

# Thank You for Your Service

April 7 was the final board meeting for Graham County Utilities Director Mike Crockett. Mike has served on the GCU board since 2009, and served as its secretary for more than 10 of those years.

In 2010, he was elected to the Graham County Electric board and served until he moved out of the district in 2014.

In his resignation letter, Mike says, “I’ve been able to participate in an exciting decade of changes: addressing new regulations and policies on the national and state level, accommodating new service demands and needed upgrades, communicating with the membership, and perhaps most importantly, improving cooperation between the board and the employees of the co-op.”

Mike has always been supportive of co-op employees, who do the best job they can even under difficult circumstances. He is proud of the work the staff and crews have accomplished.

“I have especially enjoyed working with and getting to know three general managers of the cooperative,” Mike says. “Steve Lines, who knew intimately every aspect of the business from experience; Kirk Gray, whose financial acumen came at exactly the right time; and Philip Cook, who is leading GCEC/GCU into an expanding future.”

Mike enjoyed attending statewide and regional conferences. At the one

national conference he attended, Mike recalls being impressed with General Michael Flynn’s presentation. He found him to be an impressive man.

“I often think of General Eisenhower’s advice: If you can’t solve a problem, enlarge it,” he says.

Mike helped both the co-op and Eastern Arizona College find some good out of proposed rate increases from Safford.

“We have such a wonderful resource in GCU’s water, and I believe that it will be a major factor leading to the growth of the west valley,” Mike says. “I was happy to be able to ‘grease the skids’ a little for the Ash Creek acquisition as well.”

After teaching English at Northern Arizona University and Eastern Arizona College for 17 years, Mike joined EAC’s leadership team as dean of instruction in 2005. He oversaw five divisions of the college—about 80 full-time faculty members and many more part-time faculty.

Mike worked on several community and regional boards and was an active member of the Arizona Occupational Administrators Council. He was recognized as the College/University Educator of the Year by the Associated Career and Technical Educators of Arizona in 2015. He completed the Harvard University Institute for educational management in Boston in July 2016 and retired



**Mike Crockett, left receives a plaque commemorating his service on the Graham County Electric and Utilities boards, presented by Jeff Larson.**

from EAC in January 2020.

Since retiring from EAC, he drove up the Rockies, almost to Montana, and fished his way south while hunting with his sons.

Mike and his wife, Kim, have been called on a church mission to San Antonio, Texas, to work with the Institute of Religion adjacent to the campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio. They will teach classes and coordinate social activities for four congregations.

Good luck on your new adventures, Mike! Thank you for serving on the boards. Your co-op family will miss you. ■