, with 12 years as mayor. He has also been chairman of the Chattanooga Public Works Authority and chairman of the Chattanooga Airport Board. He has also served on the Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association Board and chaired the Red River Terrace Water Authority.

Lee Horton, Lone Wolf



Lee Horton, 47, is a life-long resident of Kiowa County and a life-long member of AFR/OFU.

He owns and operates a cow/calf operation near Lone Wolf. In addition to farming since 1990, he has been employed in road maintenance by Kiowa County for 18 years.

Horton was raised on a cattle and wheat farm near Hobart and graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1986. He was a member of Class XII of the Oklahoma Agriculture Leadership Program (OALP).

Horton has served on the local Kiowa County AFR/OFU board for several years and is currently the president. He has attended many AFR/OFU state conventions.

Horton has served the Lone Wolf community as a volunteer fireman for 20 years. He is currently the Lone Wolf Fire Chief. He has also served on the Lone Wolf School Board since 1997, including holding the offices of president, vice president and secretary. He is a former member of his conservation district and, through civic duties, he has overseen legislative issues and many lobbying opportunities at the Oklahoma Capitol.

Horton and his wife, Margie, have been married 24 years and are members of the First Baptist Church of Lone Wolf. They have 5 children—Courtney, Trenton, Mary, Johnny and Joey. In his spare time, Horton enjoys spending time with his family by camping and fishing.

The At-Large #1 director seat is currently held by Roy Perryman, Stigler. Opponents are Matt Burris, Stratford, and Ryan Plemmons, Broken Bow.

Roy Perryman, Stigler



Roy Perryman, Stigler, was named to the AFR/OFU Board of Directors in 2012, filling a vacancy left by the passing of Harry Jordan.

Perryman has a wealth of experience and knowledge that will serve the organization well. He has previously served on the AFR/OFU Board of Directors from 1992 to 2003.

Perryman was first appointed as an agent with Oklahoma Farmers Union in December 1973 and started the Perryman Insurance Agency in 1974. He was named the AFRMIC Commercial Lines Top Producer in 2002. He sold the agency in May 2011, but retains his agent status with AFR.

Perryman earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from Oklahoma State

University. Prior to becoming an OFU agent, he worked as an agricultural education instructor in Ames, Okla., and Paden, Okla. He has also worked in sales and public relations for the Shawnee Milling Company in Shawnee, Okla.

In addition to his AFR/OFU leadership roles, Perryman served on the Haskell County Hospital Board from 1990 to 2002. He has also served on the Haskell County Fair and Show Committee and the Eureka Free Will Baptist Executive Board. He is a member of the Stigler/Haskell County Chamber of Commerce, the Stigler Lions Club and the Ringwood Masonic Lodge. He is also the owner-operator of Perryman, Inc.

Perryman has been married to his wife, Judy, for 46 years. They have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Matt Burris, Stratford



Matt Burris studied equine management at Murray State College and animal science at Oklahoma State University. He worked for more than 20 years in the feed industry and was the sales manager for Evergreen Mills for 8 years, where he was responsible for a network of 250 dealers and 12 salesmen in 5 states.

Burris purchased the Stratford Insurance Agency in 2003, during a time when Oklahoma Farmers Union was not writing new business. He learned a lot from this difficult experience and others over the past 10 years. Burris has grown his book of business by more than 50 percent in recent years and, in 2013, he purchased the Wanette Insurance Agency, incorporating it into the Stratford office.

Burris has been married to his wife, Renee, for 27 years. They have two sons currently attending OSU. Burris has been on several committees and boards with local civic or-

ganizations and his church. In his spare time, he enjoys golf.

Ryan Plemmons, Broken Bow



Ryan Plemmons was raised on a cattle, poultry and swine farm near Battiest in southeastern Oklahoma. He was on the livestock judging team for both Connors State College and Oklahoma State University and graduated with a degree in agricultural sciences.

After graduation, Plemmons was employed by Oklahoma Farm Bureau as an insurance agent. He spent five years working in McCurtain and Sequoyah Counties before purchasing his first AFR/OFU agency in Panama. He currently owns and operates the Plemmons Insurance Agency in Broken Bow. He has been a top producer for both the AFR Life Company and AFR Insurance through property sales.

Plemmons' AFR/OFU involvement includes serving as chairman of the policy committee, initiating the AFR/OFU Livestock Judging Contest, judging speech contests, initiating a local speech contest in preparation for the state contest, assisting with the AFR/OFU Livestock Achievement Competition, working the Tulsa State Fair booth and lobbying at the state capitol and on legislative action fly-ins to Washington, D.C.

Plemmons has served as president of the AFR Insurance Agents Association and is currently president of the McCurtain Spring Livestock Show, a member of the McCurtain County Fair Board and active in various community organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce and Leaders in Agriculture.

Plemmons, his wife, Cindy, and their children, Kaylan and Blaine, reside on their Angus cow-calf operation near Battiest. Plemmons enjoys coaching summer league baseball and showing Angus cattle with his children.