



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

"We Care"

4230 Hatwai Road • PO Box 997
Lewiston, ID 83501
(888) 743-1501
(888) 798-5280 (Propane)
www.clearwaterpower.com

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Robert Pierce

Manager of Member Services

Reed Allen

Director of Member Services

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Director of Purchasing and Warehousing

Travis Bailey

Director of Information Systems

Joe Stockard

Director of Operations

Cynthia Tarola

Director of Accounting

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Director of Engineering

Business Hours:

Monday - Thursday

7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Closed Fridays

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ID-1

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Don't overheat your home when it's empty!
A programmable thermostat is a great first step
toward lowering your energy bill.

It's your power
to save.

A \$25 programmable thermostat could lower your
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clearwaterpower.com/togetherwesave



171 Linden Way
P.O. Box 398
Heppner, OR 97836
(541) 676-9146

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

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Deacon Heideman, Fairview

Lori Anderson, Condon

Dan Lindsay, Lexington

Stacie Ekstrom, Lone

Manager

Thomas Wolff, Heppner

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative's main objective is to provide reliable electric service to its members at the lowest cost consistent with good business practice.

OR-2

More Unfunded Mandates on the Horizon

Dear Members:

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative and the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association constantly monitor legislative and bureaucratic activity in Salem. With the 2018 short session just around the corner, we have been following proposed carbon taxation, hydroelectric dam mandated spill, and other expensive and unwarranted legislative issues.

Of particular note is the proposed carbon tax and related fees on all energy types sold. As a public cooperative utility, virtually 100 percent of CBEC's power comes from hydro dams operated by the Bonneville Power Administration. Our electric current is generated using carbon-free water power. Investor-owned utilities in bigger cities do sell carbon-generated electricity using coal, natural gas, and oil for production. To impose a carbon tax or fee on ALL electricity sellers to offset or discourage this practice is nothing more than a convenient way to raise money for state bureaucracy.



Grassroots Response Team

Hoping not to sound like a broken record, your co-op continues to be interested in expanding and using the grassroots political response team of our members. When needed, we will contact you to relay pre-addressed email messages to our legislative officials to fend off these unnecessary mandates that will cost you and your co-op money.

Please assist us in keeping your power bills as affordable as possible. Each CBEC office has registration cards on its front counter. Please provide your email address to your co-op for future notifications and prewritten messages you can forward to various elected officials and administrative managers.

Together we are becoming a voice that is heard. Columbia Basin will never release your information to any non-cooperative group or purpose.

Please consider registering for the grassroots political response team. We all need to work collectively to maintain our secure, reliable and affordable electric service.

Best regards,

Tommy Wolff
CEO/General Manager



2345 River Road
The Dalles, OR 97058
(541) 296-2226 FAX 298-3320
www.nwascopud.org

Board of Directors

Howard Gonser, President
Dan Williams, Vice President
Connie Karp, Secretary
Roger Howe, Treasurer
Clay Smith, Director

Manager

Roger Kline

Board Meetings

Usually the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the PUD offices, 2345 River Rd. The public is always welcome.

Our Mission

To provide reliable, competitively-priced energy and related services that benefit our customers, in the tradition of public power.

Our Core Values and Beliefs

Local citizens championed and fought to create our People's Utility District. They believed—and we believe—in the public's right to own and control its electric utility.

Today, our values are a legacy from our public power heritage, as well as guideposts for a changing future.

We believe in:

- ▶ Public ownership and local control.
- ▶ Integrity.
- ▶ Keeping power rates as low as possible.
- ▶ Providing quality essential services.
- ▶ Quality customer service.
- ▶ Community involvement.

OR-3

Manager's Report



Colder temperatures can mean higher bills

As colder weather sets in and we experience the beauty of winter, I'd like to take one more opportunity to share with you what this weather can mean to your electricity consumption, i.e. PUD bills.

Even though you may have not adjusted your thermostat, your heating system requires more energy to accomplish the same task when the outside air temperature drops. More energy consumed equals a higher bill. Contrary to what some may believe, we *do not* increase rates in the winter.

Please contact us if you are struggling with your winter electric bills, there are a variety of programs available to help you. We want you to be safe and warm in your homes and businesses.

Best to all and Happy New Year,

Roger Kline

General Manager



P.O. Box 31 • 1009 F St.
Nespelem, WA 99155
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (M-F)
Phone: (509) 634-4571
Fax: (509) 634-8138
email: nvec@nvec.org
website: www.nvec.org

For after-hours emergencies,
call 634-4571 to page
an on-duty employee.

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Pete Palmer
District 4, Nespelem

Patrick Morin Jr.
District 6, Nespelem

Ron Heath
District 7, Disautel

Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

Thank You, Nespelem Valley Electric

*The following letter was sent by Grand Coulee Dam
School District Superintendent B. Paul Turner*

Please pass along our deepest appreciation for the help and support that you, your linemen and the co-op board have given to Lake Roosevelt schools dealing with the football field lighting project. Without your help, we would still be dealing with the unsafe electrical issue we have had for a number of years now.

Your continued support of our student athletes is appreciated and your donation well received. We have purchased a donation banner in your name that will be proudly displayed at home events.

We look forward to working with you in the future, and your continued support of our students and the school facilities they utilize.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

B. Paul Turner
Superintendent



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 1180
Philomath, OR 97370
(541) 929-3124
(800) 872-9036

LOCAL OFFICES

6990 West Hills Road
Philomath, OR 97370

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Lebanon, OR 97355

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VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Plagmann
SECRETARY

Kevin Christopher
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Roman Gillen
PRESIDENT/CEO

Tony Wilson
TREASURER/CFO

www.cpi.coop

Happy
New
Year

OR-6

President's Report

One important aspect of the cooperative business model is capital credit allocations and retirements. Capital credits represent each member's ownership of the cooperative. They are the margins credited—or allocated—to co-op members based on their purchases from the cooperative the previous year. These margins are used by the cooperative as capital to operate the business.

A retirement is the amount you receive back as a capital credit refund. It is a percentage of your total capital credit balance. The amount to retire is determined by the board of directors annually, based on the financial condition of the cooperative.

At the end of 2017, the CPI Board of Directors authorized the return of more than \$1.7 million in patronage capital. This represents the remainder of capital credits for 1989 and approximately half of 1990. Checks were mailed in December to members who received service from CPI during those years. The average amount of each check was roughly \$180.

To date, CPI has returned more than \$18 million in patronage capital to CPI members. The securing of new and retirement of outstanding capital credits are important ways cooperatives distinguish themselves from other types of businesses. They demonstrate the benefit of member ownership—one of the Seven Cooperative Principles—in a practical way.

Safe Heating

With the cold weather, many of us turn to space heaters to keep our homes comfortable

inside. While these portable heaters keep us warm, they also create safety risks we do not encounter during warmer months.

Place heaters at least 3 feet away from flammable materials and away from areas where they can be knocked over. Only use heaters with three-prong grounded plugs directly plugged into three-hole wall outlets, and avoid using with extension cords.

With these simple tips, your family will stay warm and safe during the cold. For more safety tips, visit www.cpi.coop.

Heating Efficiency

Saving energy does not mean adjusting the heater so low you end up cold. By finding ways to make your home more energy efficient, you can save money and be more comfortable. If you do not have a programmable thermostat, manually lower it before bed and raise it when you get up. Keep it as low as is comfortable.

Unless using a forced-air system, close off and reduce the temperature in unused rooms. Clean furnace filters regularly, and have your heating system tuned up annually. Arrange furniture to allow heated air to flow freely. Keep registers clean and free of obstructions.

Maximize the use of solar heat by opening drapes on the south windows during the day. Minimize heat loss by closing drapes at night.

For more information on saving energy, see our website at www.cpi.coop.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO



Benton REA

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Prosser Office
402 7th St., P.O. Box 1150
Prosser, WA 99350
509-786-2913

West Richland Office
6095 W. Van Giesen
West Richland, WA 99353
509-967-2921

Report an Outage: 509-786-2913
Toll Free: 800-221-6987
www.BentonREA.org

Board of Trustees

Michael Freepons, President, District 2
Connie Krull, Vice President, District 7
Mark Platt, Secretary/Treasurer, District 4
Buddy Treadway, District 1
Bob Evans, District 3
Tim Grow, District 5
Scott Fisher, District 6
Catherine Russell, District 8

Board Meetings

The Board of Trustees meets the last Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.

General Manager

Michael J. Bradshaw

Management Staff

Derek Miller, Engineering Manager
Jeff Ekrut, Operations Manager
Jeff Bastow, I.T. Manager
Troy Berglund, Member Services Manager
Terry Mundorf, Attorney
HDR, Consulting Engineer
Blodgett, Mickelsen & Adamson, Auditor



WA-7

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

I would like to personally invite you to attend your upcoming 81st Benton REA Annual Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018, at the Housel Middle School in Prosser. The activities will include a free health fair, energy fair, electrical safety demonstration and bingo that will fill the morning hours. The business meeting will begin at noon following a member appreciation lunch that will be catered by Henry's Restaurant and Catering of West Richland.

The theme for the meeting will be "More Powerful Together". I always feel excited and privileged to tell the story of electric cooperatives because it is a story about you, the members. By working together, the members, your Board of Trustees and the employees of Benton REA are able to bring affordable, reliable electric services to our local communities with the assurance that together we have local control over this vital and necessary service that makes our communities thrive.

You can witness firsthand the second cooperative principle of "Democratic Member Control" as we reveal the results of the District 7 and 8 elections at the Annual Meeting. Although not contested, these candidates still require the vote of the members to continue in their role as a Benton REA Trustee. Your vote matters! This is just one of the many ways that we are more powerful together!

I look forward to welcoming you to the Benton REA Annual Meeting this year. We sincerely thank you for the opportunity to serve you, and we hope you can join us on February 10, 2018, for an exciting and informative Benton REA Annual Meeting!

Sincerely,



Michael J. Bradshaw, General Manager
mikeb@bentonrea.org



Offices

Hermiston Office

750 W. Elm Ave.
541 567-6414

Boardman Office

400 N.E. Eldrige Drive
541 481-2220

Hours

7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

Toll-Free

1-800-452-2273

Report An Outage

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Vice President

Jeff Wenzholz

Secretary-Treasurer

Bryan Wolfe

Lee Docken

John Otis

Steve Platt

Glenn Rohde

General Manager

Robert Echenrode

Mission

Umatilla Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business that sells energy and invests in and supports other services to improve the quality of life in our communities.

umatillaelectric.com

OR-8

Residential Rates to Remain the Same

Your Board of Directors has decided to absorb the rise in our wholesale power costs without the need for an overall revenue increase from our membership. We can take this action because of our continuing growth and increased efficiencies.

Although costs are rising in all aspects of our business, we have held the line or decreased our other expenses. Our Board and staff remain focused on refining our operations and on keeping our rates as low as possible.

Our new rate schedule is effective Jan. 1. Under the new schedule, residential members who receive single-phase service from UEC will see no change in their basic charge or energy charge.

Although there will be no need an overall revenue increase, UEC will adjust electric rates within some classes of service, with some rates going up and some down. For details, please see Page 4 of this edition of Ruralite.

Sign Up for ORECA-Action Today

The Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association's newly created "ORECA Action" network, a grassroots collaboration of the state's rural electric cooperatives, signed up nearly 4,000 cooperative members during 2017.

With the next session of the Oregon Legislature coming up in February, please

consider going online to sign-up for occasional emails from the network, which will come to your inbox in my name. You will receive emails from me alerting you to actions in Salem that may affect our ability to deliver the electricity you need at a price you can afford.

Sign-up is quick and easy at: oreca-action.org.

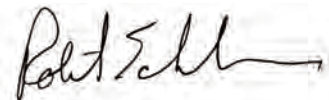
A Cooperative Member Moves On

As 2018 begins, I want to salute one our Cooperative members, Hermiston Foods, as it ends a 27-year run as a vital part of our local economy.

NORPAC Foods of Salem announced this summer that it will cease operations of its Hermiston Foods subsidiary at the end of 2017, to consolidate its operations with a facility in Quincy, Wash.

UEC was privileged to support our local economic development agencies in helping attract and ease the company's arrival in 1990. We wish the company and its staff the best.

At UEC, we appreciate the support you have given us in 2017. We look forward to a new year and new opportunities to come our way in 2018.



Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**105 E. 4th St.
The Dalles, OR 97058
Office phone: (541) 296-2740
Toll-free phone: (800) 341-8580
www.wascoelectric.com**

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday,
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Board of Directors

Michael Collins.....	President
Ron Holmes	Vice President
Mathew Clausen.....	Secretary
Jerry Duling	Treasurer
Gary Carlson.....	Director
Robert Durham.....	Director
Robert Hammel.....	Director
Jim McNamee	Director
DeOra Patton	Director

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Shannon Bessette.....	Finance Manager
Traci Brock	Member Services Manager
Jennifer Lindsey ...	Executive Staff Assistant
Laura Correia	Customer Service Rep.
Kelsey Lepinski	Customer Service Rep.
Casey McCleary	Operations Manager
Jim Green	Engineering Technician
Brewster Whitmire	E&O Assistant
Michael North	The Dalles Foreman
BJ Ayres	The Dalles Lineman
Robert Gridley	The Dalles Lineman
Wesley Woods	Serviceman
Dan Funkhouser	Grass Valley Foreman
Frank Roeder	Maupin Foreman

Mission Statement

*"Wasco Electric Cooperative Inc.
will provide its members with
competitively priced, reliable energy
and related services."*

OR-9

Capital Credit Retirement

Last month, Wasco Electric Cooperative retired all of the 1987 capital margins back to members.

The total capital credits sent to members who received service in 1987 was \$343,464. In addition to these general retirements, the co-op retired \$34,500 to the estates of deceased members during the year, bringing the total capital credits returned to members in 2017 to \$377,964.

Capital credits are unique to cooperatives such as Wasco Electric. Private power companies make profits and pay dividends to stockholders, but cooperatives work on a nonprofit basis and allocate their operating income back to their members.

Capital credits represent your share of the cooperative's operating income—the operating revenue that remains after operating expenses.

The amount designated in your name each year depends on your energy purchases for the year. To calculate this, we divide your annual energy purchase by the cooperative's operating income for the year. The more electricity you buy, the larger your share of the capital credits.

Next month, each member who received service last year will be mailed a statement of their 2017 capital credit allocation. The member's allocation amount is based on the year-end operating margin.

Capital credits are not necessarily dollars in a bank account. They represent funds that have been invested in the co-op's utility plant. Most months of the year, Wasco Electric receives more cash from operations than is necessary to pay for operating expenses. However, the cooperative needs cash for purposes other than paying for operating expenses. Wasco Electric must service its debt, which is payment of principal and interest on money it has borrowed.

The cooperative also must use cash to pay for capital expenditures. The amount of cash needed for capital expenditures is largely determined by the growth of a utility and the replacement schedule of its aging system.

Your board of directors considers distribution of capital credits and the effect on the financial well-being of the cooperative each year. The board has the discretion to return capital credits as long as the co-op is financially fit to return them without any additional borrowing in order to pay capital credits.



Jeff Davis
General Manager

Owned By Those We Serve

Douglas Electric Cooperative Inc.,
Roseburg, Oregon
Phone (541) 673-6616
(800) 233-2733

Officers

President..... Evan Barnes
Vice President .. Robert Poage
Secretary..... Shirley Cairns
Treasurer..... Dick McHaffie
Director..... Larry Shipley
Director..... Terry Nelson
Director..... Carey Weatherly

General Manager
Keith Brooks

Office Manager/CFO
David Western

Superintendent
Todd Sherwood

Member Services
Todd C. Munsey

System Engineer
Jess Dory, PE

Mission Statement

The mission of Douglas Electric Cooperative, a member-owned and operated cooperative, is to provide affordable, reliable electric and other compatible services that enhance the quality of life for its members, using progressive marketing in conjunction with sound financial and management principles.



OR-10

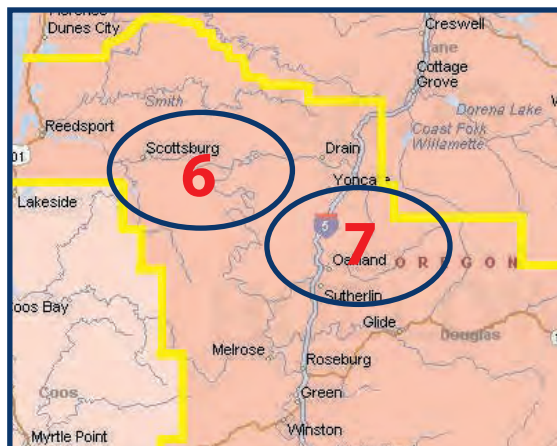
Board Member Elections

Dear Member,

If you are interested in getting involved in your cooperative, director positions for District 6 and District 7 are up for election at the next Annual Meeting to be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds April 7, 2018.

District 6 - Incumbent - Carey Weatherly This district can generally be described with its eastern edge at the tunnel on Highway 38 extending due west to Elkton, Wells Creek, Scottsburg, Loon Lake, and Dean's Creek.

District 7 - Incumbent - Shirley Cairns This district can generally be described with its western edge at Marvin Hill, its northern edge at Rice Hill on I-5, its southern edge at Sutherlin and Cooper Creek, and its eastern edge at Mt. Scott.



Qualified applicants must file a membership nomination petition, signed by 15 or more members who reside in the respective district. Petitions must be in your cooperative's headquarters on or before February 2, 2018.

If you would like information about the opportunities and benefits of getting involved, director qualifications, and a nomination petition, please come to your Cooperative's headquarters located at 1981 NE Stephens, Roseburg, Oregon.

Columbia Power Co-op



**P.O. Box 97
Monument, OR 97864
(541) 934-2311
Toll free (888) 203-7638**

DIRECTORS

President Paul Walton
Vice President Adam Temple
Sec./Treasurer Brian Campbell
Dan Cannon
Dave Humphreys
Cheryl Jenison
Judy Wilson

MANAGER

Troy Cox

The board of directors meets
the second Monday of each month.

POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

Co-op office 934-2311
Ed Andersen 934-2255
Guy Andersen 934-2098
Troy Cox 934-2155
Josh Hamilton 934-2133
Mike Osborne 934-2067
Joe Ringerling 805-9098
Gary Warner 934-2961
Brian Woodell 934-2260

OR-11

Minutes From the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Members

The 68th Annual Meeting of the Members of the Columbia Power Cooperative Association was held in the school gymnasium at Ukiah, Oregon, on December 2, 2017.

Dan Cannon delivered the invocation. President Paul Walton called the meeting to order, welcomed the members and thanked CPC employees for the work they do throughout the year. He introduced Vice President Adam Temple to conduct the business portion of the meeting.

Temple announced a quorum was present and declared it was an official meeting of CPC. He asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the meeting notice and dispense with the reading of the December 3, 2016, annual meeting minutes.

Upon motion by Cheryl Jenison, seconded by Cannon and carried, the motion to dispense of reading the meeting notice and the 2016 annual meeting minutes was approved.

Temple called for director nominations from the floor. With no nominations from the floor, Temple closed the nominations and called for the ballots.

Temple read a statement prepared by the CPC audit firm of Lewis, Poe, Moeller, Gunderson and Roberts LLC. The audit firm gave CPC the highest opinion given by a certified public accountant. The firm found CPC staff was following the prescribed accounting system, the information in our annual report is fairly stated, and everything showed our healthy cooperative is working for the members.

Manager Troy Cox introduced the

board and special guests, and then presented the financial report for the audit year ending September 30, 2017.

Cox covered the figures contained therein and said the electric plant has increased by about \$358,000. He said members' equity of nearly \$6.9 million is now at 27.5 percent of total assets. The members' equity should start increasing slightly each year now that we are not borrowing any more money for rebuilding the system. Once the member equity ratio reaches 40 percent, the board will have the option of returning some of the patronage capitol.

Cox said power sales were steady and the cost of power purchased from the Bonneville Power Administration was steady. It was a good year, with more than \$4 million in operating revenues, producing margins of \$481,536.

Cox took the opportunity to recognize the CPC employees and thank them for the outstanding job they do.

Cannon entertained the crowd with an array of humor and poetry.

Temple announced the election process was completed. Walton was elected for a new three-year term in the Dale/Ritter area. Cannon was elected to a new three-year term in the Mitchell/Twickenham area.

There being no further business to come before the members, the meeting was adjourned. Members were invited to the Ukiah Senior Center for a home-cooked dinner prepared by members of the Ukiah Fire Department.

**Brian Campbell
Secretary**

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

DIRECTORS:

Chairman Tom Strand, Terrebonne
Vice Chairman Dan Steelhammer, Bend
Secretary/Treasurer Kip Light, Madras
Beverly Clarno, Redmond
William J. Rainey, Sisters
Boyd Keeton, Tumalo
Shirley McCullough, Prineville
Kelly McFarlane, Powell Butte
Kenneth H. Miltenberger, Alfalfa

Attorney Robert E. Maloney Jr.
Lane Powell PC, Portland

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President

Dave Markham

Chief Financial Officer

Rawleigh White

Operations & Engineering Director

Brad Wilson

Corporate Information Officer

Lisa Cutter

Member Services Director

Jeff Beaman

Bend District Manager

Karen Lewis

24-HOUR

PHONE NUMBERS:

In Redmond, call (541) 548-2144
or toll free at (800) 924-8736

Mission Statement

The aim of Central Electric Co-op is to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.

Board meets the third Thursday
of each month at the CEC office,
2098 N. Highway 97, Redmond, OR.

www.cec.coop

OR-12

Members Receive Record Payout of Capital Credits

In mid-December, the Central Electric Cooperative Board of Directors returned \$2.1 million in capital credits to current and former cooperative members from the years 1993 to 1995. This is the largest amount of capital credits ever returned at CEC. It is due to CEC's financial strength—a direct reflection of efforts by the board of directors and employees to manage your cooperative efficiently.

Capital credits are one of the many benefits of being a CEC member. Electric margins in excess of operating costs and expenses are returned to members based on a percentage of your electricity billed during a given year. The term for these margins is capital credits. The board operates under a policy that capital credits be returned within 25 years, and now the board is returning capital credits within 23 years. Central Electric has returned capital credits every year since 2001 and in 33 of the past 36 years, totaling more than \$24.4 million returned to members since 1958.

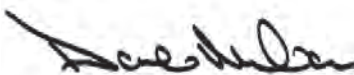
As a not-for-profit electric utility, CEC is limited to two options for funding capital projects, such as replacing or upgrading poles, overhead and underground wire, transformers and substations. The two options are to either borrow money from a bank and pay interest, or borrow from members through any excess electric margins and then return the excess margins to members as capital credits in the future. CEC uses a combination of both options, melding borrowed money with excess electric margins to fund our construction and infrastructure needs.

Our capital credit payout comes just two months after the Bonneville Power Administration increased wholesale electricity rates an average of 5.4 percent to their 136 utility customers, which includes CEC. While many BPA utility customers were forced to increase their retail rates, CEC was able to hold its rates stable.

Payment of capital credits at this time of year certainly helps make the holiday season more enjoyable for members, along with emphasizing the fact we had a successful 2017. We will make sure you can read more about our many accomplishments during the past year in an upcoming Ruralite article. I want to thank the employees for their daily efforts to manage costs and seek ways to operate more efficiently. I also want to thank the board of directors for its vision and guidance that ensures CEC's members are the top priority.

If you would like more information or have any questions about capital credits, you can talk with one of our customer service representatives by calling (541) 548-2144, or visit www.cec.coop, where we discuss capital credits in the Customer Service section.

Sincerely,



Dave Markham
President and CEO





Board of Directors

President

John G. Herzog, Brookings/Harbor

Vice President

Georgia A. Cockerham, Brookings/Harbor

Secretary/ Treasurer

Daryl C. Robison, Port Orford/Langlois

Cheryl L. McMahan, Southern At-Large

Jim Kolen, Gold Beach

Peter C. Radabaugh, Bandon/Coquille

Daniel Loshbaugh, Northern At-Large

Attorney—Tyler Pepple

Staff

General Manager/CEO

Roger Meader

Corporate Services/CFO

Frank Corrales

Engineering Manager

Matt Mjelde

Marketing and Member

Services Manager

Jacob Knudsen

Operations Manager

Randy McDonald

Local numbers

Coquille..... (541) 396-3118

Port Orford..... (541) 332-3931

Gold Beach..... (541) 247-6638

Brookings (541) 469-2103

Area office hours 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Monday through Thursday.

Closed Friday.

After-Hours Outage Number

(866) 352-9044

Call Before You Dig

811

www.ccec.coop

OR-13

Special Message

To those we are committed to—and serve electrically—every day.

As we bring in the new year, it is time to reflect on accomplishments, but also plan for the future. At Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, we believe this includes being prepared for winter storms and knowing how to stay safe and warm if an unexpected outage occurs.

Heavy wind and rain can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op members without power. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but here are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

- **Stay warm.** Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove, during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using them, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline- or propane-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.

- **Stay fed.** The Center for Disease Control recommends having several days' supply of food on hand that does not need to be cooked. Crackers, cereal, canned goods and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.

- **Stay safe.** When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring an emergency kit along and avoid traveling alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation by calling (866) 352-9044.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous. Planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. CCEC is ready for what Mother Nature has in store. We want you to be ready, too. For more winter safety tips, visit www.ccec.coop and follow us on Facebook for safety and energy conservation tips.

Roger Meader

General Manager and CEO



West Oregon
Electric Co-op

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

652 Rose Ave.
P.O. Box 69
Vernonia, OR 97064
(503) 429-3021
Toll free (800) 777-1276
www.westoregon.org

.....
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Larry Heesacker
(Dist. 7 – Manning, Hagg Lake,
Yamhill County)

GENERAL MANAGER

Bob Perry

Contact the board:
directors@westoregon.org

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
Members are welcome.

OR-14

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

Looking ahead to 2018, there will be some interesting challenges for Oregon electric cooperatives, especially in the upcoming legislative short session. I am writing to update you on an issue that threatens to make your electric bill more expensive for years to come.

The state of Oregon continues to demand that federal agencies that operate the Columbia River dams—such as the Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—spill more water over the dams for juvenile fish passage. Spill occurs when water is sent through spill gates, rather than through the turbines. Spill is one of several passage routes for juvenile salmon, but too much spill can have negative consequences. It is also costly to you and the environment. The state of Oregon's approach will cost ratepayers an estimated \$40 million and increase regional greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 840,000 metric tons by substituting fossil-fuel generation for carbon-free hydropower.

In February, the Oregon Legislature will begin the debate of reducing carbon through a cap-and-trade program. It appears Oregon's fish policy is misaligned with its carbon policy. The state wants to reduce emissions from power plants and the transportation sector, while limiting the production of carbon-free electricity from our incredible hydropower system.

In the coming weeks and months, I will ask for your support to convince our elected leaders that the Federal Columbia River Power System must continue to be part of the solution to reducing carbon in the Pacific Northwest, and that the state of Oregon should not pursue a risky spill program that will take money from hard-working Oregonians and increase carbon emissions.

Sincerely,

Bob Perry
General Manager





Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

516 U.S. Hwy. 395 E.
Alturas, CA 96101

Phone (530) 233-3511
Toll-Free: (866) 843-2667

For utility information or to pay
online, go to SVE's website,
www.surprisevalleyelectric.org

*Office open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday*

After hours and outages:
Call office numbers above

STAFF

Bradley Kresge, General Manager
John Minto, Engineer
Dennis Reed, Line Superintendent
Lynn Culp, Member Service Manager

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Likely

*Board meets the fourth Thursday of the
month at the SVE office.*

"Owned by those we serve"

CA-15

Protecting Your Electronics

Surge protection can keep you and your devices safe

Electronics have become increasingly sophisticated and—as a result—more sensitive. Unlike older appliances, microprocessor-controlled devices operate on low voltage. They require precise, constant power to work properly.

Voltage fluctuations and power interruptions both inside and outside the home are inevitable. Among the causes of those fluctuations and power interruptions inside the house are faulty wiring, loose connections, poor grounding, operation of heating and air conditioning units, and major appliances and large motors switching on and off.

Causes outside the home include bad weather, downed trees, lightning, birds and other animals contacting lines, accidents involving power poles and lines, and neighbors using major power equipment.

Once inside the home, high-voltage fluctuations can damage the electronics in many household products—everything from computers and home entertainment centers to cordless telephones, electronics and microwave ovens.

The only way to safeguard your equipment is to use high-quality surge suppression devices. The most effective systems contain two stages of suppression: primary, at the service entrance; and secondary, at the outlet.

Primary protection is provided by installing a device between the meter and the wall. It protects motor-driven appliances wired out of the main panel. It is designed to instantaneously isolate the home from external events that affect power quality—something slower circuit breakers can not do as well. Secondary protection is provided inside the house by a power strip plugged directly into the outlet. If properly connected, it protects sensitive electronic equipment.

SVE carries the PSP Vortexx whole-house surge protector that can be installed at the service entrance for primary protection and the PSP Vortexx eight-outlet high-quality strip-type surge protector for secondary protection.

The whole-house protector is \$150 and the strip-type is \$46.

Surge suppressors handle the most frequent—but not all—voltage problems. Hybrid power conditioners and uninterruptible power systems are available to handle more sensitive and critical needs.

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Matt Michel

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Tony Toncray, Mgr. Engineering & Operations
Debi Wilson, Mgr. Office & Staff Services
Dave D'Avanzo, Mgr. Member Services

BOARD MEETINGS

4th Monday of each month
Lane Electric's Office, 787 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene, OR
Meetings begin at 9 a.m.
(Unless otherwise noted on LEC web site)

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OR-16

Down the line



Dear Co-op Community Members:

This winter is shaping up to be colder than recent years and thankfully without a major ice storm like the Pre-Christmas Ice-aggaddon last year that knocked us all for a loop. As I write this a week before Christmas, I hope I haven't jinxed our good fortune of no major storm! As you weather this winter, remember that your electric Co-op is here to help you manage your electric bill. For example, you can track your usage online with SmartHub, manage

your bill with Pay As You Go, or give us a call to talk about energy efficiency programs and ideas.

In November, I let you know that the Co-op's financial health allowed the Board to avoid a rate increase this winter when your electric bill naturally goes up, and that in April increasing costs would cause a rate increase for the first time in over a year. Effective on bills printed on or after April 1st, there will be a \$4.00 increase to the monthly Basic Charge for all rates classes. For those single-phase account with a demand billing component—typically commercial accounts—the threshold for billing the Demand Charge will decrease from over 50 kW to over 31 kW.

What is driving the need to increase rates? Increased wholesale power costs account for nearly one-third of it, including a new fish spill surcharge caused by the State of Oregon's lawsuit against the federal agencies that manage the Columbia River federal hydroelectric system to mitigate for fish impacts. Another one-third of it comes from staffing changes to improve the metering system and enhance our line extension design services for members. The remainder is driven by inflationary health care costs, improvements in our safety education program, and more energy assistance grants. Charging for kW demand at the lower threshold point of 31 kW and above will help account for the trend of higher peak capacity use.

There's more timely news I want to share with you. The January retirement of two long-time Co-op employees: Wayne Schvaneveldt and Dave D'Avanzo.

Wayne retired in early January after over 38 years at the Co-op! Quite a run, Wayne! Wayne was the friendly and helpful serviceman for you up the McKenzie and out in Dorena. His soft-spoken, kind, and steady presence at the Co-op will be missed. May your retirement bring you well-deserved happiness and joy, Wayne.

Dave D'Avanzo will retire at the end of January. Many of you have worked, and laughed, with Dave since 2002 in his role as the face of the Co-op in your community. Dave is a larger-than-life guy who is great to have around. His Lane Electric family and the entire Oregon electric cooperative family will miss him as he and his wife write the next chapter of their lives together. Best wishes on your retirement, Dave.

Matt

Matt Michel, General Manager



Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative

90680 Highway 99
Eugene, OR 97402
(541)-688-8711
(800)-446-8418
www.blachlylane.coop

Mission Statement: *Blachly-Lane provides safe, reliable electric service consistent with the values of our members.*

Board of Directors:

Ernie Jacksch

(ph: 927-3466) District 1
jacksche@blachlylane.coop
(Low Pass, Blachly, Deadwood and Indian Creek areas)

Curtis Short

(ph: 998-2721) District 2
shortc@blachlylane.coop
(Fern Ridge and Elmira-rural areas)

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(ph: 998-3954) District 3
haskellc@blachlylane.coop
(Junction City-rural and Hwy 99N)

Marlene Northrup, Chairwoman

(ph: 998-1216) District 4
northrupm@blachlylane.coop
(Hwy 36, Hall Road and North Poodle Creek Road)

Cliff Kelley, Secretary/Treasurer

(ph: 915-6109) District 5
kelleycc@blachlylane.coop
(Warthen, Sheffler and Walton areas)

General Manager

Joe Jarvis
jarvisj@blachlylane.coop

OR-17

Manager's Report

Dear Members,

Providing value to members is at the core of all cooperative businesses. Value means different things to different people, and can be hard to measure. A quick exercise I do when I'm trying to determine the value of a good or service is to imagine how my life would change without that product in it. Would my life be noticeably better if I had that new pair of shoes? Probably not. Would my life be better if I had the right tools to fix my leaky faucet? Probably so.

Can you imagine your life without electric service? The everyday comforts of a warm house, cooking hot meals or taking a warm bath matter to most of us. Add the benefits of telephone and electronic communications, electric tools, water pumps and appliances, and we agree electric service is pretty hard to beat.

Every January, new rates take effect at Blachly-Lane. Sometimes they are a little lower than before, but most of the time they go up a little. That's because our costs go up, just like yours. Gasoline to run our equipment, the cost of the power we buy for you and other costs of doing business rarely go down. The population in the Blachly-Lane area has remained the same for several decades, so the same number of members share in paying those increasing costs. We try to make up for the cost increase with our programs and services.

The Co-op Connections Card program uses the collective power of the cooperative to add value to your everyday life. Your membership card provides discounts on prescription drugs, dental and vision services, and discounts on goods and services from local and area businesses.

We mailed each member a Co-op Connections Card in 2016. If you have misplaced your card, you can print one from www.connections.coop. A list of participating businesses is there, too.

Another way we offer value to your everyday life is with our Direct Install Program. Members received a box of LED lightbulbs from us in October. The bulbs save you money on your electric bill. You can have nearly all of the incandescent lightbulbs in your home, garage and outbuildings replaced with LEDs at no charge to you. Members who have received this service average \$425 in free products, which will continue to provide savings on their bill. If you haven't yet called to schedule your direct install visit, do so at (888) 883-9879.

Our 2018 calendars have arrived, and are free to members. Please stop by our office to pick one up and say hello. We wish you a bright and prosperous new year.



Joe Jarvis
General Manager



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.....

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H.R. & Business Services Director

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www.klickitatpud.com

.....

Goldendale Office

1313 S. Columbus Ave.
Goldendale, WA 98620
(509) 773-5891
(800) 548-8357

White Salmon Office

110 NE Estes Ave.
P.O. Box 187
White Salmon, WA 98672
(509) 493-2255
(800) 548-8358

WA-18

Thank You PUD Customers, Staff

As 2017 comes to a close, I would like to thank our customers for the support you have shown to us here at your PUD. We have had a good couple of years, culminating in the board of commissioners passing our 2018 operating budget December 12. This budget has no electric rate increases for the second year in a row. I think we are finally turning the corner, and I am excited about the coming years and what we may be able to achieve.

Even with the challenges caused by changing utility markets, your PUD staff continues to provide excellent service and excellent reliability levels for our water, wastewater and electric systems. We will continue to improve as we provide safe and reliable services in the year ahead.

I would like to extend my thanks to our employees for their dedicated service. I continue to be impressed with their commitment and willingness to learn and grow in their abilities to serve you all better each year. Well done everyone!

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your help. For many of us, the holiday season provides opportunities to be with family and friends. However, for some, it can be a difficult time, whether that is a result of being away from family, or personal or financial struggles. Please think about all the things you have in your life, and reach out to others to support and nurture your community and those in it.

Inside this issue, you will read about Operation Warm Heart, a simple but effective way to help others. I hope you participate in your own way, whether that is contributing to backpacks for kids, a local mitten tree, contributing to food banks or serving others during the holiday season and the winter ahead.

Happy New Year to you all from your local PUD!

Jim Smith

General Manager



NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.

The power of local service

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.nli.coop
P.O. Box 269
Sagle, ID 83860

For Outages:
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(866) 665-4837

**For regular business
within the Sandpoint area:**
(208) 263-5141

Outside Sandpoint:
(800) 326-9594

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Steve Elgar

Board Vice President
Kennon McClintock

Board Secretary/Treasurer
Judith Simonson

General Manager
Annie Terracciano

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(406) 847-2643

Dist. No. 3—Steve Elgar, Sandpoint, ID
(208) 610-2999

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(208) 661-5911

Dist. No. 5—Kennon McClintock, Moyie Springs, ID
(208) 267-7064

Dist. No. 6—Dave Anderson, Bonners Ferry, ID
(208) 610-8021

Dist. No. 7—Jim Woodward, Sagle, ID
(208) 946-7963

ID-19

Tips to Reduce Your Winter Energy Bill

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the company of family and friends during the holidays, and have your resolutions in place for the start of a great new year. Whether your resolution is to lose weight, save money, spend more time with your family, or even learn something new and exciting, let's get to work achieving our goals in the year ahead.

If your new year's resolution is to save money, here are some options for reducing your energy use and your power bill.

- **Curtains.** During the day, keep your curtains open on windows getting sun. Close all curtains at night to keep the heat inside.
- **Thermostat.** If you have a thermostat, use a digital one and program it to heat the house to around 68 degrees only while you are home. Let the temperature drop 7 to 10 degrees at night and while you are out of the house. Make sure your furnace is serviced routinely and you are regularly changing the filters.
- **Fireplace.** Keep the damper closed unless a fire is burning, and regularly have your chimney cleaned. Consider adding a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air into the room.
- **Windows.** Make sure your windows are caulked and there are no gaps. You can also tape heavy-duty clear plastic to the inside of your window frame.
- **Vents.** Make sure your air registers and vents are not blocked by rugs, furniture or drapes.
- **Doors.** Make sure weatherstripping around your exterior doors is in good shape. You can also use draft stoppers to lay on the ground in front of doors.
- **Refrigerator.** Make sure you clean the coils on the back of your fridge annually. This cuts down on how hard the refrigerator has to work to keep your food cold.
- **Water heater.** Set your tank's thermostat no higher than 120 degrees. Consider installing low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators to reduce the amount of water you use, thus reducing the amount of water your water heater needs to heat.

Also, don't forget to turn off what you aren't using: television, lights, electronics, appliances, etc. Don't pay for what you don't use!

I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous year ahead.



Annie Terracciano
General Manager



Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative

P.O. Box 300
Grangeville, Idaho 83530
Phone: (208) 983-1610
Toll free: (877) 212-0424
Fax: (208) 983-1432
Email: iclp@iclp.coop
Website: www.iclp.coop

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Kamiah

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Secretary-Treasurer Cliff Tacke
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Ernie Robinson
White Bird

Frank McIntire
Kamiah

Gerald Frei
Grangeville

Jim Poxleitner
Cottonwood

Attorney

J.A. Wright

General Manager

Max Beach

c-21

Look Out for Scams

Unfortunately, in today's world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams. Understand the threats and your best course of action.

If someone calls demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang up and contact local authorities. Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank account number or loading a prepaid credit or debit card.

If you have any doubts about your Idaho County Light & Power bill, contact our member payment center in person or by phone at (208) 983-1610.

If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of ICL&P and needs to collect money or inspect parts of your property, call us at (208) 983-1610 to verify they are, in fact, an employee. If they are not, call local authorities for assistance and do not let the individual into your home.

There are other types of scams consumers should watch out for.

Government agencies such as the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. This information is always sent by mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang up immediately.

If you receive an email from an unknown sender, an email riddled with spelling errors and typos, or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links and do not respond to the email. Simply delete the email, or send it to your spam folder.

If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang up. The caller wants to access personal information you may have on your computer.

Idaho County Light & Power wants to make sure you avoid any and all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. If you have any questions or would like more information about how you can protect yourself from scammers, call us or go to our website at www.iclp.coop. ■



115 East Main Street
P.O. Box 46
Dayton, WA 99328
Phone: (509) 382-2578
Fax: (509) 382-2736

2929 Melrose Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Phone: (509) 526-4041
Fax: (509) 526-3666
Toll Free: (800) 642-1231

ColumbiaREA.coop

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Neil Carpenter, Director
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Jay DeWitt, Director
Dennis Munden, Director
Vic Parks, Director

Board meetings are normally the fourth Tuesday of each month. The meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. and is usually held in the Dayton office.

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Executive Assistant/HR,
Jennifer Aichele
Chief Operating Officer, Scott Peters
Manager of Marketing & Member
Services, Doug Case
Manager of Operations, Dave Reller
Manager of Engineering, Grant Glaus
Manager of Financial Services,
Jim Cooper
Manager of Communications & IT,
Bob Greene
Manager of Safety & Regulatory
Affairs, KC Dors

WA-22

Letter from Les...

Do most new years speed past as resolutions are forgotten? You are not alone. Setting large, difficult goals and making strong initial progress that fades as the weeks go by happens to everyone. Don't worry; small changes can have big impacts. Here are some reasonable resolutions to help you make healthy, positive changes.

If you want to eat better but find you cannot adhere to a strict, restrictive diet, try making more nutritious choices one at a time.

- Add an extra serving of nutritiously prepared vegetables every day.
- Cut soft drinks to only one each week. Make it a special treat!
- Replace sugary or refined snacks with fruits, nuts and whole grains.

If you resolved to use the gym but you're not going, find a way to make it engaging and hold yourself accountable.

- Find a gym buddy, go together and hold each other accountable.
- Try fitness social media apps or support groups on social networks.
- Make it more social in real life by joining fitness classes.

If you resolved to get organized but find yourself still living in clutter, running late or not getting enough sleep, tackle organization with small tasks.

• Section by section, put things away, dust or disinfect and do not allow yourself to re-clutter a cleaned area. Invest in attractive storage solutions and clean one section each evening until you finish every section.

- Decide if you pick up an object, you must put it down in its rightful place.
- Use your phone's calendar to track every appointment and block off time. Set reminders to provide enough time to get out the door and on the road. You can also use it to remind yourself to go to bed early, give the dog its medication, bake cookies for a bake sale or spend a few minutes tidying at the end of each day.
- Say no to unnecessary requests that stretch your time and patience.

As you enter 2018, we here at Columbia REA wish you health, happiness and prosperity. We hope that you accomplish your goals and encourage you to take time to prioritize the people and activities you care about most, including yourself.

Until next time,





A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

16755 Finley Butte Road
P.O. Box 127
La Pine, OR 97739

www.midstateelectric.coop
info@midstateelectric.coop
(541) 536-2126 • (800) 722-7219

Departments

Customer Service Option 3
Engineering Option 4
Marketing Option 5
Operations Option 6

**After-Hours Outage and
Emergencies: (541) 536-2165
or (800) 752-5935**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Closed Fridays and holidays

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Robert Reed, La Pine

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Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

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Board meets the fourth Monday
of each month at the co-op office.

STAFF

General Manager

Dave Schneider

Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Bartunek

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

The beginning of a new year brings New Year's resolutions. At Midstate Electric, our resolution remains the same every year: to supply our member/owners with safe and reliable service at the lowest possible cost.

As you begin your new year, resolve to have an electrically safe new year. You can help accomplish this by conducting this 10-step electrical safety inspection:

1. Electrical outlets: Check for loose-fitting plugs, which can be shock or fire hazards. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed.

2. Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters: Make sure GFCIs are installed where water and electricity may come in contact, such as kitchen, bathrooms, shop, basement and garage. Test GFCIs monthly.

3. Plugs: Never force plugs into outlets. Don't remove the ground pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet. Do not overload outlets.

4. Cords: Make sure cords are not frayed or cracked, placed under rugs, resting on furniture, or in high-traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls or floors.

5. Extension cords: Use on a temporary basis only. Make sure they have safety closures to protect from shock and injuries. If using outdoors, make sure they are outdoor-use rated.

6. Lightbulbs: Check wattages to ensure lightbulbs match fixture requirements. Make sure they are screwed in securely so they don't overheat.

7. Circuit breakers: If a circuit breaker trips, is reset and trips again, assume there is something wrong. Repeated tripping

indicates a damaged or overloaded circuit. Do not ignore it. Call an electrician.

8. Appliances/electronics: If an appliance or electronic device trips a circuit breaker or has shocked you, immediately unplug it. Look for cracks or damage in wiring, plugs and connectors.

9. Outdoor connections: Electric-powered equipment and power tools should not be used in wet conditions. Inspect for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housings.

10. Service capacity: As you upgrade your home's lighting, appliances and electronics, your electrical service capacity may become overburdened. A licensed electrician can determine your service requirements. If your requirements have increased, call us so we can determine if MEC's equipment is sized properly.

ORECA-Action Grassroots Program

The Oregon State Legislature returns next month for a 35-day session. MEC will work actively with other Oregon electric co-ops to remind lawmakers of the importance of affordable and reliable electricity.

There are several issues this session that could increase costs for co-ops. I recently addressed two of them on this back page: the Oregon-mandated Columbia River spill, and cap and trade.

If we are to provide affordable power and best represent your needs, we need your participation in our grassroots program. When asked, these people contact elected officials to express support or opposition to a bill that would affect electric rates. Please see page 25 to join ORECA-Action.

General Manager Dave Schneider



www.rrelectric.com

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Kurt Anderson

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Chad Black

Board meets the fourth Wednesday
 of each month

P.O. Box 617
Malta, ID 83342

To Call Raft River

- Office hours (208) 645-2211
- Toll free (800) 342-7732
 (After hours and outages)
- Pay-by-phone (844) 244-1497

Western Division

(All calls for Jackpot, Jarbidge,
 Mountain City and Owyhee)

- Office hours (208) 645-2211
- Toll free (800) 342-7732
 (After hours and outages)



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

ID-24

The Value of Member Engagement

Most people would not equate active involvement with their electric company to helping their community. But Raft River Electric is not an ordinary utility company. We're a co-op, and our business model is designed to serve the members and the communities in which we operate.

Raft River Electric's customers are more than consumers; you are member-owners of the cooperative. Herein lies the difference. Without your support and commitment, we would not exist.

Our core purpose and mission is to provide safe, reliable and equitable electric service to our members. As a nonprofit organization, we are motivated by service to our communities, not by profits.

We recognize the responsibility Raft River Electric has in energizing our local economy. To continue to innovate and more effectively serve our communities, we depend on the perspective of our members and the governance of the board to help set priorities and goals for the co-op. As a member-owner, you can ensure your voice is heard. Serving on the board is one way you can do this.

If you live in Districts 2, 3 or 4, you have the opportunity to seek election to the RREC Board of Directors this March. If you are interested in serving on the board, please submit your nomination petition to the co-op office no later than January 19. To obtain a nomination form, call us at (800) 342-7732, visit the office or download a form from www.rrelectric.com. We are happy to assist you.

Your cooperative's mission to serve the members and communities remains constant. Working actively together, we can continue to accomplish great things.





BIG BEND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

**P.O. Box 348
Ritzville, WA 99169**

Ritzville office 659-1700
Toll free (866) 844-2363
Pay by phone (844) 255-3682

For after-hours emergencies
(866) 844-2363

www.bbec.org

TRUSTEES

President Dan Hille
Vice President Ken Story
Secretary John Harder
Treasurer Lyle Holt
Robert Clinesmith
Curtis Dahl
Stacy Kniveton
Lanny Hayes
Dennis Swinger Sr.

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Yvette Armstrong

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf

WA-25

The Big Green Box

They're big. They're often green. They generally sit on concrete, often within housing developments.

Some folks don't like these electrical boxes—a common nickname for pad-mount transformers—and try to hide them with bushes, fences or flower beds. But stay clear; even small additions around pad-mount transformers create hazards.

We realize landscaping represents an investment of time and money. We

respect the effort and care our members invest to make their properties attractive. However, landscaping and obstructions around electrical equipment interfere with our ability to deliver reliable power. For residential single-phase, leave at least 15 feet of clear space in the front, and at least 5 feet on both sides and in the back.

Obstructions include fences, shrubs, trees, plants and anything else that can cause the following problems:

- Safety risks to personnel trying to access the transformer.
- Overheated transformer equipment when air circulation is compromised.
- Operation interference from plant roots.
- Delayed service restoration during power outages.

Members should be aware that planting along rights-of-way—strips of land owned by a member on which the co-op places poles, wires and other equipment, such as pad-mount transformers—could be damaged by co-op vehicles.

Occasionally, transformers must be repaired, upgraded or replaced. To perform this work, line trucks are driven into the right-of-way and the transformer is lifted out. Although we try to minimize the impact, plants will be damaged if they are in the way.



Avoid planting or building near pad-mount transformers. Your electric utility may need immediate access to repair, maintain or replace this equipment, and obstructions could slow response time.

Stay Safe Around Transformers

For your protection, avoid making contact with a pad-mounted transformer. Never allow children to play on or near them. Report unlocked or damaged pad-mount transformers to Big Bend Electric at (866) 844-2363.

Hood River Electric Cooperative



**P.O. Box 125
3521 Davis Drive
Odell, OR 97044**

**(541) 354-1233
www.hrec.coop**

.....

DIRECTORS

President Butch Gehrig
Vice President Gary Bloom
Secretary Bernie Wells
Treasurer Roger Nelson
Patrick Moore
Opal DeBoard
Doug Mahurin
John McGhee
Dick Sohler

MANAGER

John Gerstenberger

.....

Serving rural
Hood River County
since 1945

OR-26

Manager's Message

Greetings for the new year!

The first quarter of each year is a busy time for your staff and board of directors.

In addition to dealing with the rigors of winter, the operations staff is making plans and scheduling work for the coming spring and summer.

The work usually involves contacting members regarding vegetation management. I hope you will be receptive to requests to remove or trim trees that have been identified as presenting a potential risk to our aerial lines. Sometimes the risk is not obvious until one sees branches bending under the weight of wet, heavy snow.

Other work includes routine inspection of poles and lines to determine if poles or wires need to be replaced or upgraded. Ongoing care and judicious replacement of system components enhance reliability and preserve their ability to withstand adverse conditions.

Office staff is preparing year-end financial statements for the past operating year. They are organizing records needed for the annual independent financial audit. Numerous monthly, quarterly and annual reports are required by various trade associations, as well as state and federal agencies. Once energy sales and revenue for the past year are reconciled, allocation of capital credits and notification of members can be undertaken. There are myriad other tasks required to wind up affairs of the past year and prepare for next.

Your board of directors begins planning for the annual membership meeting at its January meeting by selecting a date—sometime during the second full week of March—as prescribed in the co-op bylaws. A nominating committee, to identify candidates for three positions on the board, will be appointed at that meeting as well. The directors will receive the completed financial audit report at their February meeting. The annual membership meeting will be conducted on the selected date in March. Board officers are selected at the first board meeting following the annual meeting.

As I write this message in mid-December, it is beginning to look a lot like winter. Though we've not experienced snow in Odell, days are short and cool, and snow is visible at upper elevations. All of this is likely to result in increased energy use by HREC members in the coming weeks and months. Now is a good time to enroll in assistance programs, either as a potential recipient or as a contributor, if your personal or family situation warrants. Feel free to contact one of our customer service representatives to get information about local programs and ways to apply for benefits, or how to make contributions.

The entire board of directors and staff thanks you for the opportunity and privilege to serve as custodians of your cooperative.

John Gerstenberger, Manager



Harney Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

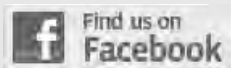
277 Lottery Lane
Hines, OR 97738
(541) 573-2061

hec.burns@harneyelectric.org

Orovada, Nevada
(775) 272-3336

orovada.office@harneyelectric.org

www.harneyelectric.org



.....
Board of Directors

President John Ugalde
Vice President Joe Cronin
Sec./Treasurer Gary Miller
Frank Albisu
Rod Hoagland
Hank Dufurrena
Zach Sword

General Manager

Fred Flippence

Operations Manager

Brent Beverly

Line Superintendent

Jason Hill

Electrical Engineer

Shane Sweet

Office Manager

Stephanie Bowen

Attorney

Raymond S. Kindley

OR-27

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

As we start the new year at the cooperative, I would like to recap our 2017 accomplishments and lay out our plans for 2018.

First, I would like to thank the Harney Electric staff for its support and help as we took on more projects in 2017 than the cooperative had attempted for several years.

Construction began on a transmission project that our team spent the first nine months of 2017 planning and designing. Replacement of the section between the Fields switch yard and Fields Substation was completed and energized. Most of the poles from Denio Junction to Quinn River Substation have been set, with a portion having the conductor strung. This project should be completed in the first quarter of 2018.

We upgraded our McDermitt Substation and have installed most of the new meters in that area, which will give us automated readings to the Hines office. As part of that upgrade, communication equipment was installed to give us the ability to monitor and control circuit breakers from the Hines office. We plan to complete these types of upgrades and meter installations for five more of our substations this year.

Additionally, a breaker on the transmission line at our Hanley Lane switch yard was replaced in 2017, along with some controls that will allow us increased communication and control over the breakers.

We will be very busy in 2018 with the above-mentioned projects, in addition to some of the regular upgrades necessary to keep and improve our system's efficiency and reliability.

As we work to keep the cooperative operational, we must also keep a close eye on the changes taking place in the electric industry. Some of the issues we are facing include the Energy Choice Initiative in Nevada, and the carbon cap and trade in Oregon. On the federal level, we are working to keep power from the Columbia River System competitive and affordable.

We began a grassroots program in 2017 to achieve the goals of the cooperative, and I invite you as a member to join and get involved. For more information, go to our website at www.harneyelectric.org and click on the ORECA logo.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Fred Flippence
General Manager





P.O. Box 384
Challis, ID 83226
Phone: (208) 879-2283
Fax: (208) 879-2596
After-hours emergency numbers:
Propane: (208) 879-2201
Electric: (208) 879-4900

Board of Directors

President Bob Boren
Vice President Jeff Bitton
Sec./Treasurer Norman Wallis
Michael Miller
Doug Parkinson
Steve Rembelski
Earl Skeen
Manager Ken Dizes
Attorney Dale Storer

**Board meets the third
Wednesday of each month**

Email: energy@srec.org

Website: www.srec.org

A Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative



ID-28

Year in Review

Financially, Salmon River Electric Cooperative performed well in 2017. Besides ending the year with favorable margins, the cooperative paid out more than \$300,000 in capital credits and held electric rates at the current level in 2017. The cooperative will not raise rates in 2018, despite the Bonneville Power Administration raising wholesale electric rates 7 percent effective October 2017.

Operationally, SREC continues to deliver safe and reliable electricity. On average, 99-plus percent of the time the cooperative kept electricity flowing to your homes, ranches, farms and businesses. We continue to use your rate dollars on preventative maintenance measures such as power pole testing, and substation transformer and protective device testing. We routinely inspected the cooperative's 700-plus miles of electric lines and 2,500-plus electric services to detect and correct problems ahead of a failure that could lead to a power outage.

SREC has either replaced or injected most of the primary underground power lines during the past 15 years, providing for a more reliable power system. Now that we have improved the reliability of the underground power system, we will put more resources toward increasing the reliability of overhead power infrastructure. This includes implementing a more aggressive power pole replacement program beginning this year.

SREC is much more than a wires-and-pole company providing electricity to our member owners. We like to think we are an active part of the communities we serve, and that we work to improve the quality of their lives. We have participated in the county 4-H program; provided student scholarships; sponsored delegates to a youth leadership convention; presented electrical safety demonstrations; and supported youth in athletics, academics and the performing arts. In addition, we help support economic development in our communities through our participation with the Custer Economic Development Association. We have participated in many other community events.

As I consider the successes the cooperative had last year and look forward to the new year, I am reminded and am grateful for the cooperative membership. You are the cooperative! You are the reason SREC has succeeded in the past, and are the reason it will succeed in the future.

Thank you for your continued support. May this new year be happy, healthy and prosperous for you!



Ken Dizes

Ken Dizes
General Manager

United Electric Co-op Inc.

Directors

President Bruce Beck
Vice President David Phillips
Sec./Treas. Cordell Searle
Brent Bowen
Dean Nielsen
Ronald Osterhout
George Toner
John R. West

General Manager

Jo Elg

Engineering and Operations

Trevor Parke

Line Superintendent

Kay Hill

Executive Assistant

Penny West

Member Services Manager

Chris Seibold

Mailing address:

1330 21st St.

Heyburn, ID 83336

Phone: (208) 679-2222

Fax: (208) 679-3333

Email: uec@unitedelectric.coop

Website: www.uec.coop

Office hours: Monday-Thursday,
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

After Hours: (208) 679-4444



UNITED ELECTRIC
CO-OP INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



ID-29

On the Wire at United Electric

The primary goal of any electric utility is to provide safe, economical and reliable service for its members. If we do our job well, members don't even think about their power. It is simply there on demand to power their home and their lifestyle.

Achieving this goal involves a variety of programs managed by the utility. One of the most important—certainly the most visible—is vegetation management. Vegetation management is a major reliability program that can be difficult to implement due to the direct impact on members.

One tree can cause an outage for thousands, or even millions, of customers under certain circumstances. Vegetation contact with an overloaded transmission line was a major contributing factor to the Northeast Blackout of 2003—one of the most widespread power outages in the United States. All told, more than 50 million people lost power. Additionally, vegetation contact with electrical infrastructure is one of the leading causes of power blinks on the electrical distribution system.

One of the most basic reasons to keep vegetation clear of electrical infrastructure is for the safety of United Electric employees and the public. Each year in the United States, members of the public are injured when attempting to remove trees and branches from power lines, or when attempting to cut down a tree and the tree falls on a power line. Children are sometimes injured climbing trees that have grown into overhead power lines. Additionally, a clear right-of-way enables United Electric line crews to quickly and safely access power lines, identify outage causes and make repairs. Maintaining cleared rights-of-way helps shorten the length of outages.

As part of the vegetation management plan, United Electric has adopted a Trade-A-Tree program. The property owner is reimbursed up to \$50 toward the purchase of a new tree for each tree removed from the owner's property that is in or near the primary high-voltage lines. Removing a tree and planting a Class 1 tree at least 30 feet from those lines eliminates the need to continually trim a large overgrown tree near a power line. Please check United Electric's website or contact our office for more information on the Trade-A-Tree program.

Although most members understand and accept vegetation management as a necessary task, there will always be cases where United Electric's responsibility to prune trees or remove vegetation creates conflict with members who object. This is a universal issue for electric utilities. In the end, United Electric has an obligation to all of our members to maintain safe and reliable electric service, and vegetation management is an important component.

United Electric's contractor will trim trees in the Unity area this winter. You should have received a letter notifying you of this activity. Please call the office at (208) 679-2222 if you have questions.



Jo Elg

General Manager



Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

305 Pine Street
P.O. Box 420
Mackay, ID 83251-0420

Phone: (208) 588-3311
Fax: (208) 588-3038
Email: office@lrecoop.com
www.lostriverelectriccoopinc.com

Directors

Brad J. Gamett
President

Susan M. Harris
Vice President

Bret L. Zollinger
Secretary/Treasurer

Chad H. Angell
James D. McKelvey
Dean L. Myler
Randy R. Purser
Lynn O. Rothwell
Merlin A. Waddoups

Manager/CEO

F. Richard Reynolds

The Board of Directors
meets the fourth Friday
of each month at 10 a.m.

ID-30

10 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

Looking to lower your bills this winter?
Use the 10 tips below to conserve energy.

-  Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
-  Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
-  Turn off lights when not in use.
-  Lower your water heater temperature. The Dept. of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
-  Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.
-  Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.
-  Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.
-  Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.
-  Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
-  Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



Board of Directors

Lon Rake, President
Mary Odden, Vice President
Dan Stowe, Secretary
Brad Honerlaw, Treasurer
Paul Kildal, Director
Jeff Saxe, Director
Will Stark, Director
Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45
Glennallen, AK 99588
www.cvea.org

Copper Basin District

(907) 822-3211
(907) 822-5586 (fax)
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

Valdez District

(907) 835-4301
(907) 835-4328 (fax)
367 Fairbanks Dr.

After hours outage line

(866) 835-2832

Important Dates

January

CVEA Offices Closed:

The CVEA offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday, January 1-2, 2018, for the New Year's Holiday

CVEA Bylaws Amendment Petition

Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday, January 12, 2018

CVEA Board Meeting: The January meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, January 18, 2018, in Valdez

February

CVEA Board Meeting: The February meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, February 15, 2018, in Glennallen

CVEA Offices Closed:

The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, February 19, 2018, for President's Day

Scholarship Application Deadline: Friday, February 23, 2018, prior to 5 p.m.

Director Nomination Deadline: Friday, February 23, 2018, prior to 5 p.m.

AK-34

**CVEA would like
to wish all of
our members a
happy, safe,
and prosperous
New Year!**



Deadline to Propose Bylaws Amendments

CVEA members may propose Bylaws amendments for placement on the 2018 ballot by filing a petition with the Board of Directors that has been signed by at least 10 percent of the membership at least 90 days before the annual meeting.

Bylaws amendments by petition must be received prior to 5 p.m. Friday, January 12, 2018. Petitions may be submitted to either the Glennallen or Valdez office.

A copy of CVEA Bylaws can be picked up at either office or referenced online at www.cvea.org. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Sharon Crisp at (907) 822-5506, (907) 835-7005, or email crisp@cvea.org.

Want Your Vote to Count? Update Your Signature Card!

When you vote on CVEA business, such as the Board of Director election coming up in May, you are required to sign the ballot envelope. If the signature does not match the signature on the membership card on file with CVEA, the vote cannot be counted.

For residential customers, if you have changed marital status, or names, please contact CVEA to ensure those changes are reflected on your signature card. If you receive a card in the mail, please complete and bring to your local CVEA office or mail it in.

Organizations, businesses, and associations usually have board members who are authorized to transact business. The person who signs the election envelope must be an authorized signer on the account. If your Board of Directors or executive officer has changed in the past year, then it is time to update your CVEA membership card.

If you have questions or are unsure what is on your residential or business signature card, please stop by the office in either district or call 822-3211 in Glennallen or 835-4301 in Valdez.



1115 Pacific Ave. • P.O. Box 433
Tillamook, OR 97141
Phone: (503) 842-2535
Toll free: (800) 422-2535
www.tpud.org

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday.

For EMERGENCY service after
business hours, call (800) 842-2122.

Board of Directors

Barbara Trout, President
Doug Olson, Vice President
Ed Jenkins, Treasurer
Ken Phillips, Secretary
Harry Hewitt, Director

General Manager

Todd Simmons

*Board meetings are in the PUD office
at 6 p.m. the first Tuesday after the
11th of the month.*

Mission Statement

Tillamook People's Utility District
is dedicated to delivering the best value of
electric services, while continuing our
commitment to the customer-owners and
communities we serve.

Creed

We shall work together to:

- ▶ Provide exceptional customer service;
anticipate and strive to exceed our
customers' needs.
- ▶ Provide high-quality and cost-effective
services to our customers.
- ▶ Ensure a safe electrical system and
working environment for our customers
and employees.
- ▶ Operate a financially stable business.
- ▶ Encourage cooperation and open
communication among the customers,
board of directors, management and
employees of Tillamook PUD.
- ▶ Support all the communities we serve.
- ▶ Be environmentally responsible.

OR-35

2018 PUD Budget Approved

Dear Customers:

The Tillamook People's Utility District Board of Directors voted in December to approve the 2018 operating budget of \$47.6 million. Power supply remains a large part of the budget at \$20.1 million.

Last October, the Bonneville Power Administration implemented a 5 percent average wholesale rate increase to electric not-for-profit utilities under the BPA contract for Tier 1 priority firm power, including Tillamook PUD. The increase was attributed to the combination of continued investments in BPA's aging infrastructure, lost revenues from the reduced demand for the power it produces, building a reserve fund, and the decline of the secondary energy market affecting its excess power sales.

Tillamook PUD was able to hold off passing along a retail rate increase at that time due to a slight increase in retail load, using the PUD's rate stabilization fund, and reductions to the 2017 and 2018 operating budgets.

The 2018 Tillamook PUD budget assumes a retail rate increase of 3 percent effective in the spring of 2018. However, during the next few months, staff will continue to monitor and evaluate the timing and amount of any increase. We will keep you informed of any upcoming rate changes.

There are several factors that affect our electric prices at Tillamook PUD. Like other public utilities, Tillamook PUD sets rates to recover operating and maintenance costs and upgrades or additions to infrastructure. The number of electric services, vegetation management and regulatory demands also affect utility rates.

The budget allocates funds for system maintenance and improvements. Projects planned for next year include line rebuilds on Highway 131 and Highway 101 from Rockaway to Wheeler, substation improvements and scheduled plant replacement.

As we move into the new year, we will continue to strive every day to provide you with safe, reliable electricity at a cost-effective price and with the high-quality service you expect.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Todd Simmons
General Manager





P. O. Box 449
Barrow, AK 99723
Phone: 852-6166
Fax: 852-6372
www.bueci.org

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Roy Nageak Sr.

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Frederick F. Brower
Lewis F. Brower
Avaiyak Burnell
Michael D. Stotts
Richard Ungarook Sr.
Tina Wolgemuth

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36





Owned By Those We Serve

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Schikora, Chairman (District 3)
 Tom DeLong, Vice-Chairman (District 2)
 John Sloan, Secretary (District 6)
 Bill Nordmark, Treasurer (District 7)
 Chris Bunch (District 5)
 David Messier (District 1)
 Gary Newman (District 4)

Corporate Headquarters

758 Illinois Street
 PO Box 71249
 Fairbanks, AK 99707-1249
 Hours: 8 am to 5 pm, M-F
 (907) 452-1151
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
 Fax (907) 458-6365

Delta Junction Office

1681 Richardson Hwy.
 Hours: 8 am to 5 pm, M-F
 (907) 452-1151
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
 Fax (907) 895-5472

Nenana Office

7259 Parks Hwy.
 Hours: 8 am to 5 pm, M-F
 (907) 452-1151
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
 Fax (907) 832-5438

Report Outages:

(907) 452-1151
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
 Select: Option 1, Option 1

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!



AK-37



As you're zipping across the snow, keep an eye out for guy wires. They can be hard to see in the twilight of winter. Hitting a guy wire can wreck your day, your sled and your body.

Remember: Rights of way granted to GVEA by its members are private property. Please respect your neighbors' right to privacy.

Power line rights of way are NOT public access routes.

- No legal public thoroughfare is created by the installation of a power line.
- Landowners retain all rights of ownership.
- Property owners can prosecute trespassers.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President

Dave Roberti, *Sierra Valley*
droberti@psrec.coop

Vice President

Fred Nelson, *Clio*
fnelson@psrec.coop

Secretary/Treasurer

David Hansen, *Doyle*
dhansen@psrec.coop

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dkenney@psrec.coop

Dick Short, *Graeagle*
dshort@psrec.coop

Tom Hammond, *Herlong*
thammond@psrec.coop

Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



Our subsidiary,
**Plumas-Sierra
Telecommunications**
offers a variety of high-quality
Internet solutions.
To learn more, please visit
www.pst.coop or call
(800) 221-3474

For information about any
of our products, please
call (800) 555-2207 or
visit our website at
www.psrec.coop

CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

Happy new year! 2017 was a busy, constructive year for PSREC and PST, and we look forward to another year of innovation during 2018.

During 2017, PSREC completed projects to improve system reliability and response times through our Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system. The operations department worked hard to upgrade and automate control of key switches, which we hope will accelerate power restoration in case of outages.

We have also been increasing our removal of hazard trees on our system. This was a significant expense, but the multi-year drought harmed a tremendous amount of trees, and the single wet year wasn't enough to save them.

Be Prepared for Outages

It's the season for outages. Even though your cooperative has invested in system improvements, removed hazard trees and kept up its ongoing maintenance, outages can and will happen. Being prepared can help make the best of a bad situation. Please visit our website, www.psrec.coop, for information on outage preparedness and electrical safety.

You can receive updates on major, system-wide outages via text. To sign up, text "PSREC" to 95577. Text notifications are sent when an outage is systemwide and expected to last longer than two hours. Please report all outages to us, day or night, at (800) 555-2207.

Telecommunications

PST completed upgrades to the old cable TV system to begin offering broadband services via coax in Portola, Whitehawk and East Quincy. PST also upgraded and installed new wireless access points across our region to improve broadband service availability.

Repairs and upgrades to the coax system

in Graeagle are progressing well, and we are actively signing up customers. Installations should have begun by the time you receive this, and we continue our efforts to upgrade the system in West Quincy. We have also installed new technology to serve Calpine wirelessly, and we plan to expand this new system to other unserved areas in our region.

The phrase net neutrality has been much discussed in the news and we are proud to say that we are net neutral. We do not give preference to any type of content over our system, nor do you have to pay more to get to your favorite sites. In addition, our internet services do not have data caps. You can stream videos, music and much more.

Please call us at (800) 221-3474 or visit our website at www.pst.coop for more information and to sign up for service.

Scholarships

PSREC and PST are again offering scholarships to students who receive either electric or internet services from PSREC or PST at their primary residence in Plumas, Sierra, Lassen and Washoe counties. An application can be found on page 28. There is no upper age limit to apply for scholarships. The deadline is March 9. More information can also be found on our website at www.psrec.coop.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please call me at (800) 555-2207 ext. 6076, or email me at bmarshall@psrec.coop.

Sincerely,

Bob Marshall
General Manager



MT. WHEELER POWER

P.O. Box 151000
1600 Great Basin Blvd.
Ely, NV 89315

(775) 289.8981
(800) 97-POWER
info@mwpower.net

Emergency Contacts

Ely Office
(775) 289-8981

Eureka Office
(775) 237-5693

Outside Ely / Eureka Area
(800) 97-POWER

Board of Directors

District 1 – Ron Miller
District 2 – Mary Kerner
District 3 – Robert Pratt
District 4 – Don Phillips
District 5 – Rick Hendrix
District 6 – Jerald Anderson
District 7 – Sandra Green
District 8 – Wilma Sanford
District 9 – Ron Niman

Proudly serving more than 10,000
residents and businesses throughout
Nevada and Utah.

*Winter hours: The Ely office is open Monday
through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Eureka
office is open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m.
to 1:30 p.m.*

"Powering Your Future"

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

NV-40

Board Considering Rate Adjustments

The Mt. Wheeler Power Board of Directors is obligated to ensure the cooperative provides safe, reliable power at the lowest cost consistent with good business practices. Planning for strategic goals and approving rates are two of the basic duties of the board and management, and largely determines if the cooperative is successful.

The rates are reflective of many areas of the cooperative, including the financial, power supply, environmental, regulatory and member relations objectives. While evaluating our rate structure, the board is considering the potential of an overall rate increase. In addition, the board is reviewing ways to adjust our rates—not necessarily raising—by researching how conservation and energy efficiency might play a role, while still encouraging growth.

For the past 25 years, Mt. Wheeler Power has offered rates to our members that help make it affordable to power their homes and business. During this time, service to residential consumers has more than doubled, requiring increasingly larger investments to our distribution system.

Our power supply costs account for 75 percent of the cooperative's expenses and have increased by more than \$2 million. Our expenses have increased by almost \$3 million in the past 25 years. Our last rate increase came in January 1993.

With gas prices going up, food costs ever increasing, pressures from regulatory bodies and the need to raise taxes, electric utilities throughout the country are under pressure to raise their rates. We take this responsibility seriously and will only adjust rates to the degree necessary.

As a member, you have a voice, and

we've listened. Unlike many public utilities, we have implemented many rates to accommodate different uses. For example, our residential consumers enjoy a heat rate to make it affordable for them to heat their home efficiently and effectively. Our irrigators have four rates that allow them to run their operations efficiently, while saving money and, in turn, helps reduce our power costs.

Conservation continues to play a key role, whether it be installing a programmable thermostat, or buying and installing Energy Star-rated appliances that can save you and the co-op on power costs. In many of our commercial applications, installing a demand controller can save money on your monthly power bill. This will again reduce cooperative power costs.

In the coming months, we will continue to provide more information and educate members through Ruralite, as well as other media sources. Please take time to visit us online at www.mwpower.net, and look at the various ways the Touchstone Energy products, such as Together we Save, can help you be more efficient.

2018 will bring important decisions regarding the future of your cooperative. Decisions such as a rate change require two consecutive board meetings for approval, and members will receive adequate notice of any changes and the impact they may have. Whatever changes do come, know that your cooperative board is working hard to continue to provide you with the most reliable, consistent and affordable energy options.

Kevin Robison,
Assistant General Manager

Wells Rural Electric Company

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website:

www.wrec.coop

Outage Hotline:

(800) 566-6696
24 hours a day

Carlin office:

1322 Chestnut Street
P.O. Box 727
Carlin, Nevada 89822
(775) 754-6362

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P.O. Box 3699
West Wendover,
Nevada 89883
(775) 664-2204

Wells office:

1451 Humboldt Avenue
P.O. Box 365
Wells, Nevada 89835
(775) 752-3328

NV-41

CEO Message

"Spend less, save more," "Get organized," "Stay fit and healthy," "Help others with their dreams," and "Spend more time with family," are consistently among the top New Year's resolutions. In the spirit of this tradition, I would like to share Wells Rural Electric Company's version of these familiar resolutions.

- **Spend less, save more.** Use WREC's smarhub app to help you better understand your electricity use. Knowing when you use energy can help you isolate which devices or activities are consuming the most electricity. Once you know where you are using electricity, you can decide if purchasing more efficient devices is the best way to save, or if you can reduce how much you use that device. Save money by upgrading windows, insulation and appliances. Check WREC's energy-efficiency program before making a purchase to ensure that your plans qualify for a rebate to offset some of the costs.

- **Get organized.** WREC will continue to advocate for our system of hydroelectric dams that provide abundant, carbon-free, renewable energy. Three federal agencies are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement on the Columbia River system operations. If ever there was a two-edged sword, the EIS is it. On one side, a thorough and defensible EIS could end decades of expensive litigation. On the other, the EIS could find that removing three dams on the lower Snake River and other radical salmon restoration concepts is warranted. WREC has been participating in the development of the EIS and will continue to work with our trade associations, the federal agencies and our Congressional delegation to ensure the final decision cuts your way.

- **Staying fit and healthy.** WREC's goals



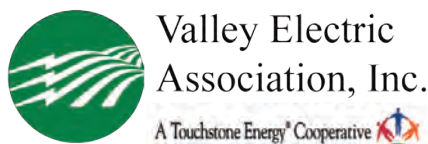
are to maintain decades of financial integrity and control costs. While inflation rose about 2.2% during 2017, WREC's costs for operating the distribution system rose less than 0.5%. WREC was also part of a larger coalition that persuaded Bonneville Power Administration to minimize its wholesale power supply rate increase.

- **Help others with their dreams.** Through your generosity, the Next Dollar Foundation invests in lasting projects in every community WREC serves and offers education grants to adults who are continuing their education. Applications for project funding are always available, while education grant applications will be available in February. If you aren't already making a small contribution by rounding up your monthly power bill, please make joining the Next Dollar Foundation one of your New Year's resolutions. Visit www.wrec.coop to sign up or contact your local office.

- **Spend more time with family.** In 2018, WREC will celebrate 60 years of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. We think of our members as family and look forward to spending more time with you as we mark this milestone and make a renewed effort to provide the best possible service and accurate information about your cooperative.

Over the next several months, it will be absolutely critical for you understand the potential impacts of the proposed Energy Choice Initiative. Never in the history of your cooperative have we faced a greater challenge, or opportunity, depending on which rules are finally adopted. The issues surrounding ECI change on a daily basis so your Board and management have not yet taken a position on this ballot question. Please resolve to study the ECI issue as it unfolds so that you can make the best decision in the November election.

Clay R. Fitch,
Chief Executive Officer



NV-42

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Breakthrough in Sandy Valley



Our staff received word a few weeks before Christmas that the Federal Bureau of Land Management had approved Valley's plans to bring fiber-optic infrastructure to the southernmost area of Valley's service territory. Honestly, no one was celebrating more than the folks at Valley Electric who had been pushing for these approvals for months.

Other Valley Electric communities have been enjoying the benefits of high-speed broadband, including Pahrump, Amargosa Valley and Fish Lake Valley. Beatty is under construction. Sandy Valley, however, had to wait.

The documents were signed in mid-December. Now begins the real work of connecting Sandy Valley residents to the high-speed communications network enjoyed by thousands of other Valley Electric member-owners.

It has been a challenging and time-consuming process for everyone. The request seemed simple: Hang fiber cable on already existing power poles into Sandy Valley. For nearly two years, however, we have been waiting for the complicated approval process to reach its logical end. Sandy Valley residents have shown remarkable patience, but naturally they were frustrated. VEA staff members have put in hundreds of hours on this project as they tried to serve the needs of Sandy Valley member-owners.

All that is behind us now. With approvals in hand, our linemen and communications technicians will work as fast as they can to get Sandy Valley residents connected. It is important for

education, health care professionals, businesses and residents.

The vitality of any community is tied to its access to state-of-the art communications. It has become just as important as any other critical service like water and electricity. It opens rural student's educational opportunities similar to their urban brothers and sisters. As we've seen in other rural desert communities, it can make feasible health-care facilities that would not be possible otherwise – allowing some patients to avoid the long drive to Las Vegas for care. Sandy Valley will soon look different to new businesses. Any community must strive for modest growth to remain viable.

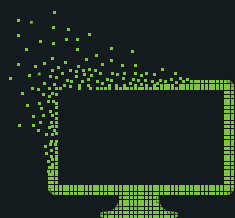
Improvements in communications always result in better, safer communities. The more remote the community, the more important the technology advancements become.

It has been 19 months since we started the approval process with the federal government. We did not expect it to take as long as it did. Neither did we really know when the approvals would come. Thank you, Sandy Valley, for being so patient. 2018 just got a lot more promising.

Until next month,

Thomas H. Husted,
Chief Executive Officer

Thomas Husted has served as the CEO of VEA since 2005. He has more than 30 years of experience in the utility industry across the Western United States, including more than 20 years as a CEO.



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Email: wmc@vea.coop

Commissioners

Joe O'Leary

Paul Rogers

Shan Rowbotham

General Manager

Matt Boast

The Kittitas PUD Board of Commissioners meets the last Tuesday of each month in Building B. Please visit the PUD website to view all approved board minutes.

Need Help With Your Utility Bills?

The following organizations may be able to help.

- Fish, (509) 925-5990
www.kvfish.org
- HopeSource, (509) 925-1448
www.hopesource.us
- Kittitas County Veteran's Coalition
Kittitas: (509) 933-2932
Cle Elum: (509) 647-3872
- St. Andrews Catholic Church, Ellensburg, (509) 962-9819,
www.st-andrewsparish.org
- Small Tribes Organization of Western Washington,
(800) 567-6690, www.stoww.webs.com

OFFICE HOURS

- Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

OFFICE CLOSURES

- Monday, January 1



Kittitas PUD

Serving Kittitas County since 1937

WA-43

10 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

Looking to lower your bills this winter? Use the 10 tips below to conserve energy.

-  Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
-  Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
-  Turn off lights when not in use.
-  Lower your water heater temperature. The Dept. of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
-  Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.
-  Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.
-  Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.
-  Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.
-  Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
-  Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



District Offices

4005 23rd Street
P.O. Box 226
Baker City, OR 97814
(541) 523-3616

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Burns, OR 97720
(541) 573-2666

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P.O. Box 575
John Day, OR 97845
(541) 575-0161

2408 Cove Ave.
La Grande, OR 97850
(541) 963-3155

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.....

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County
Greg Howard, Union County
Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, General Manager

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

We Offer Much More Than Electricity

In this edition of Ruralite, you'll read several stories about new and existing services that highlight the benefits of membership and being "more than just an electric company."

When Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative was formed and before we owned 3,000 miles of line across four counties, the primary mission was simply to deliver power on a more reliable basis at a reasonable rate. Today, our mission has not changed, yet OTEC's role in our communities has grown.

OTEC engages in and supports many programs that also fulfill cooperatives' fundamental principles, such as commitment to community and education. For example, by using unclaimed capital credits, OTEC can fund scholarships, support nonprofit community projects and give back to our communities without negatively affecting rates. The board recently approved the funding of four more scholarships to support students who want to attend a trade school in 2018.

Being more than just an electric company takes on new meaning when looking ahead strategically. As we press forward into the new year, economics, politics and technology are three areas that are going to dramatically change the way we do business. As your electric cooperative, we will continue to be vigilant about understanding, educating and communicating how these changes can affect the value and quality of service we provide.

OTEC continues to communicate concerns about the potential impact of the Oregon 9th Circuit Court's ruling, forcing the Bonneville Power Administration to increase water spill over the dams. This means BPA may be required to push more water over the dams instead of using the water to generate electricity. Initial estimates show that if this

ruling stands as is today, our members may, through their electric bill, feel the burden of an additional \$500,000 in power costs in 2018.

There is also significant political activity over proposed legislation that may create a cap-and-trade program, taxing utilities for carbon emissions. As a BPA customer using almost 100 percent carbon-free hydroelectric power, OTEC should be able to avoid most of a carbon tax. However, legislation of this nature can have far-reaching effects depending upon the approach taken by state government. OTEC is following the legislation closely, and will communicate updates to our members as the new policy develops.

At the same time as the water spill and cap-and-trade issues are churning, quickly advancing technologies in solar technology, battery storage and electric vehicle markets continue to drive tremendous change at an extraordinary pace.

The potential political mandates and technological changes on the horizon for Oregonians will change the landscape of OTEC's energy supply and delivery systems, and will have an impact across the entire country, as well.

OTEC is, indeed, more than just your electric company. We're here for the long haul to serve you the best quality electrical service at a competitive cost, while keeping an eye on the horizon for the political, economic and technological advances that will have an impact on our mission to serve you.

Happy New Year!

General Manager Les Penning



Member-owned since 1921

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Email: office@ohop.coop
www.ohop.coop

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General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

A Little Easier

At Ohop Mutual Light Co.

Hello Members,

By the time you read this, Christmas will have come and gone, and the new year is upon us. In the words of Michael Josephson, "Approach the new year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day."

At Ohop Mutual, we strive to make 2018 a little easier by providing our members the opportunity to simplify their monthly billing and payment process with a variety of programs.

Automatic Payments. Tired of calling in monthly to make your payment by credit card, or writing and mailing a check? Ohop Mutual can set up your account to automatically make your payment for your electric bill. You will continue to receive a monthly statement showing your billing charges and automatic payment.

Electronic Billing. Want the ease of checking your bill or making a payment 24 hours a day? Sign up for our e-bill program. In addition to being able to make payments quickly, members find it easy to view their power bills, monthly use and payment history electronically.

Pay by Phone. Need to make a payment by telephone after the office has closed? Ohop Mutual offers 24-hour access to our pay-by-phone system. Just call (888) 477-8085 and follow the automated instructions. A payment can be made by credit card or check.

Nomination Committee

A committee has been appointed to nominate members for board positions. Any member who wishes to run must contact one of the following committee members: Betty Deck, (360) 832-3572; Sally McKay, (360) 832-6262; or Geneal Palmer, (360) 832-4912. Nominations close 40 days prior to the annual meeting in April.

All of us at Ohop Mutual wish each of you a wonderful and prosperous new year filled with happiness and joy.

Kenneth Klotz
General Manager



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Cooperative

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*An electric utility owned
by those we serve in:*

North Bend
Ames Lake
Anderson Island

*Tanner Electric Cooperative is an
equal opportunity provider and
employer*

WA-50

Help Us Better Serve You

It's amazing what we learn through listening and observation. New products and services are more likely to gain the satisfaction of consumers when their introduction follows market research.

Here at Tanner Electric Cooperative, we've provided members with mobile apps and electronic options, enabling you to check the status of your electric service and receive real-time updates on energy use.

TEC members use the app to conduct routine business with us. This includes online bill payments, arranging service transfers and viewing real-time outage updates. Many of our members have downloaded our SmartHub app since we launched it 2015.

These mobile services are just a few new ways to connect with people, such as the member services representatives you reach when you call us or when they greet you from behind the counters at our office. They help us offer quality services you expect us to provide.

Our goal is to find ways to help you control energy costs. That's why we communicate with you about energy prices and ways we can work together to help ease the burden on your wallet.

Listening improves understanding, builds trust, strengthens relationships and fosters cooperation. It's also crucial to collaboration and success, which is why TEC still loves face time with our members.

Our annual meeting is a social event for our entire co-op family. We hope you'll make plans now to join us. The North Bend/Ames Lake annual meeting is May 17, 2018, at 7 p.m. It will be an evening of co-op business, fun and prizes in the ballroom at Snoqualmie Casino. The Anderson Island meeting is May 19, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. at the Anderson Island Christian Fellowship Church.

So, how do we serve you better in 2018? The same way many of us try to serve community, society and family better each day—by listening. In our offices, on telephones, through social media exchanges and in our face-to-face meetings, we're ready to listen.

When you have questions about energy efficiency, electrical service or any of our member services, just ask us. When we know just what you want, we're in a better position to deliver successful results. So drop in and see us. We're always glad to hear from you.

Steve Walter
General Manager



Parkland Light & Water Company

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Those We Serve

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The country's oldest
mutual cooperative*

**To report an outage or utility
emergency, call the main office 24/7.**

**To track an outage, follow us on
Twitter @PLWCo.**

WA-52



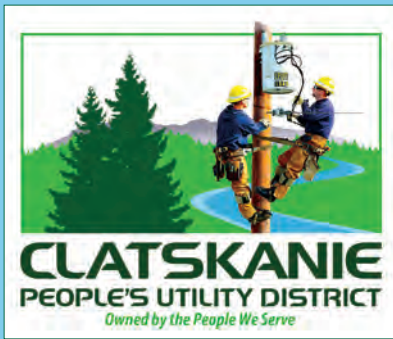
The ability to run for and elect board leadership sets cooperatives apart from investor-owned utilities.

Will You Run for Office?

Parkland Light & Water Co.'s annual meeting is Tuesday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the commons area at Keithley Middle School. The address is 12324 12th Ave. South.

One trustee will be elected for a five-year term. Members interested in running for the position should declare their candidacy by February 10 so their name can be published in the March issue of Ruralite.

Having a say in your co-op's leadership is one of the many benefits of a cooperative membership. Please plan to attend. We need your vote!



**495 E. Columbia River Highway
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www.clatskaniepud.com**

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GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #11096501

If this is your account number,
please call the office to claim your
prize. Congratulations!

Community Calendar

January 1: Happy New Year- CPUD
office closed

**January 4: Clatskanie Chamber
Meeting** - Noon at Colvins; Chamber
officer election for 2018

January 11: Rainier Chamber Meeting
Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
CPUD office closed

**January 17: Clatskanie PUD Board
Meeting** - Workshop at 5:30 pm, followed
by regular board meeting at 7 pm.

***A Special Customer Input Meeting
for the Strategic Planning Process will be
held at 5:30 pm at the workshop. Please
join your Board of Directors for these
important discussions & refreshments.

OR-60

As we look forward to a new year and the projects we will be working on in 2018, we would like to take a moment to share some of our accomplishments from 2017.

It was a very busy year for us, the Staff and Board successfully worked together to make some noteworthy accomplishments. One of the ways to measure success is when you receive awards from utility organizations that recognize your efforts. In 2017 we received four regional awards for Excellence in Communications. We received two first place awards for our Annual Report and for an Advertising Campaign. We also received a second place for Social Media, and a third place for Photography. Sarah Johnson did a great job with our communications and was duly recognized. Our Power Resource Manager, Eric Hiaasen also won a regional award from PNUCC called the Mechanic's Award for his valuable contributions and insights to the industry. Even more important are the two first place awards Clatskanie PUD received for Safety, one was a regional NWPPA award and the other a national APPA award. It is a reflection of the culture of safety that exists here and the seriousness we place upon it. A great deal credit goes to all of our staff's commitment to safety. Some of our other 2017 highlights include:

- The refinancing of our 2007 bonds saving our utility and therefore our customers a great deal of money by significantly reducing our debt service payments each year.
- We were successful, along with nine other utilities, in our lawsuit against the Oregon Department of Energy for the ESA Fee that was instead declared a "tax" and for violating the law in the process.
- We successfully began service to the Georgia-Pacific Mill in Camas, Washington which is providing revenue that goes directly to reducing costs to our residential and general service customers.
- The Board approved a rate strategy that will significantly reduce our debt load by the end of 2020 which will help us to pay of the remainder of our 2007 bonds. The Board also approved the 2017 budget.
- To increase efficiencies we completed an audit of our service system, added mapping software and a new outage management system to integrate with our billing software.
- A tremendous amount of combined effort was put into community service by Staff and the Board. We personally donated food & toys to Turning Point and HOPE, restored the community Christmas decorations for Clatskanie, supported several fundraising events with both funds and staff time, served on various boards and organizations in the communities we serve, and sponsored events here at our District office. My thanks and gratitude to all of the Staff and Board for all they do throughout the year to serve others.

Next year some of major projects we will be working on include the City of Rainier's "A" Street project, adding EV charging stations in our service area, and completing the Emergency Generator project at the Clatskanie Middle/High School. We have enjoyed serving you this past year and look forward to a great new year in 2018! Marc Farmer, General Manager





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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

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Kotzebue Electric Association Inc., a locally owned utility dedicated to cooperative principles, will make electric energy, and other value-added utility services and products available to its members' at the lowest cost consistent with sound economic and management practices, which improves utility services and the quality of life in our service area.

AK-64





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Mountain Village

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board@avec.org

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Chevak	Old Harbor
Eek	Oscerville
Ekwok	Pilot Station
Elim	Pitkas Point
Emmonak	Quinhagak
Gambell	Russian Mission
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Grayling	St. Michael
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Hooper Bay	Scammon Bay
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Kaltag	Shageluk
Kasigluk	Shaktoolik
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Kobuk	Stebbins
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Koyuk	Togiak
Lower Kalskag	Toksook Bay
Marshall	Tununak
Mekoryuk	Upper Kalskag
Minto	Yakutat
Mt. Village	Wales

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

4831 Eagle Street
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(907) 561-1818
(800) 478-1818



AK-105

Governor Walker Appoints Climate Change Leadership Team

I am proud to be a member of this distinguished team and look forward to a productive year working with them!

Ralph Andersen: CEO of BBNA, Chairman of the Bristol Bay Partnership and the W. Alaska Salmon Coalition, and former Co-Chairman of AFN.

Linda Behnken: Executive Director of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, Commissioner of the International Pacific Halibut Commission and long-time commercial fisherman.

Lisa Busch: Executive Director of the Sitka Sound Science Center, a radio producer and environmental journalist who provided communication training for scientists.

Luke Hopkins: Former Mayor of the Fairbanks North Star Borough and a member of the Immediate Action Work Group of the former Sub-Cabinet on Climate Change.

John Hopson, Jr.: Mayor of the City of Wainwright, President of the North Slope Borough Assembly, Chairman of the Eskimo Whaling Commission and Vice Chairman of the Voice of the Arctic Inupiat.

Nicole Kanayurak: 2017 Knauss Marine Policy Fellow working in the NOAA Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, focusing on international fisheries legislation and negotiations. She is the youth representative to the Inuit Circumpolar Council and former representative to Future Arctic Leaders.

Mara Kimmel: First Lady of Anchorage and adjunct faculty at the Institute of Social and Economic Research at UAA.

Meera Kohler: President and CEO of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, a non-profit electric utility serving 58 communities throughout Alaska. Meera was a member of the former Alaska Climate Change Sub-Cabinet.

Michael LeVine: Senior Arctic Fellow at Ocean Conservancy, focusing on sustainable management and stewardship of ocean

resources, as well as the creation of economic opportunity in the face of changing ocean conditions.

Mark Masteller: Assistant Professor with the sustainable energy program at University of Alaska. He is a Director of the Cascadia Green Building Council and a board member of Matanuska Electric Association.

Molly McCammon: Executive Director of the Alaska Ocean Observing System. She leads the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network and co-leads the Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network and the Alaska Integrated Water Level Observing Network.

Denise Michels: Former Mayor of Nome and Senior Project Manager at DOWL, working with Newtok. While at Kawerak, She helped Shishmaref with its relocation efforts. She is a former member of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, the Northern Waters Task Force and the Adaptation Advisory Group of the former Sub-Cabinet on Climate Change.

Chris Rose: Executive Director of the Renewable Energy Alaska Project, which is dedicated to increasing renewable energy and energy efficiency throughout Alaska. Chris was a member of the Mitigation Advisory Group of the former Climate Change Sub-Cabinet, and previously served on the Mat-Su Borough Planning Commission.

Isaac Vanderburg: Executive Director of Launch Alaska, Alaska's first energy accelerator. Launch Alaska supports companies in the energy sector that are working on climate solutions in the sectors of food, water, energy and transportation.

Happy New Year!

Meera Kohler
President and CEO



65 S. Roop St.
Susanville, CA 96130
Phone (530) 257-4174
Fax (530) 257-2558
www.lmud.org

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Christina M. Nystrom

In case of an outage: If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 257-4174. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. After-hours and weekend calls are answered by a local service and immediately forwarded to standby personnel.

*The board meets at 5:30 p.m.
the fourth Tuesday of each month.*

CA-106

General Manager's Message

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Lassen MUD providing low-cost, reliable service to the people and businesses of our community. As a community-owned, public power utility, our focus is on providing the best possible service to our customer-owners, rather than providing a profit to shareholders. Our mission is simple and straightforward: to provide reliable electric service to our customers at the lowest practical cost.

During the past few years, we've implemented many system upgrades to improve reliability and increase efficiency. We're proud of what we've been able to accomplish, even while maintaining some of the lowest electric rates in California. Here are a few of the major projects we are working on.

In 2017, LMUD successfully implemented phase II of our automated metering infrastructure project, which now covers Eagle Lake, Westwood and parts of the east county, including Janesville and Wendel. The new meters allow us to automate many tasks, such as meter reading, disconnects and reconnects. In addition, the meters provide useful information. Each meter can let us know if it is not receiving voltage from the power grid, making it easier to quickly determine the location of outages. Meters also provide more detailed information on energy use, making it easier to help customers understand how they can use energy more efficiently. We expect to complete the AMI implementation in two more phases during the next few years.

We continued progress with implementation of our geographic information system mapping project, which is now about 85 percent complete. This will streamline many district operations functions. We're also about 30 percent complete with implementation of a supervisory control and data acquisition system, which will allow us to monitor and control many parts of the system remotely.

Finally, we're about 95 percent finished with replacing the breakers at the Westwood Substation, which is now the only point of interconnection to have power delivered to our system.

In 2018, we have a number of things on tap. In addition to our regular, ongoing maintenance and replacement program, we'll be moving forward with projects that provide long-term benefits to the district and our customers. The most ambitious of these is the planned interconnection to the Reno-Alturas transmission line on the eastern edge of our service territory, which would provide an alternative to the single 60-kilovolt PG&E line we rely on now. This new interconnection will dramatically improve our reliability, and will likely result in significant transmission cost savings to the district in the long term. We've completed preliminary design work, and have already finished much of the environmental study work that needs to be done. We recently started the cultural resource studies required before construction can begin.

In our 30th year, we will continue to maintain our commitment to keeping costs as low as possible while providing high-quality, reliable service to our customers. The projects described above are just a few of the things we do to improve the reliability and efficiency of our system, while at the same time reducing costs.

From all of us at Lassen Municipal Utility District, best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year!

—Doug Smith, General Manager



Lincoln County Power District No. 1

HC 74, Box 101
Pioche, NV 89043

Phone: (775) 962-5122
Toll free: (888) 649-3814

Email: lcpd@lcpd1.com

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Vice President Lee Mathews
Ken Dixon
Bob Rollins
Dylan Frehner
Secretary David Luttrell

GENERAL MANAGER

David Luttrell

Board meets the
second Monday
of each month



MISSION STATEMENT

*To construct, operate and maintain
a system which will provide
our customers with electric service
in the most economical and
efficient manner consistent with
sound business practice.*

NV-107

New Headquarters in 2018

As noted last month, in 2018 Lincoln Power District will complete the first phase of relocating its headquarters to the Bullionville Road site. In the coming decades, the new site will likely see many improvements, changes and additions to meet the needs of the power district for 50 or more years. Initially, we are planning two phases of construction. In the first phase, the district will build an administration building and an operations building. The administration building is a little more than 4,000 square feet, and will be used by staff involved with customer service, billing, accounting, human resources, engineering, staking, work order, IT and the general manager. The monthly board meetings will be in the administrative building. The operations building will be about 1,200 square feet and will house the district's supervisory control and data acquisition system, computer servers, substation maintenance and system operators.

The second phase is planned in 2021. During this phase, the district's new shops and warehouse will be built, and the line crew and warehouseman will begin reporting to the new location.

Clearly, it would be better from an operating perspective to relocate the entire utility operation in one move. We are spreading the relocation over two phases and three years to keep any impact on our rates as minimal as possible. When I ask customers what is important to them in regard to their electric service, the top two answers are always rates and reliability. We get it, and are working hard to keep rates as low as possible while working to replace the aged and deteriorated electric infrastructure in Lincoln County.

Through preparing for this move the past several years, we believe the first phase will affect rates by less than 1.07 percent. If your bill for electric service is \$100, the most it would increase to support the new building would be \$1.07. However, given cost reductions we are making in other operating areas, if our power supply costs were not increasing, we would not consider a rate increase for the buildings. In other words, there would be no increase in rates for the first phase of the relocation. We will continue to prepare for the second phase of relocation such that it, too, can be completed in 2021 with minimal impact on rates for electric service.

Unfortunately, our power supply costs are going up significantly. Hoover Dam generation rates increased 10.7 percent in October. We continue to analyze the impact of these wholesale power supply increases, and may have to adjust our rates for electric service later in 2018. If we do, be aware that it is because of wholesale power supply costs and not because of the new buildings.

We have retained an architect to design the administration building and operations building. The buildings are designed for function and future growth. They will be nice, but not elaborate. Construction will be during the summer, with a move-in by early fall 2018. When the buildings are completed, we will invite customers to stop in for a tour to see how we are committed to meeting future needs with minimal rate impacts.

—David Luttrell, General Manager



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OR-400

Case in Point

The Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association wrapped up the year by celebrating its 75th anniversary at the annual meeting in Salem in November. The theme was “Our Past, Our Future, Our People.” We managed to hit all those topics with a variety of excellent speakers highlighting not only the legacy of the Columbia River hydro program, but what the electrical grid of the future may look like.

There were a couple of other takeaways for me that I will attempt to incorporate this new year.

The first was an inspiring talk from Dave Carey, a former Vietnam POW who lived in the “Hanoi Hilton” for nearly six years, occasionally in a cell with another naval aviator named John McCain.

Carey says the question that always arises is, “How can someone endure such a hellish existence for so long?”

His answer seems simple in practice.

“We did what we needed to do,” he says. “And we did it, day after day after day.”

While we will not likely experience the horrors of a North Vietnamese prison camp, may we all take Carey’s optimism and clarity of purpose into our lives in 2018—day after day after day.

Dan Chase—another speaker at our director forum—discussed Abraham Lincoln’s leadership style. Lincoln’s accomplishments are well-known, but less known are the traits that helped make him so iconic. Chase’s thesis is that Lincoln cared so deeply about institutions—such as preservation of the Union—that he was able to subsume his own ego and ambition to get the desired result.

While most of us will not preside over a civil war, we all are part of cherished institutions in some form. May we all adopt a little more of Lincoln as we approach work and family in 2018—and may we do it day after day after day.

Ted Case

Executive Director



FLORIDA Currents

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EREC
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Cooperative

Manager's Message

Let's Power the Future

Electricity is so much a part of our lives, we take it for granted. You probably don't give much thought to where your electricity comes from. You just flip a switch and the lights come on, or the TV powers up—and that's the way it should be.

Still, you may be curious about how your electricity is generated, or wonder why we choose one generating resource over another.

To shed some light on these matters, let's take a look behind the outlet for a better understanding of the fuel sources we use to generate the electricity that powers your life.

Escambia River Electric Cooperative is a member-owner of PowerSouth. EREC buys all electricity wholesale from PowerSouth.

Instead of relying on one fuel source to generate electricity, PowerSouth uses a diverse mix. Having multiple generating resources helps stabilize energy costs in case one fuel source experiences shortages or price increases. Markets for the fuels used to generate electricity fluctuate just like gasoline prices.

Currently, PowerSouth's energy resources include fossil fuels (natural gas and coal), hydroelectric power and energy purchases from other utilities.

Fossil fuels. On average, about 96 percent of



Clay R. Campbell

EREC's electricity is generated using coal and natural gas. These energy sources are the most reliable and affordable means of generating electricity for our members. Fossil fuels are the only generating resources available all the time in the necessary quantities to meet changing demand for electricity.

Hydroelectricity. A hydroelectric plant uses water as its fuel source,

usually from a dam on a river or reservoir. PowerSouth operates two hydroelectric power plants on the Conecuh River in Covington County, Alabama.

Renewable energy. Although renewable energy resources can produce a portion of EREC's energy needs, they are limited in their ability to provide around-the-clock electric service at competitive costs. The resources for renewable energy are free, but the technology to use them for power generation is substantially more expensive than fossil-fuel generation. EREC will continue to investigate how renewable energy sources such as solar can contribute to the energy mix in the future.

EREC is committed to providing you with safe, affordable, reliable electricity. That's how we power lives, today and in the future. We value your membership. We value you.



Inside

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Silver Dunes remains a place where people are treated like family and feel a sense of coming home.

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FKEC NEWS

JANUARY 2018

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Unless otherwise noted, "FKEC NEWS" writing, design & photography by:
Nikki Dunn Cullen • news@fkec.com
Edited by: Rebecca Callahan Newman

SCOTT NEWBERRY Chief Executive Officer

Capital Credits: A Key Co-op Principle

Cooperatives around the world are guided by seven core principles, all of which put the needs of our members first. It is these values that separate co-ops, like FKEC, from all other types of electric utilities. One of these important key principles is Members' Economic Participation.

Members' Economic Participation ensures all members contribute equitably and proportionately to the cooperative's capital through their monthly bills. This principle is best illustrated by FKEC's return of Capital Credits.

As a not-for-profit utility, FKEC calculates our annual margins by taking the total revenue and subtracting all operating costs. The resulting margins are then allocated to each member based on their patronage, which is the amount of electricity he or she purchased during that year in proportion to the total amount purchased by all members. Once these margins are allocated they are called Member Capital Credits.



As part of the yearly return of Member Capital Credits, FKEC's nine directors hand deliver some checks to show appreciation to our members and the community. With many businesses still in the process of recovering from Hurricane Irma, this was also an opportunity for the FKEC directors to express their support of our business community and all members.

FKEC's nine directors represent four voting districts from Key Largo to Marathon. They are elected in the district in which they live by members in that district to serve three-year terms. It is the responsibility of these directors to establish policies and review operational procedures to promote a progressive, financially-sound utility.

This year your nine representatives allocated \$1.75 million to be returned to members as Capital Credits. Read more about the pay out of member capital credits on page 6.

GLADES

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"Neighbors Working for Neighbors"

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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The Board's next meeting will be at 9 a.m. January 25 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

CEO Jeff Brewington
CFO Jennifer Manning
CTO Jesse Wallace
Chief Assistant Margaret Ellerbee
Dir. of Business Development Paul McGehee
Dir. of Employee Services Yvonne Bradley
Dir. of Engineering Travis Turner
Dir. of Operations Tracy Vaughn
Dir. of Safety Pedro Navarro

FL-153

CEO's Message

New Year, New Improvements

It's already 2018! With all the excitement of Hurricane Irma, 2017 closed out in a challenging blur. Where are we headed now?

Our 2018 Strategic Work Plan has the right-of-way maintenance program coming full circle and transitioning to a more efficient program, with all resources allocated by substation. The plan calls for clearing all lines coming from Lorida, Willie Chapple, Hensley, West Clewiston, Lakeport and Ortona substations. When our crews are in your neighborhood, please remember what falling trees did during Hurricane Irma, and don't discourage them from cutting appropriately. We will keep you posted through our website and social media just where our Davey Tree Expert crews are working. For additional information, also look for our new "Tree Trimming: A Member Guide" on our website.

The 2018 plan also calls for continued improvement in our outage mitigation program through the use of more modern, more effective equipment. We will transition to vacuum line breakers from our current oil-filled breakers. Vacuum breakers are not only better for the environment, but are more efficient, providing 3.4 times more operations per unit, leading to longer lives and a lower cost. In addition, we will continue to install more programmable sectionalizers. Our studies in 2017 showed their effectiveness in keeping your power on and reducing costly truck rolls.

Also in the plan is use of contractor crews dedicated to upgrading our lightning protection circuit by circuit, among other activities designed to help our engineer make further improvements to our grid and your service. We are dedicated to continuous improvement and exceptional service.

We continue to hear positive news that Airglades International Airport is coming soon. Our 2018 plan includes line construction work to handle the airport's initial load, which is expected to come live in 2020. This will be a much-needed game changer for our area.

Finally, as Hurricane Irma pre-empted our systems conversion process, our 2018 plan includes completion of that and development of programs designed to improve member services, including a pay-as-you-use billing program, which should give members more control over their personal budgets.

We look forward to improving our service to you in 2018, and wish you a prosperous, healthy, safe and happy new year!



Jeff Brewington

Big Mike's Bean House?

My friend, Covington County Circuit Judge Ben Bowden, recently sent me an article from *The Atlantic* written by James Hamblin titled, "If Everyone Ate Beans Instead of Beef." He wanted to know if I thought it was satire.

Since there are other studies and articles on the effects of diet on climate change, I am sure it is a serious article.

The article focuses on "ecoanxiety"—a term coined in 2011 by the American Psychological Association to describe "the dread and helplessness emanating from the slow and seemingly irrevocable impacts of climate change and the worry about the future for oneself, children and later generations because of changes to the environment."

If there is a remedy for ecoanxiety, it is understanding what can be done to mitigate environmental degradation in a country whose economy and society is so greatly dependent upon carbon emissions.

The article's answer to ecoanxiety is found in a study by Helen Harwatt, a researcher trained in environmental nutrition who focuses on developing food systems that balance human health and sustainability.

The study performed by Harwatt and scientists from Oregon State University, Bard College and Loma University calculated the effect of every American making a dietary change of substituting beans for beef. If they could and

would make the change, the United States could come close to meeting the 2020 greenhouse emission goals pledged by President Obama in 2009.

"I think there's genuinely a lack of awareness about how much impact this sort of change could have," Harwatt states. "A relatively small, single food substitution could be the most powerful change a person makes in terms of their lifetime environmental impact—more than downsizing one's car, being vigilant about turning off light bulbs and certainly more than quitting showering."

The article notes that more than 33 percent of the land on earth fit for the growing of crops is used to grow feed for livestock and 26 percent of the earth is used to graze livestock. Up to 42 percent of America's farmland would be freed up if beef were traded for beans.

Livestock consume many more calories of feed than they yield in meat. The inefficient process of converting feed to beef means additional clear-cutting of forests to feed cattle.

The article points out the high levels of greenhouse flatulent gases emitted by livestock, but does not mention the increase in human release of greenhouse gases if the beans were consumed by humans.

"It can just be a positive, empowering thing for consumers to see that they can make a significant impact by doing something as simple as eating beans instead of beef," Harwatt states. "I think it's

such an easy-to-grasp concept that it could be less challenging than a whole dietary shift. Rather, the beans-for-beef scenario is the dietary equivalent of effective altruism—focusing on where efforts will have the highest yield."

The article concludes that the benefits of a beans-for-beef substitution brings empowerment—or at least reprieve from ecoanxiety. There is apparently some satisfaction in knowing how far an individual can go to save the world just by eating beans.

I think the article has much more to do with what comes out of the bull instead of what goes into the bull. Climate change may or may not be impacting the world. If it is, the impacts may or may not be caused by human activity.

I don't know and you don't know, no matter your opinion of climate change. No one knows—even those scientists who claim they know.

If climate change is a serious problem, it demands serious responses, not this comical "everyone can eat beans instead of beef and save the world" nonsense.

Who commissions and pays for studies like this?

Assuming the climate is changing because of human activities, serious efforts are undermined by approaches that people will not accept or pursue, such as eating beans instead of beef, using a lot less energy, giving up their SUVs, quitting showering, spending



Commentary

By Gary Smith
President and CEO



POWERSOUTH
ENERGY COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

more of their disposable income on energy or committing billions of tax dollars a year on efforts that have no impact on climate outcomes.

People cherish their lifestyles and freedoms. They will not give them up easily.

More serious efforts should be directed toward how we live with the results of climate change—if it is occurring—instead of focusing on how to modify personal behavior or restrict personal freedoms to prevent it.

Big Mike's Steakhouse opened in Andalusia about a year ago. People still wait in line Friday and Saturday nights to enjoy their steaks. They like Big Mike's steaks.

How many people will have enough ecoanxiety to wait in line for a great meal at Big Mike's Bean House? ■



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Electric Cooperative

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OFFICES

722 West Highway 22
P. O. Box 220
Wewahitchka, FL 32465
(850) 639-2216 or (800) 333-9392

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Trustees normally meet the third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. CST. The board meets at the Wewahitchka office in even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October and December) and the Southport office in odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September and November).

The mission of GCEC: Fulfilling the changing needs of our membership and communities by providing cost effective, reliable and safe utility services through a dedicated and responsive workforce.

FL-154

GCEC President's Message

Let's Power the Future

Electricity is so much a part of our lives, we take it for granted. You probably don't give much thought to where your electricity comes from. You just flip a switch and the lights come on, or the TV powers up—and that's the way it should be. Still, you may be curious about how your electricity is generated, or wonder why we choose one generating resource over another.

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GCEC is committed to providing you with safe, affordable, reliable electricity. That's how we power lives, today and in the future. We value your membership. We value you.



Waylon Graham

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative offices are closed Monday, January 1, in observance of New Year's Day. From all of us at GCEC, have a safe and happy new year.



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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210 Metheny Road
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Telephone: 1-800-282-3824
Fax: 866-201-1814

MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

14505 Arbor Green Trail
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BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE

Any PRECO member may attend a Board Meeting. Due to building security requirements and for us to facilitate attendance, members wishing to attend a Board Meeting should contact the Cooperative in a timely manner for logistical information regarding the meeting.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

February 20, 2018

March 27, 2018

April 24, 2018

FL 155

Working to better serve you in 2018

Much can be learned through listening and observation. Paying attention to the needs of our members helps Peace River Electric Cooperative know what features and services you want most.

For instance, PRECO recently launched a digital online version of this member newsletter-magazine, Florida Currents. PRECO members who opt for the paperless, digital magazine will receive an email with a link to the latest issue each month. It's the "green" alternative.

One of our most popular services is SmartHub, an online and mobile account management system which allows you to check the status of your electric service, make account information changes and receive real-time updates on energy use. Thousands of our members have downloaded the SmartHub mobile app since we launched it in 2015, using it to conduct routine business with us, like online bill payments, submitting service requests and viewing real-time outage updates.

Helping you control your energy costs is also important to us. That's why we regularly provide energy saving articles in Florida Currents. We recognize that even small changes in your energy use habits add up to help you save money on your electric bill.

Another way we help you save energy and money is by offering a free energy audit of your home or business. One of our trained technicians will inspect your home's construction and materials, the age and condition of your appliances, and your energy habits to recommend practical ways you can reduce your overall electric use.

By listening to our members, we are building trust, strengthening relationships and fostering cooperation. That's why we hope you'll join us at our Annual Meeting in March. It's an event for our whole co-op family, including fun, prizes and a little co-op business.

We'll continue working to serve you better in 2018 by paying attention to the needs of our members. In our offices, on the phone, through social media exchanges and in our face-to-face meetings, we're always ready to listen.

When you have questions about energy efficiency, electrical service or any of our products or services, just ask us. We're here to help. Together, we can have a happy and prosperous 2018.



Randy Shaw
General Manager & CEO
PEACE RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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