



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

"We Care"

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

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ID-1

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SmartHub Finger•Tips

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171 Linden Way
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 Heppner, OR 97836
 (541) 676-9146

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

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Todd Lindsay, Sand Hollow

Stacie Ekstrom, Ione

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

Co-op Assists With Dolly Parton Imagination Library Project

Hello, Members:

Your cooperative recently partnered with the Ione Library District, Ione Community Agri-Business Organization, and the James and Shirley Rippey Family Foundation to engage with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in a program that provides monthly books to children from birth through 5 years old.

Youth registered with the project will receive an age-appropriate book, mailed to their home each month, at no cost to their family.

The annual costs of the program are split between the co-op and the Rippey Foundation, but heavily subsidized by the Dollywood Foundation. ICABO, a 501 (c)(3) organization, will be the local charitable facilitator of this national program.

The Ione Library District Board and its librarians have worked hard to take advantage of this program for the young children within the district. Reading to children from birth—and providing the earliest possible transition to reading themselves—is reported to increase academic achievement throughout the school years.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library was created by the famous country singer in 1995 with the express purpose to put age-appropriate reading materials into the homes of young children. The foundation ships nearly 1 million books each month to all parts of the nation.

The Rippey Foundation, based in Sunriver, initiated 50 percent support for this program in every Oregon county with a population of fewer than 100,000 to promote early learning and education for Oregon's rural youth.

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative is pleased to join with the Ione Library District and its partners to sponsor this project. Several member-owned electric co-ops in Oregon support similar projects in their communities.

The first books are scheduled for delivery in early June.



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



That Important Summer Call

The return of summery weather means more home owners are working on outdoor projects and more contractors are gearing up for their busy season of road and construction work. Northern Wasco County PUD work crews are out in the field at all times of year, so we know the importance of calling for an 811 underground utility locate before every digging project.

Calling those three simple digits helps ensure that all underground utilities are properly marked, no matter whether you are breaking ground on a weekend digging project or major construction. Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to Oregon 811 Utility Notification Center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags or spray paint.

Every digging project, regardless of depth, warrants a call to Oregon 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that should include a call to 811 before they begin.

The depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

Summer may officially start in June, but good outdoor project weather doesn’t wait until then. We want to remind homeowners and contractors alike to call 811 before digging to eliminate the risk of striking an underground utility line.

Visit digsafelyoregon.com for more information about 811 and safe digging practices.

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.

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Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

National Electric Safety Month

In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month. Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards. Nespelem Valley Electric, a not-for-profit electric utility, is committed to educating the public about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2016, 475,500 structure fires—including residential fires—were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used.

It is critical that people understand their home's electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes.

With newer technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles and more electrical gadgets in the home, people need to ensure they have an electrical system that's compatible with the increased load.

Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Together, let's plug into safety this May.





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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Roman Gillen
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Tony Wilson
TREASURER/CFO

www.cpi.coop

OR-6

President's Report

Last month, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court's order to spill more water and juvenile salmon over spillways at eight federal dams beginning April 3.

This ruling means a spill surcharge, reflecting additional costs to replace lost hydropower generation approved as part of the Bonneville Power Administration's FY 2018 rate case will be instituted later this year. Natural gas generating plants will likely provide most of the replacement power, which will add more than 800,000 metric tons of CO₂ to our atmosphere.

BPA has said it is still analyzing the full impacts of the court decision, noting it creates yet another multimillion dollar obligation to the region's electric ratepayers.

CPI and many other consumer-owned utilities have been working with BPA, industry groups, and federal and state legislators for several months to avert this outcome. We are disappointed, but not surprised, by this decision. We continue to support fish recovery efforts that are backed by sound science rather than risky, court-mandated experiments that may harm them.

We will continue to evaluate the impact of the BPA spill surcharge to CPI as additional information becomes available. We invite you to stay informed and make your voice heard on this and other important co-op issues by joining our ORECA-Action grassroots program at www.oreca-action.org.

Federal Legislation

Last month, CPI joined electric cooperative representatives from Oregon and throughout the nation in Washington, D.C., to meet with our federal legislators and discuss issues important to us.

These annual legislative visits give us an important opportunity to stand up for our members against overreaching legislation that

may negatively impact them. It is also a chance to educate and inform our legislators about issues important to electric cooperatives.

We had a lot to talk about this year, including vegetation management on federal lands; the Columbia River Treaty between the United States and Canada; and HR 3144, a bill requiring the Bureau of Reclamation, BPA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to operate the Federal Columbia River Power System in a manner consistent with science and cost effectiveness.

While we were in Washington, HR 3144 passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee on a 23-17 bipartisan vote. HR 3144 will hit pause on 20 years of litigation while a court-ordered NEPA environmental review process is completed. Meanwhile, it keeps in place the 2014 Biological Opinion that was vetted and supported by both the Bush and Obama administrations.

Make no mistake, this will be a tough, contentious debate on the House floor and in the Senate. We applaud the sponsors of HR 3144, especially Oregon Congressman Kurt Schrader, and the rest of the Northwest delegation for their support of this important legislation.

Electric Safety Month

This month, Consumers Power joins with Electric Safety Foundation International and electric utilities across the nation to kick off its annual effort to increase awareness of electrical safety.

The National Electric Safety Month 2018 campaign features a comprehensive collection of new and updated resources regarding effective electrical safety awareness for communities, organizations, schools and families. Visit www.esfi.org for information on these subjects.

Roman Gillen, President and CEO



Benton REA

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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

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

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Board Meetings

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

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Michael J. Bradshaw

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- 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,

I had the privilege of speaking on a panel about engaging members' trust at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in February. I am honored to have been asked by NRECA to participate in their Annual Meeting, and I'm very proud of Benton REA for being recognized as one of the very best electric co-ops in the nation with regard to providing excellent customer service and being trusted by our members.

I'd like to share a few highlights from my time on the panel and how Benton REA strives to gain our members' trust.

I was asked how a cooperative can know what the members want. Well, the answer is simple. We ask you what you want. Our PowerNET internet business division was created 20 years ago because you told us you wanted reliable internet access with local customer service. Today PowerNET not only serves this purpose, but also acts as an IT department for many local companies throughout the Yakima Valley and offers PC repair and technology consulting services for both Benton REA member and non-member clients.

Recently, we conducted a member communications survey to find out how you want to receive co-op news. Many of you told us that the Ruralite magazine was your preferred method of communication from Benton REA, so we will continue to offer that means of communication. Based on your feedback, we are also developing a text notification system to inform you about Benton REA power outages.

By listening to our members, we learn what you want. But, we also take the time to carefully evaluate technologies in order to become more cost effective. You can trust us to provide the electricity you need, when you need it, at an economical price. That's the foundation of all we do.

The day may come when poles and wires are no longer in fashion, so Benton REA must continue to be flexible, to change to be better at what we do, in order to provide you with the valuable services that you need. We can't be afraid to improve.

Thank you for trusting Benton REA to be your local member-owned electric cooperative.

Sincerely,

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



Offices

Hermiston Office

750 W. Elm Ave.
541 567-6414

Boardman Office

400 N.E. Eldrige Drive
541 481-2220

Hours

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

Toll-Free

1-800-452-2273

Report An Outage

888-465-5701 day or night

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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

A Look Back at a Productive Year

Dear Member:

We are grateful to report that 2017 was another productive and positive year for UEC, as outlined on Pages 4-5 and 28-29 of this edition of *Ruralite*.

We had a record year of growth, in both revenue and kilowatt-hours sold. Our power sales rose 19 percent from the previous year, to 2.1 billion kilowatt hours. Total energy revenues rose to \$118 million, up from \$104 million the previous year.

A direct reflection of the thriving economy in Umatilla and Morrow counties, our growth has helped us hold the line on the rates we charge our members, despite an increase in our wholesale power costs.

Among our system improvements, we completed work on our Hermiston East Substation and finished multiple upgrades throughout our service territory. Our solar array near McNary produced 2 million kilowatt-hours of energy in its first full year of operation.

As a corporate citizen and a business owned solely by our members, we believe in making meaningful investments in our home communities.

During 2017, we contributed to about 100 local organizations serving all ages and interests. Youth livestock shows, food banks, fairs and festivals and many other groups and activities were among the recipients.

We awarded \$35,000 in college scholarships and again sent a pair of high school juniors to represent us at a national youth tour in Washington, D.C. We continued to support business development with our Revolving Loan Fund and assisted in plans to expand access to Columbia River water.

In June 2017, we marked our 80th anniversary in business, having formed in 1937 as one of FDR's original wave of rural electric cooperatives.

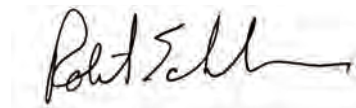
As a not-for-profit corporation, we returned about \$5.4 million during the year to our cooperative membership as part of our "Capital Credits" program. We have been returning money to our members annually since 1960, totaling more than \$66 million through 2017.

Most importantly, we finished the year with no lost-time injuries among our 79 employees.

Looking forward, we expect more of the same – accommodating our expanding economy, and upgrading our existing system to continue providing safe and reliable service to our members.

Without a doubt, with the bright economic prospects of our communities, 2018 is shaping up as another eventful year for UEC!


Sincerely,



Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Office Hours:

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

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- 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

Remember to Plug Into Safety

In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month. Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards. Wasco Electric, a not-for-profit electric utility, is committed to educating the public about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2016, 475,500 structure fires—including residential fires—were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used.

It is critical that people understand their home’s electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes.

With newer technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles and more electrical gadgets in the home, people need to ensure they have an electrical system that’s compatible with the increased load.

Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Together, let’s plug into safety this May.



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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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

Annual Meeting Well Attended

Almost 300 members and guests gathered at the Douglas County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 7. It was the 80th annual meeting for Douglas Electric Cooperative members.



Members observed presentations projected on two big screens.

Board President Evan Barnes reported on various topics from DEC's history. He also discussed the power resource mix, winter weather temperatures and incentive/rebate programs, right-of-way preparations and shared stories of interesting things our crews encounter. Yard signs and other items certainly shorten the life of a power pole, but running a gas line through one certainly decreases the life expectancy (see photo at left).



Crews were cautious after pulling this pole up with a gas line running through it.

Since this was my first annual meeting as your new general manager, I had the opportunity to look at the organization from a completely objective standpoint. One of the things I discovered is that Douglas Electric and its employees run a lean operation. When compared to other electric cooperatives statewide, your employees accomplish more with fewer staff in many areas.

During the meeting, I shared ways we will make communication even better, beginning with the new outage hotline addressed on this page last month. Other subjects covered include our rate structure and the true cost of providing service before our members even turn on a light. My priorities are simple and straight forward: competitive rates, reliable power, great member service and first and foremost ... you!

The annual meeting is a great opportunity to learn about programs, politics and issues that affect you personally as well as your pocketbook. Consider joining your fellow members next year. And if you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

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**

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Dave Humphreys
Cheryl Jenison
Judy Wilson

MANAGER

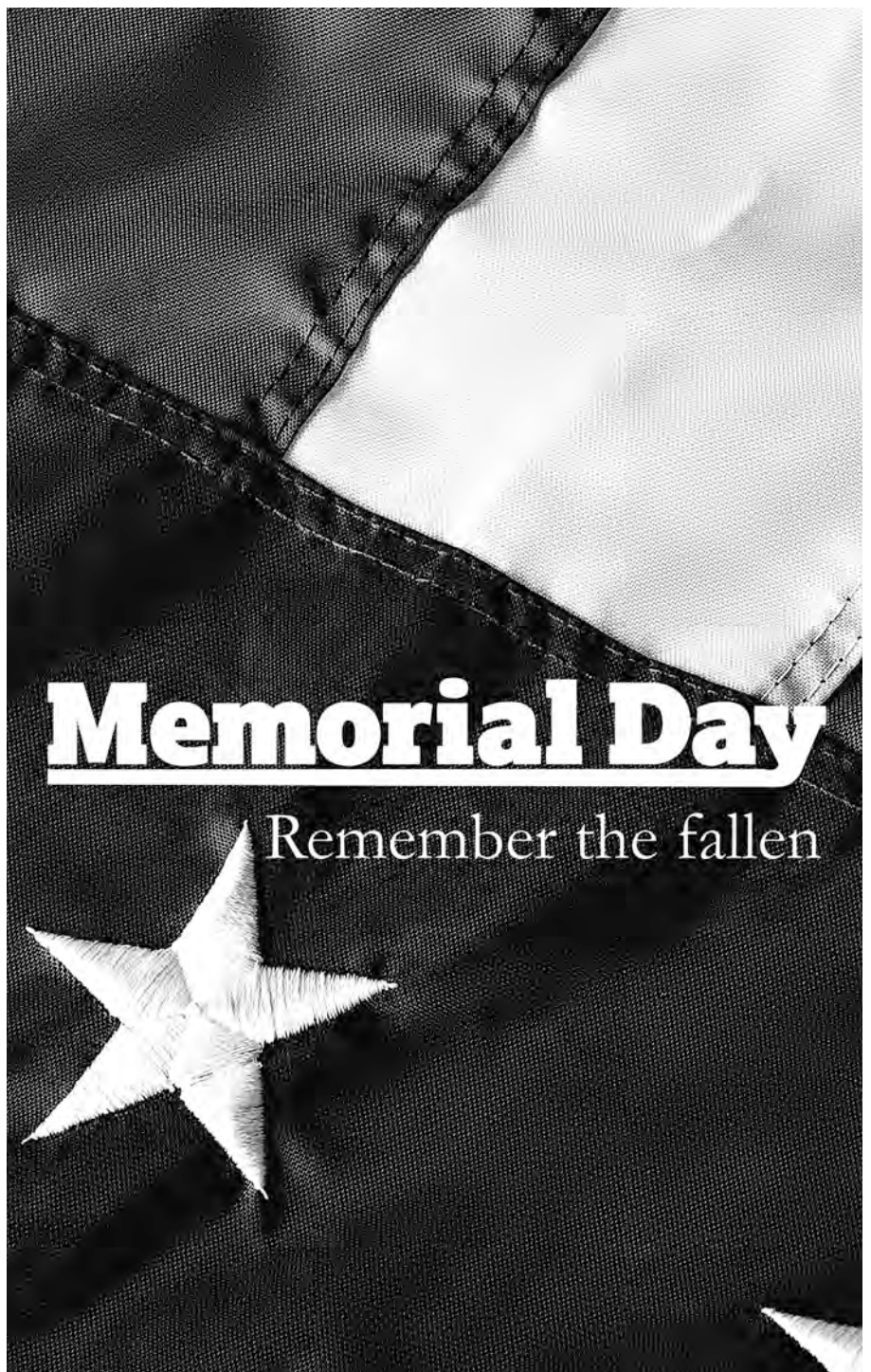
Troy Cox

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



Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

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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

Oregon's Co-ops Land Congressional Victory

A rare event took place last month in Washington, D.C. A bipartisan agreement was reached in a strongly divided U.S. Congress. It was the direct result of tremendous effort by America's electric cooperatives successfully making the case that their member/citizens deserved better service from the federal government.

The new law was included in the omnibus bill signed by the president. It requires better cooperation from federal land management agencies when electric utilities care for their existing power lines crossing public lands. This is critical to providing safe and reliable electric service in rural areas. It is particularly important for electric cooperatives whose service areas include large expanses of federal land. In CEC's case, 56 percent of the land in our 5,300-square-mile service area is federally managed.

To understand the new law's benefits, we need to review past circumstances. Electric utilities must keep lines clear of tree and branch growth into and near our power lines in defined rights-of-way. This promotes service reliability and reduces wildfire risk. We also must make repairs and proactively replace equipment such as aged power poles or cracked insulators. This is necessary to meet safety and reliability standards required by state and federal law. In the past, receiving permission from the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management could take an unreasonably long period—five years or more, in some cases. At one point, CEC had submitted 32 permits for renewal, paid \$45,000 in fees and was still waiting after four years.

Simply stated, government people, systems and processes were not responsive to or concerned with our needs.

The new law simplifies approval processes, minimizes the need to receive approvals when utilities' activities are addressed by submitted plans, and requires the use of schedules and timelines for approvals, when needed. We will see considerable cost reductions and efficiency improvements as a result.

Our push for these changes began in 2014. Although I testified twice before a congressional committee, credit for this successful outcome goes to a number of Oregon's electric cooperatives, the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Kiel Weaver, a longtime Washington, D.C., natural resources staff member who worked closely with us crafting the legislation. Collectively, we pursued the issue throughout the years and focused on it during each of our annual legislative conference trips to Washington, D.C. Major credit goes to Rep. Kurt Schrader, a Democrat representing Oregon's 5th District, for sponsoring the bill and teaming up with Rep. Greg Walden, a Republican representing Oregon's 2nd District, to garner bipartisan support.

Pursuing legislative remedies takes a long time, and involves a lot of people. I am pleased to report our work on this issue paid off.

Sincerely,



Dave Markham
President and CEO



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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

By now, each member who used power in 2017 should have received their 2017 capital credit allocation letter and a 2017 revenue reduction rebate check: two ways cooperatives demonstrate we are different than investor-owned utilities. Each has very different meanings. These communications have stirred some questions from members. I would like to share the difference between a capital credit allocation and revenue reduction rebate.

The 2017 capital credit allocation letter is to inform you of your ownership in the cooperative. Capital credits represent margins—the difference between income and expenses. You are annually allocated capital credits based on the amount of electricity you buy during the year. While capital credits have no cash value now, they may be paid or “retired” in the future, when the financial condition of the cooperative permits.

Your 2017 revenue reduction rebate is different from capital credits. 2017 revenue exceeded the forecasted budget adopted by your board of directors. The budget is based on expected revenue and costs. However, in 2017, the year didn’t play out as planned. Last year our region experienced much colder than normal weather, which caused our members to use more energy than forecasted. Since revenue was higher than expected, your board made a decision to return a portion of the revenue. The check you received was also determined by the amount of electricity you used in 2017.

That’s the cooperative difference. For more information about capital credits, visit www.ccec.coop and select “The Power of Membership” then “Capital Credits.” Please feel free to call (541) 332-3931 with any questions.

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

Patronage Capital Allocation

We are required to inform you—an owner of West Oregon Electric Cooperative—of your accrued equity in the cooperative and tell you the portion you acquired last year. You should see this information on your April bill.

The cooperative allocates capital credits—all revenues received in excess of operating expenses, or operating margin—to the members who received services that year, based on the amount of revenue each member contributed, referred to as patronage. Excess margins are necessary and required to provide working capital, service the debt and make other capital improvements to the system.

Capital credits cannot be used to pay electric bills or other debt you may owe the cooperative. Capital credits are paid at the sole direction of the WOEC Board of Directors when it is financially able to do so. The board may also authorize payment of estate retirements at a discounted rate.

If you move from the West Oregon Electric Cooperative service area, or change your name or address, please notify WOEC so future notices and retirements will reach you.

If you have any questions, please contact us at memberservice@westoregon.org or (800) 777-1276.

Regards,

Daniel Huggett

Finance and Administration Manager



Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

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

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

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

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

After hours and outages:
Call office numbers above

STAFF

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

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 SVE office.

"Owned by those we serve"

CA-15

Remember to Plug Into Safety

In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month. Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards. Surprise Valley Electric, a not-for-profit electric utility, is committed to educating the public about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2016, 475,500 structure fires—including residential fires—were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used.

It is critical that people understand their home's electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes.

With newer technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles and more electrical gadgets in the home, people need to ensure they have an electrical system that's compatible with the increased load.

Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Together, let's plug into safety this May.

SVE offers electrical safety presentation to schools, clubs and other organizations. Just contact member services to schedule a presentation for your organization.



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

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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

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 District Meeting**
WESTRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 46433 Westfir Road, Westfir, OR
 May 10, 2018
 Dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 4 District Meeting**
DORENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (NEW VENUE)
 37141 Row River Road, Dorena, OR
 May 15, 2018
 Dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 5 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

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,

A lot of great work has happened at Blachly-Lane since when our board of directors broke ground on the building addition and remodel project on March 28, 2017.

Built in 1964, our headquarters had served the co-op well, but today's operational needs, Americans with Disabilities Act considerations, and the likely inability to keep employees safe and able to deliver service to members during a seismic event called for a new plan.

You will remember that your board of directors deliberated for 19 months to find a solution to meet the above challenges. A phased construction plan was developed to save costs. In the past year, a new multipurpose meeting room has been built as a place to hold board meetings, employee trainings and meetings, and as a community meeting space. The new addition is intended to allow Blachly-Lane's operations to continue if a seismic event occurs. Our engineering area and warehouse space has been redesigned to accommodate the 21st century needs of an electric utility without adding to its original footprint. Drainage and parking issues have been addressed, and a low maintenance, low water-use landscape is being installed to save members' money.

Phase two began in late March when office employees moved temporarily to the multipurpose room. During this phase, the original office area is being seismically strengthened to allow employees safe egress in a seismic event and, also within its original footprint, space is being redefined to provide employees greater efficiencies in serving members. Our large storage bay is being enclosed to better protect valuable equipment and provide additional storage. This phase is expected to be complete in late summer.

We have added additional security features to protect our members' investments and the safety of our employees. For example, our drop box will soon be replaced with a payment kiosk so members can securely make payments 24/7.

Our two-phase plan has saved the co-op money by not having to rent multiple trailers to house our workforce during construction. We are deeply appreciative of our members who have faced inconvenience when they come to do business. I'm also appreciative of our employees who have kept on doing their jobs through noise, dust and general construction disarray.

We look forward to showing you the improvements to your electric utility's headquarters at an open house in October. I can't think of a better way to celebrate co-op month and member appreciation day in 2018. And yes, our iconic sign will return, completely refreshed to stand for Blachly-Lane another 50 years.



**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

Remember to Be Thankful

I want to talk this month about something not related to the PUD or the work we do. I want to talk about something that is really important: family.

Why? Because I believe family is what life is really all about.

Communities are often based on the values displayed by those families. Organizations such as the PUD exist to support the notion of communities to help support the people and families who live in them.

Many of you may know I am Canadian. When I met Jennifer and we decided to marry, we determined that small-town USA was where we wanted to live. We were lucky enough to end up in Klickitat County, in Goldendale. This has been a wonderful community in which to start a family and raise our kids. One of them is now off to university and the other two are still at home. As good as life is, sometimes things happen that make you step back and re-evaluate what is important.

That happened for me last week when a bus carrying a junior hockey team crashed on the Canadian prairies of Saskatchewan and the story hit the news. Sixteen of those on the bus lost their lives. We are talking about kids ranging in age from 16 to 21 years old.

When Jennifer and I came to Goldendale, I was 32 years old and had played hockey for 27 of those years. This was an accident that hit me harder than I ever could have imagined. The ensuing reaction from the community where the kids lived and played was one of trying to support those who were grieving and trying to be remembered for not just the tragedy, but for their positive reaction to it.

My point here is not to be a reporter. That is best done by people who write for a living and is done in an exemplary fashion in the following article, which I encourage you all to read: www.si.com/nhl/2018/04/13/humboldt-broncos-crash-junior-hockey-saskatchewan/.

I am trying to say we all should try and find something that makes us stop and consider the things we have, and we should be thankful for them—whether that is families, friends, careers, hobbies or the communities in which we live and grow.

I am so saddened by the events that happened that night and the ongoing impacts on those involved. However, at least I can say that it made me stop and think about what is important. Work matters, and our day-to-day lives matter. Those we love matter more.

Jim Smith
General Manager



NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.nli.coop
P.O. Box 269
Sagle, ID 83864

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(866) 665-4837

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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

83rd Northern Lights Annual Meeting

May is here, which means it is time for our annual tradition. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 12, the day of the Northern Lights' 83rd annual meeting at the Sandpoint Business and Events Center at 102 S. Euclid Street in Sandpoint, Idaho. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The meeting kickoff at 10 a.m. PDT.

The annual meeting provides an opportunity for members to meet the board of directors and the employees of NLI, as well as hear updates on the financial condition and future plans of the cooperative. As in years past, we will provide an electrical safety demonstration that is always a favorite with kids. There will be coffee, pastries and fresh fruit for all to enjoy, as well as a variety of great door prizes, including two community solar units and a \$250 energy credit. Each member who attends will receive a \$25 energy credit.

One of the greatest values of being a member of a cooperative is your right to vote. This year, two districts are up for election. Those seats are held by Judith Simonson of District 2 and David Pemberton of District 4. Both districts' incumbents were not contested, so no election will take place in those districts this year. Every member, however, will receive a ballot in the mail for two proposed bylaw amendments. You can vote in one of two ways: in person at the annual meeting or by mail.

I look forward to meeting and talking with many of you at the annual meeting. It's always a pleasure to meet with the faces of the cooperative.

I hope to see you there!

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 Robinson
White Bird

Attorney
J.A. Wright

General Manager
Max Beach

c-21

Safety Above All Else

Safety is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small, and companies across all industries, are committed to safety. Sports leagues, at every level, take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative, it's the No. 1 priority. Over time, ICL&P has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else.

At its essence, the ICL&P mission is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity to its member-owners. We strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our member-owners. Equally important, we want our workers to return home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

National Safety Standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers.

ICL&P has a safety team whose focus is keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines.

There are specific protocols our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. Our safety team has regular monthly meetings where they discuss upcoming projects from a safety perspective. They share lessons learned and improve in the future.

We also encourage all of our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem solving with regard to safety rather than defaulting to blame.

We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols.

Keeping the Community Safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, each year thousands of people in the United States are killed or critically injured as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical DIY projects beyond your comfort level or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers that look amiss. Contact ICL&P for additional electrical safety tips. Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety. ■

Max Beach, General Manager



Columbia REA

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

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...

We celebrated my final, and Columbia REA's 80th annual meeting on Thursday, April 19. What a bittersweet experience it was to present one final time in front of all of you, our valued members, special guests, retirees and amazing employees. This is truly one of our favorite events each year. It's not every day that we get the opportunity to connect face-to-face with our membership base and community.



We are proud to announce our newly elected representatives, and we thank all of the candidates for participating in this important part of the governing of our cooperative. Running for office can be a burden; we ask our candidates to put themselves in the public eye and seek the support of their peers, neighbors and strangers for candidacy. This is no small task, and we really appreciate all of those members who step up and run for candidacy each election year. Thank you to all of our members who voted in our 2018 board election - your voice matters.

We appreciate the opportunity to host our annual meeting at College Place High School. Not only is this a fantastic facility, but it's also one of our members. It's no better honor to support those who support us.

We began the meeting with a fantastic dinner catered by A Chef's Creation, which was promptly followed by our business meeting. At the business meeting we presented last year's meeting minutes for approval, reports were delivered from our auditor and board president, and then I presented my CEO report. Next, the election results were announced and then we announced the 2018 scholarship recipients. We ended the evening by giving away several prizes to our members! You can view the election results on page 25. If you would like a detailed review of the meeting, it will be featured in the June issue of the Ruralite.

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
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**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:

Anyone who has ever bought a new vehicle knows there are many factors to consider before deciding on the model that's right for you. Should you go for space or fuel economy? Manual or automatic? What options should you add? And now, an added key question on the minds of many consumers is, "Should I go electric?"

For Midstate Electric Cooperative, the answer to that question—in reference to a new fleet vehicle for the co-op's marketing department—was a resounding "yes." MEC bought an all-electric Chevy Bolt in April to replace an aging marketing fleet vehicle.

We thought it was time to buy an electric vehicle because the technology has finally matured to the point the economics work. We want to continue to reduce the co-op's carbon footprint, and this was a great way and a great time to do that.

EVs are a bit more expensive than comparable petrol-fueled vehicles, but those prices are expected to even out during the next few years as EVs become more prevalent.

There are incentives to get in on the technology ahead of that curve, though. At least through 2018, new EVs may qualify for a federal income tax credit of up to \$7,500. The credit amount may vary based on the capacity of the battery used to power the vehicle. Additional state and local incentives may also apply.

And, of course, there are the environmental benefits of driving an EV. With no tailpipe emissions, EVs produce far less pollution than petrol-fueled vehicles. Charging the car still generates emissions, but with our electric power supply

of clean, renewable, hydropower from the Bonneville Power Administration, we are close to 100 percent carbon-free. The total greenhouse gasses emitted to power an EV remain significantly lower than petrol-fueled vehicles.

Part of the reason we bought an EV is Gov. Kate Brown's executive order to increase EVs in the state to more than 50,000 by 2020. We want to be able to speak intelligently to interested members about them and have one available for them to see. The new Chevy Bolt will be on display at our annual meeting. Stop by and take a look.

MEC's 66th Annual Meeting

This edition of Ruralite features our 2017 annual report. Review of this material will take place at our 66th Annual Meeting of the Members on Saturday, May 12, at La Pine Middle School. Registration, health fair, safety trailer demonstrations and bucket truck rides are from 10 a.m. to noon. The business meeting begins at noon.

This year's guest speaker is Ted Case, executive director of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Ted will provide a narrative of his book "Poles, Wires and War," a remarkable story of rural electrification and the Vietnam War.

May is Electrical Safety Month

Safety remains the highest priority at MEC. Educating employees about electrical safety is important, but it is just as important that the public understands how to live, work and play safely around electricity. See page 25 for electrical safety tips.

General Manager Dave Schneider



www.rrelectric.com

DIRECTORS

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Kurt Anderson

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Chad Black

Board meets the fourth Wednesday of each month

P.O. Box 617
Malta, ID 83342

To Call Raft River

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

Western Division

- (All calls for Jackpot, Jarbidge, Mountain City and Owyhee)
- Office hours (208) 645-2211
 - Toll free (800) 342-7732
(After hours and outages)



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

ID-24

Remember to Plug Into Safety

In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month. Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards. Raft River Rural Electric, a not-for-profit electric utility, is committed to educating the public about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2016, 475,500 structure fires—including residential fires—were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used.

It is critical that people understand their home's electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes.

With newer technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles and more electrical gadgets in the home, people need to ensure they have an electrical system that's compatible with the increased load.

Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Together, let's plug into safety this May.

Is your home properly protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters? GFCI outlets should be used in all kitchens, bathrooms, garages and outdoor outlets.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

plug into safety



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.bb.ec.org

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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

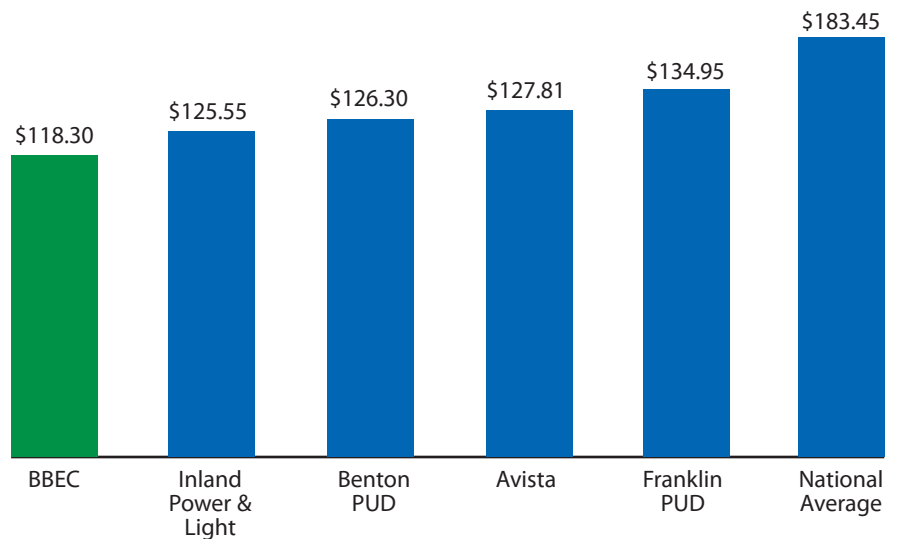
BBEC's Competitive Rates

With inflation steadily on the rise, it is no surprise that when you head to the gas pump, grocery store or your favorite online retailer, you may feel the pinch in your wallet these days.

Unfortunately, Big Bend Electric feels the same pinch when we buy electricity from our wholesale power suppliers. Electricity rates are on the rise nationwide.

Despite our recent rate increase, Big Bend Electric is still delivering some of the lowest rates in the area and in the nation.

How do Big Bend Electric's average monthly bills compare to other utilities?



Figures based on an average monthly bill with 1,500 kilowatt-hours of usage with residential rates as of April 2018. Includes minimum service charges, where applicable.

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 Patrick Moore
Treasurer Roger Nelson
Opal DeBoard
Doug Mahurin
John McGhee
Dick Sohler

MANAGER

John Gerstenberger

.....

Serving rural
Hood River County
since 1945

OR-26



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

Find us on 

.....
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

Jason Hill

Line Superintendent

Jason Radinovich

Electrical Engineer

Shane Sweet

Office Manager

Stephanie Bowen

Attorney

Raymond S. Kindley

OR-27

Long-Time Operations Manager Retires

Dear Members,

On May 31, 2018, I plan to retire.

I am excited about my impending retirement with my best friend—my wife—but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the board and consumers for all the opportunities that I have experienced working for Harney Electric Cooperative.

I am going to miss the employees and the board when my retirement day comes, but if and when Harney Electric needs a helping hand, I will be there.

After 41 years at Harney Electric and 45½ total in the trade, it will not be easy for me to adjust to not coming to work. However, knowing that Harney Electric has the most amazing management team and employees has made this decision easier.

Once again, I thank all of you for giving my family and me a great life here at Harney Electric.

Sincerely,

Brent Beverly
Operations Manager

Harney Electric would like to recognize the commitment Operations Manager Brent Beverly has made to the cooperative during the past 40-plus years.

In 1977, Brent applied for apprentice lineman at Harney Electric. Through the years, he rose from journeyman to lead lineman to line superintendent and then to operations manager almost eight years ago.

At least one thing has remained constant in all that time: Brent's dedication to serving Harney Electric's members and employees. His love for this county and this co-op has driven him to sacrifice much of his personal time and expense to ensure we all have a reliable source of power.

We also acknowledge his family's sacrifice throughout the years as they have supported him and ultimately all of us who rely on our linemen to answer when duty calls.

Please join us in wishing Brent and his family all the best in his retirement.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Fred Flippence
General Manager





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

Board of Directors

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

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

Email: energy@srec.org

Website: www.srec.org

A Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative



ID-28

Electrical Safety

Safety is so important at your electric cooperative that it is part of our mission statement. It is difficult to find ways to freshen up this topic, but it is essential that we keep safety foremost in our employee's minds and in the minds of our members, who are consumers of electricity.

Electricity and delivering it to you is dangerous. Thirty to 60 linemen in the United States are killed each year on the job, making it one of the 10 most dangerous occupations.

The SREC Board of Directors is committed to safety. It approves budgets that include funds for employee training, tools, equipment and personal protective equipment. The board receives a safety report each month so it can stay updated on safety items at the cooperative.

Management ensures safety policies, work practices, standards and rules are in place and followed to help keep our employees and the public safe.

Electricity is not the only safety concern for our employees. Hostile, unhappy customers can become violent. We train our employees for these threats, and have established work practices and rules to mitigate employee exposure to them.

Electricity can be dangerous to our end users also, too. There are more than 300 electrocutions a year and 30,000 non-fatal shocks. These are alarming statistics. We must do better at communicating with and training consumers about the dangers of electricity.

We use Ruralite to publish safety information for members throughout the year. Our employees are in community schools every year giving safety demonstrations. We have trained our community's emergency responders about electric safety hazards.

Some electrical hazards to watch for include downed power lines, trees that are too close to power lines, digging into buried power lines and lifting long objects near power lines. More common electrical hazards around your home or business include overloaded electrical circuits, loose electrical connections, exposed electrical wiring and faulty electrical appliances.

Electricity is dangerous, so call a professional if you need to work on electric equipment. If you are part of a group that would like training on electric safety, please contact me to see if we can set up something.

If you plan to dig, call the Idaho Dig Line at 811 or (800) 342-1585 to request underground utilities be located. You may also schedule a locate online at www.dig-line.com/request-a-locate.



Ken Dizes

Ken Dizes
General Manager

United Electric Co-op Inc.

Directors

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

General Manager

Jo Elg

Engineering and Operations

Trevor Parke

Line Superintendent

Kay Hill

Executive Assistant

Penny West

Member Services Manager

Chris Seibold

Mailing address:

1330 21st St.
Heyburn, ID 83336

Phone: (208) 679-2222

Fax: (208) 679-3333

Email: uec@unitedelectric.coop

Website: www.uec.coop

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

After Hours: (208) 679-4444



UNITED ELECTRIC
CO-OP INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



ID-29

On the Wire at United Electric

Electricity is essential to our everyday lives. It has become so reliable that we rarely even think about it.

We use electricity to heat and cool our homes, cook our food, clean our clothes, heat our water and keep the lights on. It powers computers, televisions, smartphones and other technologies that change the way you connect with the world. It's more than electricity. It's a powerful value in your life each and every day.

While the cost of most goods and services has increased significantly through the years, electricity remains a relative bargain. You may be surprised by the value you receive

for your energy dollar. The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of education, rent, medical care and electricity each year during the past five years, and the value of electricity shines. The average annual cost of electricity increased 1 percent, compared to a minimum 3 percent annual average increase of the other three expenses.

You may think that \$1 doesn't buy much these days, and I agree with you. What does \$1 of electricity get for you? It pays for 1,680 hours of smartphone charging, 44 hours of shows on an LCD television, 840 hours of light from an LED bulb and 138 hours on your laptop.

You each play a role in the cost of your electricity. It's the amount of electricity you use, not the price per kilowatt-hour that is the big reason for higher electric bills. In the past 30 years, the amount of residential electricity used by appliances and electronics has increased from 17 percent to 31 percent, according to the Energy Information Administration. The average home now has 10 Wi-Fi-connected devices. That number is expected to explode to 50 by 2020. Homes use more electricity in ways they never did before.

You can get the most value from your electricity dollar by managing your electric use. That helps lower your monthly bills, reduce the peak demand of the entire system and keep future prices lower for all members.

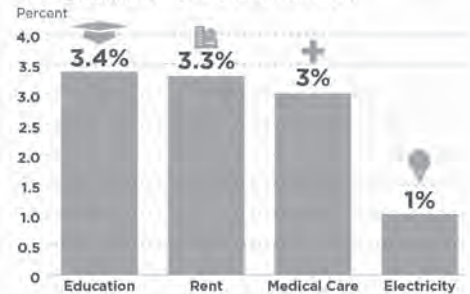
The way we use electricity has changed throughout the years. What hasn't changed is the commitment of United Electric to provide you with the best possible product at the lowest cost.

Jo Elg
General Manager

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

Average Annual Price Increase 2011-2016



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



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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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 8:30 a.m.

ID-30

Remember to Plug Into Safety

In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month. Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards. Lost River Electric Cooperative, a not-for-profit electric utility, is committed to educating the public about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2016, 475,500 structure fires—including residential fires—were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used.

It is critical that people understand their home's electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes.

With newer technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles and more electrical gadgets in the home, people need to ensure they have an electrical system that's compatible with the increased load.

Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Together, let's plug into safety this May.

Is your home properly protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters? GFCI outlets should be used in all kitchens, bathrooms, garages and outdoor outlets.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

plug into safety



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

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

June

CVEA Board Meeting: The June meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, June 21, 2018, in Glennallen

AK-34

PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY AND UTILITY CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

When the power goes out, so do CVEA's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities in CVEA's service territory.

Additionally, when the lights are on, crews work daily throughout the community making repairs and performing maintenance work on the system.

If you're traveling and see crews on the side of the road, CVEA kindly asks that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work. Safety of everyone involved is top priority, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

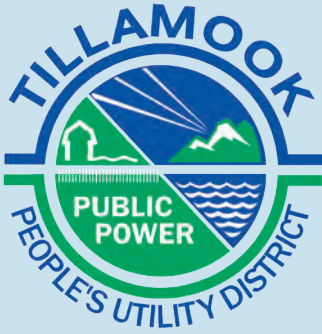
If you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, please slow down when approaching roadside crews.

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding

to emergency situations near busy roadways. Please follow the same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe.

There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways. ■





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

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

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

Board of Directors

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

General Manager

Todd Simmons

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

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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



OR-35

Safety is a Full-Time Job

Dear Customers:

Anyone who knows me knows I am an advocate of safety, around-the-clock, with no exceptions to the rule of using sound, safe practices. At work, at home, on the road or hanging with friends, safety is always on my mind and present in what I am doing.

It is important that we keep safety fresh in our minds, though it can sometimes be a challenge. To affordably keep safety relevant, it is important to talk about safety often, learn about safety regularly and implement safety into everything we do.

At Tillamook PUD, we work diligently to keep safety practices a priority in our organization. We have a heavy emphasis on safety among our staff, and use several methods to keep current on our safety protocols. Our crews start each day with what is known as a “tailboard meeting.” This routine meeting discusses the strategy of the day, including the scope of work, safety concerns and necessary safety measures during the job, as well as determining an escape route from traffic. Once a month, all of our staff attends a safety meeting to acquire safety updates, receive important safety trainings and learn new safety topics. In addition, we have a safety committee group containing members from various departments throughout the utility. The committee performs building and equipment safety inspections, addresses safety concerns and ensures the utility’s safety policies are being met. These are just a few of the safety measures we implement to not only keep our staff safe, but to keep our customers and members of the public safe.

With all the emphasis on safety at work, people often forget the essentials of safety in their everyday lives. It is important to remember that even though there might be more safety hazards at work, these same, or even different, hazards still exist outside the workplace. I often encourage my staff to not only follow safety measures at work, but at home, and to take what they have learned and share that knowledge with family and friends. Using our safety knowledge and taking it wherever we go helps us protect ourselves, our loved ones and everyone around us.

Safety is always at the forefront of what we do at Tillamook PUD, and May is National Electrical Safety month. As we work to restore power, we follow the process of “make safe, communicate, restore.” In our daily operations, we have a routine procedure of safety, quality and efficiency in all of our actions. For us, safety is not just a part-time task, it is a 24/7 job that is just as important as it is necessary.

I encourage you to keep safety fresh in your mind and in the forefront of what you do, so you and those around you can stay safe!

Sincerely,

Todd Simmons, General Manager





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

Board of Directors

President

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Vice President

Roy Nageak Sr.

Secretary/Treasurer

Josiah Patkotak

Karl D Ahgeak
 Frederick F. Brower
 Lewis F. Brower
 Avaiyak Burnell
 Richard Ungarook Sr.
 Tina Wolgemuth

General Manager

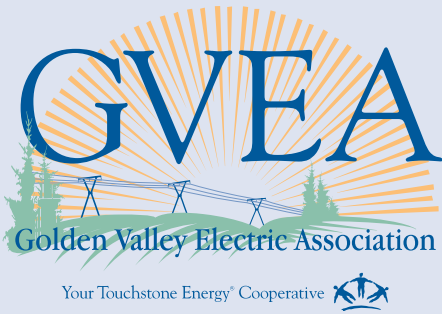
Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

BUECI is pleased to announce the 2018 Board of Directors

Title	Name	Term Expires
President	Price E. Brower, CCD/BLC/DGC	April 2020
Vice President	Roy M. Nageak Sr., CCD (Re-Elected)	April 2021
Secretary/Treasurer	Josiah B. Patkotak, CCD	April 2020
Director	Avaiyak Burnell	April 2019
Director	Lewis F. Brower, CCD (Re-Elected)	April 2021
Director	Frederick F. Brower, CCD	April 2020
Director	Karl Derek Ahgeak (Newly Elected)	April 2021
Director	Richard Ungarook Sr., CCD/BLC	April 2019
Director	Tina A. Wolgemuth	April 2019

Thank you for your participation and congratulations to the board!



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) 458-6365

Report Outages:

(907) 452-1151
1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
Select: Option 1, Option 2

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com



AK-37

Technology upgrades at GVEA

Meter replacement project continues this summer

Over the past two years, Golden Valley Electric has deployed new technology to improve communications and reliability, while helping GVEA operate more efficiently, and serve its members better.

The Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Phone System is available 24/7. By following the prompts when calling in, members can conveniently make payments, report outages and update account telephone information.

The Outage Management System (OMS) allows for a more efficient means of managing an outage so we can get the lights back on faster and with less manpower. Members can now access an online outage map to track outages from their computers, smartphones or tablets.

Technology upgrades are continuing this summer. As part of ongoing system improvements, GVEA is in the process of installing new meters. This project began in the fall of 2017 and is expected to take approximately two years. GVEA's current meters were installed nearly 20 years ago.

Each upgrade to the system provides more accurate information about outages. Data from the new meters will be incorporated into the new Outage Management System. Dispatchers in GVEA's power control center will be able to see which meters are energized and which are not, allowing them to better analyze outages and coordinate restoration. The new meters will also enable GVEA to perform several functions remotely, such as reading meters and performing connects and disconnects. GVEA plans to deploy the new meters to all of its more than 47,000 service locations (see article on pg. 4 - 5).

The impact of the installation should be minimal to members. Members will be notified in advance, via postcard and phone, as to when their meter will be changed out. During the installation, members can expect a brief power interruption. Following the swap, the next billing statement will show two readings, one from the old meter and one from the new meter. ■

Questions:

Visit www.gvea.com/inside/gvea-projects,
or email mrp@gvea.com
or give us a call at (907) 458-5709



Photo by Parisphotographics

Qualifications and Nomination Procedures for Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative

If you are interested in running for the Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, please contact General Manager Bob Marshall at (800) 555-2207 ext. 6076 or by email at bmarshall@psrec.coop.

SECTION 4.02 Qualifications: No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the cooperative who is a close relative of an incumbent director or of an employee of the cooperative, or is not a member of the cooperative and receiving service therefrom at his primary residential abode; PROVIDED, the operating or chief executive of any member that is not a natural person entity, or his designee, shall, notwithstanding that he does not receive service from the cooperative at his primary residential abode, be eligible to become a director from the directorate district in which such member is located if he or such designee (1) is in substantial permanent occupancy, direction or use of the premises served by the cooperative, and (2) is a permanent and year-round resident within, or within ten (10) miles of the outer boundaries of the cooperative's certified service area. BUT PROVIDED FURTHER, no more than one (1) such person may serve on the board of directors at the same time. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of, or to hold any other position of trust in, the cooperative who is not at least eighteen (18) years of age or is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in a competing enterprise, or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative, or a business substantially engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies primarily to the members of the cooperative. Notwithstanding the foregoing provision of this section treating with close relative relationships, no incumbent director shall lose eligibility to remain a director or to be re-elected as a director if, during his incumbency as a director, he becomes a close relative of another incumbent director or of a cooperative employee because of a marriage or adoption to which he was not a party. Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee


for director lacks eligibility under this section or as may be provided elsewhere in these bylaws, it shall be the duty of the chairman presiding at the meeting at which such nominee would otherwise be voted upon to disqualify him. Upon the establishment of the fact that any person being considered for, or already holding, a directorship or other position of trust in the cooperative lacks eligibility under this section, it shall be the duty of the board of directors to withhold such position from such person, or to cause him to be removed therefrom, as the case may be. Also, the office of a director shall automatically become vacant if he misses as many as three (3) regular meetings of the board of directors during any twelve (12) consecutive such meetings, unless the remaining directors unanimously resolve that (1) there was good cause for such absences and (2) such cause shall not likely result in such absences during the ensuing twelve (12) consecutive regular board of directors meetings. Nothing contained in this section shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors unless such action is taken with respect to a matter that is affected by the provisions of this section and in which one or more of the directors have an interest adverse to that of the cooperative.

SECTION 4.03. Election: At each annual meeting of the members, directors shall be elected by secret written ballot by the members and, except as provided in the first proviso of section 4.02 of these bylaws, from among those members who are natural persons; PROVIDED, when the number of nominees does not exceed the number of directors to be elected from a particular directorate district, and if there is no objection, secret written balloting may be dispensed within respect of that particular election and voting may

be conducted in any other proper manner. Directors shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast unless the members in advance of any balloting resolve that a majority of the votes cast shall be required to elect, and this bylaw provision shall be drawn to the attention of the members and explained to them prior to any balloting. Drawing by lot shall resolve, where necessary, any tie vote.

SECTION 4.06. Nominations: (a) Each year, it shall be the duty of the board of directors to appoint, no less than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the annual member meeting, a committee on nominations, consisting of seven (7) members of the cooperative, who are not existing cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors or known candidates for director or close relatives or members of the same household thereof, and who are so selected that each of the cooperative's seven (7) directorate districts shall have one (1) representative thereon. The committee, no less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the member meeting, shall meet and shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative a list of its nominations for directors to be elected, listing separately the nominees with respect to each directorate district from which a director must or may, pursuant to this article, be elected at the meeting. The committee may include more than one nominee for each directorate to be filled by the election. Any thirty (30) or more members of the cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations by petition in writing over their signatures, signed no more than eleven (11) months prior to the date of the ensuing annual member meeting at which directors are to be elected. Such petition shall list such nominee(s) in the same manner as herein before required for the committee's nominees and shall be filed with



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
brmarshall@psrec.coop



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**Plumas-Sierra
Telecommunications**
offers a variety of high-quality
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(800) 221-3474

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

CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

PSREC has had several staffing changes recently. Our longest tenured employee, Linda O'Neill, has retired after 41 years as a work order clerk. Linda was with the co-op through many changes and will be greatly missed around the office. We wish her much happiness in her retirement.

Other retirements include Susan Sessions, work order clerk, 25 years; Guy Varner, journeyman lineman, 25 years; and Donna Mills, marketing manager/energy auditor, 24 years. Judy Alexander, customer service representative, will retire in June after 18 years of service. Congratulations on reaching this milestone. We have enjoyed working with you all.

With all of these retirements, we have brought on some new employees. Jon Pilatti is our newest journeyman lineman, Emily Compton is our new community relations manager, and Kristen Attama and Amy Waller are our newest customer service representatives. Welcome aboard!

Legislative Action

PSREC participated in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Rally April 9 through 11, along with representatives from Anza Electric Cooperative, Surprise Valley Electrification Corp., Trinity Public Utility District and Golden State Power Cooperative.

We met with more than 50 of California's congressional representatives and senators. During these meetings, we discussed important issues that could impact our member-owners here in California and electric cooperatives across the nation, including continued funding for the Rural Utilities Service Electric Loan Program, and funding for rural broadband infrastructure.

Director Elections

In the cooperative world, we have a truism that goes, "Good cooperatives have great boards."

This year, Districts 1, 3 and 4 are up for election. District 1 (Quincy—Sloat areas) is served by Dan Kenney, District 3 (Blairsden—Clio—Portola areas) is served by Fred Nelson and District 4 (Calpine—Sierraville—Loyalton—Beckwourth areas) is served by Dave Roberti. The boundaries of each district are on the PSREC website if you would like to check on which one you live in.

See page 28 for board of director qualifications and nomination information.

Please call me for more information if you live in one of these districts and are interested in running for the board. The board meets once a month, usually on the fourth Wednesday. Directors must attend significant training to stay current on issues and become certificated as a director.

Look Up and Live

As irrigation season approaches, it is a great time to remind members to look up and live.

Whether cutting trees, working with irrigation pipe or any long objects, make sure you look up for power lines.

Telecommunications

We continue to upgrade and repair the coax system in Quincy. If you have not contacted us to be put on the interest list, call us today at (800) 221-3474, or visit our website at www.pst.coop. We are upgrading the system in sections and will contact those on our interest lists first to offer services.

Most of Graeagle is complete. The last section behind the ballfield will be ready in early May.

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.

Summer hours: The Ely office is open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5:30 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

Refine Practices for Electrical Safety Month

May might be National Electrical Safety Month, but here at Mt. Wheeler Power, electrical safety is a high priority every day. We are constantly out in the field and often come across out-of-code work, jury-rigged systems and other hazardous conditions. We count on each other to follow proper procedures and use proper techniques and the right tools to maintain safe working conditions no matter what situation we come across.



Part of our routine is to follow a self-assessment test. The test is a series of questions we ask ourselves, and we encourage everyone to use the same practice. Whether you're making this safety assessment at home or at your place of business, it is well worth your time. These are the steps we follow:

- Identify risks you face at work.
- Ensure your workplace safety program is up to date, effective and comprehensive.
- Identify areas that may require a deeper look or immediate attention.
- See how your practices and policies regarding equipment, maintenance, tools, testing and working conditions impact your safety.
- Review the work practices of your employees who work on or around equipment with elevated safety risks. Do they have the proper training?
- Review your preparedness plan. Is it readily accessible to everyone?
- Respect proper procedures to save lives and property.
- Avoid hazards by reviewing procedures.
- Evaluate parts of your training and procedures to keep you and your facility safe.

Focusing on safety makes a difference. Following proper procedures saves lives and reduces injuries. We work diligently to prepare our employees for unpredictable conditions because sending them home safely to their families is our highest priority.

As a way of commemorating National Electrical Safety Month, we encourage you to review and hold accountable those responsible for the safety of your work environment. Safety should be everyone's highest priority.

Bill Ricci, Operations Manager

Wells Rural Electric Company

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24 hours a day

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(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

Construction of a new grocery store in Carlin reminds me how much I appreciate the businesses that serve our small, rural communities. Not only do our local merchants deliver essential services in isolated markets, they provide jobs, places to see our friends and neighbors, and generously support so many community and school organizations. In essence, our business members make it possible for all of us to enjoy a great quality of life.

We certainly welcome new business members into your local electric cooperative, but I miss the businesses that once lined our main streets: the car dealerships, the movie theater, the bowling alley and the pharmacy, among others.

For those businesses that remain in our small towns, it's quite an achievement to carve out a market niche and to stay competitive in an increasingly global and online economy.

You have probably noticed, unless the business is a travel plaza, a fast-food restaurant or a casino that also serves tourists, we rarely have more than one business fulfilling a local need. For example, we only have one pizza parlor, one dentist, one clinic, one auto parts dealer, one florist, one hardware store and one bank. In many cases, competition just isn't feasible because there simply aren't enough customers in a rural community to support two similar businesses.

Las Vegas, on the other hand, is an entirely different world. There may be dozens, or even hundreds, of options for some services. Few cities in the world can support some of the businesses that thrive in Las Vegas.

In such a vibrant economic climate, it may be possible to create a competitive electricity market. Several large consumers have demonstrated that market purchases are feasible.



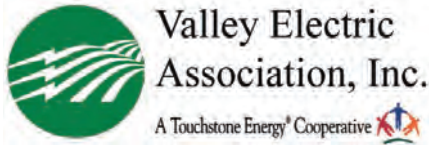
In smaller communities like ours, where we're lucky to have even one grocery store, it's hard to imagine that for-profit electricity providers will be interested in serving many of our members. Remember, the primary reason the members formed Wells Rural Electric Company (WREC) in the first place is that it was not profitable for investor-owned utilities to serve so few consumers spread over such a large area. Only the not-for-profit coop business model has proven it can affordably bring safe, reliable and renewable electricity to you.

Through hard work, board, manager and member involvement brought hydroelectricity generated in the Pacific Northwest to north-eastern Nevada. Hydro has historically been the least expensive, clean, renewable generation resource.

Your locally-elected Board of Directors and your employees work hard every day to keep electricity affordable. While many of your employees focus on controlling the cost of reliable operation of the local distribution grid, I spend the majority of my time working to keep the cost of wholesale electricity down. That requires a strong working relationship with our wholesale power provider, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and constant attention to laws and regulations that could increase wholesale power costs.

As a hedge against BPA rate increases, WREC is also a founding member of a cooperative purchasing pool that makes wholesale electricity market purchases on your behalf. Not only do supplemental market purchases help us control costs, it also provides tremendous insights into wholesale power market pricing and the costs of getting electricity to our community. If a lower price for wholesale electricity was available, WREC would have already bought it and passed those savings through to you. That's what rural electric cooperatives do. That's the only reason WREC exists.

Clay R. Fitch, Chief Executive Officer



NV-42

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Our Future, Our Center



A few days ago at Valley Electric Association's 53rd Annual Meeting, I recapped the remarkable, historic year your Cooperative celebrated in 2017 and shared the extraordinary future that awaits.

As you may have heard or read, we expect to break ground by the end of the year on The Center, a project that will help transform our community. It will be a civic center, a community center, a recreation center and a cultural center. We envision The Center will serve as the heart of the community, a gathering place for young and old.

This dream culminated with the events of 2017, but it was a decade in the making. Last year, Valley Electric generated more than \$50 million in profit, deferred \$30 million as a hedge against future rate increases, returned \$18 million to members, paid off \$80 million in debt, invested \$20 million in infrastructure, put \$80 million in the bank and reduced rates by 10%.

Incredible as 2017 was, Valley's future is even brighter than its remarkable present and its historic past. Through painstaking planning and strategic decision making over the past decade, Valley Electric Association has put our community in the position to take a giant leap in its development.

Our member-owners have become a community that encourages and a community that recognizes the power inherent in responsible people coming together to build a better future. The recent referendums on the sale of our 230-kilovolt system and the ratification of important revisions in the Cooperative's bylaws illustrate

this. Both votes achieved astonishing approval margins of more than 90%, representing an unwavering resolve to move the Cooperative – and the community – forward.

The bylaw revisions helped clarify the relationship between Valley's family of brands and the parent company and will pave the way for Valley to serve others throughout the state and, in the process, benefit our members. Those opportunities will come through Energy Choice, broadband communications, utility services, energy services and transmission services.

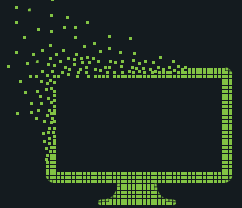
All will contribute to rate stabilization, job growth, economic development and community improvement.

For many months, a group of community leaders has been meeting regularly to assess needs and make recommendations for The Center. Details of their vision are now public and will be further explained in the June issue of the Ruralite.

Through dreams, vision, dedication and commitment, VEA recognizes its duty to serve as a responsible corporate citizen that is creating a better tomorrow for its members and their families.


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.



TUNE IN

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Commissioners

Joe O'Leary
Paul Rogers
Shan Rowbotham

General Manager

Matt Boast

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

Need Help With Your Utility Bills?

The following organizations may be able to help.

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

WA-43

Remember to Plug Into Safety

In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month. Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards. Kittitas PUD, a not-for-profit electric utility, is committed to educating the public about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2016, 475,500 structure fires—including residential fires—were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used.

It is critical that people understand their home's electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes.

With newer technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles and more electrical gadgets in the home, people need to ensure they have an electrical system that's compatible with the increased load.

Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Together, let's plug into safety this May.



Is your home properly protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters? GFCI outlets should be used in all kitchens, bathrooms, garages and outdoor outlets.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

plug into safety





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Todd Radenbaugh

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Robert Himschoot

2018 Board Meeting Schedule

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

Serving the communities of:

Aleknagik	Ekuk
Clarks Point	Manokotak
Dillingham	Portage Creek



Touchstone Energy®

AK-47

Nushagak Cooperative Scholarships

May 25, 2018




Don't forget to have your
scholarship applications

in by the new deadline of May 25, 2018

Visit www.nushtel.com for applications.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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Burns, OR 97720
(541) 573-2666

400 Patterson Bridge Road
P.O. Box 575
John Day, OR 97845
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Baker County

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County
Robert Cargill, Harney County
George Galloway, Union
County
Greg Howard, Union County
Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, CEO & General
Manager

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

Help Us Support House Bill 3144

This month's story on page 28 is one we hope you take the time to read.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently upheld a court order to spill additional water over eight federal dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers, beginning April 3. The Bonneville Power Administration buys power from these dams.

The decision means many things, but for you, as Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative members, it could have a long-term impact on the price of power, fish restoration efforts and the health of our environment.

The decision was made, in part, by the plaintiffs claiming it will boost the survival rate of salmon returning to the ocean.

Through BPA, OTEC members and Northwest utilities have spent more than \$16 billion on fish and wildlife actions from 1978 to 2017, making the decision to approve the spill both confusing and troubling.

It is confusing because it is a test spill. There is no scientific confidence or clear evidence that spilling additional water over the dams will measurably improve survival rates of salmon migrating to the ocean.

What is troubling is that this issue is being decided in the courts, and not working through the process that has been in place through both the Bush and Obama administrations.

The increased spill is also in direct conflict with efforts in the Oregon Legislature to reduce carbon emissions.

BPA estimates this spill could add as much as 840,000 metric tons of carbon emissions into the environment. That's because BPA will need to buy power to replace the power lost from the spill. That purchased power, outside of the additional cost impact, likely will come from a fossil fuel resource.

Unfortunately, there is also discussion around potential dam breaching or removal

of the dams altogether. This, admittedly, is a worst-case scenario, but it is being discussed. If BPA is forced to continue to spill more water or remove dams, BPA will have to replace even more hydropower with other power sources.

During the past year, we have worked with our cooperative network and associations, including the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association and related partners and utilities, to delay the spill. Through these combined efforts, the court-ordered spill was delayed from 2017 to 2018. We continue to challenge this decision.

What can you do? Call your U.S. senator or representative to express your support for House Bill 3144. This bill, currently before Congress, calls to end the spill and place a hold or a "timeout" until the National Environmental Policy Act process is completed in 2021.

If HB 3144 passes the full House, it will go to the Senate for consideration.

Please consider joining our grassroots program at www.oreca-action.org, then call or write your federal legislators and let them know you support HB 3144.

Once BPA completes the report of final costs and impacts of the current spill activity, we will evaluate how the lost power costs will be recovered. New fees or changes to OTEC rates may be necessary and, if so, could show up on members' bills as early as May.

As we make ongoing efforts to find solutions to this challenge, we will continue to inform and update our members on our efforts to reduce the financial impact.

Les Penning
CEO and General Manager



Member-owned since 1921

Ohop Mutual Light Co.

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Eatonville, WA 98328

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

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Sec./Treasurer Isabella Deditch
Director Frank Hoffman

General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

National Electrical Safety Month

In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month. Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards. Ohop Mutual Light Co., a not-for-profit electric utility, is committed to educating the public about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2016, 475,500 structure fires—including residential fires—were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used.

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With newer technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles and more electrical gadgets in the home, people need to ensure they have an electrical system that's compatible with the increased load.

Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Together, let's plug into safety this May.

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May is National Electrical Safety Month

plug into safety



TANNER ELECTRIC Cooperative

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North Bend, WA 98045-1426
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Toll-free: (800) 472-0208
www.tannerelectric.coop

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Chief Financial Officer

Rob Carr

Operations Manager

Nick Himebauch

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Lisa Peabody

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Roger Guay
Jeff Gillette
Kendel Lyman
Paul Bay
Mark Dilger

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

North Bend
Ames Lake
Anderson Island

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

WA-50

TEC Meeting Update

Provisions in Tanner Electric Cooperative's bylaws state in Article IV, Section 6, Election of Directors by Members:

"The directors shall be elected by ballot by the membership at the regular annual meeting of each year, and shall hold office until their successors are elected or appointed. Each year, three directors—one from each district—shall be elected for a three-year term. All candidates for the office of director shall be voted upon by the members present at the annual meeting or voting by mail, and the candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. Members may not vote for write-in candidates. As determined by the president or other officer presiding at the annual meeting, the number of votes received by each nominee will or will not be announced. If only one individual is nominated to run for election for a director position scheduled for election by members at the annual meeting, then the individual presiding at the annual meeting may announce that the nominated individual was elected by acclamation and no vote is required."

Since the incumbent directors are the only members running for a position this year, there is no ballot required. Your incumbent directors are Jeff Gillette, Anderson Island; Paul Bay, Ames Lake; and Mike Hodge, North Bend.

Please join your fellow members for an update or just to socialize, knowing you can look forward to dessert at the end of the meeting. Anderson Island members will be served homemade pie, while North Bend/Ames Lake members will be treated to a dessert bar and ice cream.

If you are interested in donating a homemade pie for the Anderson Island meeting, please call Trina Wiggins or Lisa Peabody at (425) 888-0623. ■

Annual Meetings

Mark your calendar for your 2018 annual meeting.

- ▶ Anderson Island:
Saturday, May 19
10:30 a.m.
Anderson Island
Christian Fellowship
Church
- ▶ North Bend/Ames Lake:
Thursday, May 17
7 p.m.
Snoqualmie Casino
Ballroom



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(253) 531-5666

OFFICE HOURS

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Gary Hauenstein - Secretary
Gary Grazzini - Treasurer
Janet Detering - Public Relations

GENERAL MANAGER

Susan Cutrell

*Incorporated in 1914—
The country's oldest
mutual cooperative*

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

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

WA-52

Remember to Plug Into Safety

In May, electric cooperatives across the country promote safety awareness to coincide with National Electrical Safety Month. Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards. Parkland Light & Water Co., a not-for-profit electric utility, is committed to educating the public about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2016, 475,500 structure fires—including residential fires—were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used.

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May is National Electrical Safety Month

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Clatskanie, Oregon 97016
(503) 728-2163 Office
www.clatskaniepud.com

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Monday through Friday

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Linda A. Hooper, Secretary
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Don Hooper, Director

GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Winner

Account #12045001

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

Community Calendar

May 3: Clatskanie Chamber Meeting

Noon at Colvins

May 10: Rainier Chamber Meeting

Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

May 13: Mother's Day

Check out what is happening at local
stores & restaurants for Mother's Day at
"keepitlocalcc.com" or the Keep it Local
Columbia County Facebook page.

May 16: Clatskanie PUD Board Meeting

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

May 28: Memorial Day

Clatskanie PUD office closed.

OR-60

In April the Ninth Circuit panel issued its opinion to allow additional spill over the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) dams starting April 3rd. Why is this decision important and how can it affect us? This decision means spilling water that could be held in reserve for later in the year when there is less water from melting snow or rains to both produce power and keep flows at optimum levels for fish. This water spilled does not flow through the turbines, meaning it is not producing any power as it spills over the dam.

Spilling water without going through the turbines means there is no power produced for sale to us or to secondary markets. Secondary markets are very important to us and to all the customers of BPA. It is how BPA keeps our wholesale power costs so low. They sell the excess power we and other customers don't use into the secondary markets. They then use the revenue from secondary market sales to help run their organization. Secondary power revenue is a vital part of BPA's budget and helps to lower our costs.

The loss of this important revenue means they will have to charge whatever budget shortfall results from the excess spill to all of their customers, which includes Clatskanie PUD. This shortfall could fall somewhere between \$20 to \$40 million dollars. These additional costs from the court mandated spill have been included in our future forecasting and the budget for 2018. The loss of revenue and costs due to the spill were part of the reason the October 1, 2017 rate increase was necessary.

While we certainly support maintaining our fish and wildlife as evidenced by the billions of dollars BPA has spent on fish and wildlife mitigation over the past two decades, we do not see benefit in this excess amount of spill, a decision which is not supported by science. It is detrimental to our customers who already pay one third of their wholesale power costs each month towards fish and wildlife programs.

There is a bill before Congress right now, HB 3144, that would put a stop to excess spill on the dams. We could certainly use your help in getting this bill passed. Please take some time to write or call your federal legislators and let them know you support this bill. As I write this article, I am in fact in Washington DC to talk to our legislators to help us with this and other legislation that protects your rates and our utility. We appreciate your support and assistance in protecting and preserving our precious, renewable, carbon free power resource.



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

Marc Farmer
General Manager



KOTZEBUE
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

P.O. Box 44
Kotzebue, AK 99752
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(Fax) (907) 442-2482

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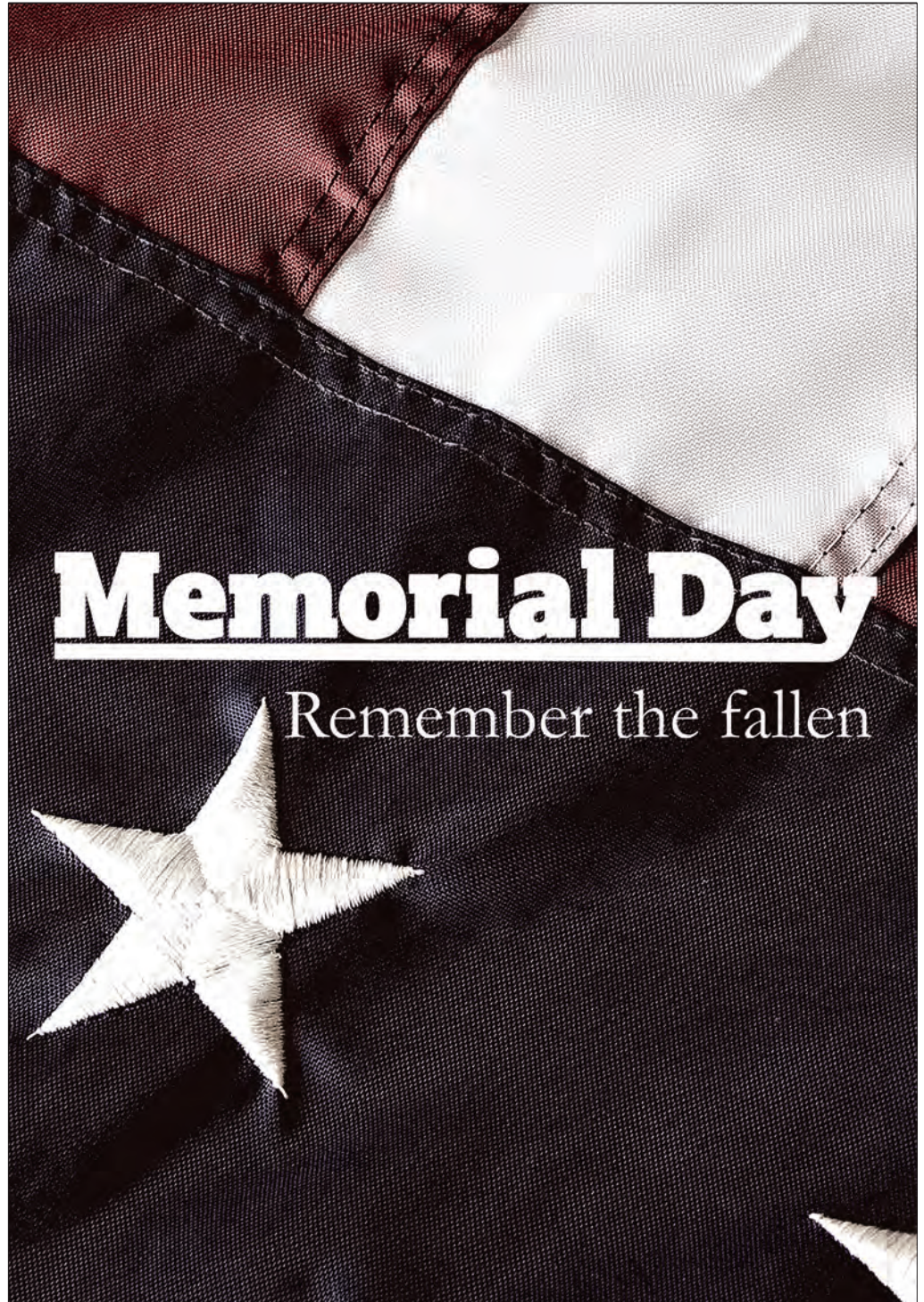
Herman Reich Sr.

General Manager/CEO

Martin Shroyer

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

AK-64





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Mountain Village

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Vacant

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board@avec.org

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

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



AK-105

AVEC Annual Meeting

The AVEC annual meeting was Wednesday, April 4, 2018, in Anchorage. It was attended by all authorized delegates with the exception of one individual who missed a flight to Anchorage.

Delegates engaged in several hours of work sessions as they established priorities for AVEC for the coming year. They also spent considerable time working with staff members on operational issues specific to their communities.

Andy Leman, AVEC's legal counsel, announced election results from the mail-in ballots that were received by an independent accounting firm. The top three vote recipients were Helena Jones from Ambler, Peter Demoski from Nulato and Robert Okitkun from Kotlik. Helena Jones and Peter Demoski were incumbents. Both expressed their deepest gratitude to the members who re-elected them.

New board member Robert Okitkun was born in Hamilton and raised in St. Michael, Kwiguk, Emmonak and Kotlik, where he now resides. While primarily a commercial fisherman, Robert has worked for the tribe, village and regional corporations and as asbestos program coordinator for Lower Yukon School District. He has served on numerous boards, including LYSD, Kotlik Yupik Corp., Kotlik Traditional Council, AVCP Housing Authority, Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee and the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

"As AVEC continues to use diesel, there is a need for bulk storage facilities and aid in fuel delivery to the village tank farms," says Robert. "A cooperative effort with the tribes could enable AVEC to purchase fuel from BIA at a reduced cost. Conversion to LNG or natural gas will leave us a cleaner environment. North Slope communities have converted to natural gas for electric generation and home heating. Perhaps AVEC can introduce talks with the regional corporations and tribes to explore for natural gas. I am a firm believer in protecting our lands and environment as our ancestors did. I also think that our tribes should exercise their sovereign authority in protecting the lands, environment, fish and wildlife. AVEC serves the same communities of many of the rural villages as the tribes, and it makes sense to work cooperatively with them."

We bid a fond farewell to Phyllis Clough, who served as a board member from Old Harbor for 15 years. Phyllis was a steady and constant voice of support for rural Alaska. She never failed to acknowledge the continuing need for affordable energy in our communities. She was a fierce advocate for economic development and sustainability, and pledged her continuing support for AVEC's mission to develop a statewide electric grid with affordable energy for every Alaskan, no matter how remote.

Until next time,

Meera Kohler
President and CEO





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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



MORE THAN A UTILITY. A PARTNER.

Lassen Municipal Utility District is more than a utility company, we are your friends, neighbors and family. Together, we are powering our community and working toward a brighter future. LMUD invests hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in infrastructure upgrades. The money you spend when you pay your bill stays local and is invested locally. Our long-range planning includes new substations and more reliable interconnections, allowing us to continue to serve our community with safe, reliable and affordable power.

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You have a voice in how your utility operates and the decisions that are made. Join us May 22 at 5:30 p.m. in the LMUD board room for our next public meeting.

To learn more about public power and its advantages, visit us at www.lmud.org.



Lincoln County Power District No. 1

HC 74, Box 101
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Toll free: (888) 649-3814

Email: lcpd@lcpd1.com

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David Luttrell

Board meets the
second Monday
of each month



MISSION STATEMENT

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

NV-107

What Energy Choice Means to Rural Nevada

In the last edition of Ruralite, I began to re-introduce you to the Energy Choice Initiative, which will be on the November 2018 general election ballot.

This month, I'd like to respond to Thomas Mitchell's April 4 commentary in the Elko Daily Free Press: "Customers should be able to shop for electricity." While I generally respect Thomas and his work, I think he is wrong to believe Energy Choice is good policy for rural utilities and our members.

In future articles, I will address the myriad concerns I have regarding Energy Choice, including loss of federal hydropower that is essential for the low rates rural Nevadans enjoy; cost increases that will result from changes in the transmission grid; and the lack of a wholesale market structure. But today I'd like to focus on one very important change: governance and decision making.

Most rural Nevadans are served by rural electric utilities while an investor-owned utility serves Las Vegas, Henderson, Reno and Carson City. Not-for-profit power districts and cooperatives were created by and for the people we serve. We serve our friends, neighbors and communities. As members, you participate in self-governance by attending our local meetings, serving on our board and making policy decisions. In contrast, an IOU is in business primarily to make money for their shareholders. A board of directors and parent company based in Des Moines, Iowa, makes all decisions for the IOU.

If Energy Choice passes, the decision-making authority our members are accustomed to will largely shift from here in Lincoln County to four new parties.

New "retail energy providers"—most likely an out-of-state, for-profit corporation—will sell you energy. The Public Utility Commission of Nevada will regulate energy rates from the retail energy providers and the operating costs of rural electrics like us, and we will be relegated to just owning, operating and maintaining the local wires. The California Independent System Operator is the only wholesale market in the entire western U.S. and will likely operate the wholesale market. And the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will regulate the wholesale market.

The decisions local members currently make will be made in California, Carson City, Washington, D.C., and the boardroom of an out-of-state corporation. Should it pass again, Energy Choice will undermine local governance. It may give you the choice of several parties offering to sell you energy, but is that worth more than local control and governance? You will get to decide in November.

Next time, let's talk about federal hydropower.

David Luttrell, General Manager





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West Oregon Electric Co-op

OR-400

Case in Point

I had to admit to a little nostalgia, even though the ornate U.S. House of Representatives committee room largely represented a history of professional defeat. As the chandeliers sparkled and the portraits of past committee chairmen appeared to stare down at me, it occurred to me that I had been on the losing end of countless votes in this room as a congressional aide a quarter-century before.

Back then, I was an idealistic young staffer for U.S. Congressman Bob Smith—a staunch supporter of Western communities that depended on timber and grazing for their livelihood. This was in the era of the spotted owl, and we all know how that turned out.

But now I was back as a lobbyist, awaiting a House Resources Committee vote on H.R. 3144—a common-sense bill to take the Federal Columbia River Power System out of the courtrooms and return it to the professionals who know how to operate the river.

From the gallery, I watched a new generation of bright-eyed staffers confer with their bosses. I knew it was heady times for these young men and women. Like them, I wrote talking points and speeches. I would beam as Congressman Smith read my statement during a congressional hearing. Other times, I would be brought back to earth when my carefully crafted speech served only as a coaster for his Styrofoam cup.

But this is where I—a kid from a small town who never believed he'd have a career in Washington, D.C.—learned politics.

The members of the committee have nearly all changed, but what hadn't changed was the hyperbole, as opponents of the legislation charged that passage of H.R. 3144 would lead to the extinction of Columbia River salmon species. There were speeches and amendments, but on this day, we had the votes. The bill passed with bipartisan support.

When the gavel came down, I departed the committee room, well aware of the long path ahead for a proposal that could bring a timeout to the fish wars that divide the Northwest. However, a room that had given me many memories of defeat had finally yielded something else: a victory for small communities in the West.



Ted Case

Executive Director

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Steven Silkotch

GENERAL MANAGER

Kevin Short

IMPORTANT DATES

- ▶ May 22—Director candidate petitions due.
- ▶ May 28—Memorial Day (co-op office closed).
- ▶ July 21—Annual Membership Meeting.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

May and June Congratulations!

- ▶ Betsy Hansen..... 1 year
- ▶ Scott "Ben" Wallace 1 year

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A Message from the Manager

We Are All Coyotes

Our rural community is unique in many ways. First, when other folks (not Californians) think of the Golden State, they usually think of the more populated and more well-known areas: Hollywood, Los Angeles, Anaheim (thanks to Walt Disney) and a few other destination places come to mind. However, here in our little corner of paradise, there is a lot to be said for the rural lifestyle we enjoy.

Perhaps one of the least considered and unique benefits of being here is the opportunity we all share to participate in the process of infrastructure development.

Not a glamorous subject on the surface, but consider this: We all have a vote in electing our representatives for Anza Electric Cooperative and we overwhelmingly approved building our own high-speed internet access system. We also have the chance to be involved in local public radio.

KOYT 97.1 FM operates in the Anza Valley as a low-power community-owned radio station. The station is a vital part of our community's developing infrastructure, providing not only entertainment, but also public service announcements, local event updates, and public safety information during emergencies.

Staffed exclusively by volunteers, the station is a labor of love for the dedicated residents who give freely of their time and talent.

"It's amazing what we have accomplished with so few people," says KOYT Council of Directors President Erinne Roscoe.

During a recent recording session with Erinne in the KOYT studio, I had the privilege of providing a message about the American Heart Association Heart Walk, and to discuss a bit about our cooperative. I got to see and hear firsthand what it takes to record and broadcast important information for our community.

Anza Electric has been directly involved since the station's inception, donating not only start-up cash to the cause, but also contributing time, personnel and equipment to get the transmitter and antenna up and functioning. ConnectAnza donates broadband connectivity for free streaming radio. It has been a great thing to see our community develop more of the basic public services taken for granted in larger communities. The best part of this effort is we are building our community from the ground up.

I encourage everyone to participate in continuing support for KOYT. Please consider attending the station's annual meeting in June, and please consider donating to help keep them on the air. As the saying goes, "it takes a village."

So tune in to 97.1 FM. Hear what locally owned radio sounds like, enjoy the music and remember to think of this resource as your very own.



Kevin Short

ANZA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



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Steven Lunt
CEO

BOARD MEETINGS

May 14
June 18
July 16

*Generally the third Monday
of the month*

**Owned By Those We Serve—
Incorporated June 1947**

CEO's Message

No Income Taxes for Cooperatives

On December 22, 2017, President Trump signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This new tax law will have an effect on our personal income taxes and taxes levied on corporations. Many of you have seen the effects in your payroll checks.

What many people still do not understand is that the new tax law does not affect not-for-profit companies, including cooperatives. Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit corporation that is exempt from paying income taxes. Since we do not pay income taxes, nothing in the cost of service billed to our members every month is collected for the purpose of paying income taxes.

Investor-owned utilities such as Arizona Public Service or Tucson Electric Power are working on plans to pass the tax savings on to their customers. However, each of the cooperatives in Arizona and New Mexico will

have no savings to pass on since we are not paying income taxes.

Not paying income taxes is a benefit cooperatives enjoy. To maintain its not-for-profit status, the cooperative has to follow some IRS rules.

One of those rules is "One member, one vote." Cooperatives are democratically organized businesses where members—regardless of the amount of energy they buy or the number of meters they have—get one vote. This voting right is exercised every year in conjunction with our annual meeting as members vote on bylaw changes and elect directors.

Another advantage of being a cooperative member is that the cooperative does not have to include a reward for investors or stockholders in



Steven Lunt

its cost of service. Investor-owned utilities have a goal to reward their investors when they set rates. Their business plans center on maximizing return for their investors.

Investor-owned utilities answer to their investors, not their customers. Cooperatives run their businesses focusing on member needs, not on enriching outside investors.

Our cooperative is focused on maximizing the value of the services we provide. Our cooperative answers to our member-customers.

So remember that while the new tax law might give you some additional personal benefits, you already enjoy tax savings and cost savings by being a member of the cooperative.

—Steve Lunt





Electrical District No. 2

P.O. Box 548
Coolidge, AZ 85128

Phone: (520) 723-7741
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To report an emergency or a power outage after hours or weekends, call:
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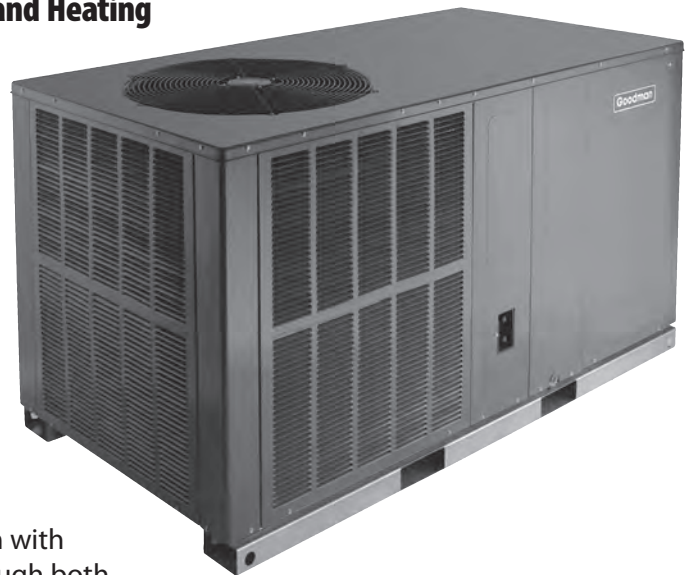
GENERAL MANAGER
Kenneth W. Robbins

ED2 is a full-service electric utility serving the greater Casa Grande Valley of Pinal County—including in and around the cities of Coolidge, Florence and Casa Grande—since 1923.

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Tri-Cor's Air-Conditioning and Heating System Maintenance Agreement covers two service calls—pre-summer and pre-winter—to prepare your system for heating and cooling seasons.



Replacing your air conditioning and heating system can cost several thousand dollars. Protect the investment you have in your existing system with regular maintenance—through both do-it-yourself measures and professional inspections. To prevent an expensive repair bill, keep the outdoor condenser unit free from debris, and clean or change the air filter once a month. Periodically hire a trained technician to check refrigerant levels and mechanical operations.

Tri-Cor Air Conditioning and Heating's preventative maintenance plan provides you with a 25-point tune-up and professional cleaning twice a year, and offers discounts on repairs. Tri-Cor services all makes and models of equipment, and has plans available for both residential and commercial customers. For more details, including pricing, call Tri-Cor and schedule an appointment with one of our service technicians. Your energy savings could exceed the cost of your preventative service agreement.

Tri-Cor Air Conditioning & Heating

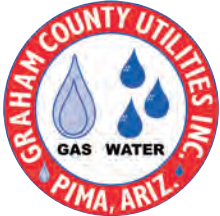
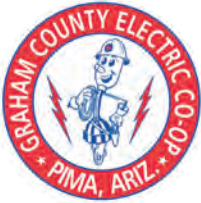
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Kirk Gray



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Manager's Message

Long Road to Success

In the March 2017 edition of your Currents magazine, I said that by the time you read the Manager's Message, the Arizona Legislature should pass legislation exempting cooperatives from remitting unclaimed patronage capital retirements to the Arizona Unclaimed Property Division.

Due to an amendment to the Senate version of the bill, the House of Representatives did not pass the legislation in 2017.

But in adherence to cooperative principles, all the electric cooperatives in Arizona came together to push the legislation through the 2018 legislative session. On March 23, 2018, Gov. Doug Ducey signed Senate Bill 1412 into law. This allows cooperatives to use unclaimed patronage capital retirements for community programs whose purpose is consistent with our bylaws and approved by our board of directors.

Graham County Electric Cooperative Foundation Inc. was formed to administer these funds for our Youth Scholarship Program, Washington Youth Tour Program and Utility Assistance Program.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives is the



sixth cooperative principle. it states: "By working together through local, national, regional and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs."

A big thank you goes out to Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association and its tireless work in getting this legislation across the finish line. A special thank you to Phil Bashaw for all his efforts and professionalism during this two-year legislative process.

Once again, when cooperatives work with each other, we can collectively accomplish great things. We still have many obstacles facing rural cooperatives, but with the cooperative business model and cooperative member/owners we can make a difference in the communities we serve.

Stay plugged in through our social media platforms and our website for more challenges to come where we can collectively make a difference.

—Kirk Gray

Graham County Utilities consumer water reports are now available for viewing on our website at www.gce.coop.

FLORIDA Currents

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EREC
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Manager's Message

May is Electrical Safety Month

The electricity Escambia River Electric Cooperative provides is a vital resource, providing safe, reliable and affordable power to support our modern lifestyles.

But electricity must be respected. If safety is not made a priority, what changes our lives for the better could change them for the worse in an instant.

As we celebrate National Electrical Safety Month, it is a great time to reinforce the importance of practicing electrical safety every day.

It is not hard to understand why safety remains a priority for EREC. Working around electricity is a life-or-death situation every day for many of our employees.

We provide regular safety training and supply the equipment necessary to keep employees safe as they perform their jobs. We work hard to instill a culture of safety that becomes second nature in every facet of our lives.

We want to be sure every employee goes home at the end of the day as healthy and whole as

they came to work that morning.

As a member-owner, your safety is of utmost importance to EREC as well. We strive to raise safety awareness among EREC members of all ages.

We visit schools each year with our Safety City demonstration, which helps both students and adults become more aware of the importance of electrical safety.

It emphasizes that electricity is a valuable and useful form of energy that helps us live better, and it is a safe form of energy when used carefully and properly.

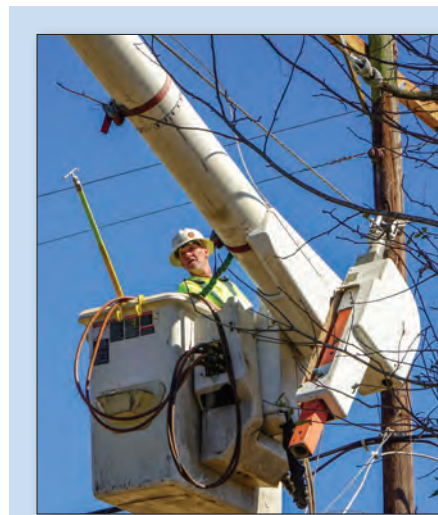
We also provide safety tips in this publication each month to help you understand and respect the power of electricity and be aware of the dangers associated with it.

Safety is a priority at EREC for our employees and members alike. Make it a priority for your family as well.

Together, let's make National Electrical Safety Month a year-round celebration by focusing on safety every month.



Clay R. Campbell



Inside

May 2018
Vol. 7, No. 7

Powering the Community 12

Electric utility jobs fuel local economies and the nation.

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FKEC NEWS

MAY 2018

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MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

Before an outage occurs, verify FKEC has all of your current phone numbers, including cell phone numbers. This expedites power restoration.

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

SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

The FKEC Cooperative Difference

As a cooperative, FKEC is different from an investor-owned utility because we are owned by you, the members we serve.

This unique relationship allows us to measure our success beyond our bottom line, and make decisions based on what is right for you and our communities.

Being an influential community partner and working toward the sustainable development of the territory we serve is a value FKEC whole-heartedly embraces.

Another benefit of your Co-op membership is democratic control or "equal say." Unlike corporations, your voting rights are not limited by the amount of shares you own. With a cooperative it doesn't matter how many kilowatt-hours of electricity you buy or how many accounts you have in your name – you have one membership and one vote.

An important use of your vote is to elect representatives to the FKEC Board of Directors. These directors represent your best interests and are tasked with keeping the Co-op focused on improving the quality of the power delivered to you and your community. Our directors



make important decisions and take their positions very seriously.

FKEC's board is composed of nine Upper and Middle Keys residents representing four districts: Key Largo, Tavernier, Islamorada and Marathon. The directors serve three-year terms and must reside in the districts they represent.

The board meets every month. Meeting dates and times, as well as meeting minutes, agendas and director profiles are available online at www.fkec.com/Cooperative/board.cfm.

We are proud to be one of the 833 distribution electric co-ops who power 56% of the nation. Together we play a vital role in transforming the electric sector, and improving the resiliency and efficiency of power systems locally and throughout the country.

At FKEC it is our mission to remain committed to being a progressive employer and influential community partner that sets the benchmark in providing high quality, environmentally sensitive, and safe electrical power.

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The Board’s next meeting will be at 9 a.m. May 31 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

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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

Reflecting on Our Annual Meeting

Members, I really enjoyed spending my St. Patrick’s Day morning with you at our 73rd Annual Meeting. Enjoy some of the highlights detailed in this issue of Florida Currents.

At the meeting, Lisa Johnson, CEO and general manager of Seminole Electric Cooperative, announced an upcoming smart thermostat program trial. Seminole would like 30 of our members to join the one-year trial. Participants earn \$80. The information gathered could lead to future cost reductions for us. I have already heard from a few of you interested in being included in the trial. If there are any others of you out there interested or who have questions, please get in touch with me soon, as participation is limited.

Since the Annual Meeting, we have had the annual reorganization meeting and another regular board meeting. At the reorganization meeting, John Coxe, Jim Aul and Shannon Hall were elected president, vice president and secretary/treasurer, respectively. A note regarding Vice President Aul, who represents the GEC board on the Seminole Electric board. As Lisa Johnson reported at our Annual Meeting, he was elected president of the Seminole board. I think Jim’s experience in the construction industry will serve Seminole well the next three years during the transition in the power resource portfolio Lisa described to our membership.

I have good news on rates. At the March regular board meeting, your trustees voted to lower rates for the second time this year. As of April 1, 2018, the wholesale power cost adjustment credit was increased 13 percent since the beginning of this year, moving from an \$11.51 credit to your account on 1,000 kilowatt-hours to a \$13.01 credit. Enjoy the savings as we strive to deliver you the lowest possible cost every day.

Again, it was a joy visiting with you. I’m blessed to be a part of the GEC family.



Jeff Brewington

Implementation of Billing Cycle Changes

Effective May 2, 2018, due dates for Glades Electric Cooperative bills will change:

- ▶ Bills due on the 10th and 15th will now be due on the 20th.
- ▶ Bills due on the 25th and 1st will now be due on the 5th.



Gulf Coast
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICES

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

9434 Highway 77
P. O. Box 8370
Southport, FL 32409
(850) 265-3631 or (800) 568-3667

6243 East Highway 98
Panama City, FL 32404
Phone: (850) 481-1188

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CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

John Bartley

TRUSTEES

President Waylon Graham
Vice President Jimmy Black
Secretary Eddie Jones
Treasurer Rupert Brown
Doug Birmingham
Robert Byrd
Gary Cox
Kinneith 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

Safety Above All Else

Safety is a universal word mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small and companies across all industries are committed to safety. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. At the end of the day, Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative strives to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to member-owners. Equally important, we want workers to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. GCEC has established and follows safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. Lineworkers wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols they follow when dealing with electricity. Our safety team has regular meetings where they discuss upcoming projects from a safety perspective. We encourage crew members to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many are preventable.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. This month and every month, observe these tips to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity:

- Make sure cords are not frayed or cracked. Don't use an extension cord with more than one appliance or on a permanent basis. Make sure the rating on the cord is at least the same number of watts needed by the product plugged into it.
- Don't overload outlets. Never force a plug into an outlet or cut the ground pin off a three-prong plug. Use safety covers on unused outlets accessible to children.
- Keep electrical equipment away from water. If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse or trips a circuit breaker, have it repaired or replace it.
- Don't attempt electrical do-it-yourself projects unless you are qualified to do so.
- Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or transformers that look amiss.

Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety. ■



Waylon Graham



Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, May 28, for Memorial Day.



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

TO REPORT POWER OUTAGE

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

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

210 Metheny Road
 Wauchula, Florida 33873
 Telephone: 1-800-282-3824
 Fax: 866-201-1814

MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

14505 Arbor Green Trail
 Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
 Telephone: 1-800-282-3824
 Fax: 941-752-4928

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Portale
 PRESIDENT

Willie Dawes
 VICE PRESIDENT

Ellen Bachman
 SECRETARY/TREASURER

Bruce Vickers
 ASST SECRETARY/TREASURER

Hollis Albritton
 DIRECTOR

Leonard Crawley
 DIRECTOR

John Martin
 DIRECTOR

Kenneth Oden
 DIRECTOR

Maurice Henderson
 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

May 22, 2018
 June 26, 2018
 July 24, 2018

FL 155

Safety Above All Else

Safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. At Peace River Electric Cooperative, it's the number one priority. PRECO promotes a culture of safety by putting our employees' wellbeing and that of the community above all else.

PRECO's mission is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity to its member-owners. But equally important, we want our workers to return home safely to their loved ones each night. Accomplishing this requires constant focus, dedication and vigilance.

Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is a dangerous job if not done properly, especially for lineworkers. PRECO's safety protocols are based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working around power lines. And, there are specific procedures our lineworkers must follow when dealing with electricity.

Our safety team has regular meetings to discuss safety initiatives. They also monitor and track accidents and near-misses to understand them, share lessons learned and improve on the future.

We encourage our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving regarding safety, rather than defaulting to a blame game.

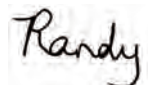
Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors. PRECO conducts electrical safety demonstrations in schools and the community. If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or community event, call us at 1-800-282-3824.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured or electrocuted because of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substation gates or our electrical equipment that look amiss. Contact PRECO for additional electrical safety tips.

Please be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety.



PRECO CEO