

Your 2025 SECU Board of Directors Candidates



Chris Ayers

OCCUPATION: I have served as Executive Director of the North Carolina Utilities Commission - Public Staff since July 2013. The Public Staff is an independent state agency charged with advocating on behalf of over 4.8 million utility customers comprising the using and consuming public in matters before the Utilities Commission.

EDUCATION: Duke University, B.A. in Political Science and Sociology, 1999; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law, J.D., 2002

BOARD AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: I have been honored to serve on the SECU Board of Directors and SECU Foundation Board since October 2016.

I served two years as Chairman of the SECU Board and currently serve as Chairman of the SECU Foundation Board. I have served on the Audit, Risk, Governance, Nominating, and Member Relations committees.

I have served on the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates since September 2016, including three years as President. I serve on the Consumer Advocates of PJM States Board of Directors and am Past Chairman of the University of Missouri Financial Research Institute.

I am a member of the Hope Community Church Elder Collective and have actively volunteered as a small group leader, small group coach, and global hope ambassador. My volunteer board service also includes serving as President of the Global Hope India Board of Directors, President of the North Carolina 4-H Alumni and Friends Association, President of the North Carolina 4-H Honor Club, and a member North Carolina 4-H Development Fund Board of Directors.

SECU MEMBERSHIP: 22 years, 9 months



Nneamaka "Amaka" Flynn

OCCUPATION: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits; Contract Specialist II, Senior Monitoring Specialist

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science in Health Education, University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Master of Arts in Counseling, North Carolina Central University

BOARD AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: I have experience serving on several boards, committees and volunteer organizations. In these roles, I was responsible for attending monthly board and committee meetings, leading and facilitating meetings, reviewing budget reports, by-laws and other organizational documents, providing feedback and

participating in decision making, and representing and promoting my organization in the community. Below is a list of various boards and organizations I presently serve or have served in the past: SECU Nominating Committee (2024), SECU Member Advisory Board, Benson Rd, Garner, NC (2022-Present), Delta State Association of North Carolina (2022-Present), State Employees Association of North Carolina (1996-Present), Garner Police Athletic/Activities League Board Member (2011-2015), Schools and Communities Organized to Read, (SCOR), Garner Educational Foundation. Volunteer (2010-2013), Aversboro Elementary School PTA (2009 -2013), Partnership Coordinator and Steering Committee Member for Full Circle Foundation (2009-2013), Garner Parks and Recreation Advisory Member (2008 -2013), Wake County School Board District 2 Advisory Council Member (2006-2008)

SECU MEMBERSHIP: 28 years



Ben McLawhorn

OCCUPATION: NC Office of the State Controller, Director - Audit, Risk, and Compliance Services (RETIRED)

EDUCATION: Appalachian State University - Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Double Major: Accounting and Information Systems) - 1982; Campbell University - Master of Business Administration - 1987; University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (Kenan Flagler Business School) - Burroughs Wellcome Management Institute - Executive Education Program - 1991; University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (School of Government) Certified Government Chief Information Officer Program - 2008

BOARD AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: SECU Board of Directors, SECU Foundation Board, Appalachian State University Board of Visitors, Raleigh Rescue Mission Board, United Way of North Carolina Board, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (Charlotte Branch) - Business and Consumer Payments Advisory Council

SECU MEMBERSHIP: 40 years



Thomas Parrish

OCCUPATION: State of North Carolina - DIT - Deputy CIO for NCDPS & NCDAC

EDUCATION: North Carolina Central University BS, 1991; North Carolina Central University MS, 2000

BOARD AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: Louisburg College - Board of Directors; State Employees' Credit Union - Information Technology Committee; State Employees' Credit Union - Board of Directors; North Carolina 911 Board Technology Committee; Rocky Mount Charter Schools - Board of Directors (Chair); Conetoe Family Life Center - Board of Directors (Chair); Rocky Mount Boy & Girls Club - Volunteer

SECU MEMBERSHIP: 41 years, 11 months