



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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Manager of Financial and Office Services

Douglas Pfaff

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Manager of Member Services

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Director of Purchasing and Warehousing

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Director of Information Systems

Joe Stockard

Director of Operations

Cynthia Tarola

Director of Accounting

Lance Wilson

Director of Engineering

Business Hours:

Monday - Thursday

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

Closed Fridays

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ID-1

CLEARWATER POWER

Seal
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It's your power
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Gaps around doors and windows snatch your heat away!
Seal the gaps and help keep the heat inside.

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

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.

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 Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative at (541) 676-9146.



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.



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



Save a salmon, drive an electric vehicle

Did that get your attention? Being provocative isn't my strong suit, but it seems to be the preferred tactic for use in media today, so I thought I'd give it a try.

What do I mean by this? Well, your utility district and our regional partners have been closely watching our elected officials in Salem and elsewhere on these two connected topics.

First, the State of Oregon is moving aggressively toward some sort of carbon legislation, maybe even in this short session. If you were to ask folks around the region what the largest carbon emitters are in Oregon you may hear "power plants." That would be incorrect. The largest carbon emitter in the PNW is the transportation sector. And largest by a lot.

The Pacific Northwest is powered primarily by non-carbon emitting hydroelectric power. Wind energy, nuclear power and solar power are some other non-emitters. I fully acknowledge that there are pros and cons to any energy source. For salmon and other aquatic species, dams and hydro power catch a lot of negative press.

Facts are facts though: Over 95% downstream passage survivability for juveniles, and adults use fish ladders very, very well through our publicly owned dam and power system. Go tour Bonneville Dam and see it for yourself. Hundreds of millions of dollars each year from your rates fund research, infrastructure improvements, wetlands, and many other things for the 20% of the time the various species spend in the river system(s), and passing through our system of dams. Yes, 20% of their lifecycle is all they spend here. Where do they spend the rest of their lives? In the ocean.

That brings us back to carbon. There is seemingly a direct correlation between ocean conditions and successful fish returns to their natal spawning rivers (above the dams). The healthier the ocean, the better the fish return. I'm not a fisheries biologist, but if something spends 80% of its life in one location, and we can improve the quality of that location, I'd probably want some attention spent there.

I don't know whether carbon is the only thing negatively impacting the oceans. I do know that reducing carbon from the largest emitting sector in the region (transportation) by shifting to EV's can't hurt—especially if you charge them from hydroelectric and other non-carbon-based sources like we have here. The Oregon Governor recently signed an Executive Order on EV's so perhaps future incentives could prove fruitful for you. We can help provide electrical information to support charging infrastructure.

Perhaps this type of discussion can continue around the region and our State can decide if increased spill through our dams is really the right thing to do for fish. Especially when the lost energy is likely made up for by carbon-emitting sources. The Board of Directors and I will keep working on that aspect.

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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Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

Nespelem Valley Electric News

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all are having a good winter. It has been a lot warmer this year than last year. We have had very few outages this winter, which shows your electric system is reliable and working like it should. The Nespelem Valley Electric line crew works hard to maintain the system, and its efforts are paying off.

Speaking of the line crew, we have a new journeyman lineman. Cody Mills was hired in November. He is originally from Oroville. After he attended the Avista Line School, he went to work in Iowa as an apprentice. In 2015, he received his journeyman certificate. He joined NVEC to move back to Okanogan County, where he grew up. He will be a great asset to our team.

We have some planned maintenance work coming up this spring. The Bonneville Power Administration has some transmission maintenance planned for March 1, which requires us to have a power outage in the Bridgeport area. Your co-op will take advantage of this outage and perform substation maintenance and line maintenance prior to the start of irrigation season. Outage notices have been sent to the members who will be affected. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Finally, I wanted to share with you some of the community activities your cooperative supports throughout the year. We are a big supporter of local schools. We are committed to supporting the Nespelem Student of the Month program, which rewards students for good behavior and good attendance. We support the junior rodeos and the Fourth of July rodeo here in Nespelem, the Colorama Parade in Grand Coulee and the local 4-H programs. These are just a few examples of how your cooperative gives back and supports the community.

As always, if you have any questions about your cooperative, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Dan Simpson
General Manager



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**

**1900 W Oak St.
Lebanon, OR 97355**

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Terry Plagmann
SECRETARY

Kevin Christopher
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Roman Gillen
PRESIDENT/CEO

Tony Wilson
TREASURER/CFO

www.cpi.coop

OR-6

President's Report

This month, the Oregon Legislature begins its 2018 short session with thousands of new bills sure to be introduced. Of particular interest to CPI are two bills—one in the House and one in the Senate—both concerning reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These bills will regulate sources (companies and facilities) of emissions greater than 25,000 metric tons annually.

Starting in 2021, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission would establish a cap on total emissions statewide and release a schedule for the cap to decrease by a predetermined amount each year until 2050 to meet statewide targets.

A 21-member advisory committee appointed by the governor would oversee the management of the program, and make biennial recommendations to the governor and the Joint Legislative Committee on Climate.

This “cap-and-invest” program would apply differently to various sectors, which fall into three separate categories: transportation, electric and gas utilities, and industry.

These entities would be required to acquire allowances every year to cover each ton of their emissions, either in a state auction or from other participants trading on a secondary market. The state would systematically reduce the supply of allowances auctioned each year in line with the statewide emissions limits. Tighter supply would mean higher auction prices. Businesses that could comply more cheaply by reducing emissions would do so, while others would continue buying allowances to cover their emissions.

Costs for the utility sector are estimated to be as high as \$350 million annually with the money raised going to rate credits—especially for low-income customers, weatherization and energy-efficiency projects, clean energy projects and creating job opportunities in local communities.

We think the complexities of these bills make them poor candidates for this year's short legislative session. We urge our legislators to consider them instead during the 2019 regular session.

Spill Plan Update

For a number of months now, we have updated you on the progress of Oregon's lawsuit against the federal government in regard to spilling the maximum amount of water allowed under state water quality rules over the eight federal dams on the lower Columbia and Snake rivers.

U.S. District Judge Michael Simon approved the spill plan January 8 and, barring an order from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the new spill regime will begin in April. Whether or not this plan is beneficial to fish, it is expected to increase costs to Bonneville Power Administration customers by approximately \$40 million per year. This decision runs counter to the state's carbon goals mentioned above and will increase carbon emissions by 840,000 metric tons. More power will be generated by natural gas to make up for the loss of clean, renewable, non-carbon-emitting hydropower.

The inconsistency between Oregon's carbon-reduction goals and increased carbon emissions resulting from the governor's demand for maximum spill is more than disturbing. It is unfair. We will end up paying twice: once for carbon reduction programs and once again for costly hydro system experiments with dubious benefits for fish. We deserve better from our state's leaders.

You can work with us on these and other issues by joining our grassroots effort at www.oreca-action.org.

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

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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 Ekru, Operations Manager
Steve Catlow, Manager of Finance and Administration
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,

Do you believe we are more powerful together? I do!

Members like you, the Board of Trustees and the employees of Benton REA work together to electrify our communities. Together, we are not only energizing our community with electricity, internet access and technology consulting services, but also with improved quality of life.



The mission of Benton REA is to provide affordable and reliable energy and other member driven compatible services that enhance the quality of life for all our members. We do that by being locally controlled, innovative in technology, experts in our fields and driven to serve our members' interests first. Benton REA is a cooperative, and because of that I believe we are more powerful together, especially with regard to the local control that you have over the vital and necessary services that Benton REA provides to you.

Your Benton REA board president, Mike Freepons, will talk about how we are more powerful together at Benton REA's 81st Annual Meeting of the Members. The Benton REA Annual Meeting will be held on February 10th at the Housel Middle School in Prosser. The doors will open at 8:30 a.m. for our free health fair, bingo and other activities which will include information updates. Lunch will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the business meeting will start at noon.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve you over the last year, and I hope to see you all at the Benton REA Annual Meeting on February 10th!

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

888-465-5701 day or night

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Vice President

Jeff Wenholz

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

People are the Heart of the Industry

Beyond the poles and wires, the electric utility industry is a story about people.

Judy Mattox, born and raised in Hermiston, retired from Umatilla Electric on Jan. 12 after nearly 24 years on the job.

Judy came to UEC in 1994 after working 18 years as a cashier and in the office at Thriftway, also known as Bob's Red Apple. At UEC, she began as a customer service representative and worked at our newly opened Boardman office for a couple of years.

For the past 20 years, Judy has worked as a bookkeeper, closing work orders, handling materials invoices and overseeing our Capital Credits refunds and estate returns.

Judy has been an integral part of our Finance Department, and she will be missed in that role. But her closest colleagues say what they most appreciate about Judy is that she is "just good people." Among other activities, she and husband Harold are looking forward to enjoying their four grandchildren in the coming years. We wish Judy the best!

Another milestone is the passing on Jan. 6 of retired State Rep. Bob Jenson of Pendleton, who enjoyed the informal title of Dean of the House for his long service in the Oregon State Legislature. He was especially appreciated at UEC, as a champion of consumer-owned utilities such as UEC and Hermiston Energy Services and the customers they serve.

UEC's now-retired general manager, Steve Eldrige, remembers Bob's service to the community well:

"Bob was front and center on irrigated ag and salmon recovery among other things. Bob and his wife were a very effective team



at the Oregon Legislature. Evelyn ran the office and kept Bob's calendar and could always be depended on to get word to Bob on constituents' behalf. Bob changed political parties twice in order to more effectively represent his constituents. Changing parties did not alter Bob's core belief that he was elected to serve the people and to make government more responsible to them.

"Bob was instrumental in water recharge legislation with water from nearby rivers, including the Columbia. This legislation broke through the logjam that had effectively prohibited any new irrigation water from the Columbia River (unless the water was taken below Bonneville Dam). The approved water recharge statute ultimately led to recent irrigation developments."

Our condolences to the family and friends of Bob Jenson.

Finally, an appreciation of all the people who work on holidays, including line crews at UEC.

On a windy and snowy Christmas Day, just before noon, a tree blew through a wire in the Blue Mountains, greatly inconveniencing about 50 UEC members served by our Mission Substation near Pendleton.

Our line workers Bobby Findley, Joel Robbins, Mikel Britt and Chandler Fortune responded to this outage, which took about eight hours to restore. Thank you to the crew and their families for their service on Christmas Day.



Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO



**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.*

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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

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.

This month, 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,

**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

James K. 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.

DOUGLAS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OR-10

Priorities Will Continue To Be Great Service and Competitive Rates

Early last month, I assumed the post of general manager for Douglas Electric Cooperative. I started this new position committed to being a good steward of your cooperative. It is my objective to focus on stable competitive rates, superior member service and service reliability on your behalf.

As I started to talk with existing employees, I heard those same sentiments echoed back to me and knew I had found a home. As a team, we are excited to find new ways to serve you better, become more efficient and bring more value to you.

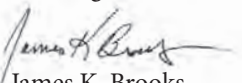


To give you a few more examples, we are looking at increasing the number of options we have to communicate with you during power outages. Our various incentive/rebate programs will remain strong and consistent for the foreseeable future, and as great as our service reliability is, we will strive to improve it even more.

Soon, you will receive a survey that asks you how you think we are doing. The survey's intent is to help us identify the areas where we need to focus our efforts, and the areas where we already meet your expectations. We want to be better for you.

While I'm getting my feet wet, please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you.

Best Regards,



James K. Brooks
General Manager

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 Ringering 805-9098
Gary Warner 934-2961
Brian Woodell 934-2260

OR-11

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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.

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

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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

Energy-Efficiency Programs Save Members Money

Since the late 1970s, Central Electric Cooperative has led the charge for energy conservation and efficiency programs. Initially, CEC offered a weatherization program that would help qualified homeowners better insulate their houses. Our slate of programs soon grew so members could save money by making home improvements, smart appliance choices, incorporating quick-fix ideas and following energy-saving tips. I am proud to say this invaluable program still thrives today.

CEC offers 16 energy-efficiency programs targeting residential, commercial, irrigation and industrial members. Programs range widely—from new construction standards, high-efficiency heat pumps and water heaters to irrigation equipment and pump testing to commercial and industrial lighting projects. I encourage members to visit www.cec.coop and check out our offerings. Our energy specialists can also help members walk through a project and select the right one for their needs.

Central Electric members have consistently shown their commitment to saving money and energy by participating in our energy-efficiency programs. In 2017, 724 members engaged in our program offerings, implementing energy-efficiency measures that will save 4,205,746 kilowatt-hours annually. This is equivalent to offsetting the average annual energy use of 261 homes, based on CEC's latest available five-year average. I am pleased to see so many of our members working with the cooperative and seeking ways to be more energy efficient.

Central Electric also collaborated with the Environmental Center in Bend on the National Energy Challenge, where 624 co-op members received direct-home installation of 16 LED bulbs and two high-efficiency showerheads. There was no cost to CEC members due to 100 percent incentive funding through the Bonneville Power Administration.

In 2017, we also combined our political grassroots recruitment efforts with our members' desire for energy efficiency with the mailing of energy-efficiency kits to 608 members who joined ORECA-Action, our political action network. These kits also were funded by the Bonneville Power Administration and contained six LED bulbs and two high-efficiency showerheads.

CEC helped create the ORECA-Action network as a member of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The program keeps our members informed and enlists them as allies as we work with policymakers on energy-related issues, including conservation. Please join today by going to www.oreca-action.org. Together, we can ensure the safety, reliability and economic benefits of your electricity, including viable and robust energy-efficiency programs that help you save money and energy.



Dave Markham
President and CEO



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Matt Mjelde

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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.

Colder Weather Means Higher Bills

As winter sets in and we experience the wide variety of weather patterns on our beautiful Oregon Coast, I would like to explain what this weather can mean to your electricity consumption and how it affects your electric bills.

Even though you may not have made any changes or 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. Your electric rates have not increased. In fact, I am happy to report they have remained the same since January 1, 2016.

Please contact us if you are struggling with your winter electric bills CCEC offers a variety of energy conservation programs that can help you save energy or refer you to resources available to help you. We want you to be safe and warm in your homes and businesses.

Scholarships

I am excited to announce the CCEC Board of Directors approved a new scholarship program and will issue six \$1,000 scholarships to local students within our service territory. Our members have expressed they would like us to do more to give back to our communities, and we are listening! See pages 4 and 5 for more information.

Grassroots

The ORECA-Action Grassroots advocacy group is gaining momentum, but we still need more people to join this effort. Together with other Oregonians and rural Americans nationwide, we can make our voices heard about legislative issues that affect the cost and reliability of the electricity we use to power our everyday lives. Stop by any CCEC office to sign up and receive a free four-pack of LED bulbs.

Roger Meader, General Manager/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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(Dist. 4 – Vernonia)

Nick Galaday
(Dist. 5 – Timber, Buxton)

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:

Winter isn't over yet, but it's getting closer.

I am thankful we did not have any major storms to contend with during the last two months of 2017. If you remember, we experienced two major storms that set us back severely last year at this time.

The January storm was declared a Federal Emergency Management Agency event. Since then, we have been working with the state to recover some the expenses incurred during that storm.

The February storm was too localized to West Oregon Electric Cooperative's service territory and, therefore, did not rise to the level that the state could claim a disaster and apply for FEMA aid. The sad part was that the February storm cost more to restore than the January storm.

I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we don't have a repeat of last year's stormy beginning, and we can start this year on more solid footing.

The Oregon Legislature is gearing up for a short session. Topping the list is a carbon tax and/or cap-and-trade scheme that would assign a price to carbon and be passed along to consumers. It is a complicated subject, and I'd be surprised if anything was passed in this short session.

Last month, I wrote about spill. At this point, the Bonneville Power Administration isn't saying just how much this will affect the cost of electricity. BPA may not have an answer for us until May.

In the coming months, I will be starting the conversation with you regarding the deferred rate increase that was postponed until after the heating season.

Regards,

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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Lake City

Duane McGarva
Likely

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

"Owned by those we serve"

CA-15

Inspect Your Home For Electrical Risks

Just like any man-made product, electrical systems become outdated.

As rooms, appliances and electronics are added, electrical systems can become overburdened.

"Many homeowners don't understand the dangerous effect age has on their home's electrical system," says Michael G. Clendenin, the former executive director of the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

The ESFI recommends electrical inspections for any house more than 40 years old; any house 10 years or older that has had major renovations or appliances added; and any previously owned house at the time of resale.

"If your home has dim or flickering lights, loose receptacles, circuit breakers that frequently trip or fuses that frequently pop, hot or discolored outlets and light switch covers, or damaged wire insulation, your home may well be a fire waiting to happen," Clendenin warns. "That is your home's way of telling you that you have a problem."

Depending on the size of your home, an inspection could take between 30 minutes and an hour. The ESFI recommends checking for the following:

- The condition of the electrical service entrance and all exposed wiring.
- Proper grounding and polarity in receptacles.
- The condition of the panel and its connections.
- The operation of and need for ground and arc fault circuit

interrupters.

- Voltage drop on a couple of circuits and a load analysis to determine if service is adequate to meet present demand.

- Proper lamp wattage.
- Overloaded outlets and the improper use of extension cords.
- Proper installation of smoke alarms.

Homeowners are urged to develop a detailed map of their home's circuitry, showing the outlets and fixtures served by each circuit and how much power is demanded of each.

You may find your total demand exceeds the service to your home, requiring an upgrade to a higher level of electrical service.

Repairs could be minor and nominal in cost, such as cleaning and tightening of connections or adding outlets, or more involved and costly, such as adding circuits and subpanels or replacing degraded wiring.

Making repairs could save you money on your homeowners' insurance.

"You have a good chance of identifying and correcting hazards with an inspection, but very little chance of avoiding eventual property loss, traumatic injury and even death without one," says Clendenin. ■

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Kathy Keable, Secretary, McKenzie District
Hugh Buermann, Treasurer, Row River District
Jack Billings, Central District
J. Ingrid Kessler, Central District
Jerry Shorey, Oakridge District

GENERAL MANAGER

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's website)

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OR-16

Down the Line



Dear Co-op Community Members:

What does it mean to be a member of a co-op community in today's world and, specifically, an elec-

tric co-op community? More than you may realize.

First, a co-op is a not-for-profit organization. Rate increases don't maintain a profit for shareholders. The co-op exists to provide service to its members at cost.

Second, a co-op is a federal tax-exempt organization. This helps keep your electricity costs lower because the co-op doesn't pay a federal corporate income tax.

You may have heard about investor-owned utilities returning money to their customers in 2018 because the company expects a smaller income tax bill. Those customers will now get to experience what electric co-op members experience every year with capital credits. If in any year Lane Electric collects more in rates than is needed for expenses, capital credits are allocated to each member based on electricity use.

Third, a co-op's core principles and values are embodied in the Seven Cooperative Principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern For Community

Lane Electric Co-op is a grassroots community business. As a co-op member, you have a voice in the co-op, which exists to serve you, its member. You elect community-minded neighbors to serve on Lane Electric's seven-member board of directors. They, in turn, hire a general manager to prudently oversee and plan co-op operations.

How does this all affect the recent \$4 increase to Lane Electric's fixed basic charge for all rate classes? The increase is needed to provide service at cost, not for profit. The Lane Electric Board of Directors reviewed staff's budget proposal in depth to provide transparency into the budgeting process. The board concluded additional revenue was needed to maintain the financial health of the co-op.

An increase to the fixed charge instead of the kilowatt-hour use charge avoids over-collecting money from members if unusual weather causes greater electricity use. Lowering the single-phase demand threshold to 31 kilowatts fairly allocates more cost to those members using greater system capacity.

In other words, when a rate increase happens for Lane Electric Co-op community members, it happens because it is the responsible thing to keep the co-op financially healthy for its community.

Don't forget to check the About Us > Capital Credits tabs at www.LaneElectric.com to see if you have capital credit money to collect.

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)

Cheryl Haskell, Vice Chairwoman

(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
kelleyc@blachlylane.coop
(Warthen, Sheffler and Walton areas)

General Manager

Joe Jarvis
jarvisj@blachlylane.coop

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

OR-17

Blachly-Lane's Plan-Driven Approach

Dear Members,

When rates change each January, we anticipate questions whether we are responsible in developing our budget, and how the board of directors arrived at our cost-recovery plan.

When I came to Blachly-Lane, the system wasn't reliable and was getting worse. The co-op was operating with instability and uncertainty. Putting off maintenance and capacity building of our system might keep rates low, but costs members in reactive fixes and poor service reliability.

It's been my mission to proactively manage the co-op. In the past six years, we've adopted the following planning structure to bring greater stability and certainty to the co-op.

Strategic plan: "What does the future of the co-op look like, and how do we keep it viable?" Every two years, your member-elected board develops this broad organizational strategic plan.

Long-range capital plan: "What does our system need to safely, reliably continue to serve members?" In this big-picture plan, priority is given to improve weak areas of the system, and areas where growth requires additional capacity. This creates the next question.

Financial plan: "How are we going to pay for what we need?" We've prioritized the work that needs to be done to give members what they want and need—nothing more, nothing less—and we structure the way to pay for it.

Work plan: "What is our timeline for getting capital projects done, and what tools, labor and other resources do we need to do it right?" The work is planned one year at a time. Crews know what projects they will be building and maintaining in advance.

Budget: "What revenue do we require to accomplish our plan?" The budget is not a random wish list, but is built on the previous planning. As a co-op, our goal is to only spend what we must to deliver safe, reliable service to you, our member.

Rate-setting: "What is the fair and equitable way to collect what is needed to accomplish the plan?" Once the budget is built, a cost-of-service analysis is done to determine which rate classes each cost benefits. Each rate class pays only for the portion of costs that benefit them.

This is your co-op. We conduct its business with you in mind every step of the way. We value your patronage and being a part of the Blachly-Lane community.



Joe Jarvis
General Manager



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Brandy Myers
Customer Service Supervisor

www.klickitatpud.com

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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

2018 Financial Outlook

Following a public hearing December 12, 2017, the Klickitat PUD Board of Commissioners adopted the 2018 operating budget. It forecasts \$52.3 million in net revenues—an increase of about 5 percent compared to the 2017 budget of \$50.1 million. The good news is that there are no electric increases in 2018.

The 2017 budget forecasted the potential for several rate increases to meet our financial policy goals through 2021. These rate increases, if needed, totaled 17 percent through the period—about 3 percent a year—and accounted for about \$5.5 million a year in additional revenues. Through the work we have done—including cost containment, leasing water rights and our renewable natural gas project—we think we have reduced or eliminated the need for these increases.

The 2018 budget was approved with no rate increases through 2022. As mentioned in the December 2017 Ruralite article, there is no guarantee increases will not

happen in the future. However, Klickitat PUD will continue to work diligently to keep rate increases at bay.

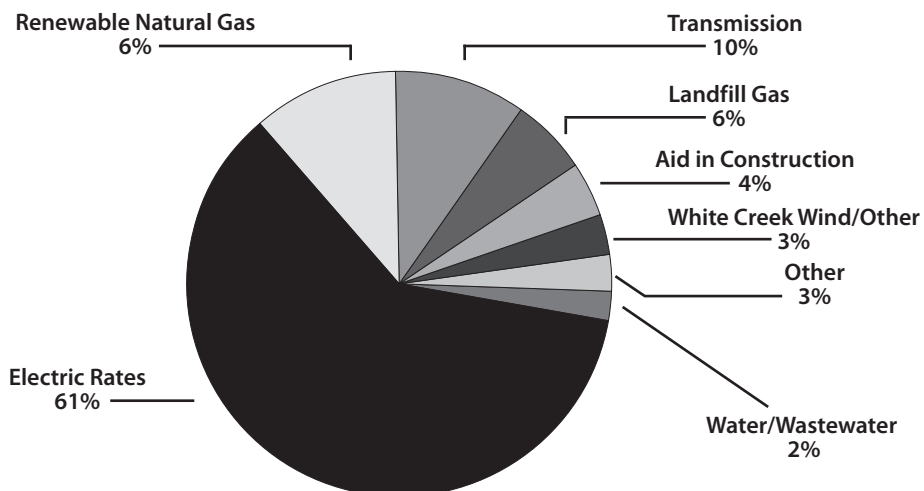
The landscape of the revenue figures changed a bit in comparison to 2017 with the addition of renewable natural gas. Electric rates still encompass most of the revenue at 61 percent, down less than 1 percent from last year.

Transmission and generation are made up of RNG, the H.W. Hill Landfill Gas Project, and White Creek Wind and Transmission, which accounts for 30 percent of the budget. That is an increase of 3 percent in revenues compared to last year's budget, which is due to the additional 11 percent from RNG. The water/wastewater rates and aid in construction revenues have slightly decreased in comparison to the overall budget due to growth in revenues from our other business lines.

The 2018 budget sets expenditures at \$52.6 million—an increase of almost 6 percent compared to the 2017 expense

Continues on page 28

2018 Budget Revenue Sources





NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.

The power of local service

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

For Outages:
(866) NO-LITES
(866) 665-4837

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

Outside Sandpoint:
(800) 326-9594

Board President
Steve Elgar

Board Vice President
Kennon McClintock

Board Secretary/Treasurer
Judith Simonson

General Manager
Annie Terracciano

Board of Directors by District

Dist. No. 1—Mike Dolan, Nordman, ID
(208) 610-3853

Dist. No. 2—Judith Simonson, Noxon, MT
(406) 847-2643

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

Dist. No. 4—David Pemberton, Careywood, ID
(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

Winter Outages

The Northwest is known as a winter wonderland, where beautiful white snow blankets the trees. But with the snow also comes winter power outages. Heavy snow and gusting wind is known to knock out your power.

At Northern Lights, our goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time possible. If you do lose power, be sure to report it to the outage line at (866) 665-4837.

During an outage, crews work to restore power in the following order:

1. Transmission towers and lines

Transmission lines deliver all the power to Northern Lights members. These lines feed our substations.

2. Substations

Once the transmission lines are fixed, crews next check NLI substations to ensure they are undamaged and energized.

3. Distribution lines

Distribution lines deliver power from NLI substations throughout our service territory. These lines make up most of our system. This is the slowest part of the restoration process.

4. Taps

Taps are the individual lines that run to your property from the distribution lines. These are the last item to be fixed and can often result in you not having power while all of your neighbors do.

During an outage, you can view our outage map at www.nli.coop to get an idea of where the outages are and their size. We always appreciate your patience as our crews work around the clock in all weather conditions to get your power back on as quickly as possible.

We live in a beautiful rural area, and trees cause most of our outages with broken limbs being weighed down and falling over. The NLI Board of Directors has made it a priority to fund tree trimming. This not only helps reduce outages, but fire danger.

Enjoy your last few weeks of winter, as spring is just around the corner!



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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Greencreek

Vice President Kim Dahler
Kooskia

Secretary-Treasurer Jim Poxleitner
Cottonwood

Frank McIntire
Kamiah

Gerald Frei
Grangeville

John Solberg
Kamiah

Attorney

J.A. Wright

General Manager

Max Beach

c-21

The Truth Behind Delinquent Accounts

Dear Members,

Ninety percent of ICL&P members pay their bill on time. They get their monthly bill and within about two weeks they write us a check, pay online, or authorize us to charge their bill to a bank account or credit card. The rest follow some time thereafter. Unfortunately, a few end up getting disconnected when they do not respond to attempts to contact them through the mail, phone or sometimes in person at their residence or business. While we never want to disconnect anyone, sometimes we are left with no choice.

I am writing about this because we recently reviewed the time we spend on delinquent accounts. The resources consumed is considerable. On average, we spend nearly \$40,000 a year trying to collect, make payment arrangements, follow up, give information about payment assistance through local and state agencies or disconnect meters.

Unlike most other products you buy, you pay for electricity after you have used it. When you receive a bill, it is for the previous month's use. The bill goes out around the first of each month and has a due date of the 20th. If the bill is not paid by the 21st, it is delinquent. If not paid by the 25th, it is assessed a delinquent charge of 1.5 percent or \$5, whichever is greater. These charges offset the time and costs associated with the accounts at this stage.

Accounts not paid by the 7th of the following month are sent a delinquent/disconnect notice. The notice includes a deadline for receipt of the outstanding balance and alerts the member that electric service may be disconnected if the terms are not met. When this letter is sent, \$20 is billed to the account to cover the additional time and costs. If no resolution is made, the account is subject to disconnection on or after the 17th. Once a disconnect happens, the member must pay the entire balance on the account(s) plus additional fees and a \$150 deposit or more. These charges help pay for the cost of sending employees to the same property multiple times.

We understand there are times when members fall on hard times and don't have the means to pay their bills. That's why co-op employees make every effort to do what they can to help those who are trying to satisfy their obligations. They work with members to arrange fair payment time frames for overdue balances. They also refer consumers to area agencies that offer assistance. The co-op's levelized billing program helps members budget annual energy expenses and avoid large bills during high-use months. Funds donated by fellow co-op members are disbursed to needy families through the Lend a Hand program that you see on your bill every month. This program seeks to help members who typically pay their bills, but have experienced a recent financial setback, such as the loss of a job or an injury/death in the family.

Because ICL&P is owned by those we serve, the cost of managing delinquent accounts becomes the responsibility of all of us. When delinquent accounts are reconciled, we all reap the benefits.

Thank you for your time,

Max Beach, General Manager



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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Greg Knowles, Vice President
Duanne Depping, Secretary/Treasurer
Neil Carpenter, Director
Patrick Dennis, Director
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.

Staff

Chief Executive Officer, Les Teel
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...

Flip a switch. Stock the fridge. Warm up dinner and then do the laundry. Energy supports almost every aspect of our lives.

Look at Puerto Rico. After most of the island's poles, wires, and energy infrastructure were demolished by two hurricanes last fall, more than 100,000 people fled to the continental U.S.

Reliable energy is critical to our way of life. But at Columbia REA, we want to do more than maintain a steady power flow. You deserve more. We are a public power utility, owned by the communities we serve in Columbia, Umatilla and Walla Walla Counties. Your interests—saving money and helping communities grow—are our interests. And when we team up to tackle our shared goals, we are more powerful together.

I always smile when I drive by Columbia REA crews at work. Whether they're replacing poles, installing underground wire, or building a new substation, they're doing far more than meets the eye. Each step invests in our future.

New poles and wires mean greater reliability for local homes and businesses. Energy will be here when our Columbia REA members need it. And that same solid foundation provides a launching pad for future economic growth in the areas we serve. Rockets need fuel, planning, and a good foundation to aim for the moon. Local growth needs the same.

Here at Columbia REA we invest in you, our members. We want to simplify things for you, so you can focus on the things that really matter. This is why we encourage members to sign up for e-bill and auto-pay, so paying your bill is easier than ever.

As our area continues to develop and change, one thing will stay the same - we know that nothing works without you, our members. We are public power. We are more powerful together. Learn more about energy efficiency, rebates and other ways we can work together by visiting www.columbiarea.coop or by calling (509) 526-4041.



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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Vice President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Secretary/Treasurer

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Vic Russell, Fall River

Robert Reed, La Pine

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

Bud Kendall, La Pine

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

STAFF

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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

Providing safe fish passage through the eight federal dams on the lower Columbia and Snake rivers is an important part of regional efforts to mitigate the impacts of dams on juvenile salmon and steelhead.

Surface passage systems are operating at all eight federal dams. Surface passage has reduced the percentage of fish that go through powerhouses (turbines), decreased fish travel time through the system and increased overall fish survival.

The juvenile survival performance standard target is 96 percent for yearling chinook and steelhead. The rigorous method for testing and satisfying the standard is reviewed by independent scientists and demonstrates that all eight dams are on track to meet performance standards.

Nevertheless, the state of Oregon filed a request for injunctive relief with the U.S. District Court seeking even more spring spill at the dams, which scientists fear can have negative effects on fish and increases electricity costs for Northwest ratepayers.

On January 8, U.S. District Judge Michael Simon adopted maximum spill at all eight federal dams. The spill is estimated to reduce hydro generation by about 815 average megawatts from April to June. This approach could cost the Bonneville Power Administration about \$80 million during fiscal years 2018 and 2019 in reduced revenues and/or increased power acquisition costs. This will be passed on to BPA consumers, including us.

This loss of hydroelectric generation is contrary to the state's carbon reduction goals. It will increase purchases of fossil-fuel power on the wholesale market, generating 840,000 tons of carbon—the equivalent of carbon produced by 179,000 passenger cars.

Ironically, during the legislative session

beginning this month, both the House and Senate are proposing bills to further reduce carbon by creating an Oregon cap-and-invest program similar to California's. In my opinion, it is a complex, contentious issue not suited for a 35-day session.

As a BPA customer—using close to 100 percent carbon-free hydroelectric power—this should not be a concern to Midstate Electric Cooperative. However, legislation of this nature can have far-reaching effects depending on the approach taken by the state government.

With assistance from the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association and other organizations, MEC will be engaged throughout the 2018 session. We will advocate for outcomes that have neutral or beneficial effects on our members.

We may need to call on our political grassroots advocates to band together to contact elected officials to impact the political process. If you are not an ORECA-Action member, please join today. Go to www.mse.coop and click on the ORECA-Action button on the upper right of our home page, or call (541) 536-2126, option 5.

Board Districts Up for Election

Board districts 1 (Lazy River), 2 (South La Pine) and 8 (Christmas Valley) are up for election in 2018. Candidates to represent those districts may be nominated for director by filing a petition signed by at least 15 cooperative members residing in that district. Petitions for the three positions must be filed by Tuesday, March 13, 2018. Petitions are available at the cooperative office.

For more information, see page 8.

General Manager Dave Schneider



www.rrelectric.com

DIRECTORS

President Krinn McCoy
 Vice President Stan Spencer
 Secretary-Treasurer Gary Jones
 Larry Henson
 Lindsey Manning
 Larry Monroe
 Dennis Poulsen
 Blaine Tanner
 Doug Webb

GENERAL MANAGER

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



MORE THAN A CUSTOMER. A PARTNER.

When you are a customer of a big company, you rarely have much say in the way things are run. Public power is different. At Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative, you are more than a customer. You're a partner.

Sure, I work with RREC to find ways to cut energy use at home and at work. But this partnership goes deeper. Jobs are the backbone of our community, so RREC works side by side with members to create new opportunities. When my neighbors are in need, RREC steps in to help. And we elect people we know and trust to lead RREC, ensuring our region stays strong for generations to come.

We are public power.

We are **MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER.**

To learn how you and Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative are #MorePowerfulTogether, visit www.rrelectric.com. You can also join your neighbors at the annual meeting Tuesday, March 20, at Raft River High School in Malta, Idaho.





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

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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

Rate Increase Announcement

Big Bend Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees has approved an approximate 5 percent rate increase effective April 1. This is the first rate increase in four years.

As a nonprofit electric utility, our goal is to set rates as close to our actual cost as possible while maintaining sufficient cash reserves for equipment maintenance, infrastructure improvements and unforeseen events. As members of the co-op, trustees work hard to minimize the impact of necessary price increases.

The primary reason for the rate change is increasing rates by our wholesale power supplier, the Bonneville Power Administration. In October 2015, BBEC absorbed the nearly 11 percent power cost increase by BPA. Unfortunately, we cannot continue to absorb the cost. Based on increased costs associated with environmental regulations, transportation, fuel, materials and labor, it is likely BPA power costs—as well as the cost of operating your cooperative—will continue to rise. Despite the increase, BBEC still has some of the lowest rates in the region, as well as in the nation.

We encourage members to use energy efficiently. Turn off lights and TVs when not in use, and keep your home sealed from the elements. Electric heat and air conditioning are two of the biggest power costs affecting your bills. There are energy-efficiency rebates available for various residential, commercial and agricultural projects. Members are welcome to contact our office to see what rebates may be available.

Rest assured, the board and management are doing everything possible to achieve our goal of providing you with reliable electric service at the lowest cost possible.

For more detailed information on the rate increase, or if you would like a complete rate schedule, please contact our office at (866) 844-2363 or go to www.bbec.org.

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

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 flowers. 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.

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



Avoid planting or building near pad-mount transformers. HREC may need immediate access to this equipment, and obstructions could slow response time.

damaged if they are in the way.

Your transformer was leveled by our crew or contractor when installed. Settling may cause it to tilt and possibly put stress on incoming and outgoing conductors. If your transformer is not level, please call our operations staff. We will restore it to a level condition.

Transformers may sometimes become hidden by deep snow or in plowed-up snowbanks. On occasion, transformers have been hit and damaged by snow-removal equipment. Small marker poles that attach to transformers are available. Please call to request installation of a marker pole if your transformer is in a location subject to deep snow or at risk of being struck by a snowplow.

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 Hood River Electric Cooperative at (541) 354-1233. ■

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



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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,

With spring just around the corner, it is time to start thinking about reconnecting irrigation services. There is one important thing you, as a member, can do to help make this process go smoothly.

Whenever a member requests anything pertaining to a service—such as a reconnect, disconnect or inspection—the front office staff at Harney Electric Cooperative generates a service order to give to a lineman. This tracks all the information about the service location and equipment at that site, which helps the lineman organize the visit. Service orders help the crew complete the work more efficiently.

The best way to ensure we process a service order for the correct service is to obtain the meter number for that site. You may have noticed our front office staff will ask you for a meter number when you call or visit the office. That request is often met with, “Oh, the guys know where it is.” This may, in fact, be true. However, during the past few years, a few linemen have left the co-op. New crew members brought in to take their place may or may not know the whereabouts of every service in HEC’s territory.

A service order initiated through the member-provided meter number helps the crew fill out the paperwork necessary to do work on a service. Inefficiencies—and additional cost—are generated when a lineman drives out to the wrong place and spends time looking at the wrong service.

We thank you in advance for providing the meter number when you next request a reconnect or service call. The cooperative is committed to managing costs to keep power rates as low as possible for our members.

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

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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

Columbia River Treaty

I want to update the Salmon River Electric Cooperative membership on the Columbia River Treaty between Canada and the United States. This item could impact our ability to deliver affordable electricity to members in the future.

Lawmakers throughout the Pacific Northwest have been pressing the U.S. government to re-open Columbia River Treaty talks for several years. The Columbia River Treaty is a 1964 agreement between Canada and the United States that facilitated the development and operation of dams in the upper Columbia River basin for power and flood control benefits in both countries. The agreement does not have an expiration date, but either country can cancel most of its provisions after September 2024, with a 10-year minimum notice.

The U.S. Department of State announced its intention to enter treaty talks with Canada.

Besides flood control, the treaty provides an entitlement for power benefits derived from the agreement. Northwest utilities make an annual payment between \$250 million to \$350 million to Canada for this "Canadian entitlement." The payments were intended to reimburse Canada for building storage dams to benefit downstream power generation. Of interest to some 6.4 million U.S. electric customers in the Northwest is whether an outdated formula has ratepayers paying too much for electricity because of these payments to Canada.

There are risks associated with the U.S.'s decision to renegotiate the treaty. The risks include the many special interest groups that could try to include their agendas in the treaty. Agendas typically come with costs, which could manifest themselves in higher electric costs. Our worry is that many of the proposed additional agenda items are already considered and paid for in other ways, such as through the Endangered Species Act and Clean Air Act.

Idaho recently took a position on the CRT. The state has published a white paper on its position, which does not necessarily align on all points with the regional recommendation, but it aligns on most points. Idaho stakeholders have stated two goals in modernizing the treaty. The first goal is to update the Canadian entitlement to reflect current conditions. Secondly, the state wants to identify and clarify post-2024 flood control operations.

Missing from Idaho's recommendation is to include ecosystem function as part of the treaty modernization mainly for the same reasons I stated above. Idaho also takes the position that if ecosystem function is considered in the treaty, it should not affect Idaho storage projects, water facilities or water users and must not alter any state-based water rights, state law or Congressional authorizations.



Ken Dizes

Ken Dizes
General Manager

United Electric Co-op Inc.

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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

What is the future of nuclear power? The Nuclear Energy Institute indicates nuclear power generates about 20 percent of the electricity in the country. Currently, there are 99 nuclear reactors operating at 61 power plants in 30 states.

One of these operating reactors, Columbia Generating Station near Richland, Washington, generates about 4 percent of all electricity used in the Pacific Northwest and is part of the resource portfolio of the Bonneville Power Administration. United Electric buys a small amount of generation from Columbia Generating Station under our wholesale power contract with BPA.

Operated by Energy Northwest, Columbia Generating Station generates approximately 1,190 megawatts of electric capacity.

Will large 1,000-MW nuclear generators continue as the future of nuclear power?

There might be another option. NuScale Power, located in Tigard, Oregon, has designed a small modular nuclear reactor. The NuScale Power Module is a 50-MW pressurized water reactor and high-pressure steel containment system. Twelve NuScale Power Modules—each with its own dedicated steam turbine generator—could be combined into a single 600-MW power plant. The NuScale design was accepted for review by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2017.

Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems has entered into an agreement with NuScale and Energy Northwest to investigate the viability of building a small modular reactor generating project. A preferred location has been identified within the Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory site near Idaho Falls. DOE has become an important partner in the investigation, providing support and cost-sharing.

UAMPS is a project-based nonprofit organization that provides wholesale electric energy and transmission to community-owned power systems throughout the Intermountain West. Its 46 members are in Utah, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming.

According to UAMPS, its Carbon-Free Power Project is investigating the small modular nuclear reactor technology to provide future carbon-free baseload power to its members. A decision to proceed with this project will be made in the next several years as cost and financing become better defined, and as demand is quantified through power sales contracts.

This reactor project could be the first of its kind.

Jo Elg

General Manager



More information on the Carbon-Free Power Project and small-scale nuclear reactors can be found at www.uamps.com and www.nuscalepower.com.



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

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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

Inspect Your Home For Electrical Risks

Just like any man-made product, electrical systems become outdated.

As rooms, appliances and electronics are added, electrical systems can become overburdened.

"Many homeowners don't understand the dangerous effect age has on their home's electrical system," says Michael G. Clendenin, the former executive director of the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

The ESFI recommends electrical inspections for any house more than 40 years old; any house 10 years or older that has had major renovations or appliances added; and any previously owned house at the time of resale.

"If your home has dim or flickering lights, loose receptacles, circuit breakers that frequently trip or fuses that frequently pop, hot or discolored outlets and light switch covers, or damaged wire insulation, your home may well be a fire waiting to happen," Clendenin warns. "That is your home's way of telling you that you have a problem."

Depending on the size of your home, an inspection could take between 30 minutes and an hour. The ESFI recommends checking for the following:

- The condition of the electrical service entrance and all exposed wiring.
- Proper grounding and polarity in receptacles.
- The condition of the panel and its connections.
- The operation of and need for ground and arc fault circuit

interrupters.

- Voltage drop on a couple of circuits and a load analysis to determine if service is adequate to meet present demand.

- Proper lamp wattage.
- Overloaded outlets and the improper use of extension cords.
- Proper installation of smoke alarms.

Homeowners are urged to develop a detailed map of their home's circuitry, showing the outlets and fixtures served by each circuit and how much power is demanded of each.

You may find your total demand exceeds the service to your home, requiring an upgrade to a higher level of electrical service.

Repairs could be minor and nominal in cost, such as cleaning and tightening of connections or adding outlets, or more involved and costly, such as adding circuits and subpanels or replacing degraded wiring.

Making repairs could save you money on your homeowners' insurance.

"You have a good chance of identifying and correcting hazards with an inspection, but very little chance of avoiding eventual property loss, traumatic injury and even death without one," says Clendenin. ■



Board of Directors

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Jeff Saxe, Director
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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

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.

March

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

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, March 26, 2018, for Seward's Day

AK-34

Save the Date!

CVEA 2018 Annual Membership Meeting

Valdez, Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Copper Basin, Thursday, May 3, 2018

Help Wanted

CVEA needs you! Serve your community and your electric cooperative by volunteering to serve on the CVEA Board of Directors or annual meeting committees.

Run for a Seat on the CVEA Board of Directors

If you have been a member of CVEA for at least 12 continuous months, are a member in good standing, and are not an employee or close relative of an incumbent director or employee, you may be eligible to be a director. For a complete list of director qualifications, please refer to CVEA's Bylaws Section 4.02, Qualifications, at cvea.org.

Candidates must complete a petition signed by at least 15 active CVEA members and submit the petition to the CVEA office in their district by 5 p.m., Friday, February 23, 2018. Nominations packets can be picked up at either CVEA office.

Credentials & Election Committees

Credentials & Election (C&E) Committees are responsible for validating signatures on the back of director election ballot envelopes and counting the ballots for Director elections and Bylaws amendments.

The committees, one for each district, are comprised of interested members who are not employees, directors, candidates, or close relatives of these persons.

Service on the C&E Committees will take place during April, with most of the work performed the week prior to the meeting.

CVEA Community Foundation Scholarship Selection Committees

CVEACF Scholarship Selection Committees review scholarship application packets, determine which students to interview, conduct the interviews and select who will receive the scholarships being offered this year.

Participation on the committees requires attending three or four meetings as well as time for reviewing and scoring applications, and is estimated to take up to 10 hours.

If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer for any of these opportunities to serve, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email crisp@cvea.org. The committee volunteer deadline is Wednesday, February 14, 2018.



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

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

Our Mission

Tillamook PUD provides safe, reliable and
competitively priced power to our
customers.

Our Vision

Tillamook PUD provides high value to
our customers, staff and community,
performing now and preparing for the
future.



OR-35

Tillamook PUD in the Community

Dear Customers:

Most of us have a list of important things, priorities we have, to which our life's goals and decisions revolve around. At the top of this list is often family, friends and our community.

Since being in Tillamook County, many things have stood out for me as being great, and one in particular is the strong community support shared among residents. At Tillamook PUD, this sense of community is also strong within our organization and is reflected in both our daily work and through our community programs.

Each year, we look forward to awarding community support grants to local non-profit organizations that have projects that promote economic growth in Tillamook County. The board of directors will review applications and select projects for grant funding in mid-March. Grant applications are available now for the 2018 program either at our office or online at www.tpod.org. All completed applications are due to Tillamook PUD by 5 p.m. Friday, February 23.

We enjoy supporting and being involved year-round in the community and do so in many ways. Our Customer Assistance Program helps provide electric bill assistance to customers in need. CAP is funded through customer contributions, which are then matched by Tillamook PUD. Our local Community Action Resource Enterprises Inc. and Northwest Senior and Disability Services help identify those in need and disburse the funds accordingly.

We believe the youth of Tillamook County are important, and the opportunity to support local youth programs is a priority for Tillamook PUD. Our Employment for Education and high school internship programs have proven beneficial on many levels for both the district and students. Our vehicle wash program is also something we enjoy offering in support of our local youth.

Without a doubt, Tillamook County is a unique and great place. The connection shared among residents is matchless, as is the welcoming feel of the community. Like many others, we at Tillamook PUD take pride in our community and are committed to making it a priority to keep it a great place.

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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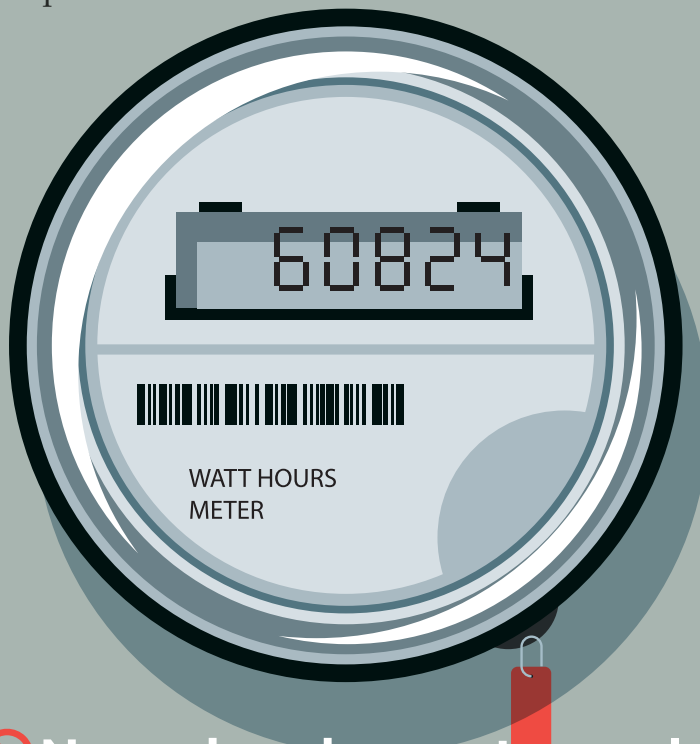
General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.



- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.



Owned By Those We Serve

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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

Now you can track an outage in real time!

Visit <https://gvea.com/resources/outages> to view:

- Outage Map
- Update Contact Info
- Report an Outage
- News Updates
- Generator Booklet
- ...and more outage resources

Your Phone Number is Our Connection to You

Over the past year, when you have visited or called our office, we have asked you to update the contact information associated with your account. With advances in technology and software now installed, it's more important than ever that we have accurate contact information on file for you.

We have been asking members to update phone numbers associated with their account. For example, this could be your home number (landline), your cell phone number and your spouse's cell number. These telephone numbers need to be the ones that you will use if you call GVEA to report an outage.

Our **Outage Management System (OMS)** recognizes the phone number that you call from, and it then tries to match that number to your account. If we do not have an accurate phone number associated with your account, it will delay the reporting of your outage.

Should you need to report an outage, having your information updated will provide us, at a glance, with all the known information concerning your account. That means your name, address, account number, map number, substation, meter number and line section will be available to our control room dispatchers. Having all this info tied to your account enables them to dispatch a repair crew more quickly and efficiently.

This is one more way your cooperative is putting technology to work to better serve you. The OMS system and our new automated phone system work in tandem to allow our employees to better manage an outage situation. This means faster restoration and less time without electricity for you – our members.

We know that your privacy is important. We will NOT share members' private information. This information will strictly be used to better serve you.

To update your contact information, fill out an Account Maintenance Form at <http://gvea.com/contact-update> or call (907) 452-1151, or 1-800-770-4832, and select Option 2, then Option 3. We appreciate your assistance. ■



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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droberti@psrec.coop

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bmarshall@psrec.coop



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(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:

Though it has been a mild winter so far, there is still the possibility for major storms. It is important to be prepared and conserve power, when possible, during storms. The lower the load on the system, the easier it is to restore power. During rotating blackouts, we try to give everyone time to cook, bathe and do laundry. If everyone keeps their use to a minimum, we can supply more members with power.

We provide updates via text messages for systemwide outages. To sign up for these updates, text PSREC to 95577.

As we know, it's been below average precipitation so far this winter. Fortunately, the federal hydropower system has higher-than-average water levels. We hope to avoid a rate increase, but that will depend, in part, on weather.

Telecommunications

We continue to expand our broadband services throughout the region. We offer unlimited data, support net neutrality and provide speeds of up to 20 Mbps download.

If you haven't already, please call us to sign up or get on our interest list. We are executing our plan to provide services to most of the cooperatives territory that does not have broadband, as well as improve existing services. We also are working to improve service to the cities and towns in our region that do not have reliable, unlimited, high-speed internet.

By the time this goes to press, Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications should be activating services in Graeagle and portions of Quincy, while evaluating the remainder of Quincy, Plumas Pines, Loyalton and Sierra Brooks coaxial systems for needed repairs.

Many of our Chandler Road area members have noticed the work by the electric line crew. The crew has been hanging fiber optic cable to connect switches on Chandler Road and Quincy Junction Road to allow automated control of key electric switches that will allow for faster restoration of power outages. This system can be used for high-speed internet. PST is working on additions to allow broadband service to the home in the next few months.

For more information, or to sign up for service, please call us at (800) 221-3474 or visit www.pst.coop.

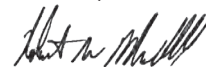
If you missed it, there was a great piece by Donna Mills in last month's Ruralite about our crews installing an ungraded power line in Lassen County. The piece really shows the innovation and cooperative spirit that got our system built in the first place. The link is <http://ruralite-psrea.or.newsmemory.com/>.

Scholarship Deadline Approaches

It is not too late to turn in an application to win one of two \$1,000 scholarships. These scholarships are open to high school seniors and older students, with no upper age limit. Details are on page 4 and on our website at www.psrec.coop. The deadline is Friday, March 16.

For 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

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

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NV-40

Rate Adjustment Becomes Necessary

For 25 years, your electric rates have remained almost unchanged, except for a revenue-neutral adjustment in 2012.

With more government regulations, increased wholesale power costs and upgrades to facilities—in addition to internal and external expenses naturally increasing—it has become necessary to increase our rates.

Our board of directors, employees and management staff have worked hard to ensure the adjustments in the rates will be as minimal as possible. Your not-for-profit cooperative is committed to continuing to provide reliable power and quality member services at the lowest possible cost.

The primary adjustments will be made in what is called the customer charge. For example, this charge for our residential rate member will increase to \$16 from \$9. The cost for our general service rate members will increase to \$20 from \$12. Large general service rate members and industrial rate members will see similar rate increases to the customer charge. Irrigation members will see an increase on their demand-charges (kilowatts) and energy-charges (kilowatt-hour) for some rates.

Our member services team is prepared to show members the impact to their individual monthly bills, based on their use. Rate adjustments will become effective April 1, with May 15 billing statements reflecting the changes.

Even with the proposed increases and adjustments, your Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative rates will still rank among the lowest in Nevada and surrounding states.

In our March Ruralite, expect to see our published proposed rates and the adjustments. This information also will be available at www.mwpower.net.

The board of directors must approve the increase at two consecutive meetings prior to any adjustment becoming effective. Those meetings are 9 a.m. on February 13 and March 13 at Mt. Wheeler Power's Ely office, 1600 Great Basin Blvd.

We encourage members to be involved and informed in cooperative business. After all, it is the members' cooperative.

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

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

Wendover office:

1706 West Butte Street
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

Most cultures have a creation story: The Raven, Zeus, Adam and Eve, or the Big Bang Theory, to name just a few. What these stories have in common is that they describe the earliest beginnings of the present world. More importantly, a creation story contains enduring truths that guide one generation after another.

Wells Rural Electric Company has a creation story of its own. Borrowing from a well-known creation story, "In the beginning"...a couple of ranchers in Clover Valley saw the growing benefits of electricity every time they went to town. A few ranchers had "light plants," but those primitive generators had very limited capacity and were noisy, unreliable and expensive. They asked Harry Cazier, who had founded and owned Wells Power Company, to build a power line into Clover Valley.

Cazier understood their predicament, but told them that he was too old and didn't have enough money for such a project. He recommended they apply for a loan from the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). If they were successful, he offered to sell them Wells Power Company to provide a base on which to build.

Word spread about the effort to bring central station electricity to Clover Valley. Ranchers from Ruby Valley, Starr Valley, Metropolis and Contact soon joined.

The founding members celebrated when the REA loan was approved May 14, 1958.

The next step was replacing aging and inadequate diesel generators with safe, clean, abundant, reliable hydroelectricity by building a transmission line from Idaho to Wells. That contract was signed May 27, 1958.

The cooperative business model created immediate benefits. Retail rates for commercial



members in Wells were reduced by 8%, while residential rates were reduced by 20%.

During World War II, Wendover was powered by generators at Wendover Air Base, The StateLine Hotel and Casino, Peterson's Market and the Western Service Station. Each generator was connected a handful of neighbors.

In 1947, Clarence McLeod, who owned Western Service Station, led a small group of investors in forming Wendover Power Company. By 1958, the generators that had originally served the Wendover Air Base were wearing out and the community needed more electricity. McLeod offered to sell Wendover Power Company to WREC. The Board of Directors voted to extend service to Wendover and the sale was completed in 1962.

WREC built a transmission line from Wells to Wendover, and connected Oasis and a few ranches along the way.

Carlin had been relying on the generator taken from the Metropolis Hotel in 1922 and on generators the railroad also connected to a few homes and business. The City of Carlin eventually operated their own generators. When Carlin outgrew those generators and the cost of fuel skyrocketed in the 1970's, WREC extended service to Carlin. Again, the cooperative business model, and a connection to the hydroelectric dams, reduced rates 10%.

There are several enduring truths from our creation story that continue to guide WREC to this day. First, WREC was created by, and for, its members. Second, WREC is democratically controlled. Third, WREC has created a way to serve every load, regardless of the size. Fourth, the not-for-profit cooperative business model always provides affordable electricity. Lastly, by working together, we can overcome any challenge. We have always been, and always will be, more powerful together.

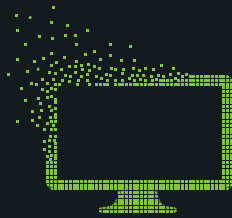
Clay R. Fitch,
Chief Executive Officer



Valley Electric
Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

NV-42



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Pahrump, NV 89041

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or 775-727-5312, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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emergency needs.

(775) 727-5312

Website: www.vea.coop

Email: wmc@vea.coop

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Changes that serve and protect

In the weeks ahead, Valley Electric Association members will be asked to ratify several important modifications to the Cooperative's bylaws.

Our bylaws – the rules by which the Cooperative is governed – provide a stabilizing influence. In fact, we have not had to alter them since 2011. As the needs of the membership change, however, so do strategies as VEA attempts to meet those needs.

Who could have imagined even a decade ago that VEA would be in the high-speed communications business? Yet here we are – all because our members needed critical communications infrastructure and no one else was stepping up to provide it.

The bylaws changes revolve around VEA's decision to provide other services like communications. Our bylaws need to include language that protects Valley Electric's tax-exempt status now that broadband is among the services we provide to members and those outside of our service territory. We want to make sure that selling broadband does not change how we're treated under tax laws.

Secondly, the bylaws changes guarantee that members who take electric service retain control and voting rights of the Cooperative, rather than consumers of broadband, who might live outside our territory but do not purchase power. Likewise, we must assure that in the years ahead patronage capital earned through the margins from broadband services is allocated to members, who assume the risk for delivering the service.

Your Cooperative's mission is to bring

critical services like energy and communications.

The evolution of the Cooperative brings new challenges, and we need to create the room to operate in a competitive environment while serving members and protecting their interests.

For the proposed changes to take effect, two percent of the membership must vote on the bylaws changes, and 67 percent of those who vote must vote "yes."

Following much input from members through the Ambassador Program, our member-elected volunteer Board of Directors has spent many hours studying the revisions, making suggestions and fine tuning the changes, all of which were reviewed with outside accountants.

Within a few weeks, member-owners will receive a copy of the bylaws changes in the mail. In the March 2018 issue of the Ruralite, an in-depth analysis of the bylaws changes will be published.

Decades ago, our founders could not have foreseen the needs of the membership in 2018, but they anticipated that the needs would change, and they laid out an orderly process for constructive changes that serve members. This is one of the ways we honor their legacy.

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.



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.



WA-43

Inspect Your Home For Electrical Risks

Just like any man-made product, electrical systems become outdated.

As rooms, appliances and electronics are added, electrical systems can become overburdened.

"Many homeowners don't understand the dangerous effect age has on their home's electrical system," says Michael G. Clendenin, the former executive director of the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

The ESFI recommends electrical inspections for any house more than 40 years old; any house 10 years or older that has had major renovations or appliances added; and any previously owned house at the time of resale.

"If your home has dim or flickering lights, loose receptacles, circuit breakers that frequently trip or fuses that frequently pop, hot or discolored outlets and light switch covers, or damaged wire insulation, your home may well be a fire waiting to happen," Clendenin warns. "That is your home's way of telling you that you have a problem."

Depending on the size of your home, an inspection could take between 30 minutes and an hour. The ESFI recommends checking for the following:

- The condition of the electrical service entrance and all exposed wiring.
- Proper grounding and polarity in receptacles.
- The condition of the panel and its connections.
- The operation of and need for ground and arc fault circuit interrupters.

• Voltage drop on a couple of circuits and a load analysis to determine if service is adequate to meet present demand.

- Proper lamp wattage.
- Overloaded outlets and the improper use of extension cords.
- Proper installation of smoke alarms.

Homeowners are urged to develop a detailed map of their home's circuitry, showing the outlets and fixtures served by each circuit and how much power is demanded of each.

You may find your total demand exceeds the service to your home, requiring an upgrade to a higher level of electrical service.

Repairs could be minor and nominal in cost, such as cleaning and tightening of connections or adding outlets, or more involved and costly, such as adding circuits and subpanels or replacing degraded wiring.

Making repairs could save you money on your homeowners' insurance.

"You have a good chance of identifying and correcting hazards with an inspection, but very little chance of avoiding eventual property loss, traumatic injury and even death without one," says Clendenin. ■



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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400 Patterson Bridge Road
P.O. Box 575
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(541) 575-0161

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La Grande, OR 97850
(541) 963-3155

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editor@otecc.com

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Vice President Charlene
Chase, Baker County
Sec./Treas. Wayne Overton,
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Aletha Bonebrake, Baker
County
Robert Cargill, Harney County
George Galloway, Union
County
Greg Howard, Union County
Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, General Manager

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

Doing Our Part to Help Create Healthy Communities

OTEC's Concern for Community

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative has the privilege to serve our member-owners across four counties and 22 franchised communities. Whenever economic development topics that may affect our local economies come up at the national or state level, they get our attention.

During the past year, I have visited with many of our members and community and business leaders across our service territory. During those visits, I found that in addition to the power lines that connect us, another common thread seems to bind all of us together: concern for community.

From my conversations, every community has its own perspective on what economic development means for their local community. Regardless of each community's expectation, perspective or vision for economic development, everyone seems to agree they want their community to be healthy.

To that point, OTEC is committed to do our part to help our communities achieve their goals. To do that effectively, we continually work to position your cooperative for new growth. The most important thing we can do to support our communities is to stay focused on keeping electric rates competitive and service reliable.

Other ways we can do our part include improving OTEC's infrastructure and policies that may be obstacles to growth.

Recently, we approved budgets and began procurement activities to accelerate substation upgrades that will improve reliability and increase load capacity to some of our larger industrial parks. We know that when a business is looking to locate to a new area—or a current business would like to expand—it must be assured the electrical provider has

enough infrastructure to support its operation.

In addition to upgrades, we are reviewing the effectiveness of certain policies that affect the cost and approach to delivery of services.

On the community charitable contribution side of our role, through unclaimed capital credits, we can support student scholarships, including four new scholarships focused on trade schools.

As we look closely at what it takes to grow and support healthy and vital communities, we recognize the significant role children and their education play in shaping the future. OTEC is excited to add a new program that delivers our first children's scholarship. This edition of Ruralite highlights our latest partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, our local library foundations and volunteers across all four counties. Every month, this program delivers an age-appropriate book to each child up to age 5 who is registered for the program, in every member household that chooses to participate.

At OTEC, unclaimed capital credits have powered investments in education and charitable community work for many years. We are excited to have this new program that will touch so many of our member families across our entire system.

We want to thank all of our community partners and volunteers who are helping make Dolly Parton's Imagination Library possible.

For more on these programs and to keep up on OTEC news, go to our website at www.otecc.com.



General Manager Les Penning



Member-owned since 1921

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

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Vice President Mel Cox
Sec./Treasurer Isabella Deditch
Director Frank Hoffman

General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

Inspect Your Home For Electrical Risks

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Co o p e r a t i v e

45710 SE North Bend Way
P.O. Box 1426
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www.tannerelectric.coop

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Chief Financial Officer

Rob Carr

Operations Manager

Nick Himebauch

Executive Assistant

Lisa Peabody

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Roger Guay
Jeff Gillette
Dutch Siedentopf
Paul Bay
Mark Dilger

*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

2018 TEC Director Elections

Dear Members,

Director positions to the Tanner Electric Cooperative board are up for re-election at the next annual meetings: Thursday, May 17, North Bend/Ames Lake, and Saturday, May 19, Anderson Island.

Qualified applicants must file a membership petition nomination signed by 15 or more members who reside in their respective service area. Only one member from each membership may sign a petition. Petitions must be delivered to the cooperative's headquarters in North Bend not fewer than 75 days prior to the date of the annual meeting of the membership at which directors are to be elected.

The descriptions of the cooperative membership eligibility and director qualifications, duties and responsibilities are set forth in the bylaws and are available at www.tannerelectric.coop.

If you are interested, email Administrative Assistant Lisa Peabody for more information lisa@tannerelectric.coop.

The incumbent directors who are up for re-election are:

- Jeff Gillette, Anderson Island
- Mike Hodge, North Bend
- Paul Bay, Ames Lake

Steve Walter

General Manager



Parkland Light & Water Company

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Those We Serve

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(253) 531-5666

OFFICE HOURS

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Janet Detering - Public Relations

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Susan Cutrell

*Incorporated in 1914—
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

Annual Meeting Notice

Parkland Light & Water Co. hosts YOUR annual meeting Tuesday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the Keithley Middle School commons, 12324 12th Ave. South, Tacoma.

Please plan to
attend.
We need your
vote!



Parkland Light & Water Co. is owned by its members. Please plan to attend your annual meeting. We will hear reports on the cooperative's condition and elect one trustee.

Elaine Walter has announced her candidacy for the five-year term. Candidates also may be nominated from the floor. If you are also interested in running for this position, please announce your candidacy by February 10 by calling our office at (253) 531-5666 so your name can be published in the March edition of Ruralite.



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(503) 728-2163 Office
www.clatskaniepud.com

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Stephen D. Petersen, Treasurer
Don Hooper, Director

GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #15146000
If this is your account number,
please call the office to claim your
prize. Congratulations!

Community Calendar

February 1: Clatskanie Chamber

Meeting - Noon at Colvins

February 2: Groundhog Day

February 8: Rainier Chamber Meeting

Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 19: Presidents' Day CPUD
office closed

February 21: Clatskanie PUD Board

Meeting - Workshop at 5:30 pm, followed
by regular board meeting at 7 pm.

Bulky Waste Day in Clatskanie: Mark
your calendars now for the 16th Annual
Clatskanie Bulky Waste Cleanup Day
April 7, 2018 8 am to Noon

OR-60

The five major roles of the Board of Directors are: approve the budget, set policies, help establish the direction of the utility through strategic planning, approve major contracts that legally and financially encumber the utility, and to manage the General Manager. The board will be busy the next two months working with staff and the management team to develop our strategic plan for the next two years.

The process actually began at the January board meeting when the Board of Directors set time aside in the workshop to have customers share their thoughts, ideas, and suggestions with their elected Director regarding the upcoming planning session. While the attendance was not as many as we would have hoped for, it was pleasing to have a few who did come out to share their input. Each Director who had customers from his/her District met individually with them for the first part of the meeting. Customers were also provided with the opportunity both in the workshop and the regular board meeting to offer comments.

The next step in the planning process is a survey that is sent out to each employee and board member to complete anonymously. The survey asks each of them to assess the District's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. They are then asked to list the top three to five strategic issues they would like to discuss during the session and any additional comments. These responses will then be compiled and used during the strategic planning sessions.

There will be two planning sessions held over the next two months. The first will be with staff and management. Their perspective is different from the board as they work very closely with the day to day operations and functions of the utility. The results of staff session are used in conjunction with the board session the following month.

In March, the board and management team will meet to discuss and create the final strategic plan for the utility over the next two years. Management will then take the plan and break it down into categories on a spreadsheet to assign responsibilities for the implementation of specific action items to accomplish the plan, set target dates to accomplish them by, identify any budgetary impacts, and include a tracking system for monitoring progress. The spreadsheet is then provided to the board for final approval. Over the course of the next two years the board will receive updates on the progress of the approved strategic plan.

The strategic plan is an essential part of our utility operations. It impacts the direction we go, and the decisions we make. The process of developing it is one we take very seriously. Including the input of all who will be utilizing and implementing the plan ensures the plan is a thorough, all encompassing, and all-inclusive plan. My thanks to all involved for taking the time to make the process a successful one!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Marc Farmer'.

Marc Farmer, General Manager





KOTZEBUE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

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Kotzebue, AK 99752
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General Manager/CEO

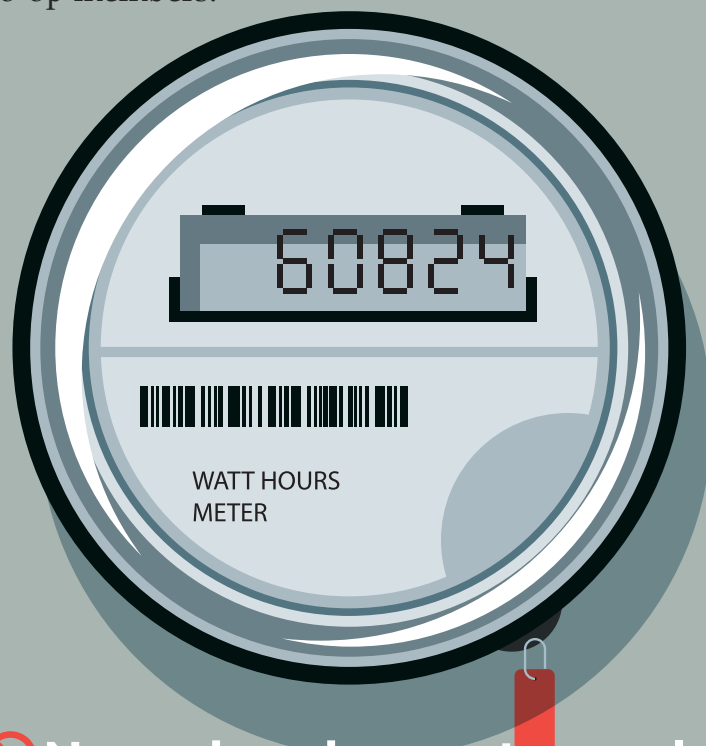
Martin Shroyer

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

DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.



- ❌ Never break a meter seal.
- ❌ Never open a meter base.
- ❌ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.



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Mountain Village

Vice Chairman

Fred Sagoonick, Shaktoolik

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Phyllis Clough, Old Harbor

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Directors

Peter Demoski, Nulato
Robert Hoffman, Bethel
Walter G. Sampson, Noorvik

board@avec.org

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Ambler	Nightmute
Andreafsky	Noatak
Anvik	Noorvik
Bethel	Nulato
Brevig Mission	Nunapitchuk
Chevak	Old Harbor
Eek	Oscarville
Ekwok	Pilot Station
Elim	Pitkas Point
Emmonak	Quinhagak
Gambell	Russian Mission
Goodnews Bay	St. Mary's
Grayling	St. Michael
Holy Cross	Savoonga
Hooper Bay	Scammon Bay
Huslia	Selawik
Kaltag	Shageluk
Kasigluk	Shaktoolik
Kiana	Shishmaref
Kivalina	Shungnak
Kobuk	Stebbins
Kotlik	Teller
Koyuk	Togiak
Lower Kalskag	Toksook Bay
Marshall	Tununak
Mekoryuk	Upper Kalskag
Minto	Yakutat
Mt. Village	Wales

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

4831 Eagle Street
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 561-1818
(800) 478-1818



/AlaskaVillage

AK-105

Candidates for the Board

Here are your candidates for the three board seats you will be voting for. Look for a more detailed brochure arriving with your ballot later this month. Please cast your vote!

Phyllis Clough (Old Harbor), board

member since 2003: We have made some important decisions as a team, making sure impacts on the cooperative are minimal. Future years will be more challenging because funding sources continue to decline. This means AVEC must diversify the way we do business to meet the challenges. We need to find a way to look for sources to address immediate changes.

Peter Demoski (Nulato), board member

since 2012: AVEC is an innovator of alternative energy, and through the CEO is a well-known and respected public utility throughout Alaska. As a board member for the past several years, I feel that I helped contribute to AVEC's successes and I would like to continue working toward relieving us in rural Alaska of high energy costs.

Homer Hunter Jr. (Scammon Bay)

delegate for five years, village chairman

since 2015: I wrote a resolution directing AVEC management and board to protect rural Alaska's Power Cost Equalization by lobbying aggressively in our capital city in Juneau. Perhaps it has been done before and this is just one of my examples of why I am running for the AVEC Board of Directors. If I am elected, I will be ready to listen to your concerns and suggestions as to how we can continuously improve AVEC at the community and organizational levels during these challenging times.

Helena Jones (Ambler), board member

since 1982: In the past 35 years, I have seen AVEC grow and improve. I am proud to say I

helped build AVEC to be a strong and positive co-op. AVEC ties the members together. Our growth includes many improvements, including wind and solar power projects, interties, reliable electricity, local hire and new fuel-delivery barges. Although I have served for 35 years as a board member, I feel that my work and dedication to AVEC is not done yet.

Enoch Mitchell (Noatak): AVEC has a big impact on our village community economics and style of living these days, and we all want a good living made to be continuous with a safe economic state. Today, the prices of everything has gone up and we all want to work to make our living more affordable and safe. With that, I am expressing my interest in joining our AVEC Board of Directors.

Robert Okitkun (Kotlik): A cooperative effort with the tribes could enable AVEC to buy fuel from BIA at a reduced cost. Conversion to LNG or natural gas will leave us a cleaner environment. North Slope communities have converted to natural gas for electric generation and home heating. Perhaps AVEC can introduce talks with the regional corporations and tribes to explore for natural gas. AVEC serves the same communities of many of the rural villages as the tribes and it makes sense to work cooperatively with them.

Henrietta Tom (Stebbins): I am interested in running for a board seat because AVEC has been part of my life ever since I can remember. I am interested to see how I can serve all others using the knowledge I have gained all these years. Both my dad and husband have been power plant operators, and I would like to see doors open from this opportunity. I have served on our corporation and am very interested in expanding my knowledge of AVEC.



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

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Senior Accountant

Catherine Schroeder

Customer Service Supervisor

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

Customer Assistance is Available

At Lassen Municipal Utility District, we understand that winter in Lassen County can bring extreme weather at a time when the family budget is stretched to the brink. That is why we offer a variety of programs designed to help our customers conserve energy and, if needed, a helping hand through tough economic times.

LMUD's Energy Conservation Assistance Program provides assistance to income-qualified customers who may need a helping hand meeting their electric bill. ECAP provides a discount of up to 50 percent—depending on eligibility criteria—on the energy a customer uses from November to April, lessening the impact of winter energy bills. ECAP applications may be picked up at the LMUD office at 65 S. Roop St. or downloaded from www.lmud.org.

In addition to the ECAP program, LMUD offers the Emergency Energy Assistance Program. EEAP is for income-qualified customers. The goal of the program is to avoid disconnection of service for customers faced with an unexpected financial crisis. EEAP applications are available through the Susanville Salvation Army office located in the Grocery Outlet shopping center.

It is our hope that by working together, we can overcome difficult economic times.

As a reminder, LMUD offices will be closed Monday, February 19, in observance of Presidents Day.

As always, in case of an emergency, our 24-hour customer service line, 257-4174 will be available.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

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Lane Electric Co-op
Midstate Electric Co-op
Oregon Trail Electric
Consumers Co-op
Salem Electric
Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.
Umatilla Electric Co-op
Umpqua Indian Utility
Wasco Electric Co-op
West Oregon Electric Co-op

OR-400

Case in Point

For the past few months, the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association has worked collaboratively with the Oregon Legislature's Clean Energy Jobs Utilities and Transportation Work Group to address our initial concerns with its cap-and-trade legislation, particularly with respect to the ability of electric cooperatives to comply as regulated entities under a state cap-and-trade program.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of Sen. Michael Dembrow and Rep. Ken Helm to work constructively with us to improve the legislation. However, we cannot support their carbon legislation in the February session until the state of Oregon recognizes their environmental policies are not only inconsistent, they are punitive for rural Oregonians.

The state of Oregon continues to aggressively pursue policies and operations that significantly reduce hydropower generation at federal dams in the Columbia River Basin. ORECA members are reliant on the Bonneville Power Administration, which markets the power produced at federal dams. Spilling water at these dams has far-reaching ramifications for electric cooperatives and the environment that the state of Oregon refuses to acknowledge.

For example, increased spring spill is estimated to cost \$40 million to consumers, will increase carbon emissions by approximately 840,000 metric tons a year and provide little benefit for fish. Despite our best efforts, the state of Oregon has shown no interest in finding common ground with respect to the operation of the federal dams.

While we also appreciate the sponsor's sincere interest in developing a carbon proposal that seeks to invest in rural Oregon, we have many unanswered questions about how this will affect electric utility rates, transportation costs and jobs in rural Oregon, and "frontier" Oregon areas such as Harney County. These questions require significant examination that the short session cannot provide.

Accordingly, ORECA looks forward to working with the Oregon Legislature and Gov. Kate Brown on a carbon policy that is fair, effective and consistent.



Ted Case

Executive Director

FLORIDA Currents

Members acknowledge that \$3.96, plus actual postage, is the cost to publish 12 issues a year of **Florida Currents** (USPS-8300). Published by Ruralite Services Inc., 5605 NE Elam Young Pkwy., Hillsboro, OR 97124—a not-for-profit Oregon cooperative corporation—the magazine serves the communications needs of consumer-owned electric utilities in Florida. Preferred Periodicals postage paid at Hillsboro, OR 97123 and at additional mailing offices.

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Extra copies: \$2 each, prepayment required. Supply is limited. Identify edition, month and year. Contact Ruralite Services.

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EREC
A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

Manager's Message

Concern for Community

Cooperative employees have a long history of giving back to the communities they serve. In fact, Concern for Community is one of the guiding principles of Escambia River Electric Cooperative.

These three words are not a marketing scheme. They are one of the defining guidelines that make cooperatives special. This principle has many meanings—from being good stewards of our environment to supporting local schools.

Cooperatives have a vested interest in the communities they serve. They are made up of members of the community; staffed by folks from the community; and overseen by a board elected by members of the community.

The community's health and the cooperative's well-being are one and the same.

Concern for Community takes many forms, but the common thread involves doing whatever it takes to improve and sustain the community—whether it's a single act as simple as installing lights at a local ballpark or as complex as

economic development.

Economic development in this community is an important part of what we do. EREC takes an active role in attracting new industries to our area. These businesses not only mean jobs for our neighbors, they also generate tax revenue necessary for our towns to thrive and expand.

By being proactive in economic development, EREC helps create opportunities that benefit our members, this community and the regional economy as a whole.

By fostering economic development opportunities, EREC helps assure our members have a better quality of life.

In addition to EREC's community endeavors, our employees also donate their own time in the community: coaching ball teams, volunteering with local fire departments, organizing fundraisers and serving as leaders of civic clubs.

Building stronger communities is truly a team effort.

Just imagine what we can accomplish together by caring for our communities!



Clay R. Campbell



Inside

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The Power of Love 12

Experts and everyday people share transforming and inspiring stories of love, and advice for keeping love alive.

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FKEC NEWS

FEBRUARY 2018

www.FKEC.com

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Pay by Phone 1-855-385-9912

www.FKEC.com

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 377, Tavernier, FL 33070

MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

Make sure FKEC has all of your current phone numbers, including cell phone numbers. Doing this expedites outage reporting and response.

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

Convenience and Security

It is our goal to make your interactions with FKEC as easy, secure and informative as possible. We don't just want to keep the lights on, we also want to provide great customer service as well as ensure the absolute security of our members' personal and financial information. This means offering modern tools such as easy online bill payment and mobile applications, along with continued personal, hometown member service.

In addition to outlining the secure and convenient bill payment options FKEC offers, it is also important we take time to remind our members of potential scams. Here is information about both.

Know Your Options

A great way to protect yourself from fraud, and to make paying your bill easy, is to understand your payment options.

We offer seven secure payment methods. These are the only payment options FKEC accepts, so if someone instructs you to pay your bill in a way outside of these methods, it is a scam.

You should also know that worldwide Payment Card Industry security standards require that we only take credit card payments via our secure online SmartHub site, our secure phone system 855-385-9912, or secure credit card terminals at our offices. If someone instructs you to give him or her your credit card in person, over the phone or in email, it is a scam.



I encourage you to explore all of our safe payment options – explained on the facing page – and find which of these methods lets you pay your monthly electric bill securely, effortlessly and on time.

Beware of Scammers

It is also important for you to be aware of potential scams targeting utility consumers across the country. To avoid being scammed, please remember these tips:

- Never provide personal, confidential, or financial information to unknown persons.
- Know your account status and balance. You can check it at www.FKEC.com.
- Do not provide any payment by phone unless you have called our secure phone payment system at 855-385-9912.
- Don't fall for anyone demanding a pre-paid debit card. FKEC does not accept any kind of pre-paid (including Green Dot) cards as payment.
- If you have any doubt if a call, email, or visit from someone claiming to represent FKEC is legitimate, please call Member Service at 305-852-2431.
- Scammers are targeting residential and commercial members, so employers should make all staff aware of the threat.
- Report any suspicious activity to police.

GLADES

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"Neighbors Working for Neighbors"

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OFFICES

Open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday

26733 U.S. Hwy. 27 East/P.O. Box 519
Moore Haven, FL 33471
(863) 946-6200
Fax: (863) 946-2150

214 SR 70 West
Lake Placid, FL 33852
(863) 531-5000

808 N. Parrott Ave.
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 467-5111

POWER INTERRUPTION NUMBER

Moore Haven (863) 946-6200

Phones are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including weekends and holidays. Please have your location or account number handy when you call.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Angela Hodges, Trustee, District 9
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The Board's next meeting will be at 9 a.m. February 22 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

Please Join Us March 17

It is time to celebrate GEC's 73rd Annual Meeting

Last year, with the opening of the new Moore Haven Middle-High School, we were able to move the membership's Annual Meeting back to its hometown roots.

The site was a huge success and provided significant cost savings and logistics benefits, so we are holding the 73rd Annual Meeting at the same venue.

On Saturday March 17, not only will we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, we also celebrate the uniqueness of Glades Electric Cooperative with its Annual Meeting, gathering members to hear the state of operations, elect future leaders, receive gifts, win prizes and, most importantly, enjoy the fellowship of a great and exceptional group of people.

2017 had its challenges, especially when Irma came to town. I am so proud of our team's performance through that storm, and will be telling you more about those details at the meeting.

I am also excited about new opportunities headed our way. We will speak of those, too.

Please see further details about the meeting on page 5 and make plans to join us for a cup of coffee and conversation. The price of admission is just your picture ID so we may register you as a cooperative member. Don't forget it!



Jeff Brewington



Last year's Annual Meeting at the new Moore Haven Middle-High School drew a good crowd.



Gulf Coast
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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(850) 639-2216 or (800) 333-9392

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Phone: (850) 481-1188

www.gcec.com

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John Bartley

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President Waylon Graham
Vice President Jimmy Black
Secretary Eddie Jones
Treasurer Rupert Brown
Doug Birmingham
Robert Byrd
Gary Cox
Kinneth Daniels
Betty Moore

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

Do-It-Yourself Safety Tips

Do-it-yourself projects are a great way to save money. They can also be extremely rewarding. There is a sense of pride that comes from accomplishing a job yourself.

Many electrical projects fall into the DIY category. Projects such as installing ceiling fans, lighting fixtures or appliances are fairly easy and do not require a large investment in tools.

Before you begin any project, here are a few DIY tips to keep you safe:

- **Know your limitations.** The first rule of DIY safety is this: Don't do it yourself if you are not qualified for the job. Unless you are familiar with the basics of electrical wiring, turn electrical projects over to a licensed electrician. As they say, it is better to be safe than sorry—and keeping you safe is our goal.

- **Turn off the power.** Even 120 volts can be deadly. Always turn off the power to the circuit that you will be working on. To do this, locate your main service panel and turn off the circuit breaker. It is a good idea to take time and label all the breakers so you can identify them quickly.

- **Remember, there are wires behind those walls.** Even if you are not working on an electrical project, you need to keep electrical safety in mind. Before you cut or drill into a wall or ceiling, be conscious of how deep you are cutting or drilling to avoid hitting wires. Even if you have the circuit turned off, cutting into wires can create a fire hazard when you turn the power back on.

- **Use GFCIs if you are going to use extension cords.** Ground-fault circuit interrupters are devices designed to protect you from electrical shock. When using extension cords, use a GFCI outlet or GFCI whip—a short extension cord with a built-in GFCI. These are not expensive, and can save your life.

In addition to turning off circuits and using GFCIs, here are a few more precautions you can take to prevent injury:

- Wear gloves and safety glasses.
- Use tools with insulated grips when working on electrical projects.
- Even if you are just changing lightbulbs in a lamp or appliance, you should always make sure the lamp or appliance is unplugged.
- Avoid working where water is present. Do not work on electrical systems in wet locations. Never work on electrical systems in the rain.
- Choose fiberglass ladders. Because aluminum ladders conduct electricity, you should never use them for electrical projects. Instead, buy a quality fiberglass ladder.
- Use rubber-soled shoes or rubber mats, particularly on concrete floors.

At Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, your safety is our priority. Be sure to follow these tips and guidelines to make sure your next project ends with a satisfied smile.

Let's power safety! We value your membership. We value you. ■



Waylon Graham



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

TO REPORT POWER OUTAGE

- Use the SmartHub app
- Text OUT to 8002823824
- Call 1-800-282-3824

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

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Wauchula, Florida 33873
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Fax: 866-201-1814

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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

District Meetings – Focused on Members

Each year, Peace River Electric Cooperative holds District Meetings for three of the nine districts we serve. These meetings play an important role in the life of your cooperative.

DISTRICT MEETINGS ARE SIGNIFICANT FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS:

- ▶ The opportunity to elect or affirm the selection of a Director to represent you on PRECO's Board
- ▶ Current co-op news and information are shared
- ▶ Door prize drawings
- ▶ Light refreshments are served
- ▶ Every registered member account receives a \$10 electric bill credit
- ▶ A chance to win an Amazon Fire HD 10 Tablet with Alexa Hands-Free



Randy Shaw
General Manager & CEO
PEACE RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

All electric cooperatives are locally owned by their members – not stockholders – unlike investor-owned utilities. IOUs exist to make a profit for those who own their stock. In stark contrast, electric cooperatives are focused solely on the benefit of their members and return all profits, called margins, to them in the form of capital credits.

As a member of PRECO, your District Meeting is an opportunity to learn more about the cooperative you own, meet PRECO staff and discover more about our mission to provide safe, reliable electric service at an affordable cost.

District Meetings are held at convenient locations within the districts they serve. If you live in one of the districts below, we encourage you to make plans to attend.

District 2	February 15	PRECO Headquarters Building, Wauchula
District 5	February 13	Resthaven, Wauchula
District 8	February 12	Buffalo Creek Middle School, Palmetto

About a week in advance, members of these districts will receive a flyer with meeting times, directions, registration information and other important details. See page 4 for more information.

Randy