



# Candidate Profile:

## BUTCH JOHNSON

My name is Lawrence F. Johnson, Jr., better known as Butch, and I am 74 years old. I live in Breezy Acres Co-operative in Colchester, Vermont. I was born and raised in the Burlington, Vermont, area. I finished high school in 1968 and three weeks later, I was in the United States army in Fort Dix. I spent four years in the Army from July 8, 1968, to May 27, 1972, serving 1969 and 1970 in Vietnam and the rest of the time in Fort Carson, Co. After leaving the Army, I drove trucks cross country for 10 years before going on to being a truck mechanic. During my time driving a truck, I got to go to every state and most big cities along with all of Canada and Mexico. I've traveled a lot, as I said – all 50 states and 16 countries, all in Asia except for Canada and Mexico, which are right here.

On November 4, 2013, I was hurt pretty bad at work so I retired, at the time being disabled. A crane I was operating tipped over and I broke my back in four places, broke two ribs and a hip plus a rib broke loose from my spine. I ended up with nerve damage. With what I got with insurance, I was able to buy the home I am in now in December 2015.



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On February 9, 2022, we were able to buy the park and become a co-op. After that, I got in with ROC USA and to the ROCKET learning program. Since then, I've done all the courses on ROCKET and now do the new ones that come out. I've been doing beta-testing on some of the new courses. I have become a big part of the Better Together calls and sometimes act as a peer ambassador. I am part of the TCL (Training and Continuous Learning) advisory group, and a member of the Outreach and Education Committee, where I have worked with others to help get information and help to those in need. I have attended many learning labs and have made a lot of friends across the country with the work I have been doing with ROC USA. Many of those people, plus Members of my co-op, are the ones that told me I would be a good pick for the New England Region Director.

Not only have I been doing the work with ROC USA, but here in my co-op I have been looking for personal grants from the town, state and federal government. I get all the information and file for the grants to learn the process. Then I have made flyers or put details in our newsletter so that the members know there are programs out there for us. I have asked CDI about putting that information out to other co-ops in the area and across Vermont. As the director I will be able to reach out to others in other states and find the programs in those states so that all members of ROC USA ROCs will be able to get the help they need for home repairs. So far for myself I've gotten [a bathroom remodel](https://tinyurl.com/5n8vd9xy) (you can read about that at <https://tinyurl.com/5n8vd9xy>), a \$1,200 voucher for a new air conditioner, 25% off each month's power bill with Green Mountain power and a new roof. I've passed all these on to the members of my Co-op. All this work I have been doing on my own and with some help from other members.

I would like to be the New England Region Director and be able to work to help make our ROCs better, to help others join the 330 ROCs in 21 states and to keep having a home that's affordable.

Thank you.

Lawrence F. Johnson, Jr.