

David Niles is Vice President at Avant Energy, Inc., an energy consulting firm in Minneapolis. At Avant, Mr. Niles advises clients nationally on a variety of energy issues. His areas of expertise are utility management, budgeting and financial analysis, and project finance. Mr. Niles has worked at Avant for over 15 years.

Mr. Niles received a B.A. in economics *magna cum laude* from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. He received his M.B.A. with an emphasis in finance from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, where he was designated a Carlson Scholar. Mr. Niles is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Minnesota. He is also registered as a municipal advisor with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

Mr. Niles has had a lifelong passion for choral music, beginning with singing in church choirs at a very young age. At 8, he joined the Tuscaloosa Boychoir (later renamed the Alabama Boychoir), and at age 12 he joined the American Boychoir at its school in Princeton, New Jersey, which he attended for two years. During that time, he sang on National TV (the Today Show, CBS This Morning), at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the United Nations, and on tour throughout the United States and internationally. Despite being away from home at a young age, Mr. Niles also earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

Although no longer singing professionally, Mr. Niles still participates in his church choir at St. David's Episcopal Church in Minnetonka, where he is also Chair of the church's Endowment Committee.

Mr. Niles's interests include travel, reading, poker, and game shows. His wife, Huldah, is a professional violinist, playing with the Minnesota Opera for more than ten years, as well being first violin of the Mill City String Quartet. They have one daughter, Matilda, who is seven years old.