

Profiles of The Four 2024 SECU Member-Nominated Candidates

At the 2023 SECU Annual Meeting last year, the membership sent the 3 incumbent Board members packing. The members said "Enough!" Last year's nominees featured long-term, dedicated volunteers; this year the candidates are heavily weighted toward hands-on, in-the-trenches experience and knowledge of the operations and purpose of SECU.

Jean Blaine



Grew up in Southport, N.C. Graduated from UNC-CH and was a teacher in the Johnston, Wake, Orange and Granville County public school systems. In her spare time she reared five children and was a community activist. Highly familiar with the purpose of SECU. Has appeared at the Legislature, before the N.C. Credit Union Commission and at the SECU Annual Meeting to publicly question current policies and procedures. Enjoys her church group, book club and fast friends. Lives in Granville County, writes her own speeches.

Susie Ford



Native of Wilmington, educator, entrepreneur with BA and Masters from ECU. Former 13-year SECU employee who served as branch VP in Wilson, High Point and Williamston. Created and led the SECU Member Education department at SECU, before leaving to own and operate multiple Sylvan Learning centers in eastern N.C. Has advocated for SECU before the Legislature, CU Commission and at the Annual Meeting. Active in her church, married, adult children, lives in Cary, N.C. Her grandfather held SECU account #7 out of 2.8 million members! Also writes her own speeches.

Julian Hawes



Brought up in Wallace, N.C., a man of his word, suffers from a rural N.C. work ethic. Graduated from N.C.State, as an ardent Wolfpack loyalist. Retired after a 30+ year career at SECU, serving as the SVP for eastern N.C. in Goldsboro. SECU's premier lender and loan officer mentor. About lending: "Listen first, decide second; put yourself in the other fellow's shoes; and, the best collateral for a loan is the borrower's character." Expert in finance, but understands the member-value of the \$500 salary advance loan program, which he created. Married, now lives in the Winston-Salem area. Still knows how to "prime" tobacco.

Kirby Parrish



Born in Raleigh and hasn't strayed far. Educated in the Wake County Public Schools and a graduate of NCSU. Veteran employee of SECU, now retired. Led offices in Garner and Raleigh as an SVP. Instrumental in developing the investment and financial advisory services at the credit union. Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and Member Loan Review Committee Advocate - "Members need to be heard"! Always trusted, top choice of SECU employees to represent their interests on internal committees. Married, lives in Johnston County. 5k runner, follows the 'Canes, likes dogs!