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Cooperative 

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ID-1



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Manager

Thomas Wolff, Heppner

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

OR-2

Community Members Pull Together

Hello, Members:

On July 17, the Heppner area suffered a large wildfire that burned from just outside of Heppner and south about 13 miles to the edge of the timber. The revised estimate July 19 was about 21,000 acres.

A great combined effort was made to hold the fire line just short of the forested areas. Volunteer fire crews were noted from Heppner, Lexington, Ione, Condon, Helix, Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Stanfield, Hermiston, Boardman, East Umatilla and Station 7.

Local rancher Sandy Bennett Matthews posted on Facebook: "It was overwhelming how many people, firetrucks, bulldozers, 4-wheelers, ranch tanks, water trucks and farm equipment showed up and aggressively fought Mother Nature's heat and wind to beat the flames to all the structures on Hinton Creek."

Local community members and organizations donated tubs of iced water bottles, sandwiches, salads, food and supplies. It was a great cooperative effort by an entire community pulling together to avoid greater loss from such a disaster, and to support each other in a massive collaborative effort!

Your CBEC co-op crews were on site, fighting fire and preventing loss to the power distribution system. Crews cut power to threatened areas, but later restored service with no loss of infrastructure.

Many thanks to all in the community who rallied behind this effort. We are truly blessed to have such friends and neighbors to aid and support each other in time of need.

Best regards to a great community,

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



Maintaining tradition and making strides

The following is an update from my letter to you in December of 2016. We're still working hard to provide you with the level and quality of service we all desire. Whether outwardly visible or not, much progress has been made on your behalf. Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Since its formation in 1939, Northern Wasco County People's Utility District has had a strong public power ethic. Its five-member elected Board of Directors, the almost 50 employees and the community expect a high level of electric service reliability, low electric rates, and the kind of friendly, personal and informal customer services that are the hallmarks of many smaller, "home-grown" public utilities across the Pacific Northwest.

The District's electric rates are among the lowest in Oregon, the region and the nation, and the reliability of electric service (as measured by the number and duration of outages) ranks well above the national average. Customer satisfaction in the District is very high.

These same attributes, however, can create challenges as the District begins to navigate a growing and changing economy, shifting community demographics and changing customer expectations. As a broad statement, to keep electricity costs extremely low for customers, the District had lagged in needed spending to upgrade its electric system to maintain reliability, the business systems needed to meet changing customer expectations for services, and the human capital investments needed to create a modern, efficient and effective public utility. We've made many strides in updating infrastructure, safety, technical and professional development training for staff, and the updating and modernizing of customer facing systems. We are now very well positioned to succeed in these areas. The work isn't done but we're much better off today.

The stated philosophy of the District says it best:

"We value our public power traditions, while seeking new and better ways to preserve the benefits of that heritage. We believe that with innovation, teamwork and commitment, we can compete effectively in a changing environment."

I am very proud of this organization and its staff. We've received the highest Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) score and rating in the District's history from the American Public Power Association (APPA). Our safety records are the best they have ever been, and our audit results (financial and otherwise) are exemplary. It is my pleasure to share this with you as it is all accomplished on your behalf. This team is committed to you!

As of this writing, the Board of Directors, senior leadership, staff and I are hard at work on the next iteration of the District's Strategic Plan. More on that in future writings.

Roger Kline

General Manager



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Nespelem, WA 99155
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Fax: (509) 634-8138
email: nvec@nvec.org
website: www.nvec.org

For after-hours emergencies,
call 634-4571 to page
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District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

What is Grid Resiliency?

Grid resiliency is a topic often talked about in the electric industry. It made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid and resulted in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history.

Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid.

Here in Washington, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things. It is reliability in your electric service. It is our ability to efficiently restore your power. It is being able to meet the demands of new technology. It is how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our consumer-members.

Having a resilient electric grid begins with a system designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages.

A resilient grid is flexible and adaptable, allowing different types of generation to seamlessly work together to provide safe and reliable power.

The way our systems react to advancements in technology—from demand-response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles—factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year task. Whether it is the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly.

The lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid was not caused solely by hurricane damage. It was the result of years of neglect in taking care of the system and failure to prepare for a worst-case scenario.

Similar to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, the electric grid also must be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections.

Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes a problem. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage, we replace that pole.

Regardless of the season or the threat, we are confident our system will recover with as little disruption as possible.

Resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, toughness."

When it comes to providing our consumer-members with resilient service, this is what we work toward, day in and day out.



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

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(800) 872-9036**

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**1900 W Oak St.
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TREASURER/CFO

www.cpi.coop

**CPI's Annual
Meeting
is September 15**

OR-6

President's Report

Annual Meeting

It's annual meeting time again! This year's event is Saturday, September 15 at the CPI headquarters. It provides an opportunity for you to elect your board of directors, hear what took place during 2018 and get a preview of what the future holds for our industry.

This year, we are fortunate to hear from Ted Case, executive director of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Ted will discuss his new book, "Poles, Wires and War: The Remarkable Untold Story of Rural Electrification and the Vietnam War." Come hear his insight into this fascinating time in our country's history.

Each year, CPI selects one of our high school students to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Washington, D.C., Youth Tour. This year's event set a new participation record with more than 1,800 students. Come hear this year's CPI participant, Isabella Ayala, tell about this magnificent experience in our nation's capital.

Local business partners will be here to tell you about the products and services they provide. We will also have bucket truck rides and

a live electric safety demonstration.

Enjoy the free lunch, door prizes, attendance gifts and the business meeting. See pages 4, 5, 28 and 29 for details.

We look forward to seeing you Saturday, September 15.

Beware of Scammers

Scammers don't take the summer off, so CPI members should not let their guard down. Recently, thieves posing as Consumer Power representatives called members threatening to disconnect electric service unless they made immediate payment using a Green Dot pre-paid debit card or money transfer service.

Be aware, scammers often use caller ID spoofing software to misrepresent the source of a phone call. Consumers Power does not operate in this manner.

If you receive a suspicious call, hang up immediately and contact the Oregon Department of Justice Consumer Protection Department at (877) 877-9392.

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

Community Solar Enrollment Begins August 6

Dear Members,

An exciting opportunity is available to you this month. I'd like to personally invite you to participate in Benton REA's first community solar project!

Co-op Solar is a 30.12 kW solar array that will be funded by Benton REA members and built on Van Giesen Street across from Benton REA's West Richland office, but only if it is fully subscribed from Benton REA members by October 5, 2018.

Enrollment begins Monday, August 6, 2018, for 550 solar units. Each membership may subscribe up to 55 units at \$200 each. Members who enroll will receive a credit on their monthly Benton REA bill for the energy produced from their solar units. In addition, Washington state will pay \$0.16/kWh produced for the first 8 years of the project or up to 50% of the member's investment.

We estimate that the project will pay back your investment in less than 15 years. But more importantly, it will bring more renewable, carbon-free solar energy to our local neighborhoods.

About 85% of your electricity already comes from renewable resources, such as the Columbia and Snake River dams. Adding local solar power to your already mostly-renewable energy mix certainly helps our planet. It is a great way to look out for future generations, invest in new technology and work together as co-op members.

Benton REA will take care of the construction and maintenance of the project while you soak up the sun!

Many members are a part of Benton REA's residential solar program, but rooftop solar doesn't work for everyone. Now almost every member who wants to participate in solar energy can do so, regardless of whether they own or rent their home. Some Benton REA accounts won't be eligible to participate in the Co-op Solar program, such as seasonal accounts that don't receive a monthly bill or those who already participate in the Benton REA residential solar program.

The future is bright for Benton REA members! See pages 28-29 of this magazine, or visit BentonREA.org/co-op-solar, to learn how to enroll in Co-op Solar starting on August 6.

Sincerely,

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



Offices

Hermiston Office

750 W. Elm Ave.
541 567-6414

Boardman Office

400 N.E. Eldridge 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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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

More Spill Undermines Carbon-Free Hydro

A few words this month about the additional river spill this spring ordered by a federal judge in response to litigation pursued by anti-hydropower groups and the state of Oregon. This misguided action disproportionately affects Eastern Oregon ratepayers, threatens our region's greatest carbon-free hydropower asset, and may cause more harm to fish.

Water spilled over the dams, ostensibly to help young salmon reach the ocean more quickly, cannot be used to produce electricity. This action increases the costs to our wholesale power supplier, the Bonneville Power Administration—which passes along those costs to UEC and the other utilities. Rather than passing on these spill-related fees to our members, UEC has elected to absorb the \$200,000 required for cost recovery. Unfortunately, UEC's ability to continue absorbing these costs year-to-year is unsustainable. As long as BPA's hydropower system operations remain uncertain due to litigation pursued by the state of Oregon and dam removal advocates, UEC and its members will be faced with endless rate uncertainty.

To add insult to injury, the increased court-ordered spill has negative environmental impacts because of the obligation to replace lost hydropower generation with dirtier, greater-emitting energy resources. In fact, according to BPA, CO2 emissions associated with increased spring spill is over one million metric tons of CO2 equivalent. From an environmental stewardship perspective, this spill policy seems counterproductive.

Finally, UEC supports solutions that balance the dual priorities of environmental stewardship and a universal desire for economic growth and prosperity. That is why

our members have supported salmon recovery through the payment of our wholesale and retail energy bills. About one-third of our wholesale power costs go to salmon restoration activities that are yielding higher survival rates, including in the Umatilla Basin. More than \$15 billion has been collected and spent in the past four decades in the Northwest. As part of this successful recovery effort, federal dams already spill 30 to 40 percent of the river during spring migration.

It is frustrating that this significant investment in salmon restoration is being eroded by the state of Oregon and advocacy groups with a dam removal agenda.

In fact, concerns have been expressed about this additional spill on young fish, which can die from saturation of nitrogen gas in the river; and on how the churning water can prevent returning adult salmon from climbing fish ladders to reach their home rivers; and on the potential effects on river transportation, navigation and irrigation.

More spill, when it harms fish and the environment, undermines the billions of dollars our communities have invested to improve salmon recovery and reduce carbon emissions. Over the years those dollars, combined with the science and engineering expertise and collaboration of federal agencies, states and Northwest tribes, have created a comprehensive salmon recovery plan with proven results—which does not advocate for additional spill. The state of Oregon should follow that lead, and develop a coordinated policy on salmon recovery and carbon emissions.



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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Frank Roeder	Maupin Foreman

Mission Statement

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

OR-9

Manager's Message

Thank You!

Wasco Electric Cooperative would like to thank the utilities, contractors and suppliers who helped assist during the July fire that affected our distribution system in both Wasco and Sherman counties.

Crews worked for several days throughout the Wrentham Market, Tygh Ridge and Fifteen Mile areas, where they had to replace several miles of distribution line to those members. Power was restored the evening of Saturday, July 20.

Repairs will be an ongoing process. Our operations department will continue to assess the damage and replace damaged poles, wires and meters as needed.

We greatly appreciate the patience and understanding of our members and community as we work safely and diligently to repair our system.



2018 Annual Meeting

Although November is several months away, preparations for Wasco Electric Cooperative's 79th annual meeting are underway. The meeting is Saturday, November 17, at the Fort Dalles Readiness Center, 402 E. Scenic Drive, The Dalles.

During the meeting, members will vote on three director positions that are expiring—one from each of the three districts.

At its August meeting, the board of directors will appoint the member committee that nominates candidates to run for those positions. This committee will meet in early September.

If you are a member willing to serve on the board of directors, please let us know. We will give your name to the nominating committee members for consideration. See page 8 of this issue for more information.

Current directors whose terms are expiring and will seek re-election this year are Bob Hammel, District 1, serving on the board since 2005; Gary Carlson, District 2, serving on the board since 2015; and Mike Collins, District 3, serving on the board since 2006 and current president.

As always, if you have any questions about your cooperative, please feel free to call or stop by the office.

Jeff Davis, General Manager

Owned By Those We Serve

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

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David Western

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Todd Sherwood

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Todd C. Munsey

System Engineer

Jess Dory, PE

Mission Statement

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



OR-10

No Rate Increase in 2018 Despite Increased Costs Related to Mandatory Spill from BPA

Dear Member,

I didn't think you would mind if I lead with a positive headline. The cost of power from both Bonneville Power Administration and the open market remains very favorable, and we continue to tighten our belts on the operations side. Consequently, we won't be looking at a rate increase this fall.

You will recall that last fall we increased the base charge to \$23 while decreasing the kilowatt-hour rate to 8.23¢. Remember, the base charge is not unlike the base charges you may be paying for cable, satellite television, telephone service, water or internet every month. There is a cost associated with providing and maintaining equipment and service to your home. It is designed to cover those fixed costs that we incur on a regular basis, such as personnel, poles, transformers, wires, equipment and basically everything necessary to deliver electricity to your home. Usage, particularly weather-related, is somewhat unpredictable, and therefore unreliable when it comes to providing a steady revenue source to cover those fixed costs.

With the base charge, we try to achieve fairness between our members who use a little energy and those who use a lot. The best part is that you are a member of a not-for-profit cooperative. You own this business and your elected board members make these decisions looking out for you.

In late 2019, a rate case is possible. With BPA struggling with increased expenses for operations and environment costs, we may be looking at an increase in the cost of power. We will be well out in front of this, communicating with you through this magazine, our website and the annual meeting. In the meantime, your rates will remain stable, and among the best in the country.

As always, if you have any questions or would like a better understanding of the rate process and determination, please don't hesitate to call.

Best Regards,

James K. Brooks
General Manager



Columbia Power Co-op



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Toll free (888) 203-7638**

DIRECTORS

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

MANAGER

Troy Cox

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

POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

OR-11

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness may not always be on our minds, but it should be. Your electric cooperative cannot guarantee an uninterrupted supply of electricity.

What steps can you take to be prepared in case of a power outage? Outages that are four hours or fewer are inconvenient, but usually don't present a real emergency. As the outage extends to eight hours and beyond, preparedness is more important.

Those of you who rely on water from wells serviced by electric pumps should consider alternatives for accessing water during power outages. Some members have a hand pump they have either attached or can attach to their well to pump water in the absence of electricity. Some form of water storage is another consideration. A generator fueled by propane, gasoline or diesel connected directly to your well or your home or business can provide the electricity needed to run an electric well pump in the event of an outage. Please remember to use only properly installed generators, otherwise they could be dangerous to you or our linemen working to restore electricity.

Many of you rely on electricity for lighting, heat, hot water and cooking. Consider alternatives for each of these in the event electric service is disrupted for an extended time. Again, a generator can provide a backup to electricity for each of these uses.

There are less expensive steps you can take to be prepared. Candles, flashlights and battery-operated lights may be useful. Approved lanterns for indoor use are another option. A wood or propane stove is a good choice to heat water or cook, and keep your living space comfortable.

Home food storage is important during an extended outage. If they are able to conduct business, grocery stores could have their shelves emptied within hours.

Sit down with your family and consider how to prepare for an extended power outage. Once you have a plan, you can begin taking those steps.

Reliable electricity is part of our mission at Columbia Power Cooperative, and we will continue do everything within our control to provide it.



Troy Cox
General Manager

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

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**Director of Member
and Public Relations**
Jeff Beaman

**Director of Customer
and Energy Services**
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

President's Report

BPA Offsets Most Experimental Columbia River Spill Costs; Full Costs Likely to Hit Consumers Later

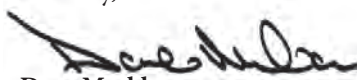
The final financial impact of increasing the amount of water spilled past Columbia River hydroelectric dams this spring and summer is \$38.6 million, slightly less than the Bonneville Power Administration's projected cost of \$40 million. Because BPA reduced programs in other areas to buffer its Northwest utility customers from the full rate impact, the agency announced in June the spill-related surcharge was reduced by \$28.4 million to \$10.2 million. BPA's actions combined with austerity steps taken by Central Electric Cooperative will enable CEC to avoid adding the spill costs to members' bills.

Based on BPA's early \$40 million projection, made before the court-ordered program began in April, we estimated the surcharge would cost Central Electric nearly \$500,000. With the dramatic reduction in near-term spill costs, CEC's actual costs will be \$150,684. This significantly lower total made it possible for CEC to cover these costs with existing revenues.

The spill increases costs by reducing the amount of water passing through the hydro plants' turbines to leave more water in the river to help salmon migrate downstream. BPA must buy electricity from the regional market to replace the lost power production. While I am pleased with the work done by BPA to reduce the financial impacts of this program, which we fought in both the courts and the U.S. Congress, the costs will eventually make their way into BPA's rates.

The largest spending cuts came from BPA's fish and wildlife protection programs. About a third of our wholesale power costs are dedicated to these programs, something all CEC members pay into through our rates. Now there will be a little less done in this area during the current BPA rate period. It could be argued we are paying for something we're not getting, and BPA may need to play some catch-up with its fish and wildlife program activities. If this is the case, BPA may have robbed Peter to pay Paul. I believe all of us agree that rarely works out without some pain in the end.

Sincerely,



Dave Markham
President and CEO





Board of Directors

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Vice President

Georgia A. Cockerham, Brookings/Harbor

Secretary/ Treasurer

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Attorney—Tyler Pepple

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Roger Meader

Corporate Services/CFO

Frank Corrales

Engineering Manager

Matt Mjelde

Marketing and Member

Services Manager

Jacob Knudsen

Operations Manager

Randy McDonald

Local numbers

Coquille (541) 396-3118

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

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

Brookings (541) 469-2103

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

Monday through Thursday.

Closed Friday.

After-Hours Outage Number

(866) 352-9044

Call Before You Dig

811

www.ccec.coop

OR-13

Special Message

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

Savings, Right at Your Fingertips

We all want to save money and get the best deal. That is why Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative offers the Co-op Connections Card Program. This program has saved CCEC members more than \$2.8 million since its inception in 2007 by offering local restaurant, travel and prescription discounts and much more.

Co-op Connections is a member benefit program that allows CCEC access to thousands of deals. It would not be possible without being part of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. We are proud to give you the opportunity to save through your cooperative membership. We're taking the next step and going beyond the card with the new and improved program.

Savings now go beyond the card and are always within reach through the new mobile app, which is available in Google Play and Apple stores. You will never miss out on savings again. Simply download the Co-op Connections app to your phone and create an account to have access to thousands of deals instantly.

Even the card's website has a revamped look and improved search functionality. Simply visit www.connections.coop to browse through offers, Healthy Savings discounts and exclusive pricing for movie tickets, sporting events, concerts and shows.

You can now keep track of the money you are saving through your account on the website or through the app. Simply go to "My Account" and click on "Savings" to see how much money Co-op Connections has put back in your pocket.

These updates are a way to maximize member benefits by going beyond the card. The app allows members to use a GPS deal finder, track your savings, save your favorite deals and much more.

Remember to use Co-op Connections while traveling. Receive hotel discounts and change your zip code in the app while on the road to see what deals are at your destination. Traveling is expensive, and this program allows you to save on the go.

Saving money is important, and we are proud to offer such an outstanding program to our members. For more information regarding the program or to become a participating business, visit www.ccec.coop/content/co-op-connections-card or contact (541) 332-3931. Visit www.connections.coop and create an account or login for an up-to-date listing of local and national deals.

Roger Meader

General Manager and CEO



West Oregon Electric Co-op

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

652 Rose Ave.

P.O. Box 69

Vernonia, OR 97064

(503) 429-3021

Toll free (800) 777-1276

www.westoregon.org

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(Dist. 2 – Mist, Apiary, Birkenfeld)

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(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

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness may not always be on our minds, but it should be. Your electric cooperative cannot guarantee uninterrupted electricity supply.

What steps can you take to be prepared in case of a power outage? Outages that are four hours or fewer are inconvenient, but usually don't present a real emergency. As the outage extends to eight hours and beyond, preparedness is more important.

Those of you who rely on water from wells serviced by electric pumps should consider alternatives for accessing water during power outages. Some members have a hand pump they have either attached or can attach to their well to pump water in the absence of electricity. Some form of water storage is another consideration. A generator fueled by propane, gasoline or diesel connected directly to your well or your home or business can provide the electricity needed to run an electric well pump in the event of an outage. Please remember to use only properly installed generators, otherwise they could be dangerous to you or our linemen working to restore electricity.

Many of you rely on electricity for lighting, heat, hot water and cooking. Consider alternatives for each of these in the event electric service is disrupted for an extended time. Again, a generator can provide a backup to electricity for each of these uses.

There are less expensive steps you can take to be prepared. Candles, flashlights and battery-operated lights may be useful. Approved lanterns for indoor use are another option. A wood or propane stove is a good choice to heat water or cook, and keep your living space comfortable.

Home food storage is important during an extended outage. If they are able to conduct business, grocery stores could have their shelves emptied within hours.

Sit down with your family and consider how to prepare for an extended power outage. Once you have a plan, you can begin taking those steps.

Reliable electricity is part of our mission at West Oregon Electric Cooperative, and we will continue do everything within our control to provide it.



Bob Perry
General Manager



Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

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

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

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

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Lookout

Dennis Flynn, Vice President
Valley Falls

Raymond Cloud, Secretary/Treasurer
New Pine Creek

Wesley Cook
Cedarville

Scott Warner
Lakeview

John Erquiaga
Lake City

Kyle Weber
Alturas

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

"Owned by those we serve"

This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer

CA-15

SVE 2019 Calendar Photo Contest

Share Your Best Shots

You love where you live. Send us your pictures to prove it. Surprise Valley Electric is looking for scenic landscapes and local wildlife pictures showcasing landmarks and the beauty of the communities Surprise Valley Electric serves. Seasonal pictures are ideal.

Pick shots carefully. Each person may submit no more than three photos. Selected pictures will be featured in our 2019 calendar.

Entries must include:

- Photographer's name and address.
- A short description of the photo.
- SVE account number.
- An email address and telephone number where the photographer can be contacted.

The contest is only open to members of Surprise Valley Electric. Submissions will be accepted until August 20, 2018.

Contest Rules

- Eligibility: Photographers must be a member—or member's immediate family—of Surprise Valley Electric

to enter. Surprise Valley Electric employees and their immediate family are not eligible.

- Limit: Three entries per person.
- Location: Pictures must have been taken in Modoc and Lassen counties, California; Lake County, Oregon; and Washoe County, Nevada.
- File type: JPEG digital images.
- File size: Minimum 300 pixels per inch at 11x9 inches; maximum 15 megabytes.
- Format: Horizontal orientation only.
- Ownership: Image must be an original work you own.
- Right-to-use: Surprise Valley Electric reserves the right to use the winning photographs in future publications promoting the contest, on our website and on our social media channels.
- Deadline: August 20, 2018.

Ready to Get Your Shot?

Submissions should be sent to lynnsvec@frontier.com along with supporting information. ■

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be available in languages other than English. ■

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Knudsen Obermeyer, President, Oakridge District

J. Ingrid Kessler, Vice President, Central District

Kathy Keable, Secretary, McKenzie District

Hugh Buermann, Treasurer, Row River District

Jack Billings, Central District

Jerry Shorey, Oakridge District

Chris Seubert, Central District

GENERAL MANAGER

Matt Michel

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Tony Toncray, Engineering & Operations Director

Debi Wilson, Finance & Administration Director

BOARD MEETINGS

4th Monday of each month

Lane Electric's office, 787 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene
Meetings begin at 9 a.m.

(Unless otherwise noted on LEC website)

In This Issue

Feature	Page
Celebrating "Animal House"	4
Beat the Heat	8
Going the Extra Mile	25
Columbia River Treaty Update	28
Down the Line	32

OR-16

Down the Line



Dear Co-op Community Members:

Lane Electric Cooperative has been in business for nearly 80 years. You experience the "electric" part every day. How we go about the business of safely providing you reliable electricity is the "cooperative" part.

What does it mean to be a cooperative business?

A cooperative business generally forms to meet a local need. For-profit businesses only offer a service or good because it's profitable.

Sometimes, consumers must collaborate to acquire a good or service by creating a member-based cooperative. Lane Electric formed in 1939 to bring electricity to the upper McKenzie River and Veneta areas after no investor-owned utility would do so. It simply wasn't profitable enough, and it still isn't.

A cooperative business is nonprofit. When it comes to this tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code, a cooperative must receive 85 percent or more of its income from members. The sole purpose of that member income must be to meet annual losses and expenses. In other words, Lane Electric doesn't chase profits to grow the business. We grow the business for members to have affordable access to electricity in rural Lane County.

A cooperative business is democratically controlled. Periodic member meetings occur to elect directors to the board of directors on a one-member, one-vote basis. Sustaining democratic governance requires a good functioning relationship between the board of directors and the general manager. To maintain checks and balances on certain democratic functions, members sometimes participate in co-op committees. Lane Electric's Nominating Committee, and Elections & Credentials Committee are two examples of members ensuring our democratic processes serve the membership. Please contact me about participating on a member committee.

A cooperative business operates at cost. A cooperative cannot operate for a profit or below cost. There's a sweet spot between those two extremes called operating "at cost." At the end of the fiscal year, excess operating net revenues are allocated back to members according to the amount of electricity used by each member. As a cooperative member, every year you are credited an allocation of any excess net revenues—capital credits—to ensure the co-op hits that sweet spot.

Finally, a cooperative is a grassroots organization. It's not "the government." It's all of you, together. It's consumers collaborating to plan for and meet local needs. That sounds like simply being neighborly. A cooperative business takes being neighborly to the next level.

Matt

Matt Michel, General Manager



Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative

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

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

Board of Directors:

Ernie Jacksche

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

Curtis Short Vice Chairman

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

Cheryl Haskell,

(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

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The power of human connections

OR-17

Manager's Report

Dear Members,

After 18 months of planning and 18 months of construction, the Blachly-Lane headquarters addition and remodel are now complete. The final punch-list of minor details are being attended to, and employees are moving and settling back into their refreshed spaces. The improvements are extraordinary, adding functional space without changing the building's original footprint—with the exception of adding a ground-floor, ADA-accessible multipurpose room and additional warehouse space.



This journey began in the spring of 2015 with accessibility claims regarding our meeting room. One might say that event opened a can of worms. Making ADA improvements in one area legally requires further improvements throughout a building. To put an end to repetitive claims, our board of directors spent 18 months asking us to look at various ways to remedy the situation and then analyzed the findings for the best way to proceed.

Part of the discovery process revealed our leaking roof was far out of compliance with building codes, our hollow block walls had barely any reinforcement and would not be safe in a seismic event of any significance, and multiple areas of deferred maintenance would be expensive to repair correctly. The board decided on a solution that solved multiple problems at the most moderate cost.

If you are going to tear up a building to make necessary improvements, it only makes sense to plan to put it back together in a way that brings greater efficiency to the modern version of the work we do. We were able to add additional workstations to accommodate the more technologically based functions of our employees—functions that didn't exist when the original building was built in 1964. Our outside crews had functioned for decades with inferior warehousing, which we were able to re-engineer. Our employees and visiting members can safely evacuate in a seismic event, and the multipurpose room can function as an operations center in that case.

We also were able to "walk the talk" of energy efficiency by adding insulation, higher R-value windows, an energy-efficient HVAC system and full LED lighting. If we ask our members to do those things, so should the co-op.

That May 2015 event caused actions that wouldn't have been taken otherwise, but ended with this investment and bringing value back to your co-op. We look forward to showing the space to you on October 10, our traditional member appreciation day. Please look here for additional information in the months to come, and plan to come see your newly remodeled electric cooperative headquarters.

Joe Jarvis
General Manager



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Vice President

Douglas B. Miller
Secretary

.....
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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

Your KPUD Update

I'd like to update you on various happenings at Klickitat PUD. First and foremost, I am sincerely thankful for all the outreach to our employee who was hurt this past week. He is back at work, and we are excited about how well he is recovering. We might have only 10,000 residential customers at the PUD, but our posts reached more than 6,000 people that week. The support shown for him was extraordinary.

Our renewable natural gas facility is coming along nicely. We are working on the final issues on the mechanical construction contract. The electrical contractor is on site. As reported last month, the electrical generation facility is shut down and our staff there is preparing for commissioning, training and startup of the new facility. We still plan to start up in August.

We are hard at work completing items necessary to upgrade our accounting and customer billing systems by winter. Much of the work happens before switching to new systems. The data cleanup work and necessary process reviews and adjustments are being worked on now.

The most notable part of the system that will be apparent to our customers is an updated utility bill. The new bill should be easier to read, and it should provide more information about your electric and water use each month.

We are also completing many large electric system improvement projects. One of the projects is at the Bingen Substation, which serves Bingen, White Salmon and Snowden. Another is a new high-voltage interconnection to the Bonneville Power Administration's transmission system south of Goldendale. The purpose of this project is to provide more secure service to much of our county.

In addition, we are building a new transmission line and substation west of Alderdale. This addition will provide much-needed increased capacity on the east end of our county.

We have completed work on a new well for the Wishram water system. Work also is progressing on a new well for the Lyle water system. These new sources will provide capacity for growth in each of these communities.

Lastly, I am satisfied with work our KPUD employees are doing to revise our safety standards and processes. Staff has been engaged and is improving the systems and work we have had in place for years. I look forward to continued growth through these committees. Given the recent incident, it brings home how important it is to have processes and plans in place to ensure our employees get home safely every day.

Thank you all for your continued support for your Klickitat PUD employees and the services they provide.

Jim Smith
General Manager



NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.

The power of local service

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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

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

Outside Sandpoint:
(800) 326-9594

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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

NLI Launches Redesigned Website

I hope you are all enjoying the summer as much as I have been. Summer is my favorite time of the year. It comes and goes all too quickly! I remind myself often to slow down, take it all in and enjoy it while it lasts.

I am excited to share with you the launch of our newly redesigned website. We updated the site with our members in mind, streamlining menus, simplifying content and navigation, and building a responsive layout for all of your devices. I invite you to visit www.nli.coop and explore the updated site.

When you visit the site, you will find a lot of information available at your fingertips. You can access your account, learn about your board of directors, research current rebates and much more. By accessing your account online, you can pay your bill, view your energy use history and update your contact information. The website will work on computers, tablets and your internet-enabled cellphone.



New Outage Texting System

Along with a new and improved website, members also have the option to text in their outages. To get started, simply text “NLI” to our outage line, (866) 665-4837, at any time. The system will recognize your phone number and officially opt you into the texting program. When you experience an outage, just text “OUT” to that same number and your outage will be logged. You can then text “STATUS” at any time during an outage for an update. When your outage has been restored, our system will send you a text stating the power is now on.

For the outage texting system to work, your cellphone number must be on your account. If it is not, you will be prompted when trying to sign-up to call our office to get it added. If you need to update your account information, please call at (208) 263-5141 during regular business hours.

As always, you can still call your outages in.

Enjoy the sun!

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

How Capital Credits Work

I'd like to talk about capital credits, including the general retirement some members will see as a credit on their August bill if they were a member in 1983 and 1984, and the discounted early capital credit program all members should have received in the last week or two.

Most of you know that when you signed up to receive electric service from Idaho County Light & Power, you became a member of an electric cooperative. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their shareholders, electric co-ops operate on a nonprofit basis.

Instead of returning leftover funds—also known as margins—to investors who might not live in the same region or even the same state as you do, ICL&P allocates and periodically retires capital credits based on how much electricity you purchased during the years slated for retirement.

ICL&P's board of directors recently voted to retire \$150,000 in capital credits to members who received service in 1983 and 1984. That may seem like a long time ago, but those funds helped us build, maintain and expand a reliable electric distribution system and covered emergency expenses. Since most of ICL&P's assets are fully depreciated in 30 to 35 years, this practice ensures margins generated in excess of 30 to 35 years ago are returned to members who paid into the cooperative at that time. This ensures everyone participates in the costs to run the cooperative. To date, more than \$2.9 million has been returned to the membership.

On August 1, members will receive a bill credit if they were a member in 1983 and/or 1984. Those who are not still members will have a check sent to their last known address. Please remember you can find members from the past who did not cash their checks on our website or on the Idaho unclaimed property website.

The discounted early capital credit program paperwork you received in late July gives members who don't want to wait 30 to 35 years the opportunity to receive their 2017 capital credits today at the net present value. The choice is up to you, which is why I believe the program is a good option. Last year, nearly 16 percent of the membership elected to take their capital credits early. Members who elect to participate will receive a credit on their December bill.

Thanks for listening,
Max Beach



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
Neil Carpenter, Secretary/Treasurer
Patrick Dennis, Director
Jay DeWitt, Director
Doug Logan, Director
Dennis Munden, Director
Vic Parks, Director
Glen Shipley, 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, Scott Peters
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

New Beginnings

All cooperatives are special, but I believe Columbia REA is a step above most. And I am honored and excited to be the eighth CEO in 80 years to lead this wonderful team of people who provide electricity to you, our member. Part of what makes our cooperative stand out among the rest is our mission statement:

Columbia REA is dedicated to providing reliable, innovative, environmentally sound and cost-effective utility services and support to its membership. Additionally, the cooperative is supportive of educational, governmental, charitable and social activities that are deemed to be beneficial to the communities that it serves.



Your Board of Directors, who are elected by you, reaffirmed this mission statement in 2017, and I believe it put a nice bow on so many things that our team does every day to ensure we are providing the best and most reliable electric and internet services to you.

Columbia REA is a well-run cooperative and I don't anticipate significant changes during this management transition. Moving forward, the future is full of opportunities and challenges, and I assure you that we here at your cooperative will always keep your best interests at heart as we address these.

During my first 10 years here at Columbia REA, I always focused on providing exceptional service and communication; as CEO, my focus will not change. Internally, we will make sure communication occurs from the top down and from the bottom up. Externally, your feedback matters. We strongly encourage you to share your voice, whether it's with me, our staff in the field, those working in the office, or your board members. Your voice provides valuable feedback to Columbia REA, and with that we will be able to do a better job of serving your electric and internet needs in a timely manner.

Again, I can't tell you how excited I am to be a part of the communities we serve and to work with the extraordinary Columbia REA team. I will always be available to answer questions or discuss issues, so call, come by the office, or send me an email. I look forward to hearing from you.

Scott Peters
(509) 526-4041
speters@columbiarea.coop



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

Departments

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

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Leland Smith, Sunriver

Vice President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Secretary/Treasurer

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Vic Russell, Fall River

Robert Reed, La Pine

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

Bud Kendall, La Pine

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

STAFF

General Manager

Dave Schneider

Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Bartunek

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

What do 1,800 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The answer is the Washington, D.C., Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

The Youth Tour got its inspiration from Lyndon B. Johnson when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting in Chicago in 1957. The future president declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending teens living in rural cooperative service areas to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

It has been more than 60 years since those words were uttered, and the Youth Tour has never been stronger.

Each June, electric cooperatives across the country send students to D.C. to learn about the cooperative business model and enjoy a week of sightseeing.

The week is interspersed with visits to many monuments and historical sites, including Capitol Hill. Youth Tour activities enable students to meet a broad spectrum of cooperative kids and make lifelong friends.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Student delegates engage in leadership training, returning home with a deeper understanding and skill set of what it takes to be a leader. They have a chance to meet with elected officials and discuss issues that are important back home in their state and hometown communities. The chaperones are always impressed with the questions the students ask, and the interactions between legislators and students.

Youth Tour concludes in an evening featuring national co-op partner organizations from the financial and insurance sectors and NRECA International, an organization that brings electricity to rural areas in developing countries. The evening centers on challenging and inspiring teens to make an impact in their communities.

The selection process for Youth Tour participants is up to each cooperative. Midstate Electric holds an annual contest for high school sophomores and juniors in our service area to see who will represent us. Students can submit an essay or video, and must complete an application. A panel of judges evaluates each essay/video, and students are chosen to come in for personal interviews.

The judges look not only for applicants' knowledge of rural electrification and the co-op but, most importantly, they want to learn about each student's interests and ambitions and why they should represent MEC.

This year, MEC awarded the trip to Kerrilee McMahan from Gilchrist High School. Upon her return, Kerrilee said, "Being able to attend the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour was an amazing experience, and I so appreciate the opportunity. I learned so much about the history of this great nation. I encourage other students to take a chance to broaden their horizons with this amazing opportunity."

In November, we will begin the recruiting process to select a student to attend Youth Tour 2019. For more information, call (541) 536-2126 option 5.

Dave Schneider
General Manager



www.rrelectric.com

DIRECTORS

President Gary Jones
Vice President Dennis Poulsen
Secretary-Treasurer Larry Henson
Lindsey Manning
Krinn McCoy
Stan Spencer
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

What is Grid Resiliency?

Grid resiliency is a topic often talked about in the electric industry. It made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid and resulted in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history.

Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid.

Here in Idaho, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things. It is reliability in your electric service. It is our ability to efficiently restore your power. It is being able to meet the demands of new technology. It is how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our consumer-members.

Having a resilient electric grid begins with a system designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages.

A resilient grid is flexible and adaptable, allowing different types of generation to seamlessly work together to provide safe and reliable power.

The way our systems react to advancements in technology—from demand-response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles—factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year task. Whether it is the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly.

The lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid was not caused solely by hurricane damage. It was the result of years of neglect in taking care of the system and failure to prepare for a worst-case scenario.

Similar to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, the electric grid also must be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections.

Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes a problem. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage, we replace that pole.

Regardless of the season or the threat, we are confident our system will recover with as little disruption as possible.

Resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, toughness."

When it comes to providing our consumer-members with resilient service, this is what we work toward, day in and day out.



BIG BEND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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

Ritzville office 659-1700

Toll free (866) 844-2363

Pay by phone (844) 255-3682

For after-hours emergencies

(866) 844-2363

www.bbec.org

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Dennis Swinger Sr.
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO
Yvette Armstrong

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf

WA-25

RiverFest 2018 Our Rivers, Our Way of Life

Saturday, Sept 8, 2018
Columbia Park, Lampson Pits | Kennewick, WA | 11am-3pm

**CELEBRATE OUR RIVERS • LEARN WHY DAMS ARE IMPORTANT
EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS • HEAR FROM YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS
TOUR A TUGBOAT • HANDS ON LEARNING EXPERIENCES
ENTERTAINMENT • FOOD VENDORS
FUN & FREE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

#DamProud
#RiverFest2018TC

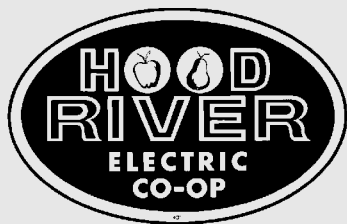
Aerial vineyard photo by Kim Fetrow
All other photos courtesy of Visit Tri-Cities

SPONSORS: PUD, BENTON PUD, Port of Whitman County, WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION, PORT OF PASCO, Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association, PORT OF BENTON, Water Alliance, BNSF RAILWAY, Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Columbia REA, Big Bend Electric Cooperative, Inc., MODERN ELECTRIC WATER COMPANY, Benton Conservation District, ENERGY NORTHWEST, Inland Power, Gesa Credit Union, 610 KONA, PORT OF MOSSEL LAKE, Lamb Weston, IDAHO WHEAT, PORT KATAMATI, TRIDEC, NBC Right Now KNDU 23, TIDEWATER, PORT OF MOSSEL LAKE.

Bonneville Power Administration • Public Power Council • Pacific NW Waterway Association • NW River Partners
Association of Washington Business • Pasco Chamber of Commerce • Tri-City Regional Chamber • Visit Tri-Cities
Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber • Benton-Franklin Council of Governments • City of Richland

Big Bend Electric Cooperative is proud to be a premier sponsor at this year's RiverFest. Please join us Saturday, September 8, at Columbia Park in Kennewick to celebrate our area rivers and learn how dams along the Columbia and Snake rivers play a vital role in providing electricity to our region. The event is free and open to the public. ■

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
Doug Mahurin
John McGhee
Opal DeBoard
Dick Sohler
Jeff Osborn

GENERAL MANAGER

Libby Calnon

Serving rural
Hood River County
since 1945

OR-26

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

HREC's Performance Ranks High

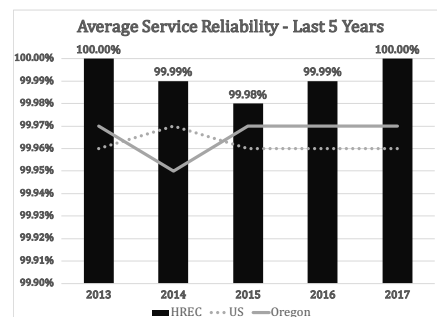
Last month, we received a report showing how our 2017 performance in serving members compared with 813 other cooperatives nationwide. Hood River Electric Cooperative's rankings were exemplary once again.



Our Prices are Affordable and Stable

HREC's average residential electric rate ranked the 13th lowest of the 813 co-ops in the comparison, and the lowest in Oregon. By keeping electricity prices affordable and stable, we help you keep your monthly household budget more manageable.

To keep our costs down, we're always looking for ways to run HREC efficiently. Our largest single expense is the wholesale power we receive from the Bonneville Power Administration. Together with other community-owned utilities in the region, we advocate for BPA to keep those costs affordable.



Our Service is Reliable

Another measure in which we scored well is providing reliable service. Our linemen work year-round to maintain the network of equipment that delivers electricity to your homes and businesses. In 2017, our service reliability ranked the highest in Oregon and the 35th highest across the nation.

We are Dedicated to Serving You

HREC's continued strong performance is no accident. It is the result of the consistent direction provided by your board of directors and the dedicated efforts of our staff.

In my first several weeks here, I have been impressed by the diligence and care our employees demonstrate in the work they do. Our goal is to ensure we can continue to exceed your expectations with the services we provide.

On behalf of all of us at HREC, thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

General Manager Libby Calnon

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 

.....
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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



Watch for Back-to-School Kids

Drivers should take precautions around schoolchildren.

On average, 26 children in the United States are killed every year while getting on or off a school bus, or while waiting at the bus stop. To avoid such tragedies, drivers are reminded to:

- Carefully back out of driveways. Watch for children walking to the bus stop.
- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street and playing or congregating near bus stops—especially in the early morning hours, when it may still be dark.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking.
- Obey the law. Yellow flashing lights on a bus mean motorists should slow down and prepare to stop. Red flashing lights mean motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn and the bus starts moving again. Unless there is a median, oncoming traffic also must stop.



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

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness may not always be on our minds, but it should be.

Your electric cooperative cannot guarantee uninterrupted electricity supply. This spring and summer reminds us of the vulnerabilities that exist in keeping electricity flowing to our member-owners. Some of you have experienced many electric power outages. In fact, more power outages have occurred than normal.

What steps can you take to be prepared in case of a power outage? Outages that are four hours or less are inconvenient, but usually don't present a real emergency. As the outage extends to eight hours and beyond, preparedness is more important.

Those of you who rely on water from wells serviced by electric pumps should consider alternatives for accessing water during power outages. Some members have a hand pump they have either attached or can attach to their well to pump water in the absence of electricity. Some form of water storage is another consideration. A generator fueled by propane, gasoline or diesel connected directly to your well or your home or business can provide the electricity needed to run an electric well pump in the event of an outage. Please remember to use only properly installed generators, otherwise they could be dangerous to you or our linemen working to restore electricity.

Many of you rely on electricity for lighting, heat, hot water and cooking. Consider alternatives for each of these in the event electric service is disrupted for an extended time. Again, a generator can provide a backup to electricity for each of these uses.

There are less expensive steps you can take to be prepared. Candles, flashlights and battery-operated lights may be useful. Approved lanterns for indoor use are another option. A wood or propane stove is a good choice to heat water or cook, and keep your living space comfortable.

Home food storage is important during an extended outage. If they are able to conduct business, grocery stores could have their shelves emptied within hours.

Sit down with your family and consider how to prepare for an extended power outage. Once you have a plan, you can begin taking those steps.

Reliable electricity is part of our mission at the cooperative, and we will continue to do everything within our control to provide it.



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
David Hruza

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

One of the Seven Cooperative Principles is Democratic Member Control. That means cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by the membership. The membership actively participates in setting policies and making decisions through elected representatives—your board of directors. The board of directors is elected from the membership. Each member of the cooperative has one vote.

Directors are fiduciaries—a person to whom power is entrusted for the benefit of others. The board of directors represents the interests of the entire membership by prudently directing and overseeing the business and affairs of the cooperative.

Whew, that is quite a responsibility.

The electric utility industry is an evolving high-tech system that must be designed and engineered to meet regulatory and consumer standards for reliability, quality and safety. In addition, there are myriad ever-changing, challenging industry issues such as power supply, regulatory requirements and environmental issues.

For directors to govern effectively in these challenging times, it is essential they have a solid understanding of what is happening in the industry. To fulfill their responsibilities, United Electric directors commit time to education and training. Directors attend training courses on topics such as director duties and liabilities, board governance and financial decision-making. They attend local, regional and national meetings to stay informed on the latest breaking issues.

United Electric directors attend a regular monthly board meeting. They spend time preparing for each board meeting by reviewing the agenda, reading pertinent documents, reviewing monthly financial statements, etc.

Serving as a director requires a commitment of intellect, time and the willingness to continuously learn.

The board directors are your representatives. Please feel free to reach out to them. They enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jo Elg
General Manager





Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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

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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

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Resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, toughness."

When it comes to providing our consumer-members with resilient service, this is what we work toward, day in and day out.



Board of Directors

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

August

CVEA Board Meeting: The August meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, August 16, 2018, in Glennallen

CVEA Member Tours: The Fall member tour will be held in Valdez Tuesday, August 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Registration required; contact Sharon Crisp at 907-822-5506, 907-835-7005, or email crisp@cvea.org for information

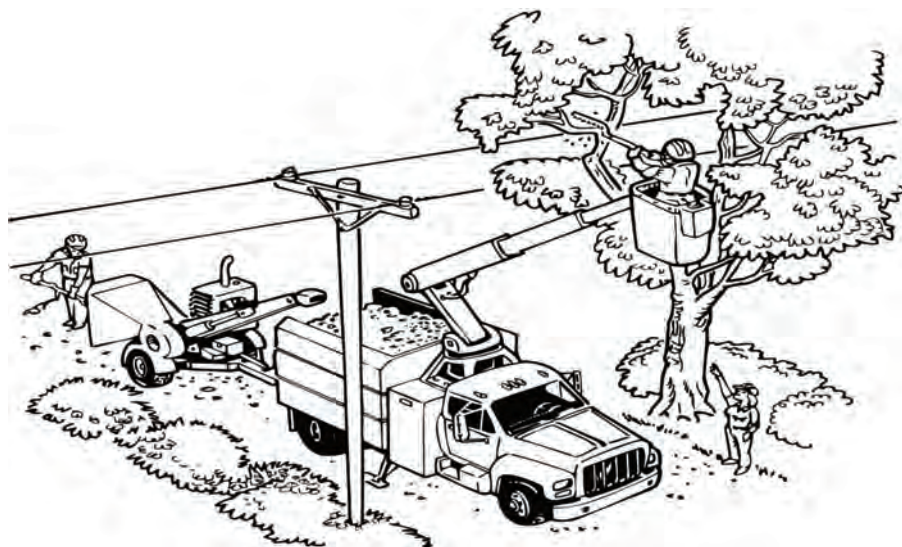
September

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, September 3, 2018, for Labor Day

CVEA Board Meeting: The September meeting of the Board of Directors is cancelled

AK-34

Right-Of-Way Clearing



Right-of-way clearing is an important part of Copper Valley Electric's goal of delivering safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service. Tree and brush clearing can help reduce the number and length of outages especially during severe weather conditions. If you have a tree that is within 10 feet of a power line, please call CVEA at 822-3211 or 835-4301 for removal. For additional information on right-of-way clearing or electrical safety, visit www.cvea.org.

Construction Season Will Soon Come to an End

As summer comes to an end, so does construction season. If you are planning new construction or a service upgrade before the end of the season, please contact CVEA at 822-3211 or 835-4301 as soon as possible.

Pay Your Bill and Manage Your Account Online Using Smarthub

Are you looking for convenient ways to make your life easier?

If so, log on to www.cvea.org. You can pay your CVEA monthly bill directly from your bank account or by using your debit card and Visa, Mastercard, or Discover card. You can also see your billing and payment history and track your monthly usage and cost as well as daily averages. This is a great way to manage your CVEA account. Just go to cvea.org and click the *Smarthub* button on the home page.



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

What Spill Means for Your PUD Bill

Dear Customers:

In April of this year, the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals affirmed an order for federal dam managers on the Columbia and Snake rivers to comply with Federal Judge Michael Simon's ruling from last year to increase spill over dam spillways in an effort to assist juvenile salmon with migration. This ruling reduces the amount of water circulated through the electrical generators that produce hydro-electricity at these dams. The federal mandate is in effect currently, and will be during the months of April through June until the year 2020.

You may be thinking, what does this decision mean, and how does it concern me? Tillamook PUD, like many Northwest utilities, buys power from the Bonneville Power Administration. With this new mandate in place, BPA must account for the loss of power generation and sales revenue due to the excess spill requirement. Tillamook PUD buys 98 percent of its power from BPA, so you, our customers, along with other consumer-owned utility ratepayers, now must endure the costs passed down from this court-ordered decision.

BPA officials initially estimated spill costs for 2018 at \$38.6 million. Upon hearing of this substantial figure, Tillamook PUD staff, in collaboration with other PUDs and regional partners, were able to work with BPA and encourage cost-saving measures to help reduce the overall cost. Through this combined effort, BPA was able to lower the total cost to \$10.2 million. More than a third of the cost for BPA power is used for fish and wildlife programs.

BPA has now divided this cost among their utility customers. The estimated

spill surcharge portion being passed on to Tillamook PUD is \$109,000, which is an unbudgeted expense. As such, Tillamook PUD staff and the board of directors have been and will continue to work diligently on utility cost savings measures to offset this unexpected expense and keep within the operating budget to avoid a rate increase this year. Currently, we do not anticipate a rate increase taking place this fiscal year, and as always, we will do our very best to monitor our budget and operations so we are able to postpone any rate increase for as long as possible.

As Oregonians, we have the pleasure of living in a place with many beautiful natural resources. We enjoy having access to these resources and having a clean water system so plants, fish and wildlife can thrive. Many of us support local and regional fish and wildlife efforts on a variety of levels. As customers of BPA, we continue to fund an average total cost of approximately \$614 million dollars per year for BPA's Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife program.

Scientific findings to support additional spill to increase the juvenile salmon population are mixed. Some studies suggest the additional gas created by the spill will reduce the juvenile population. Tillamook PUD's financial responsibility under this ruling is unknown. We will continue to monitor spill requirements, provide for contingencies in our annual budgets, and communicate the outcomes when they occur.

Todd Simmons, General Manager

For more information, visit the Bonneville Power Administration website at www.bpa.gov/Finance/RateCases/surcharge18. If you would like to become more involved, contact our local legislature at www.oregonlegislature.gov or call Tillamook PUD.



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Barrow, AK 99723
Phone: 852-6166
Fax: 852-6372
www.bueci.org

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Avaiyak Burnell
Richard Ungarook Sr.
Tina Wolgemuth

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36



Fourth of July Fanfare

Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative helped the community celebrate the Fourth of July this year by participating in the community parade with a decorated truck. We hope you enjoyed the festivities.



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)
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Corporate Headquarters

758 Illinois Street
 PO Box 71249
 Fairbanks, AK 99707-1249
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 (907) 452-1151
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
 Fax (907) 458-6365

Delta Junction Office

1681 Richardson Hwy.
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 (907) 452-1151
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
 Fax (907) 895-5472

Nenana Office

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

Report Outages:

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

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!



AK-37

Does GVEA Owe You Money?



GVEA is seeking members who have unclaimed capital credits for the years 1988 and earlier.

One of the advantages of being a member of a not-for-profit electric cooperative is you have a stake in the financial success of the co-op through Capital Credits.

Visit www.gvea.com/resources/capitalcredits to see if your name is on the list. If you are on this list, please submit a Capital Credit Contact Form by December 15, 2018.

Questions?

(907) 451-5625 or 800-770-4832
capitalcredits@gvea.com
www.gvea.com/resources/capitalcredits





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

Vice President

Fred Nelson, *Clio*
fnelson@psrec.coop

Secretary/Treasurer

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dhansen@psrec.coop

Dick Short, *Graeagle*
dshort@psrec.coop

Tom Hammond, *Herlong*
thammond@psrec.coop

Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



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

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

CA-39

Notice of Annual Meeting of the Members

To: Members of Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative

Notice is hereby given that the 2018 Regular Annual Meeting of the Membership of Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative will be Saturday, September 8, 2018, at 12:30 p.m. at the Portola office, 73233 State Route 70, 3 miles west of Portola, California, for the purpose of taking appropriate action on the following matters:

- Reports of officers and managers.
- Report of the Nominating Committee.
- Election of three directors.
- All other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

PSREC 2018 Annual Meeting Schedule of Events

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.—Registration. Registered members receive gifts while supplies last!
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.—Eastern Plumas Health Care Health Fair
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.—Kids' activities
10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.—Bingo
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.—Lunch is served! You must register for the meeting to receive meal tickets.
Noon—Presentation honoring photo contest and scholarship winners
12:20 p.m.—Kids' prize drawing
12:30 p.m.—Annual meeting starts. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

2018 Annual Meeting Agenda

- Quorum check
- Minutes from 2017
- Introduction of Credentials and Election Committee
- 2018 Nominating Committee report
- Nominations from the floor
- Introduction and speeches of nominees
- Vote for directors for Districts 1, 3, and 4
- New business
- Election results
- Adjournment
- Door prizes given away

Wells Rural Electric Company

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(775) 754-6362

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West Wendover,
Nevada 89883
(775) 664-2204

Wells office:

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

NV-41

CEO Message

Question 3 is weighing on me like no other issue I have ever confronted. In my entire career, I haven't had to deal with a threat to your supply of safe, reliable, clean, affordable electricity that comes anywhere close.



Proponents for Question 3 claim that retail competition will provide more choices and lower rates. One advertisement says, "If your power company raises your rate, break up with it."

Consumers in Texas are finding out that it isn't that simple. A headline in the Houston Chronicle on June 7, 2018 read, "Electricity prices expected to skyrocket this summer." The article which followed explained, "Consumers hoping to find better deals when their electricity contracts expire are in for a shock as retail prices have soared in anticipation of hot weather, potential power shortages and spikes in wholesale electricity prices. The low teaser rates for consumers available just a month ago have disappeared."

If Question 3 passes, I worry that we will read that same headline in the High Desert Advocate, the Wells Progress, the Wendover Times and the Elko Daily Free Press.

Consumers in Massachusetts have had their own problems with deregulated power marketers. According to Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, "Competitive electric suppliers promise big energy savings but are actually burdening customers with hundreds of dollars in extra costs. In two years, Massachusetts residents lost over \$176 million to these predatory companies. I'm calling for an end to this industry because that's the best way to protect our seniors, low-income residents, and minority communities from these persistent scams."

I personally heard the most damning quote of all in January. The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada held ten days of workshops to gather information about implementation of Question 3. Since it was a workshop, anyone and everyone was welcome to testify, and many did. Joe Reynolds, Chair of the PUCN, asked a lot of pointed questions. One was, "Will Question 3 guarantee lower energy costs?" The hesitant response from a proponent was, "[Question 3] doesn't say that it guarantees reduced prices ... I want to be careful that we're realistic about what can happen."

There is an adage which says, "We are free to make choices but we are not free to choose the consequences." If that is true, and I believe that it is, then I urge you to make the choice that will have the best consequences.

When it comes to ballot question 3, Wells Rural Electric Company already delivers on all the promises "Energy Choice" proponents are making to get you to vote yes. While I admit that "choice" is a great buzzword, I think you should consider making these choices instead by voting no on question 3.

Choose your bank account.

-If Question 3 passes, monthly bills will go up, especially for residential members.

Choose the constitution.

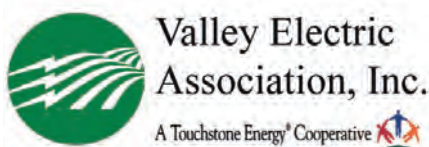
-"Energy Choice" doesn't belong in the state constitution. Voting yes means it would take a minimum of six years to implement changes.

Choose your cooperative.

-WREC formed 60 years ago because other utilities couldn't deliver electricity to our territory at affordable rates and still turn a profit. That remains true today. Voting no on Question 3 is a vote to keep cost-based power in your hands.

Protect the choices that really matter. Vote no on 3.

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer



NV-42

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Safety as a Core Value



Valley Electric Association has always been committed to safety. With the growing number of injuries and incidents in our energy and communications industry we believe it is time for a renewed commitment.

Over the past couple months, VEA leadership has talked with employees about the benefits of a safety-first culture. As leaders we are responsible for sending employees home at the end of the day with no injuries. After all, that's how their families sent them to work – no burns, strains, sprains, no cuts or bruises, no injuries.

Here's what safety as a core value means.

The functions performed daily by our highly trained field personnel require skills that take years of study, training and experience to develop and sustain.

Working near energized lines or climbing on rooftops can be extremely dangerous, of course. Crews also face extreme weather, operate complicated equipment like bucket trucks, drive over rough terrain, and wrestle with heavy poles and unwieldy cables. The risk of injury is an everyday challenge. We can't lose our focus or become complacent in order to quickly complete the task at hand.

When skilled, well-trained technicians are sidelined because of injury, the work does not slow down. The absence of that experience and expertise is felt by all of us, including our members who are accustomed to seeing familiar faces.

That's why we're doing more than just placing an emphasis on safety – we're making "Safety" a core value. As a core value, safety is the foundation on which we perform and conduct ourselves. This value underlies our work, how we interact with each other and the strategies we use to keep employees safe. Commitment to safety at all levels of the Cooperative, starting with the leadership team, is one such strategy.

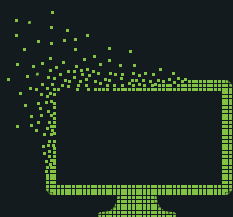
VEA is not alone in this endeavor. There are a great number of cooperatives around the country that have made the commitment to keep employees safe. A particular movement has been branded as the "Commitment to Zero Contacts" nationwide initiative. This is intended to help eliminate serious injuries and fatalities due to electrical contacts. It is action of this magnitude that will foster a safety-first environment for our employees.

So, when you see our employees working in the field or in the office, let them know that you also count on them to work safe and go home to their families at the end of the day.

Until next month,

Angela Evans
Chief Executive Officer

Angela Evans served at the executive level at utilities in New Mexico, Texas, California for more than 20 years before joining Valley Electric Association in 2017.



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Email: wmc@vea.coop

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Shan Rowbotham

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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

What is Grid Resiliency?

Grid resiliency is a topic often talked about in the electric industry. It made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid and resulted in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history.

Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid.

Here in Washington, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things. It is reliability in your electric service. It is our ability to efficiently restore your power. It is being able to meet the demands of new technology. It is how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our consumer-members.

Having a resilient electric grid begins with a system designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages.

A resilient grid is flexible and adaptable, allowing different types of generation to seamlessly work together to provide safe and reliable power.

The way our systems react to advancements in technology—from demand-response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles—factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year task. Whether it is the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly.

The lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid was not caused solely by hurricane damage. It was the result of years of neglect in taking care of the system and failure to prepare for a worst-case scenario.

Similar to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, the electric grid also must be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections.

Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes a problem. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage, we replace that pole.

Regardless of the season or the threat, we are confident our system will recover with as little disruption as possible.

Resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, toughness."

When it comes to providing our consumer-members with resilient service, this is what we work toward, day in and day out.





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P.O. Box 350
Dillingham, AK 99576

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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

NETC's Right-of-Way Maintenance Program

This fall, Nushagak Electric and Telephone Cooperative will initiate a right-of-way maintenance program. Our intent is to clear about 8 miles of rights-of-way per year. At this rate, we will clear all of the right-of-way every 10 years.

Why clear right-of-way? There are several reasons:

- **Mitigate line loss costs.** Line loss is the amount of energy lost in distribution. It is measured as the amount of energy leaving the substation minus the amount of energy metered and billed. There are several reasons for line loss. The loss associated with wire and connection resistance and transformer efficiency causes an unavoidable amount, but we also lose energy when vegetation gets too close to energized conductors. While line loss is not billed to any individual member, it is an operational cost that factors into everyone's rates.

- **Reliability.** Limbs contacting power lines during windstorms cause current surges that damage our system and can cause outages. In addition, overgrown rights-of-way impedes efforts for preventive and corrective maintenance.

- **Safety.** Limbs contacting power lines can be a fire hazard. Overgrown rights-of-way create another hazard for NETC's linemen, both during normal maintenance and even more so during an outage or service-degrading event when time is critical.

For these reasons, NETC has invested in right-of-way clearing equipment and training. Our intent is to work with our membership for everyone's benefit. As you see our crews working on this project, please keep in mind our intent and their dedication.

We will notify our members of specific timeline and locations through our website and Facebook page. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, Electric Operations Manager Bob Armstrong or Line Superintendent Dirk Williams here at Nushagak.

Enjoy moose season,

Robert Himschoot



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

District Offices

4005 23rd Street
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Burns, OR 97720
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Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, CEO & General
Manager

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

The Power of an Electric Cooperative

The story of rural electric cooperatives is powerful and rich with history. Although electric cooperatives have existed throughout the nation for more than 80 years, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative just celebrated its 30th anniversary.

Many of you may remember the days before OTEC was formed by your fellow community members, back when Eastern Oregon was served by an investor-owned utility.

Knowing this history gives our member-owners a unique perspective on what it means to be a member versus simply being a customer of a utility company.

We committed a large portion of the space in this issue of Ruralite to the Seven Cooperative Principles, all of which are fundamental aspects of being a member-owner of your local cooperative. These principles are the foundation to meeting our strategic vision, to be in the top-tier ratings of member satisfaction as compared to other cooperatives nationwide and grow through innovation.

Some of you may have recently participated in our survey designed to offer us new insights to understand how our members see and interact with us. When asked, "Do you see yourself as a member, an owner or customer of your electric cooperative," 43.5 percent responded they view themselves as a "member" or "owner," while 65.7 percent view themselves as a "customer." This tells us we need to do a better job of delivering the value and difference of being a member of the cooperative versus only being a utility consumer.

Based on the survey feedback, key areas we are making changes to include cost, service and communication. When asked if the cooperative is doing more to control rising prices compared to other companies, and if the cooperative is helping you learn how to

manage your electric use, we received an average score. This score would not place us in the top-tier ratings across the country, and that is what our board expects. Nevertheless, I am confident we have the talent and know-how to deliver that to you, our members.

In response to some of these concerns, we already have taken steps to rework our line extension policy, making it simpler and friendlier; increased energy-efficiency programs, outreach and education; and developed proactive ways to reach out to our members and strengthen our communication programs and processes.

Our mission of providing competitively priced, reliable and safe energy hasn't changed since our founding. Our vision of driving high-level member satisfaction and healthy growth for our communities through innovation remains our primary focus. The successful combination of these focus points will help us stabilize costs and position our cooperative to be a great community partner so we can be a relevant part of the future.

Ultimately, the real power of a cooperative is its member-owners. I encourage you to read about the Seven Cooperative Principles in this month's Ruralite. The feature will give you the real story about the benefits of being an OTEC member.



Les Penning
CEO and General Manager





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WA-49

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When it comes to providing our consumer-members with resilient service, this is what we work toward, day in and day out.



TANNER ELECTRIC *Cooperative*

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by those we serve in:*

North Bend
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employer*

WA-50



Try your hand at feature writing with Tanner Electric's inaugural writing contest.

Freepik.com photo by Jcomp

Have a Story to Tell?

Tanner Electric Cooperative invites all members to submit a feature story package about someone in the community. Winning stories will be published in upcoming editions of Ruralite magazine.

Successful entries will include photographs that help illustrate the story. Feature stories should be approximately 900 words and include supporting photos that help illustrate the story.

Stories will be edited for style, flow and grammar. Please include subject's contact information should questions arise.

Your cooperative will judge the contest and notify winning members. Winners will receive \$50 and publication in Ruralite.

Successful story tips

- Stories should focus on unique aspects of the person's life.
- Pay attention to story flow. Don't jump around.
- Include pertinent details, but keep in mind readers may have limited time.
- Photos should be shot from varying angles and distances.



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The country's oldest
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**To report an outage or utility
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**To track an outage, follow us on
Twitter @PLWCo.**

WA-52



August 18th 2018

5 kilometer course
is flat and fast



Awards given to top 3
in each gender and age group



Raffle prizes given at
awards ceremony



All proceeds benefit
Washington High School
Cross Country



Location:

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12420 Ainsworth AVE S
Tacoma, WA 98444

Schedule:

8:30 AM – Registration Opens
9:20 AM – Registration Closes
9:30 AM – Start of Event
10:30 AM – Start of Awards

Registration:

www.patriotcrosscountry.com
Registrations are also accepted on the
day of the event for an additional charge of \$5

Course Map and Results:

www.patriotcrosscountry.com

For More Information:

Allen Culp
253-219-5252
aculp@fpschools.org



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Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Winner

Account #5083500

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

Community Calendar

August 2: Clatskanie Chamber Meeting

7:00 am Breakfast meeting at Colvins

August 3-5: Clatskanie Festival

Vendors and activities in the City Park,
Evening Light Parade, Lawn Mower Races,
Movies in the Park, and more! See the
clatskaniefestival.com website for the
official schedule and more information.

August 9: Rainier Chamber Meeting

Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

August 15: Clatskanie PUD Board

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



Use Keepitlocalcc.com to find
local businesses and events!

OR-60

Clatskanie PUD will be losing three key staff members to retirement this summer. Their many years of experience and knowledge will certainly be a challenge to replace. I jokingly set a moratorium on retirements to try to keep them on staff, but I was overruled. They have earned the opportunity to spend more time with family, friends, and doing things they have put off all these many years.

Eric Hiaasen was the first to retire on June 30th. He has done a masterful job during his time here at Clatskanie PUD as the Energy Resources and Services Manager. Under Eric's direction his department has dealt with the ever volatile power market, contracts with customers, working with BPA, WGA, and Arrowrock, and adding the Camas Mill as new customer. The countless load forecasts and financial forecasts that have guided the decisions we make have proven invaluable. We will still be able to tap into his knowledge and experience for a while longer, as he will become an independent contractor to be available to consult with us on specific projects as needed.

Eric's position has been filled within the District by the promotion of our Senior Power Analyst, Paul Dockery, to Power Manager for the Energy Resources and Services Department. Paul has been mentored and prepared by Eric during his time here to take his place, and we are very happy to have Paul accept this promotion.

In early August we will be losing our Engineering and Operations Manager, Charlie O'Hare. Charlie has done a tremendous job getting his department reorganized and has instituted measures, programs, policies, and projects that have laid the foundation for this District to operate more efficiently and effectively. It was a big load that was placed on Charlie's shoulders and he has accomplished all that we asked him to do. After advertising locally and regionally and holding interviews, we have offered the position to Tom Neubauer. Tom brings with him vast experience and knowledge that will be of great benefit to our team.

August 31st will see us lose one of our longest tenured staff members who has been a key person in the Operations Department. Karen Nelson has devoted 28 years to the District and has positively influenced this utility and its customers in each capacity she has served. Her coordination of the department and her work with both customers and staff has been exceptional. Karen has a lot of places and things she wants to see and do during her retirement. We will be interviewing candidates for her position shortly.

Not only the present, but also the future of this utility has been greatly enhanced and improved by their contributions and efforts. They will each be missed, and we wish them the very best in their retirement. We express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for all they have done for us as individuals, as an organization, and for the communities we serve.

Marc Farmer, General Manager





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ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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

AK-64

KEA FAQ

Q: I moved out of my house a month ago. Why am I responsible for the bill?

A: When a member is preparing to move out of a location where they are responsible for the electric service, the member must contact KEA in advance to schedule a date to disconnect the electric service at that location. KEA has no way of knowing when a member is moving unless they let us know. Please note: Until a member formally signs out with KEA, they remain responsible for the electric bill.

Q: I have two accounts with KEA. Why do I only get Power Cost Equalization on one of my accounts?

A: PCE is a welcome break on our electric bills. For many of us, it cuts our monthly electric bill by a third. But PCE is limited, and possibly a disappearing resource. For this reason, the state has limited the PCE credit to one account per member.

Q: Why do I have to pay a membership and meter deposit?

A: KEA is a member-owned, nonprofit cooperative. According to our bylaws, everyone is required to pay a membership fee to become a member of the cooperative. This is refundable to the member upon cancellation. Paying the fee and being accepted through the board of directors entitles the member to the rights and privileges associated with cooperative membership. This includes the eventual paying of patronage capital, which is a return of the earnings made by KEA above its expenses.

A meter deposit is a standard requirement to provide a small safeguard against those who do not pay their electric bill. When a member does not pay their bill, all the other members of the cooperative must ultimately cover that debt. The meter deposit is not intended to be used for the final bill. It is a way to ensure the final bill gets paid. When a member's final bill is paid, the meter deposit is refunded.

Q: Why do I have to pay a reconnect fee after my electricity is turned off for nonpayment?

A: By the time a member's electricity is turned off for nonpayment, their account has been delinquent for more than 90 days. Out of fairness to other members, a fee is charged to the delinquent member to cover the cost of sending the lineman out to disconnect and then reconnect when the member has paid the bill.

Find more questions and answers at www.kea.coop.



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Chevak	Old Harbor
Eek	Oscarville
Ekwok	Pilot Station
Elim	Pitkas Point
Emmonak	Quinhagak
Gambell	Russian Mission
Goodnews Bay	St. Mary's
Grayling	St. Michael
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Hoopers Bay	Scammon Bay
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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

Our Biggest Wind Projects are Underway!

AVEC has a fleet of 34 wind turbines in 11 communities. Because we have several communities connected to each other by tieline, we provide wind-generated electricity to 15 communities. The total installed wind capacity is about 3,300 kilowatts.

The two projects under construction will increase our installed wind capacity by more than 50 percent to about 5,100 kilowatts and will add seven communities to those receiving electricity from wind. The new communities are Bethel, Oscarville, Napakiak, St. Mary's, Andreafsky, Pitka's Point and Mountain Village. Napakiak is not an AVEC member village but is receiving wholesale power from AVEC via tieline.

As can be seen from the picture on the cover of this magazine, the turbines being installed in Bethel and St. Mary's are EWT 900-kilowatt turbines. EWT is a Dutch company that has been an active developer of these machines since the early 2000s. There are EWT turbines in Kotzebue, Nome and Delta Junction.

The wind turbines being installed in Bethel and St. Mary's are shorter than others in the state because of FAA restrictions in those communities. The turbines are installed on 50-meter towers, unlike those in Nome and Kotzebue, which are on 75-meter towers. Once the nacelle with the blades are attached, they will reach up 76 meters, or 256 feet. With their distinctive red and white livery, they will be visible from a significant distance, even in storm conditions.

The turbines are being installed this summer, and are expected to be online and generating electricity by the end of September. The tieline to Mountain Village will be built during

the coming winter. We expect to provide them with wind power by the summer of 2019.

The wind projects will cost \$5 million each, and the tieline is another \$6 million. Collectively, they are more than 90 percent grant-funded.

These projects would not have been possible without active support from local communities. In Bethel, we have been working with Bethel Native Corporation. It leased us the land the project occupies for a 20-year term and its subsidiary businesses are actively engaged in many aspects of the construction. Pitka's Native Corporation has been our primary partner on the St. Mary's turbine. STG Inc., which has installed most of AVEC's wind turbines, is the contractor installing both of these turbines. STG is owned by Calista, so that regional native corporation is also our partner in both projects.

Once fully commissioned, the Bethel wind turbine is expected to produce about 5 percent of the electricity we sell there. The St. Mary's wind turbine is expected to produce almost 30 percent of the electricity produced in St. Mary's and Mountain Village. Between the two turbines, we expect to displace about 350,000 gallons of diesel fuel annually.

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

Striving for Grid Resiliency

Grid resiliency is a topic often talked about in the electric industry. It made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid and resulted in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history.

Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid.

Here in California, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things. It is reliability in your electric service. It is our ability to efficiently restore your power. It is being able to meet the demands of new technology. It is how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our customers.

Having a resilient electric grid begins with a system designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages.

A resilient grid is flexible and adaptable, allowing different types of generation to seamlessly work together to provide safe and reliable power.

The way our systems react to advancements in technology—from demand-response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles—factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year task. Whether it is the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly.

The lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid was not caused solely by hurricane damage. It was the result of



years of neglect in taking care of the system and failure to prepare for a worst-case scenario.

Similar to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, the electric grid also must be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections.

Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes a problem. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage from termites, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong—or as resilient—as it can be.

Regardless of the season or the threat, we are confident our system will recover with as little disruption as possible.

Resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, toughness."

When it comes to providing our customers with resilient service, this is what we work toward, day in and day out. ■



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OR-400

Case in Point

The other day, I met Amelia Earhart. OK, not *the* Amelia Earhart, the legendary aviator who disappeared over the Pacific Ocean in 1937. But I did meet Amelia Rose Earhart who, while not related to her namesake, shares her fascination with flying and proved it in 2014 by piloting a single-engine airplane around the globe.

Earhart's compelling talk at the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association summer meeting in Hood River—"Learning to Love the Turbulence"—is certainly appropriate for the nation's choppy political times.

Like most electric cooperative associations, ORECA was born in politics. We have thrived for nearly 80 years by representing our members no matter who is in power in Washington, D.C., or Salem, Oregon. While political discourse in this country has never exactly been smooth air, this trip somehow feels different, as though we are flying through an area never before charted.

The political atmosphere is less partisan than it is tribal, with the percentage of people who are friends with someone in the other political party at an all-time low.

The partisanship isn't exactly attracting new voters to the traditional parties. Consider these statistics in Oregon: Since May 2016, Republicans have gained 15,961 new voter registrations, and Democrats 5,450. However, nonaffiliated registrations have exploded, with 487,983 new voters not aligned with either party.

How does one survive the turbulence that is politics in 2018? It's a tough course to navigate, but thankfully, electric cooperatives have friends on both sides of the political aisles—something for which we should be proud.

We can also look to the original Amelia Earhart for inspiration on how to repair our politics. She plotted her course by looking to the stars. While she meticulously planned her voyage, she also wasn't afraid to take a risk and step outside her comfort zone.

There are no easy answers. With midterm elections only months away, we may yet again turn to both Amelia Earharts for another lesson on how to survive the turbulence ahead.

Don't forget to buckle up.



Ted Case
Executive Director

FLORIDA Currents

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EREC
A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

Manager's Message

History Comes Alive for Youth

More than 1,800 high school juniors met in June at our nation's capital to experience our country's national treasures, see government in action and discuss the issues of the day with their congressmen and senators. Gabby Chavers, Bryce Cook and Lydia Smith represented Escambia River Electric Cooperative.



Clay R. Campbell

For some students, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is their first experience away from home. For many, it is their first trip to Washington, D.C., where they have the opportunity to see our nation's history.

Those of you who have been to Washington before, think back to the time when you saw the Capitol, the White House, Arlington National Cemetery or the Vietnam Memorial Wall for the first time. Remember being filled with wonder or emotion as these places that you had only read about in history books or seen on television came to life.

The lives of the students we send to Washington are forever changed by the history they learn, the culture they absorb and the new friends they meet. For these students, the trip

is more than seeing monuments and going to museums. It is about being a part of something special. They have the opportunity to interact with their peers—the best and brightest students rural America has to offer. These young Americans will be the entrepreneurs, farmers, community leaders—the backbone—of our towns and communities in the coming years.

EREC is proud to be part of this national event. Youth Tour is evidence rural America is still alive and well, and will continue to be for future generations to come. ■



From left, Lydia Smith, Bryce Cook and Gabby Chavers pose in front of the White House during June's Youth Tour trip.



Inside

August 2018
Vol. 7, No. 10

In Good Hands 12

Coral Restoration Foundation's program manager leads the effort to bring Florida's reef back from the brink of extinction.

Also In This Issue

Side Roads 10

In the Kitchen 16

Great Picture Hunt 18

Travel Journal 20

Festival Roundup 22

Outdoor Pursuits 24

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



FKEC NEWS

August 2018

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Learn more FKEC news and stay up-to-date on Co-op projects by visiting our online media center at www.fkec.com/Cooperative/

Unless otherwise noted, "FKEC NEWS" writing, design & photography by:
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Edited by: Rebecca Callahan Newman

SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

Long-Term Storm Repairs Continue

Our chain of islands has made great strides in recovering from Hurricane Irma, but the storm is far from a distant memory. At FKEC, we continue to repair and restrengthen our system in order to maintain reliable power service in the Upper and Middle Keys.

Only two weeks after Irma impacted our entire service territory, all accounts able to safely receive power were restored. However, the hurricane restoration work didn't end there. We knew then that a great deal more work would be needed to fully repair our system, and we have diligently been working to accomplish that goal.

Our post-Irma work includes a wide-range of projects from crews replacing stretches of residential distribution poles and pole-top equipment, to specialty contractors making critical repairs to our high voltage transmission system.

One project that many of our members may have noticed is the emergency repair work being done to our transmission system in Marathon. Our transmission equipment is the backbone of our electric system, and in Marathon Irma hit it hard. To prevent a fault and a potential widespread outage, we are replacing and upgrading the damaged pole-top equipment throughout Marathon.

This work has caught the public's attention because in some cases a lane closure



is required. Please know we are making every effort to conduct the work on the transmission poles, which run along U.S. 1, with as little interference to traffic and local businesses as possible. When work to a certain pole does mandate a lane closure, it is limited to a 600- to 900-foot span and the work is not scheduled during morning or evening rush hour. To further minimize any inconvenience, work requiring a lane closure is being strategically arranged around business hours and traffic, so please note that the poles are not being worked on in order by location.

In addition to your patience, I also ask for your use of caution. For your safety and the safety of our crews, please keep your distance from any and all utility work. This is also a good time for me to remind our local drivers of the Florida "Move Over Law." This law requires motorists to move over and change lanes to give safe clearance to law enforcement officers, firefighters, ambulances, and utility workers.

As always, we appreciate your patience while we work to maintain a strong, reliable power system.



"Neighbors Working for Neighbors"

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

26733 U.S. Hwy. 27 East/P.O. Box 519
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(863) 946-6200

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

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

POWER INTERRUPTION NUMBER

Moore Haven (863) 946-6200

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

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The Board's next meeting will be at 9 a.m. August 23 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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FL-153

CEO's Message

Valuing All Aspects of History

As I write to meet our print deadline, our country is celebrating its independence day and my mind wanders to matters other than fireworks.

Across our nation, monuments of our history are being removed as offensive reminders of where we came from and what we did to achieve the greatness of this nation—a nation which is unrivaled in the entire world. Where will it end?

To truly remove all offenses, we all should take a genetic test and board a ship to the country that claims our highest ancestry percentage, leaving this land to its original natives. Of course, that would be ridiculous. I dare say most of those demanding censoring of history would be against departing our good nation.

Remembering history will help us to not repeat our same mistakes.

In our short lives, we tend to base everything on what we have grown up with. Unfortunately, for the most part, we are unaware of all it took those before us to get us to where we are now. We take all we have for granted and, in many cases, as an entitlement.

Electricity to our homes is one such assumption. It was less than a lifetime ago, 74 years to be exact, that the areas we now reside in had no power. Without the efforts of a few dedicated souls who formed Glades Electric Cooperative, that could still be the case, as we remain very rural. Ours is not a place a for-profit utility can earn an adequate return on investment.

That brings my wandering mind to what I have been contemplating for our upcoming 2019 strategic planning program: how to ensure our members understand the history and relevance of their cooperative. To that end, our goals for 2019 and beyond will include action items to improve member relationships.

Just like our nation, the cooperative's history has had its good and its bad. Just as there is greater good in our nation's history, so is the case for the cooperative. Our communities are a better place to live because of Glades Electric Cooperative, and we intend to continue improvements upon that.



Jeff Brewington



Gulf Coast
Electric Cooperative

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Trustees normally meet the third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. Central. 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

What is Grid Resiliency?

Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts talked about in the electric industry. This concept made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid and resulted in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid.

Here in Florida, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things. It is reliability in your electric service. It is our ability to efficiently restore your power. It is being able to meet the demands of new technology. It is how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat.

Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our member-owners.

Having a resilient electric grid begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable, allowing different types of generation—such as wind, solar, coal and hydro—to seamlessly work together to provide safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology—from demand-response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles—factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year task. Whether it is the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid was not caused solely by hurricane damage. It was the result of years of neglect in taking care of the system and failure to prepare for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, the electric grid also must be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes a problem. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage from termites, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong—or as resilient—as it can be.

Living in Florida, we know significant power outages can occur, especially during storm season. Whether we are at the mercy of a tropical storm, a hurricane or even a summer afternoon thunderstorm, we are confident our system will recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

Resilience is defined as “the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched.” When it comes to providing our member-owners with resilient service, this is what we work toward, day in and day out!



Doug Birmingham



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE

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

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

August 28, 2018
September 25, 2018
October 23, 2018

FL 155

Operation Round Up is a Lifeline to Your Community

People feel good when they're part of something successful. And they enjoy the feeling they get when they help others in need.

That's why I'm a proud supporter of PRECO's Operation Round Up Charitable Foundation.

The program invites PRECO members to "round up" their electric bill to the next dollar each month. Just like dropping your spare change in a jar at home, over time your donations add up. On average, members contribute around \$6 a year. That's about what you would spend for your favorite fast food combo meal.

How does it work? Let's say your electric bill is \$99.75. It would be rounded up to \$100, with 25 cents going to Operation Round Up.

By pooling your donation with those of other members, Operation Round Up helps meet the needs of your local community by granting funds to a wide range of needs.

Approximately 28,600 members—almost 70 percent of PRECO's more than 42,000 accounts—are currently donating to Operation Round Up by rounding up their electric bills. The

funds donated by PRECO members are put to good use in the 10 counties served by the cooperative.

In 2017, Operation Round Up granted \$63,000 to families in need, gave more than \$20,000 to community charitable organizations and awarded nearly \$80,000 in college scholarships. Last year, funds went to support groups such as Crosswinds Youth



Services (\$2,500), Meals on Wheels Plus of Manatee County (\$2,500), and Selah Freedom (\$5,000). Since launching Operation Round Up in 2005, more than \$1.7 million has been granted directly into the local community. Visit page 8 to see a recap of last year's grants.

If you're one of the members who makes Operation Round Up

possible, thank you. If you would like to participate, you can enroll on our website at www.preco.coop or call us at (800) 282-3824.

Your spare change can change the lives of others.

Randy
PRECO CEO