



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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Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

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Lorrie McCabe

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Douglas Pfaff

Manager of Engineering and Operations

Robert Pierce

Manager of Member Services

Reed Allen

Director of Member Services

Edwin Ausman

Director of Purchasing and Warehousing

Travis Bailey

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

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Yeah, but I can't put my finger on it....

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

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

.....

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Treasurer

Deacon Heideman, Fairview

Lori Anderson, Condon

Todd Lindsay, Sand Hollow

Stacie Ekstrom, Lone

Manager

Thomas Wolff, Heppner

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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

Please Help us With our Phone Survey

Hello, Members:

Your co-op has partnered with a professional phone survey company, the Glengariff Group, to conduct a telephone survey of our membership to aid in the development of an internet fiber-to-the-rural-home feasibility study.

We at Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative would appreciate members accepting the phone calls from this group, participating in the survey questions and providing the information the callers seek. The Glengariff Group expects to make these calls the last few days of March and the first few weeks in April.

At my home, I tend to screen or ignore calls from numbers I do not recognize. You probably do, too. Please be aware of the co-op's upcoming phone survey project, and take the call and participate, if possible. The callers will ask about your current internet service, your satisfaction with your current speed of internet connectivity, affordable pricing levels and other internet service-related questions.

Your co-op is interested in facilitating the ability for all our consumers to have access to high-speed, affordable internet connectivity. We need to know how many of our households are interested in fast, reliable internet services, and at what pricing points.

Please help your cooperative with this important planning tool.

Regards,

Tommy Wolff
CEO/General Manager





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

Board of Directors

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



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

During the March Board of Director's meeting, representatives from the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council, Inc. Community Action Partnership (CAP) updated staff and the Board on their important work, and informed us that our community has already exhausted all its funds for energy assistance for the year.

Even though our rates are the lowest in the region, and some of the lowest in the state, that doesn't mean that people still don't occasionally need help with their energy bills. We understand fully that the cost per unit of measurement (kilowatt hours) is only one aspect, and that the amount of energy used, via energy consumption, is what can make an energy bill larger from one season to the next. That is why we work hard to provide opportunities for energy conservation, and very soon, other options such as prepay or other programs to help our customer-owners in need. One other way we do that is through our "Neighbor to Neighbor" program. This program gives a helping hand to customers who are struggling to pay their electric bills.

One hundred percent of customer donations stay in our community!

Eligible households who do not qualify for other state or federal assistance may receive up to \$125 in a 12-month period. Eligibility is established according to federally defined poverty levels and verification of eligibility is determined by CAP.

You can sign up to have a small monthly contribution of \$1, \$2, or \$5 automatically added to your bill each month, or you can make your contribution on a separate check made payable to "Neighbor to Neighbor." All contributions are tax deductible.

Please consider joining me in supporting some of our fellow community members in this manner.

Thank you,

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.

Board of Trustees

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District 2, Elmer City

Vice President

Chuck Goldmark
District 9, Okanogan

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District 5, Nespelem

Cindy Corpe
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Pete Palmer
District 4, Nespelem

Patrick Morin Jr.
District 6, Nespelem

Ron Heath
District 7, Disautel

Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RELIABILITY

#THANKALINEWORKER

nationallineworker
appreciationday18



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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CHAIRMAN

Eric Horning
VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Plagmann
SECRETARY

Kevin Christopher
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Roman Gillen
PRESIDENT/CEO

Tony Wilson
TREASURER/CFO

www.cpi.coop

**Celebrate
Earth Day,
April 22**

OR-6

President's Report

April 18 has been designated as National Lineman Appreciation Day. If the power is on where you are reading this article, you likely have a lineman to thank.

From the power plant to the grid crisscrossing the country both overhead and underground and right up to the meters on our homes, these men and women build and maintain the system that keeps our nation running.

Regardless of the source, electricity has to be transported by using transformers and other equipment. Due to the dangerous conditions power poses, safety is of utmost importance for both the lineman and the consumer.

When Mother Nature destroys what our linemen have built, they are on call to rebuild it again as quickly as possible. These men and women work tirelessly to get emergency systems back in working order and urgently return service to remaining areas.

Even when there is no crisis, they work under dangerous conditions on a daily basis. Whether they are working in trenches, near water or on high towers, the risks are extreme.

A big thank you to linemen across the country and especially here at CPI. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Update Your Contact Information

Every time Mother Nature throws us a curve, we want to pinpoint the location of trouble as quickly and accurately as possible. That is why it is important for us to have your current phone number.

CPI's integrated voice response system can take hundreds of incoming phone calls without callers getting busy signals for extended periods.

The phone number for the incoming call is matched to the phone number we have on file for your physical address. An outage ticket is generated immediately so line crews can be dispatched 24/7 to start power restoration.

In addition to CPI's outage reporting system, there is another reason to make sure CPI has your current phone number. We rely on your phone number to contact you for scheduled outages when we have to make repairs to our system.

It is easy to make sure we have your current phone number, whether it is a cell or landline. Call CPI at (541) 929-3124 or (800) 872-9036. Press option 2 at the prompt and then option 3. Be sure to have your CPI account number ready. Enter your phone number and you are done.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO



Benton REA

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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

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

Board of Trustees

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

Board Meetings

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

General Manager

Michael J. Bradshaw

Management Staff

Derek Miller, Engineering Manager
Jeff Ekrt, 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,

February was a busy month for Benton REA. We not only held our 81st Annual Meeting, but several Benton REA staff and Trustees visited Olympia to meet with our local state representatives and senators. I want to thank them for all the hard work they do to represent local people in their districts.

As I informed members at the Annual Meeting, Benton REA's top legislative priority positions include carbon policy, local control and rural broadband.

When considering carbon policy, we encourage our legislators to focus on methods that achieve the most carbon reduction at the lowest possible cost. Electrical system reliability must be the cornerstone of any carbon policy. We informed all of our local legislators about Benton REA's position on this issue and pledged to stay in close communication with them about our concerns.

Like many electric co-ops, Benton REA faces challenges not shared by other forms of utilities. Therefore, it is critical that we are not included in legislation that uses one-size-fits-all mandates. It is essential that the locally elected cooperative boards, which understand the unique challenges that each co-op faces, be allowed to make important utility decisions at the local level.

Benton REA is a strong advocate for expanding and improving internet connectivity in rural, unserved areas. Benton REA's PowerNET was created to bring internet access and technology consulting services to our local communities.

You can read more details about Benton REA's 2018 legislative priorities and standing positions by visiting BentonREA.org/my-services/energy-legislation. I also want you to know that recently your Benton REA Board of Trustees unanimously passed a resolution supporting the continued operation of Columbia Generating Station, a carbon-free source of affordable electricity and this resolution can also be found on our website.

Energy is a topic discussed at all levels of government. Benton REA makes it a priority to be at the table during discussions about energy issues to ensure that our members are protected and adequately represented. If you'd like to learn more about co-op issues in government, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Cooperative Action Network is where you can start. Learn more at Action.coop. We thank you for the opportunity to be your energy services provider!

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

Directors

President

Bob MacPherson

Vice President

Jeff Wenholtz

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

Please Join Us At Our Annual Meeting

Dear Member:

It is my pleasure to invite you to our cooperative's Annual Meeting & Membership Dinner on Saturday, April 21, 2018.

The event is UEC's annual business meeting for our member-owners. We provide updated information on our finances and operations, and two directors will be seated to three-year terms.

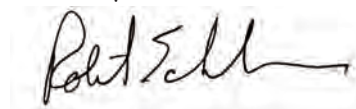
The Annual Meeting is also a celebration of our Cooperative. Our theme this year, in honor of delivering Columbia River hydropower to our members for the past 75 years and the irrigation and food processing industries it helped create, is "It's the Water That Powers Our Communities."

We will have a short-but-informative business meeting, a catered dinner, door prizes and member gifts. After dinner, Tim Behrens of Spokane will entertain us with the humor of *Field & Stream* and *Outdoor Life* columnist-turned-best-selling-author Patrick McManus.

At the conclusion of the event, we'll give away great door prizes to registered members that include a 70-inch TV, beach vacation at Newport, 10-foot kayak, Apple Watch, gift baskets, rodeo box seats and many more.

Our annual meeting will be fun and informative, served up with a good meal. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,



Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO



**You are
invited** to
Umatilla Electric's
Annual Meeting &
Membership Dinner,
**5-7 p.m. Saturday,
April 21, 2018,**
at the Hermiston
Community Center



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Office Hours:

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

Board of Directors

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

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

Mission Statement

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

OR-9

Spring Safety

As spring approaches after a long winter, many of us are itching to get outdoors to work or play. As these outdoor activities start, be aware of overhead power lines and where they are located in relationship to your activities.

Tree trimming, antenna installations and ladders are of particular concern. If a line appears too close to the area in which you are working, please call Wasco Electric Cooperative for assistance to evaluate the situation before you start working.

If you plan any kind of excavation project, Oregon law requires that you contact the Oregon Utility Notification Center at 811 at least two business days before you dig. The notification center will notify us, and we will locate and mark any Wasco Electric-owned underground wires in the area to be excavated.

ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG



**One free, easy call gets your utility lines
marked AND helps protect you from
injury and expense.**

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

**Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.
Visit call811.com for more information.**



TRAVELERS
Common Ground Alliance

Owned By Those We Serve

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

• For Power Outages Call •
888.420.8826

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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

New Power Outage Number



If your power goes out, please call

1-888-420-8826

With this monthly magazine, our website, facebook, twitter, bill messages and local office presence, we realize that there is nothing more important to you than knowing why your lights are out, what caused the power outage and how long will it be before power is restored? What's worse, is calling our office and even though there are people here at all hours answering the phones, you get a busy signal! Well we have fixed that! Effective immediately, please call 1-888-420-8826 if you experience a power outage. Member service is better than ever and busy signal frustration is a thing of the past.

In addition to outage notification and updates, members can now make credit card payments after hours. More on that to come. Soon, we will incorporate a phone texting feature where we can let you know via text, when your power has been restored. This will be very helpful for people who are away from their homes and wanting to know if the timing is right to return.

We will continue to take advantage of new technology in many ways if it means providing even better service for our members. Give us a call if you have any questions about this.

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

Rules for Student Grants

Columbia Power Cooperative offers student grants for higher education totaling \$2,000 to be awarded this spring. The awards will be divided as follows:

First place: \$1,000

Second place: \$600

Third place: \$400

The applicant or his/her parents must be active members of the cooperative, or maintain a residence in the cooperative's service area. Applicant must provide proof of residency with either meter number or membership number. He or she must graduate from high school during the current school year.

The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, April 20. Applications need to be at the co-op office by this date.

Selection of Grant Recipients

Judges chosen by Columbia Power Cooperative—not necessarily members of the co-op—will make the selection. The judges will give consideration to the following factors in making their selections:

- Citizenship, motivation, desire, self-improvement, advancement, diligent employment of abilities in and out of school, personal habits, group acceptance and leadership 50 percent
- Scholarship 25 percent
- Need 25 percent

Use of Grant

Grant recipients may use the grant at the school of their choice, including recognized trade or business schools, subject to the approval of the grant committee.

A grant recipient must be enrolled as a full-time student in the approved school, and must provide to the co-op proof of receiving passing grades before receiving grants on a semester or term basis.

Contact Columbia Power Cooperative for an application:

Columbia Power Cooperative
P.O. Box 97
Monument, Oregon 97864
(541) 934-2311

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

DIRECTORS:

Chairman Tom Strand, Terrebonne
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Beverly Clarno, Redmond
William J. Rainey, Sisters
Boyd Keeton, Tumalo
Shirley McCullough, Prineville
Kelly McFarlane, Powell Butte
Kenneth H. Miltenberger, Alfalfa

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

STAFF:

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Dave Markham

Chief Financial Officer

Rawleigh White

Operations & Engineering Director

Brad Wilson

Corporate Information Officer

Lisa Cutter

Member Services Director

Jeff Beaman

Bend District Manager

Karen Lewis

24-HOUR

PHONE NUMBERS:

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

Mission Statement

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

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

www.cec.coop

OR-12

The Cooperative Difference Spelled Out

Central Electric has added a lot of new members in the past few years. In 2017 alone, our membership rolls increased by 654. That was the sixth straight year the annual number increased. Many of these new members are coming from elsewhere and may never have had their electricity service provided by an electric co-op such as CEC. They may begin our service and see us as “just another power company.”

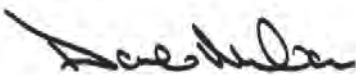
An important article on pages 4 and 5 of this month's edition goes a long way toward helping everyone understand how wrong that perception is. The article explains the difference between the various business models under which electric utilities provide service. Electric cooperatives such as Central Electric—along with public utility districts and municipal utilities—are sometimes referred to as public power because they “exist to serve, not to profit from serving,” as stated in the article. The vast majority of Americans and Oregonians are served by investor-owned utilities: Pacific Power and Portland General Electric, in Oregon's case.

Speaking for electric cooperatives, I believe one of the most distinguishing properties of our business model is our No. 1 goal, member satisfaction. This is different from the investor-owned model, which makes shareholder satisfaction the top goal. True, these utilities care about customer satisfaction, but it is a means to the end of keeping their ownership happy. In our case, and that of other electric cooperatives, you are the owner. Achieving your satisfaction is our priority when making decisions about rates, infrastructure planning and construction, financial management and business services.

Another important property of your co-op is local governance. Through your ability to elect a board member from your geographical area to our nine-member board of directors, you have a direct voice in how your cooperative is governed.

Please take the time to read this educational article. I am confident you will come to appreciate the degree to which Central Electric is NOT “just another power company.”

Sincerely,



Dave Markham
President and CEO





Board of Directors

President

John G. Herzog, Brookings/Harbor

Vice President

Georgia A. Cockerham, Brookings/Harbor

Secretary/ Treasurer

Daryl C. Robison, Port Orford/Langlois

Cheryl L. McMahan, Southern At-Large

Jim Kolen, Gold Beach

Peter C. Radabaugh, Bandon/Coquille

Daniel Loshbaugh, Northern At-Large

Attorney—Tyler Pepple

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General Manager/CEO

Roger Meader

Corporate Services/CFO

Frank Corrales

Engineering Manager

Matt Mjelde

Marketing and Member

Services Manager

Jacob Knudsen

Operations Manager

Randy McDonald

Local numbers

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

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

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

Brookings (541) 469-2103

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

Monday through Thursday.

Closed Friday.

After-Hours Outage Number

(866) 352-9044

Call Before You Dig

811

www.ccec.coop

OR-13

Special Message

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

The Cooperative Difference

2017 Revenue Reduction Rebate and Director Nominating Petitions

Many differences set electric cooperatives apart from for-profit utilities and this is one of them. Being a not-for-profit utility allows your board to give back. That's the co-op difference. I am excited to announce we are issuing a 2017 revenue reduction rebate based on how much energy you used in 2017. Please see the letter from your board of directors on page 4.

Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative staff is busy not only working to send 2017 rebate checks, but preparing for the annual event of electing our board of directors. You, the cooperative members, will elect two representatives to serve the members' best interest when making governance decisions. The positions up for election this year are representing Districts 1 & 2 (Brookings and Harbor areas), and District 3 (Gold Beach area).

One of a cooperative's greatest strengths is being a democratic organization controlled by its members. In fact, democratic control and equal voting rights—one member, one vote—is the second of seven principles that define the cooperative business model. See page 25 for director qualifications and how to acquire a petition.

Roger Meader

General Manager and CEO



West Oregon
Electric Co-op

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

652 Rose Ave.

P.O. Box 69

Vernonia, OR 97064

(503) 429-3021

Toll free (800) 777-1276

www.westoregon.org

.....
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Robert VanNatta

(Dist. 2 – Mist, Apiary, Birkenfeld)

Vice President Jim Buxton

(Dist. 3 – Vernonia, Keasey)

Sec./Treasurer Rosemary Lohrke

(Dist. 6 – Chapman, Scappoose)

Brian Baker

(Dist. 1 – Jewell, Elsie, Hamlet)

Brett Costley

(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

Are you a member? You may not be.

Every cooperative has members, whether it is West Oregon Electric Cooperative or REI. While on vacation, I came across an REI store, so I decided to see what they were all about. I found several items I was looking for and walked up to the checkout thinking I'd pay just like at any other store. That was until they asked me if I was member. I didn't know they were a cooperative, and they proceeded to tell me more.

The membership fee was \$20, which is a lot more than the \$1 WOEC requires. I joined anyway and had the option to add my wife to the membership as well.

What does this have to do with WOEC?

We have members too. When you sign up for membership, you have the option to add a spouse, giving both an equal share in WOEC and full access to the account. If the account is in one name, only that person has a membership. The spouse has no equal share in the membership and cannot vote on co-op business or make account inquiries. This also can affect how capital credits are distributed in an estate settlement.

If you don't know if you are a member, call the office to verify. If you are not a member and would like to be added, it is a simple process to update a single account to a joint account.

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 SVEC'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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Craig Joiner, President
Lookout

Dennis Flynn, Vice President
Valley Falls

Raymond Cloud, Secretary/Treasurer
New Pine Creek

Wesley Cook
Cedarville

Scott Warner
Lakeview

John Erquiaga
Lake City

Duane McGarva
Likely

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

"Owned by those we serve"

CA-15

SVEC Rate Increase

At its regularly scheduled meeting January 25, 2018, the Surprise Valley Electrification Corp. Board of Directors recommended a rate increase to pay for necessary system improvements to its transmission facilities and substations, and to cover increased Bonneville Power Administration transmission costs.

Board President Craig Joiner addressed this need at the annual membership meeting in September. He outlined the cooperative's recently completed construction work plan to replace, rebuild or relocate aging power lines and facilities at high risk of failure. The construction work plan also identified points on SVEC's system where reclosers and switches may be installed to sectionalize more of the system so fewer accounts are affected by a power outage. This also will provide better system reliability and safety to members and lineworkers.

We will continue to focus on replacing transmission and distribution poles. The cooperative's electrical system has more than 2,100 aging transmission poles that are pushing 55-plus years of service. During the past year, all the transmission poles were tested, allowing us to identify nearly 700 poles for immediate replacement. We will initiate a transmission pole change-out program this year.

By following the construction work plan, the cooperative will spend approximately \$12 million. Some of these costs are a part of normal construction and maintenance, but many are above our routine costs and will need additional financing to complete. All rate schedules will incur an increase of \$0.008 per kilowatt-hour on the energy charge to recover these investments. The rate change will begin with bills issued in April. There will be no increase to the basic or demand charges.

The following is a rate comparison for an SVEC residential account. Under the old rate of \$0.074 per kWh and a \$15 basic charge, the cost for 1,000 kWh is \$89. Under the new rate of \$0.082 and a \$15 basic charge, the cost for 1,000 kWh is \$97.

The cost for operating a 75-HP irrigation pump for 1,500 hours in a season is \$6,658 on the old rate of \$0.0585. This cost will increase to \$7,404 on the new rate of \$0.0665.

The actual increase for each account will vary based on actual energy used.

For more information, call the office at (530) 233-3511.

**Sincerely,
Bradley Kresge**

787 Bailey Hill Road
Eugene, Oregon 97402
Office Phone: 541-484-1151
Business Hours:
Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAYS AND HOLIDAYS
Website: laneelectric.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Seubert, President, Central District

Susan Knudsen Obermeyer, Vice-President, Oakridge District

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

BOARD MEETINGS

4th Monday of each month

Lane Electric's Office, 787 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene, OR

Meetings begin at 9 a.m.

(Unless otherwise noted on LEC web site)

In This Issue

Feature:	Page #
Official Notice of Annual Meeting ...	4
Unapproved Minutes ...	5
District Meeting Locations ...	8
The Value of Electricity...	28 & 29
Save the Date...	32

OR-16



District Meetings Ahead Save The Date!

Dear Lane Electric Member,

Our district meetings are fast approaching. Mark your calendar. We hope to see you at one of the meetings listed below.

Matt

Matt Michel, General Manager

- District Meeting**
CROW HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
25863 Crow Road, Eugene, OR
May 3, 2018
Dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- District Meeting**
LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
65 Pioneer Street, Lowell, OR
May 8, 2018
Dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- District Meeting**
WESTRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
46433 Westfir Road, Westfir, OR
May 10, 2018
Dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- District Meeting**
DORENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (NEW VENUE)
37141 Row River Rd, Dorena, OR 97434
May 15, 2018
Dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- District Meeting**
UPPER MCKENZIE COMMUNITY CENTER
54745 McKenzie River Drive, Blue River, OR
May 17, 2018
Dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m.

2018 Annual Membership Meeting Of The Members

LANE ELECTRIC HEADQUARTERS
787 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene, OR
May 29, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.



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

OR-17

Manager's Report

Dear Members,

Cooperative membership isn't at all like being a member of a social club or sports team. Eighty-one years ago, the people of the Blachly-Lane community wanted the benefits of modern electricity at their homes and farms, but investor-owned utilities were not eager to serve them. The costs were too high and financial rewards were too low to pencil out serving the rural area. The people of Blachly-Lane rose up and created the co-op to build, maintain and manage the electric system you still enjoy to this day. Just like then, investor-owned utilities still find serving our area too unprofitable to satisfy shareholders.

We need our members to understand how important they are, and that they are far more than customers to us.

Many of our newer and younger members consider themselves just customers of Blachly-Lane Electric Co-op, but have yet to understand what it means to be a member. Because we are a cooperative, your membership means you are essentially an owner of this electric utility. As an owner, you have a say in who represents your interests in the co-op by voting for members of the board of directors. We encourage you to fill out the ballot you received in the mail and return it to us by mail or drop it by the office by 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19. The results of the election will be announced at the annual meeting of the members at Oaklea Middle School on Saturday, April 21.

Democratic Member Control—one of the Seven Cooperative Principles that drives how we operate—means you have a voice with your vote. This year, our open board seat is uncontested, but some years your voice matters a great deal to make sure the most competent leadership from among your community is elected to manage the business. Some years, the ballot contains bylaw amendments that set the rules for how the co-op's business is conducted. The bylaws have a direct impact on members, and your vote is critical to ensure they reflect your needs.

If you are new to the area, or just haven't yet been to an annual meeting, please consider coming this year. You not only will enjoy a nice lunch, but will connect with the dynamic history of this tiny but powerful electric utility you own.

Joe Jarvis

General Manager





Board of Commissioners

Randy L. Knowles

President

Dan G. Gunkel

Vice President

Douglas B. Miller

Secretary

.....

Jim Smith

General Manager

Kevin Ricks

*Generation Asset/
Special Projects Manager*

Gwyn Miller

H.R. & Business Services Director

Mike DeMott

Power Manager

Mark Pritchard

Operations Manager

Ron Schultz

Chief Engineer

Brandy Myers

Customer Service Supervisor

.....

www.klickitatpud.com

Goldendale Office

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

White Salmon Office

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

WA-18

Connecting With Community

During April and May, we will be out in the communities where Klickitat PUD supplies water and wastewater services to talk about those systems. We will address service rates, maintenance and operational issues, capital projects, levels of service and plans for the future of those systems. We also will touch on general updates about your PUD, answer questions and interact with our customers.

Throughout the rest of spring and into early summer, we will be talking with community service groups. The meetings held by these groups—such as Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions clubs, chambers and city or community councils—offer the opportunity to interact with involved citizens and talk about the impacts and interactions of your PUD on our local communities. They also offer a chance to exchange ideas for things we can work on together to improve.

Community meetings scheduled so far include Dallesport-Murdock Town Council on April 12; Ponderosa Park Association on April 14; Glenwood Community Council on April 17; Klickitat Community Council on April 25; and Bickleton Council on April 26.

For a complete schedule of meeting dates, times and locations as it is developed, go to the Klickitat PUD website at www.klickitatpud.com and click on the calendar at the bottom of the page.

I hope you take the opportunity to be active with these groups, and I hope to talk with you and hear your questions and ideas.

Jim Smith

General Manager





NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.

The power of local service

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

For Outages:
(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

Thank You to Our Linemen

April 18 marks Lineman Appreciation Day across the U.S. It is our honor to celebrate the hard work, innovation and dedication of electrical lineworkers. Take a moment to appreciate our local linemen, who go above and beyond, no matter the weather, to keep our lights on.

We often take electricity—and the men and women who provide it—for granted. Linemen work 365 days a year, 24 hours a day in the blistering sun, rain, sleet and snow to do two things: keep our system safe and the power on. They put their lives on the line every day to ensure you have power at the flip of a switch.

NLI's linemen maintain more than 2,800 miles of power lines serving more than 19,000 accounts in northern Idaho, western Montana and a small piece of eastern Washington. Although beautiful, this terrain is rugged and remote. Our crews are standing by to serve NLI's members around the clock to keep your power on and, if there is an outage, restore it as soon as possible. Thank a lineman today, for keeping the lights on.



Annual Meeting is May 12

On a final note, our 83rd annual meeting is Saturday, May 12, at the Sandpoint Business and Events Center. Join the NLI board, employees and fellow members of your cooperative to learn more about NLI, enter to win door prizes and claim your \$25 energy credit. I look forward to meeting you all.

See you at the annual meeting!

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

Directors

President Cliff Tacke
Greencreek

Vice President Kim Dahler
Kooskia

Secretary-Treasurer Jim Poxleitner
Cottonwood

Frank McIntire
Kamiah

Gerald Frei
Grangeville

John Solberg
Kamiah

Ernie Robinsons
White Bird

Attorney

J.A. Wright

General Manager

Max Beach

c-21

The Power Behind Your Power

As April arrives, it brings showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can lead to power outages.

While Idaho County Light & Power strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that springs into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst: lineworkers.

Braving storms and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the country, lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high-voltage power lines.

To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect lineworkers from electric shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

Their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. Lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews often use computers and cellphones to map outages, document their work and troubleshoot problems. ICL&P lineworkers are responsible for keeping 1,100 miles of lines across two counties working to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

In larger outages we have "all hands on deck," which includes nearly all of your co-op staff, including engineering and office staff at all hours who remain in constant contact. Once a line is re-energized, meters in the area are checked to confirm power is restored, and crews move on to the next outage.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed through the years, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring work near high-voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power.

While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to thank lineworkers. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated staff that truly cares about our members and community. Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9. During April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

Max Beach, General Manager



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

ColumbiaREA.coop

Board of Directors

Katie Wooldridge, President
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 Walla Walla.

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...



I would like to take this opportunity to thank a group of people for their generous participation in several, seasonal committees upon which we rely heavily on this time of year: the nominating committee, the elections and credentials committee and the scholarship evaluation committee. Because of their commitment and service, we are able to meet the responsibilities as set forth in our bylaws.

Each of these committees is comprised of engaged members who may not have the time to serve on the board of directors yet remain interested in shaping the future of the cooperative. Service on one of these committees is a wonderful opportunity for cooperative members to be more involved and supportive of the cooperative. In a democracy, member participation is crucial. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in this process in the future.

Co-ops are different than other forms of businesses because of you, our members.

Nominating Committee: Jim McEwen, Kerry McEwen, Shirley Mason, Mike Taylor, Mike Erwin, Mark Lambert and Claudia Borgens

Elections and Credentials Committee: Ruth Renken, Tom Dean, Alan Mehlenbacher, Ray Davidson, Chuck Reeves and Sue Zimmerman

Scholarship Evaluation Committee: The members on this committee remain anonymous, but to them we are profusely grateful.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Leland Smith, Sunriver

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

General Manager

Dave Schneider

Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Bartunek

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

The short 35-day Oregon legislative session came off as expected: a dead sprint with a nominal amount of bills able to survive the legislative gauntlet. For electric cooperatives, the mission was to look out for potential threats and set the stage for the 2019 session.

The Legislature debated whether to cap carbon emissions on utilities, transportation and industry (Senate Bill 1507, House Bill 4001). Advocates of cap and trade contend a cap on emissions will allow Oregon to meet its ambitious carbon-reduction goals. Ironically, the proposal is being undermined by the state's own policies that devalue the region's greatest carbon-free asset, the Federal Columbia River Power System.

As a customer of the Bonneville Power Administration, Midstate Electric Cooperative is proud that our electricity supply is a renewable resource that is nearly carbon-free. We are part of a multibillion-dollar effort to improve fish passage at the dams, and the results are impressive. Testing shows that federal dams exceed or meet performance standards of 93 percent to 96 percent survival of migrating juvenile fish. The decision to increase spill over current levels provides questionable benefit to the fish and may even cause them harm. Increased spill will harm the economy of rural Oregon and the environment.

To make up for lost hydropower generation, electricity will most likely be bought from carbon-emitting resources such as natural gas. Replacement power will cost BPA ratepayers an estimated \$40 million a year. Oregon's spill program will increase carbon emissions by

approximately 840,000 metric tons a year—the equivalent of putting 179,000 additional cars on Oregon's roads or the consumption of two million barrels of oil.

We want to thank our political action advocates, ORECA-Action, for their support. We asked them to urge legislators to align Oregon's carbon policies before passing cap-and-trade legislation, and they came through for us. Cap-and-trade bills were defeated during the session.

Legislators have put a process together for carbon legislation going forward in 2019. We are not sure what this will mean for Oregon's electric cooperatives, but we will continue to be proactive.

Linemen Appreciation Day

MEC depends on its entire staff to keep the co-op running smoothly, but on April 9, we honor our linemen. Whether day or night, weekday or weekend, if the lights go out, so do they. We hope you join us in thanking them. Remember, your power works because they do.

Scholarship Applications Due May 7

MEC is offering seven \$2,500 scholarships for persons attending accredited colleges/technical schools. The application is on our website, www.mse.coop.

MEC's Annual Meeting

MEC's annual meeting is Saturday, May 12, at La Pine Middle School. Registration, health fair, displays and barbecue begin at 10 a.m., followed by the business meeting at noon.

See pages 8 and 25 for more information on these topics and other MEC programs and services.

General Manager Dave Schneider



www.rrelectric.com

DIRECTORS

President Krinn McCoy
Vice President Stan Spencer
Secretary-Treasurer Gary Jones
Larry Henson
Lindsey Manning
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®
Cooperatives

ID-24

Youth Rally Entry Rules

Here is your chance to attend the ICUA Youth Rally in July, win one of several scholarships and perhaps be selected to represent the ICUA and Idaho at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Rural Electric Youth Tour in June 2019.

Who can apply: Any high school sophomore or junior whose parents or guardians are Raft River Rural Electric members.

How to apply: All you need to do before May 1 is clip, fill out and return the entry form below, visit www.rrelectric.com for a form, or call (800) 342-7732 or (208) 645-2211. Do it now!

Qualified entrants receive an entry packet by mail. Complete the packet as instructed, and return the necessary material to Raft River Electric, postmarked no later than May 18.

Requirements: Completed application forms and a personal interview.

ICUA Youth Rally Entry Form

Raft River Rural Electric
P.O. Box 617
Malta, Idaho 83342

Account Number: _____

Date: _____

Yes, I would like to be a Raft River Rural Electric youth representative and have the opportunity to attend the ICUA Youth Rally, July 9 to 14; have a chance to win one of several scholarships; and be selected to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 2019.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Phone: _____



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

Lineworker Appreciation Day April 9, 2018



Remember to #THANKALINEWORKER

Hood River Electric Cooperative



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

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

.....

DIRECTORS

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

MANAGER

John Gerstenberger

.....

Serving rural
Hood River County
since 1945

OR-26

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

Sincere thanks from the board of directors and staff to the members and guests who attended the annual membership meetings of Communications Access Co-op and Hood River Electric Co-op on the evenings of March 14 and 15, respectively. Your ongoing interest in the affairs and governance of your cooperatives is commendable and appreciated.

After giving attention to the auditor's, attorney's, manager's and nominating committee reports, the members present re-elected Gary Bloom, Dick Sohler and Roger Nelson as directors for the next three years. I appreciate the return of experienced directors that have invested hours of their personal time to become knowledgeable of the financial, technical, regulatory and political landscape faced by the cooperative.

In my remarks, I described progress in the development of new electrical load from existing and new customers. In general, these loads have been smaller than original estimates and, in some cases, delayed in developing. I also provided a brief update on the status of possible transmission improvements. I reported briefly on business activities and the status of LS Networks and CACHE. Both continued their tradition of success in 2017.

Directors Butch Gehrig, Patrick Moore and Bernie Wells were recognized for 20 years of service to the membership. Gary Bloom was lauded for his 15 years of service as a director. Lineman Doug Balzer was congratulated for 15 years of employment by the cooperative.

While the news has been "on the street" for a while, I formally announced my plan to retire mid-2018. Your board has known this for a few months and is taking appropriate action to facilitate my replacement.

Watch for a feature article in next month's Ruralite for additional coverage of the HREC annual meeting. I hope the story and the synopsis above will encourage you to attend the annual meeting next March!

John Gerstenberger, Manager



Harney Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative 
The power of human connections[®]

277 Lottery Lane
Hines, OR 97738
(541) 573-2061
hec.burns@harneyelectric.org

Orovada, Nevada
(775) 272-3336
orovada.office@harneyelectric.org

www.harneyelectric.org



.....
Board of Directors

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

General Manager

Fred Flippence

Operations Manager

Brent Beverly

Line Superintendent

Jason Hill

Electrical Engineer

Shane Sweet

Office Manager

Stephanie Bowen

Attorney

Raymond S. Kindley

OR-27

Absentee Ballots

Dear Members,

Harney Electric's annual meeting is Saturday, May 5, in Crane, Oregon. If you do not plan to attend the annual meeting, but still want to vote, you have two alternatives:

1. You can vote at the Hines office.
2. You can vote with an absentee ballot.

No one can vote until we know who will be on the ballot.

We mail the notice of the annual meeting Thursday, April 5, which also is the earliest day allowed by the bylaws. This is important to you because the bylaws state you cannot vote or request an absentee ballot until the notice of meeting is mailed.

Voting at the Hines office is not hard. Just come in and do it. Make sure the person voting is listed on the membership or has been formally designated as the voting representative, if the vote is in the name of a corporation, partnership, government body, etc.

Absentee ballots are not quite as straightforward, but a lot of folks use them every year. You have to request them by mail or in person at the Hines office. The bylaws will not let you do that until the notice of meeting is mailed. As a convenience, we include an absentee ballot request form with the meeting notice. We try to mail the absentee ballot the same day the request comes in.

When you get the ballot, do not put it with the bills you will get around to. The bylaws state the ballot must be received at the Hines office by 5 p.m. the day before the meeting. We cannot accept a ballot at the meeting that your neighbor brings in for you. Mark your ballot, put it in the privacy envelope, and put that in the mailing envelope. Be sure to sign the outside to verify that it came from a bona fide member, and get it in the mail.

Your vote is important. Cast it carefully.

Fred Flippence
Manager





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

Board of Directors

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

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

Email: energy@srec.org

Website: www.srec.org



**Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives**

ID-28

SREC Annual Meeting

I hope you all have marked your calendars for the SREC Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, April 26, at 7 p.m. at Challis High School.

You probably noticed the annual meeting insert in this month's Ruralite. It provides details of the meeting. Remember, you get a \$20 electric bill credit and some great prizes just for registering at the meeting.

The annual meeting provides you, the member-owner, the opportunity to participate in the governance of the electric cooperative through the election of board members. The cooperative's board is comprised of seven directors from seven districts. This provides broad representation of the members' interests. Each director is elected by the membership as a whole, not by the district they represent. It is the duty of each director to act in the interest of the entire membership, not just the district from which they were elected. This year, you will have the opportunity to elect two directors—one each from the Challis and Salmon River districts.

Directors represent your interests in the cooperative by abiding by its articles of incorporation and bylaws. In addition, your interests are represented through the board's development and implementation of board, member and employee policies. The board also looks after your cooperative through attendance at monthly board meetings, special meetings, and state, regional and national meetings and trainings.

Last year, the SREC membership was presented with new bylaws to approve. Revisions to update existing bylaws, attorney recommendations and the way SREC conducts business were approved by the membership. Bylaw revisions proposed to allow mail-in voting were not approved by the membership.

Once again, you will be given the opportunity to participate in your cooperative by listening to reports given at the annual meeting. These reports summarize the financial well-being of the cooperative, provide 2016-2017 operational highlights and consider state, regional and national issues that affect the electric cooperative.

For me, the best part of the meeting is the opportunity to interact with SREC members, which includes employees, family and friends. There is no better way to kick off the meeting than the pre-annual meeting barbecue that starts at 5 p.m. at Challis High School. SREC-owned Salmon River Propane hosts the barbecue.

Don't miss out on the great prizes to be drawn during the annual meeting. Remember, you have to be present to win. See you there!



Ken Dizes

**Ken Dizes
General Manager**

United Electric Co-op Inc.

Directors

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

General Manager

Jo Elg

Engineering and Operations

Trevor Parke

Line Superintendent

Kay Hill

Executive Assistant

Penny West

Member Services Manager

Chris Seibold

Mailing address:

1330 21st St.
Heyburn, ID 83336

Phone: (208) 679-2222

Fax: (208) 679-3333

Email: uec@unitedelectric.coop

Website: www.uec.coop

Office hours: Monday-Thursday,
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

After Hours: (208) 679-4444



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



ID-29

Lineman Appreciation at United Electric

Each April, a day is set aside to appreciate linemen. This April, and every month, United Electric honors our dedicated linemen who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock, often in dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

What can we do to show our appreciation? I recently read a poem written by E.A. Cooper in 1935 that sheds some light on that question. Make an extra effort during April to help fulfill a lineman's dream and #ThankALineman.

Remember, your power works because they do!

Jo Elg

General Manager

A Lineman's Dream

Once a lineman lay home a-sleepin,
Through his ol' bean a dream came a-creepin
Of a fabulous land of milk and honey
Where everyone knew that he earned his money.
He dreamed that a man on his line
Came to him and said, "My service is fine."
And of a lady who didn't complain
When her lights were knocked out in the wind and rain.
He dreamed that folks were prompt to call
Whenever they saw a wire break and fall
And were not afraid to wear old shoes
To go out and check their own main fuse.
He dreamed that during the hunting season
That all of the boys would use some reason
Shooting only at birds instead of the glass
Giving the juice a chance to pass.
And as this dream went through his head,
The phone bell jerked him out of his bed
A voice came over the line and said,
"Come out and work, we've got primary dead!"

UEC Linemen

Colby Carson
Glade Chandler
Karl Clayville
Chuck Fleming
Shawn Free
Kay Hill
Frank Matthews
Marcus Ramsey
John Reed
Dakota Searle
Wade Williams



Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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

Directors

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President

Susan M. Harris
Vice President

Bret L. Zollinger
Secretary/Treasurer

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

Manager/CEO

F. Richard Reynolds

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

ID-30



#THANKALINEWORKER

WITH GREAT
POWER COMES
GREAT RELIABILITY

nationallineworker
appreciationday **18**



Board of Directors

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

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

Copper Basin District

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

Valdez District

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

After hours outage line

(866) 835-2832

Important Dates

April

CVEA Board Meeting: The April meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, April 19, 2018, in Glennallen

Deadline: Director election ballots must be received in the correct CVEA mailbox by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, 2018

May

Annual Meeting: The CVEA Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, May 1, in the Valdez District and Thursday, May 3, in the Copper Basin District; registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6

CVEA Board Meeting: The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, May 17, 2018, in Valdez

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, May 28, 2018, for Memorial Day

AK-34

2018 Annual Meeting of Members Valdez - Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Copper Basin - Thursday, May 3, 2018

The time has come! This is your final reminder to attend the 2018 CVEA Annual Meeting of Members. This is your opportunity, as a member-owner, to find out what's going on at your electric cooperative and the date is just around the corner!

The meeting will be Tuesday, May 1, 2018, in the Valdez District at the Valdez Civic Center and Thursday, May 3, 2018, in the Copper Basin District at the Alaska Bible College Murdock Campus Center. Registration and food service begin at 5:30 p.m. and the business meeting will begin promptly at 6 p.m.

Don't miss your chance to hear reports, learn about CVEA projects and issues, and ask questions about your electric cooperative. You'll also accept director election results and find out who won the CVEA Community Foundation scholarship awards.

There are tons of cool prizes in each district, including a CVEA beater. Every member signed in by 6 p.m. will be eligible to win prizes, and will receive a \$10 credit on their power bill. Don't be late, and remember, you can't win if you don't attend.

CVEA will be doing a Split-the-Pot fundraiser for the CVEA Community Foundation, which provides scholarships to students and contributions to nonprofit organizations in our communities, so don't forget to bring a little extra cash if you'd like to participate!

Vote in the Director Election

Per CVEA Bylaws, a minimum of 10 percent of the district membership must return their ballots to constitute a valid election. For this reason, even if there is only one candidate running per seat, we still need you to VOTE!

Ballots must be received in the designated CVEA post office box by 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, 2018.

This year, all valid ballots received by the April 24 deadline will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 CVEA energy credit!



CVEA Board of Adjustment

The Board of Adjustment acts as an appellate body when a consumer feels the cooperative has violated its tariff or has otherwise not accorded them fair and equitable treatment. The Board of Adjustment will hear complaints which have not been resolved by CVEA's written complaint procedure.

The Board of Adjustment is appointed from the membership at the annual meeting in April. The term of a seat on the Board of Adjustment is two years. Three seats are open in the Copper Basin District and two seats are open in the Valdez District.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or stop by the sign-up table at the annual meeting.



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

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

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

Board of Directors

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

Dear Customers:

What do you want to be when you grow up? This is a question most people have been asked at some point in their life, or at least thought about.

My career path has developed through many areas of the public service sector, working as both an emergency medical technician and firefighter, as well as a gas, electric and water utility professional.

Through my comprehensive work experience in the utility industry I have come to appreciate its countless positive aspects. One in particular is the range of opportunities available to learn and grow professionally.

Public power utilities employ more than 93,000 people across the United States. Tillamook PUD has 84 full-time employees. Our utility has several diverse occupations—everything from linemen, engineers and geographic information system analysts to accountants, customer service representatives and information technology systems specialists, just to name a few. Each Tillamook PUD staff member, and his or her role, is an important piece in our utility's operational puzzle.

On April 18, we recognize important pieces to our utility operations, our linemen and crews, as we observe National Linemen Appreciation Day. Our line crews are made up of highly trained professionals working diligently every day—and sometimes through the night—to ensure our customers have safe and reliable service. We appreciate our crews and we thank them for the work they do.

So, what do you want to be when you grow up? For some folks, this question is answered early on in life and decided upon indefinitely. For others, this question is more complicated and can take years to answer.

For me, what I am doing now is not what I thought I would be doing all those years ago when I was first asked that question. I am doing even more. I truly enjoy my profession. I value and appreciate the people I work alongside with, and you, the customers and community members I get to serve.

Sincerely,

Todd Simmons
General Manager





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

Board of Directors

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Roy Nageak Sr.

Secretary/Treasurer

Josiah Patkotak

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

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36



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**WITH GREAT
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GREAT RELIABILITY**

nationallineman**18**
appreciationday



Owned By Those We Serve

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Corporate Headquarters

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

Delta Junction Office

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

Nenana Office

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

Report Outages:

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

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!



AK-37

Annual Members' Meeting

When

Thursday, May 3, 2018

Where

Lathrop High School's Hering Auditorium, Fairbanks

Also, video streaming via Facebook Live to these locations:

- Tri-Valley Community Center, Healy
- Delta Community Center



www.facebook.com/GoldenValleyElectric

At all three locations:

- Account holder must present I.D. at registration.
- Door prize drawings (you must be present to win)
 - A total of \$3,000 in electric credits
 - HomeSense Audits (5)
- At the end of the meeting, receive a free LED Emergency Lantern.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. *Esta institución es un proveedor de servicios con igualdad de oportunidades.*

Agenda

1. 5 p.m. Registration
2. 6:30 p.m. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Call to Order by Board Chairman & Board of Director Introductions
4. Appointment of Sergeants-At-Arms and MAC Acknowledgements
5. Secretary's Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing
6. Secretary's Quorum Report
7. Approval of Minutes of 2017 Annual Meeting
8. Door Prize Drawings
9. Reports by President & CEO and Board of Directors
 - Board of Director Elections
 - Scholarship Awards
 - Financial and Project Updates
10. Door Prize Drawings
11. Member Comments
12. Door Prize Drawing
13. Adjournment

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 5-7

Ballroom Dance Class. Mohawk Community Resource Center, corner of Highway 89 and Highway 70, Graeagle. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Learn beginning waltz with Julie Lewis. \$30 per couple and \$20 for singles for the three-day class.

For more information and to register for the classes, call (530) 836-0446, or email jpolson@plumasruralservices.org

April 6

Artist's Opening Reception. Plumas Arts, 525 Main St., Quincy. 5 to 7 p.m. Plumas Arts Gallery welcomes a new exhibition. Meet the artist and enjoy light refreshments.

For more information, call (530) 283-3402.

Artist's Opening Reception. Main Street Artists Gallery, 436 Main St., Quincy. 5 to 7 p.m. Reception for featured artist, meet the artist and enjoy drinks and nibbles at Quincy's artist co-op gallery.

For more information, call (530) 283-1909 or visit www.mainstreetartists.net/home.htm.

April 7

Intro to Pine Needle Basket Making. Mohawk Community Resource Center, corner of Highway 89 and Highway 70, Graeagle. Noon to 4 p.m. No experience needed. Guided by Michelle Haselton. Class size limit is 10 participants. \$55 cost includes all basket-making supplies, small snacks and beverages.

For more information and to sign up, call (530) 927-7036.

April 12

Words & Music Quincy. Patti's Thunder Café, 557 Lawrence St. 7 to 9 p.m. A monthly series of acoustic music and the spoken word. Sign up for open mic at the door. \$3.

For more information, call (530) 283-3402.

April 14

Taste of Plumas. Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds, 204 Fairgrounds Rd., Quincy. 5:30 to 8 p.m. Take a tour of many of the best culinary establishments in Plumas County and great wines available locally in a single location. Presale tickets \$30 for Plumas Arts members available only through Plumas Arts, or \$35 for nonmembers. Includes a souvenir wine glass. All tickets at the door, if available, are \$40.

For more information, call (530) 283-3402.

April 18

High School Jazz Night. Town Hall Theatre, 469 Main St., Quincy. 7 to 9 p.m. Join talented young musicians from Plumas County's high schools for a night of jazz and more. Celebrate the successes of our local school music programs. Admission donation of \$5 each is suggested.

April 14

Honey Lake Valley Riders Fully Woolly Fun Day. Janesville Park Area, 464-400 Church St. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call (530) 310-8267, or visit www.honeylakevalleyriders.org.

April 19

Lassen County Chamber of Commerce Mixer. Hosted by High Sierra Collision & Towing, 472-635 Johnstonville Road, Susanville. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call (530) 257-4323.

April 21

Earth Day Celebration. Calpine Community Center, 131 County Road, Calpine. Noon to 4:30 p.m. Branch weaving with Michelle Haselton.

For more information, call (530) 927-7036, or email info@lakesbasincreations.com.

Third Saturday Breakfast. Susanville Masonic Hall, 84 N. Lassen St. Hosted by Friends of the Lassen Lodge #149. 8 to 11 a.m. \$5 admission.

For more information, call (530) 310-6097.

Family Connections Conference. Veteran's Memorial Hall, 1205 Main St., Susanville. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A free, fun event in honor of parents and caregivers. Parents can expect food, conversation and great information.

For more information, email bedholm@headstart4u.org, or register at <http://familyconnectionsconference.eventbrite.com>.

Earth Day Orchards Class. Every Bloomin' Thing, 705-670 US 395, Susanville. 10 to 11 a.m. Learn about selecting, transplanting, pollination, fertilizing, thinning and pruning your home orchard. The class is free to the public.

For more information, call (530) 251-2330, or visit www.everybloomin.com/new-events.



April 26

Wild Words: Legacy. Town Hall Theatre, 469 Main St., Quincy. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Free admission. Wild & Scenic Rivers: 50 Years Flowing. Presented by Tim Palmer.

For more information, call (530) 283-0202, ext. 262.

April 27 & 28

Quincy Star Follies. Plumas Sierra County Fairgrounds, 204 Fairgrounds Rd., Quincy. 6 to 10 p.m. Adults \$15; children under 12, \$10.

For more information, call (530) 283-9900.

Manager's Message

Continued from page 32

Another method of member communication is through your smartphone with our SmartHub app, available for Apple and Android devices.

You can pay your bill, view your energy-use history and contact us from the convenience of your smartphone.

Telecommunications

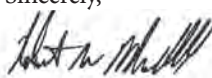
PST's coax and wireless broadband services offer download speeds of up to 20Mbps and upload speeds of up to 10Mbps. Our fiber optic services can go up to 1-gigabyte per second, with even faster speeds available, if needed. With these speeds, you can stream videos on multiple devices at the same time without slowing down. You could even eliminate your TV bill with streaming services. For more information and to sign up for service, call us at (800) 221-3474 or visit www.pst.coop.

Rates

We have reviewed our 2018 budget with the latest hydropower information and are not planning for a rate increase for PSREC at this time. We are planning a revision of our rates in the next several years to put our rates in line with the true cost of service for each rate class. This means that in the medium-term, generally fixed charges will go up and the cost per kWh will decline.

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

Sincerely,


Bob Marshall
General Manager



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President

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

Vice President

Fred Nelson, *Clio*
fnelson@psrec.coop

Secretary/Treasurer

David Hansen, *Doyle*
dhansen@psrec.coop

Dan Kenney, *Sloat*
dkenney@psrec.coop

Dick Short, *Graeagle*
dshort@psrec.coop

Tom Hammond, *Herlong*
thammond@psrec.coop

Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



Our subsidiary,
Plumas-Sierra

Telecommunications

offers a variety of high-quality
Internet solutions.

To learn more, please visit
www.pst.coop or call
(800) 221-3474

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

CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

As April arrives, it brings the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that springs into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst: co-op lineworkers.

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high-voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect lineworkers from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts who can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, PSREC lineworkers are responsible for keeping more than 1,300 miles of lines across four counties working, to

bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools lineworkers use have changed through the years—namely, the use of technology—the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high-voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. During storms or wildfires, crews often work around the clock to restore power.

While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9. Throughout the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

Communications

Have you visited PSREC's Facebook page lately? If you are curious about outages or want the most up-to-date information about your cooperative, please find us on Facebook under Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative and “like” our page.

We post systemwide power outage notifications and other useful information, such as cooperative updates and energy-saving tips. If you are not on Facebook, no worries! Check out www.psrec.coop, and stay informed. You can also receive major, systemwide outage updates via text message. To sign up for text notifications, text PSREC to 95577.

Continues on page 25



MT. WHEELER POWER

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

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

Emergency Contacts

Ely Office
(775) 289-8981

Eureka Office
(775) 237-5693

Outside Ely / Eureka Area
(800) 97-POWER

Board of Directors

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

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

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

“Powering Your Future”

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

NV-40

Invitation

Your Three Votes:

*One at the co-op. One at the ballot box.
One in the choices we make every day.*

*Are you concerned about Question 3? So are
we. Join us at this year's annual meeting
Thursday, April 26, to learn more about
what to expect. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.
and the business meeting begins at 6 p.m.*

*Our crew will prepare a delicious dinner,
and you will have a chance to win this
year's grand prize.*

See you April 26.

Wells Rural Electric Company

Board of Directors

F. Scott Egbert
President

Gerald Anderson
Vice President

M Jonathan Dahl
Secretary/Treasurer

Kirk Dahl
Orlin Kidner
Fred Montes de Oca
Lois Nannini
Jim Whited
Bruce Widmer
Bob Wilcox
Howard Wright

Director Emeritus

D. Vernon Dalton

website:

www.wrec.coop

Outage Hotline:

(800) 566-6696
24 hours a day

Carlin office:

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

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

Robert Fulghum is probably best known for his book, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned In Kindergarten." More than 30 years since its first publication, I think that message still resonates with people.



We all recognize that there are some fundamental principles that serve us well regardless of changing circumstances. Fulghum's list included: "Play fair. Share everything. Wash your hands before you eat. Clean up your own mess."

If I were to write a similar book from the rural electric cooperative perspective, my list of fundamental principles would begin with, "Local control."

I suspect that local control resonates with you as well. In our own lives, our families, our communities and even our state, we want to be able to make decisions in our own best interest. Wells Rural Electric Company (WREC) honors that principle with annual elections for members of the Board of Directors. WREC has used the resonating message of local control many times to protect your interests in the Legislature and even in Congress.

My list of fundamental principles would also include: "Ask members what they want."

In light of these principles, I find Question 3, also known as the Energy Choice Initiative (ECI) to be fundamentally flawed.

First and foremost, the proponents of ECI never asked you, our members, if you wanted to be included. The amendment to the Nevada Constitution that they proposed doesn't recognize that WREC exists because members chose to create a cooperative. Competition often leads to lower prices, but the most effective way to bring safe, reliable and affordable electricity to rural Nevada is through an electric cooperative.

"Restructuring" or "deregulating" the electric utility industry isn't a new concept. Multiple states have enacted similar laws. Even Nevada started down that road in the early 1990s. However, every other state recognized the importance of local control. Their laws allowed individual cooperatives to "opt in" if retail competition was good for their members. Despite "choice" being part of the title, the Energy Choice Initiative eliminates that choice for you.

Second, no state has ever attempted to implement restructuring through a constitutional amendment. I understand why the proponents of ECI chose to bypass the legislative process. It's slow, difficult and rarely can you get everything you want. However, as Winston Churchill so wisely observed, "Democracy is the worst form of government except for all those others that have been tried from time to time."

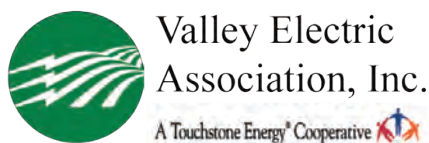
The legislative process is slow because there are so many consequences to be considered. It's difficult because there are competing interests. It's rare to get everything you want because it probably comes at the expense of someone else. Yet that deliberative process usually yields a compromise we can accept.

The backers of ECI made another fundamental error by ignoring the fact that four of the 11 utilities that serve Nevada's consumers are based in neighboring states. Additionally, three utilities based in Nevada serve into other states.

Lastly, ECI has a fundamentally flawed time frame. All of the laws necessary to preserve reliability, protect consumers, create wholesale and retail markets, recruit providers, enable consumers to comparison shop and deploy a standardized billing system must be written by the Legislature by 2023.

There are too many fundamental flaws for the Energy Choice Initiative to become part of Nevada's Constitution.

Clay R. Fitch,
Chief Executive Officer



NV-42

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Consumers Want Choice



The Governor's Office defines the Energy Choice Initiative as a referendum to the state Constitution that would require "electricity markets be open and competitive so that all electricity customers are afforded meaningful choice among different providers, and that economic and regulatory burdens be minimized in order to promote competition and choices in the electric energy market."

Otherwise known as Question 3, ECI passed in 2016 and because it is a constitutional amendment, it goes before the voters again in November.

Valley Electric was the only utility in the state that supported Energy Choice two years ago. Some referred to our position as unique. I disagree. We view the positions of those who oppose Energy Choice as unique. It gets down to the fundamentals of how we view Energy Choice – an inevitable industry evolution driven by technology and consumer demand.

When you look at other industries, other markets, other businesses, you see consumer choice. Amazon, Uber, Airbnb, iTunes, Tesla ... all these companies have empowered consumers by giving them choice and convenience. But in the electric industry, choice is being stymied because of fear of the unknown, greed, protection of fiefdoms and decisions that are

based on reasons that are not in the interests of the ratepayers and the public at large.

Why would we not want to see this industry evolve when it's driven by change that has come about by technological advancements and consumer demand? Nevada residents and our members-owners overwhelmingly voted in favor of choice in November 2016.

Our business model aligns with our position on Energy Choice. We are a cooperative. We are member owned. Each day as we go about our business, there are two things that are foremost on our minds: affordability and reliability.

We see our role in the future not as a dictator of this vertically integrated energy industry but rather as a conductor of an orchestra, integrating and managing resources on behalf of and in conjunction with our consumers.

Valley Electric's position is a natural response to what the marketplace is demanding.

Until next month,

Thomas H. Husted,
Chief Executive Officer

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

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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

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WA-43





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2018 Board Meeting schedule

April 17	September 18
May 15	October 16
June 19	November 20
July 17	December 18
August 21	

Serving the communities of:

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Clarks Point	Manokotak
Dillingham	Portage Creek



Touchstone Energy®

AK-47

Ruralite Cover Contest

Do you have a stunning photo showing off area scenery? Send us a copy and you might be on the next Ruralite cover.

- ▶ You must be the photographer to submit the photo.
- ▶ Only vertical photos will be considered.
- ▶ Photo resolution must be sufficient to run large on the cover. Most files smaller than 5 megabytes will not work.

To enter, email photos to Angela Thames at athames@nushagak.coop.

Winning photographers will receive a \$25 credit on their Nushagak bill.



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Les Penning, CEO & General
Manager

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

Safety is OTEC's First Priority

In this month's edition of Ruralite, we celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day, which this year lands on Monday, April 9.

Every year when this day rolls around, it is hard not to think about safety and the work our crews do in extreme conditions all hours of the day and night.

You likely have read or heard about the changes and challenges the electric industry is facing.

During these times of change, one thing that has held steady is our diligent focus on safety. This includes safety for our team as well as the public we serve. Along with the great gift of electricity and all it can do for us, we must remain vigilant about the risks it brings.

Your cooperative and each employee—especially our line crews—invest a tremendous amount of time, resources and effort to maintain safety standards, procedures and systems. We focus on continuing education to ensure we look out for ourselves, each other and the public as we go about our business every day.

Our safety team travels around the OTEC service territory conducting safety training in our schools and for industry partners and first responders.

As we move into construction season, exposure increases with the upturn in activity on the system. Public exposure may come from downed power lines, farmers and ranchers impacting lines with equipment, or even residents moving ladders around an alley and not looking up.

Today, member-owned cooperatives such as OTEC cover 75 percent of the U.S. land mass

and serve an estimated 42 million people in 47 states. Cooperatives own and maintain 2.6 million miles, or 42 percent, of the nation's electric distribution lines. OTEC owns and maintains approximately 3,000 miles of those lines across four counties.

Our industry, where line work ranked as the 15th most dangerous job in the United States in 2016, has claimed the lives of many lineworkers throughout the years. Many more have suffered electric burns, loss of limbs or physical trauma. That's why OTEC has worked hard to create a culture of safety each and every day.

Safety is the No. 1 priority for our team and the public we serve. As we move into spring, our construction and maintenance levels increase. Members often start more projects around their home or in the fields. Remember to be safe and take extra precautions around power lines.

If you run across one or more of our linemen in the field on April 9, know that it is a day to recognize and appreciate the work they do keeping our homes warm and bright and our businesses operating 24 hours a day.



Les Penning
CEO and General Manager



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General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

Dear Members,

A popular question in the electric utility business is, "What makes my lights blink?"

Blinking lights usually are the result of momentary outages that occur when a disturbance exists on the line. This could be a lightning strike, an automobile striking a power pole or a tree branch coming in contact with an energized power line.

Because today's microprocessors are so intolerant, brief outages are more noticeable than they were in the past. When lights blink, it can be an indication that our equipment is operating properly. Blinking lights reflect the operation of equipment that protects the lines and keeps the power from going off for more than just a moment.

Ohop's distribution system includes devices called reclosers. When there is a short circuit on the line, the recloser interrupts the flow of electricity. If the short circuit is temporary—which is often the case—the recloser permits power to continue flowing through the line with only a brief interruption, resulting in a blink.

Without this device, every short circuit, temporary or otherwise, would cause the power to be off until Ohop could send a line crew to restore service. These reclosers usually operate automatically up to four times before stopping the flow of electricity. The recloser operation protects the lines from damage.

While we strive to deliver steady, consistent and high-quality power, sometimes circumstances beyond our control cause power disturbances.

For protection of your valuable appliances and sensitive electronic equipment, we recommend protective power-quality devices. An estimated 80 percent of power quality problems originate inside the home.

If you experience continuous blinks or improper power quality, please check the electrical equipment and wiring in your house first. If you need more information or are concerned about your home's power, call us any time because we are always here and happy to help you.

Don't forget, Ohop Mutual Light Co.'s annual meeting is Friday, April 20, at 7 p.m. at the Ohop Grange. We look forward to seeing you there.

Until next time, stay safe. Summer is just around the corner.

Kenneth Klotz
General Manager



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

North Bend
Ames Lake
Anderson Island

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

WA-50

Tanner Electric Cooperative's Annual Membership Meetings

The 2018 Tanner Electric Cooperative annual meetings are coming up fast. Join the TEC Board of Directors, employees and fellow member-owners for fun, food and an update on your cooperative. We look forward to seeing you there.

North Bend/Ames Lake: Thursday, May 17,
7 p.m. at the Snoqualmie Casino Ballroom

Anderson Island: Saturday, May 19,
10:30 a.m. at the Anderson Island
Christian Fellowship Church





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**To report an outage or utility
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**To track an outage, follow us on
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WA-52



Ductless heat pumps provide year-round heating and cooling, and can be used to control different zones.

Adobe Stock photo by auremar

Heat Pump Rebates

Ductless heat pumps provide relief in summer and winter

Parkland Light & Water Co.'s ductless heat pump program can help reduce your electric utility bills and mitigate seasonal heat changes.

Heat pumps provide higher comfort levels year-round because the units provide both heating and air conditioning.

The ductless heat pump program can reduce residential customers' heating costs 25 to 50 percent.

PL&WCo. offers the following incentives:

- Site-built or manufactured homes

with electric baseboard, wall heaters or ceiling cable can receive up to \$800.

- Site-built or manufactured homes with forced-air electric furnaces can receive up to \$1,000.

Many manufacturers offer additional incentives to reduce the cost of installation.

Mike Porter from Evergreen Consulting is available to answer questions at (503) 730-3122 or mike.porter@evergreen-efficiency.com. ■



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CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #5002700

If this is your account number,
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prize. Congratulations!

Community Calendar

April 1: Happy Easter

April 5: Clatskanie Chamber Meeting

Noon at Colvins

April 7: Clatskanie Bulky Waste Day

8 am - Noon Clatskanie City Park

April 7: CAC Steven Vanhauwaert-

Birkenfeld Theatre 7:30 pm

April 12: Rainier Chamber Meeting

Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

April 18: Clatskanie PUD Board

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

Bulky Waste Day in Clatskanie: 16th

Annual Clatskanie Bulky Waste Cleanup
Day April 7, 2018 8 am to Noon,
Clatskanie City Park. Info on pg 8.

OR-60

In March the Clatskanie Board of Directors and Management Staff met for a day and a half of strategic planning. The planning serves to set the goals for the next two years. Those goals then influence everything from financial forecasts to construction work plans to load forecasting to our policies. It is an essential part of our process, and a key aspect of the Directors' duties and responsibilities.

Our process began with a staff strategic planning session held the month prior to the Board's planning session. All of the staff has an opportunity to provide input into the items discussed and considered. The Management Team and Supervisors then take the collected inputs and utilizes them to develop planning ideas for the Board and Management to consider during the overall strategic plan. This is an essential part of the process as staff has a unique perspective since we work daily with the customers and the system. Being able to provide this perspective to the Board gives them a well-rounded view of the needs and issues within the District and the utility.

The Board separately answers the same questions that the staff completed, and their answers are collated for the strategy session. Both Staff and the Directors were very impressed that our answers were very much in line with each other. To me this is proof positive of both how well the Staff is keeping the Board informed and up-to-date on all the issues and needs of the District, and also shows how well the Board and Staff are working together and in alignment in our thought processes. I believe this has contributed to how well the District has been functioning and accomplishing good things.

At the beginning of the session we reviewed the Vision Statement and the Mission Statement to make sure they are still relevant. Though we did not make any changes to the Mission Statement, we did make some changes to the Vision Statement. Basically, the Vision Statement says where we want to be and the Mission is more about how we want to get there. Our Vision Statement is: "To benefit our customers through innovation and adaptability." Our Mission Statement is: "Creating economic advantage for our communities by providing the best energy value for all of our customer-owners." All of our goals and tasks will be centered on helping us achieve our mission and staying true to our vision.

The goals we identified in the planning session are in five key areas. The key areas of focus are: Power Supply, Value-added Services, Operational Excellence, Financial Stability, and External Relations.

Staff will now develop a spreadsheet of tasks to help us accomplish the goals. This spreadsheet will identify the task, who is responsible for overseeing it, what if any budget impact it has, the target date to accomplish the task, and color coded tracking to keep the Board updated on our progress. The first version of the plan will be presented to the Board for their review at the May Workshop.

Marc Farmer, General Manager





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

AK-64

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Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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AK-105

Less than two years after AVEC energized its first three communities, the board of directors conducted a nationwide search to find the right leader to guide the fledgling utility in its mission to bring electricity to Alaska's small, rural communities. The board selected Loyd Hodson—the right person at the right time.

Born in Wichita, Kansas, Loyd joined the Marine Corps shortly after graduating from high school. While in the Marine Corps Reserve, he earned a degree in electrical engineering from Kansas State University. Loyd served during the Korean War and attended the U.S. Army Signal Corps Officers School, gaining expertise in electronics and acoustical devices.

Loyd worked for the Bendix Corporation and later transferred to the Martin Company—now Lockheed Martin—as a design engineer and manager on the Titan Missile Project. He drove up the Alcan Highway in 1960—with his wife and two young children—to join RCA as a project engineer for the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System at Clear Air Force Base, Alaska. In 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis and at the height of the Cold War with Russia, he was site manager—and later general manager—of operations and maintenance.

Loyd became general manager of AVEC when the young co-op was foundering on the brink of bankruptcy. It is a testament to his intestinal fortitude that he took on the monumental task and, almost single-handedly, turned the good ship AVEC around. There were many more pitfalls along the way, including staying afloat during the oil embargo, enduring the nation's greatest period of double-digit inflation and surviving myriad well-meaning federal agencies with no understanding of the challenges of rural Alaska.

Loyd loved the people of rural Alaska and worked tirelessly for many years to help bring them electricity. He was an advocate of the Power Cost Equalization program and was the driving force behind the establishment of it and its predecessors. Working with other electric utilities, he helped establish a commercial insurance program for nonprofit utilities. He worked with the REA to establish a loan program for the electric cooperatives in Alaska and a mutual fund program for employees of electric companies.

Loyd retired from AVEC in January 1992 and remained actively engaged on electric utility matters until his passing. He leaves behind his wife, Loretta; his children, Ilona Farr, Robert Hodson, Lenna (Bob) Carson, Lora (Eric) Reinbold and Lisa (Jim) Gentemann; 17 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Rest in peace, Loyd. Your AVEC family grieves your passing and we are forever grateful for your leadership.



Loyd M. Hodson

12/27/29 to 2/14/18



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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

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OR-400

Case in Point

It was right under my nose—or rather, in my mailbox—the whole time.

When we moved from the Washington, D.C., area to Wilsonville, our children were signed up by the local Kiwanis club to receive a free book a month through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The legendary country singer is a believer in childhood literacy and has devoted millions of dollars to help make books available to children from birth to 5 years old.

Our family couldn't wait for the age-appropriate books to show up in our mailbox each month. I must admit to a certain sadness when our kids were too old to get the books.

Then, a series of fortunate events occurred that brought us back into the program. Two of the Wilsonville Kiwanis members, Jan Rippey and Pat Duke, went on the road show through Eastern Oregon to encourage other organizations to invest in the Imagination Library. Leaders at Oregon Trail Electric Co-op attended the presentation and immediately saw the value. See the story on page 4-5 of this edition of Ruralite.

The partnership was far too obvious. Oregon's electric cooperatives are committed to the future of the local communities we serve. Few things are more important than early childhood literacy.

Seizing on a connection I should have recognized years ago, Oregon electric co-ops then heard a similar presentation on the Imagination Library at the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting last November. The support was overwhelming.

Several Oregon electric cooperatives are now following OTEC's lead and, as a result, young children in communities across the state are receiving—or soon will—a book each month courtesy of their local electric cooperative.

I couldn't be more pleased with this special partnership. A special thanks to Jan and Pat for spreading the word about this amazing program, and for the Oregon co-ops that recognized much quicker than I, the power of a single book arriving at your door each month.



**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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EREC
A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

President's Message

Bylaw Revisions Need Your Vote

We hope you are planning to attend the 2018 annual meeting of Escambia River Electric Cooperative. The meeting is Saturday, April 28, at Northview High School.

The day's events begin earlier this year, with registration and voting at 8 a.m. and the meeting starting at 10 a.m.

In addition to voting for your choice of trustees at the annual meeting, you will vote on bylaw revisions. You will receive a copy of proposed changes in a separate mailing.

The bylaws of Escambia River Electric Cooperative govern the way we do business. The board of trustees does not want to change EREC's philosophy or manner of conducting business in any way. However, to bring our bylaws to the standard of current federal, state and corporate laws, updates are needed.

Changes in the bylaws were recommended by an attorney recognized for expertise in cooperative bylaws.

NEW TIME

8 a.m. registration
10 a.m. meeting

The board of trustees has discussed the proposed revisions and unanimously approved the changes. We recommend members approve the revisions as well.

The original bylaws were written in 1939, and have been modified through the years. As already mentioned, revisions will not change the meaning of our bylaws, but will bring them into compliance with current laws.

We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting. Please remember to bring your registration card to the meeting. It is attached to the back cover of this magazine.

Thank you for the pleasure of serving on your cooperative's board of trustees. ■



Rick Hunsucker



Inside

April 2018
Vol. 7, No. 6

A Second Chance At Life 12

Big brother's kidney donation transforms little sister's world.

Also In This Issue

Side Roads 10

In the Kitchen 16

Great Picture Hunt 18

Travel Journal 20

Festival Roundup 22

Parting Shot 30

Your utility pages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 25, 26, 28, 29, 32

Less than 12 hours after Hurricane Irma crossed over the Florida Keys, FKEC CEO Scott Newberry boarded a helicopter to survey the extent of damage to our power system. The inspection revealed our work to build a storm-strong power system had paid off. The backbone of our system was intact.

Photo by Scott Newberry

Surviving the “Big One”



Scott Newberry
Chief Executive Officer

For more than a decade, we have planned and prepared for the “big one,” and six months ago all of that work was put to the test. I take enormous pride in reporting that the Florida Keys Electric Cooperative power system, facilities and storm restoration plan all passed that test and even exceeded our expectations.

Our success in withstanding the enormous power of Hurricane Irma’s Category 4 strength, and our ability to begin an efficient restoration process immediately after, lies in two crucial decisions. One was made more than a decade ago, and the second was made only a week before Irma impacted our entire service territory.

In 2006, FKEC’s board and staff adopted a new policy to focus on strengthening our infrastructure and crafting plans to deal with all possible storm scenarios. In the subsequent years, we invested millions in building a storm-strong system and also researched all of the resources available to assist us in post-storm restoration. This work proved invaluable.

The second critical decision was made only six days prior to Irma’s impact. While we were living in the cone of uncertainty, it was becoming increasingly clear that Hurricane Irma was going to affect the Keys, and at some level likely the entire state. As every utility in Florida prepared for the worst, we knew we could not wait until after impact to request outside aid. To ensure our cooperative would have guaranteed support, FKEC leadership made the decision on September 6 to secure outside crews and order the resources to house 300 workers and feed up to 400. This was a \$300,000 non-refundable commitment that proved to be worth every penny.

While FKEC’s long-term preparations and thorough restoration plan positioned us to restore power efficiently, it was the dedication of each co-op employee, the hard work of the outside assistance crews, and the cooperation of our members that fueled our restoration efforts. A remarkable 100% of all FKEC members who could safely receive power were fully restored only 13 days after Irma made landfall. It was truly amazing to watch as everyone put their own personal concerns aside and dedicated themselves to restoring power to this community.

OFFICES

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

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(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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The Board's next meeting will be at 9 a.m.
April 26 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

Saluting Our Line Crew

Operating and maintaining an electric grid is a monumental commission. You all saw just how monumental that can become after Hurricane Irma hit our area.

Our team of linemen left their families with leaking and flooded homes and were in the field first thing the morning after, braving downed lines, poles and transformers. With the help of many friends in the electric cooperative world, they had the system put back together in just 11 days. Thank God throughout all this dangerous work none of our crew or any of the visiting crews sustained a serious injury.

In recognition of their dangerous work and the dedication of linemen to that work, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association established the second Monday of April as a day of national recognition. The full proclamation follows:

Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on so residential and business consumers can depend upon it;

Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure;

Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents;

Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that the NRECA recognize the second Monday of April of each year as National Linemen Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's electric cooperatives.

—Adopted by the NRECA Board of Directors
December 11, 2014

I give thanks to our team, and ask you to consider giving them a wave when you see them in the field on their day, Monday, April 9, 2018.



Jeff Brewington



Gulf Coast
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

John Bartley

TRUSTEES

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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

You Are Invited!

Valued GCEC Member:

It is my pleasure to invite you and your family to our 70th Annual Members' Meeting April 28, 2018, beginning at 8 a.m. at our headquarters office in Wewahitchka.

As a member-owned electric cooperative, it is imperative our members participate by voting. Because not all of our members are able to attend the meeting, we offer two convenient options to ensure all members have the opportunity to make their voices heard:

- **Internet.** Vote online at <https://gcec.coopballot.com>. Follow the online instructions to place your vote on the secure website. Please make sure you have your voting PIN handy. That is on the paper ballot enclosed in your packet.
- **Paper.** Vote via the U.S. Postal Service by completing the ballot in your packet and returning it in the postage-paid envelope included in your packet. Your ballot is mailed to a third party, which is conducting the voting process on behalf of the cooperative so we do not have access to completed ballots. We are unable to accept ballots hand-delivered to our offices.

This year, District III trustees are up for re-election. The incumbents are Rupert Brown, Group 1; Jimmy Black, Group 2; and Robert Byrd, Group 3. None of the incumbents face opposition. Therefore, following Robert's Rules of Order, there is no need for a formal vote. The matter is decided by acclamation or unanimous consent. Because no voting will be brought before the membership on the day of the event, you need to check the "acclamation" box for us to install the three trustees.

In appreciation of your time, we will credit \$5 to your electric bill for participating. The cooperative also will work with the third party to randomly select members to receive prizes. Some will receive gift cards with a value of at least \$25. Ten lucky members will be receive \$100 electric bill credits.

For those who plan to attend the meeting—and we hope you do—we will have children's activities; complimentary food and beverages; informational booths; and live music by The Drummond Family. As a bonus, we have included a prize ticket in your election packet. If you attend the meeting, make sure you bring the ticket to the event. Turn in half the ticket to be eligible to win prizes. If you do not bring the ticket, you forfeit the chance to win prizes at this year's event, so don't forget your ticket. The grand prize will be a 2000 Ford Ranger!

The election closes Wednesday, April 18. If the third party does not receive your ballot by this date, it will be rejected. Please be mindful of the deadline.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us. As always, it is a pleasure to serve you. ■



Waylon Graham

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative offices will be closed 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, for a lineman/employee appreciation recognition.



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

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Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
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Fax: 941-752-4928

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VICE PRESIDENT

Willie Dawes
SECRETARY/TREASURER

Ellen Bachman
ASST SECRETARY/TREASURER

Hollis Albritton
DIRECTOR

Leonard Crawley
DIRECTOR

John Martin
DIRECTOR

Kenneth Oden
DIRECTOR

Bruce Vickers
DIRECTOR

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

April 24, 2018
May 22, 2018
June 26, 2018

FL 155

Celebrating Earth Day by Saving Energy



WHILE SAVING ENERGY IS IMPORTANT ALL YEAR LONG, EARTH DAY REMINDS US TO LOOK AT OUR EFFORTS FROM A FRESH PERSPECTIVE.

For almost 50 years, Earth Day has been celebrated across the globe annually on April 22nd. Earth's precious natural resources are not unlimited so it's up to us to use them wisely and help preserve them for future generations.

Each month, in this magazine—Florida Currents—we share simple and practical ways to save energy. When you help the planet by going “green,” I believe you can't go wrong because you'll also keep more “green” in your wallet.

When saving energy, you don't have to wait a long time to reap the benefits. With every reduction in energy use, you'll see an immediate reduction in your power bill each month.

You may be thinking to yourself, “Where do I start and how can I make a difference for the planet and my family?” It's easier than you think.

Most families can't afford to make a big change like buying a newer home or replacing all their appliances to save energy. But, nearly everyone can make small changes. And, making small changes in your energy use can add up to big savings.

WE RECOMMEND THESE SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE TIPS:

- Install a programmable thermostat. Program it according to your weekly schedule and you'll save money.
- Turn off lights, electronics and appliances when not in use. Consider using a power strip for items that use electricity even when they are off.
- Replace lightbulbs with LED bulbs. They last longer and use less energy than other types of lighting.
- Wash clothes in cold water. They'll be just as clean and your water heater won't have to work as hard.
- Set the water heater temperature at no more than 120 degrees. If it's more than 10 years old, consider replacing it with an Energy Star rated model.
- Caulk around windows to prevent conditioned air from escaping. Caulk is cheap and effective.
- Schedule a free energy audit. Call PRECO at 1-800-282-3824. We'll help you identify where your energy dollars are spent and how to reduce energy use.

MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY. MAKE SMALL CHANGES IN ENERGY USE AND SOON YOU'LL SEE LOWER ELECTRIC BILLS. IT'S GOOD FOR YOU AND GOOD FOR THE PLANET.

Randy Shaw

PRECO CEO