



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

"We Care"

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

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Joe Stockard

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Cynthia Tarola

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Business Hours:

Monday - Thursday

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

Closed Fridays

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ID-1

SCAM ALERT



DEMANDING MONEY

Clearwater Power will never "demand" payment over the phone. If you receive a call like this. Hang up and call us at 1-**888**-743-1501



SCAMMERS & PHISHING

Scammers are more sophisticated and convincing than ever. They might sound local and they might even offer up some type of personal info (such as your address).



PUSHING YOUR BUTTONS

Scammers will prey on your concerns. They'll threaten to turn you off unless you pay, they might threaten that huge charges will be added to your bill. Just hang up on them and call us to make sure everything is OK.



888 (not 800)

Our number is 1-888-743-1501. Don't dial 1-800. That number is not affiliated with Clearwater Power.



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

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

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Gerry Arnson, Heppner

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John Qualls, Heppner

Secretary

Roy Carlson, Fossil

Treasurer

Deacon Heideman, Fairview

Lori Anderson, Condon

Todd Lindsay, Sand Hollow

Stacie Ekstrom, Lone

Manager

Thomas Wolff, Heppner

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

OR-2

Oregon's Upcoming Legislative Session

Members:

Your co-op and the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association constantly monitor legislative and bureaucratic activity in Salem. With the 2019 legislative session beginning this month, we have been following proposed carbon taxation (which includes farm fuels), hydroelectric dam spill revisions, and other expensive and unwarranted legislative issues. Of particular note is the proposed carbon tax and related fees on all energy types sold.

As a public cooperative utility, virtually 100 percent of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative's power comes from hydro dams operated by the Bonneville Power Administration. Our electric current is generated using carbon-free renewable water power. The investor-owned utilities in our bigger cities sell carbon-generated electricity using coal, natural gas and oil for production. To impose a carbon tax or fee on all electricity sellers to offset or discourage this practice is nothing more than a convenient way to raise money for state bureaucracy.

CBEC continues to be interested in expanding and using the grassroots political response team of our members. When needed, we will contact you via email to relay pre-addressed email messages to your legislative officials to notify them of your opinions on these unnecessary mandates that will cost you and your cooperative money.

Please help us keep your power bills as affordable as possible. Each CBEC office has registration cards for you to use to join our grassroots efforts.

We ask for your email address to ensure you receive notifications and pre-written messages you can forward to various elected officials and administrative managers. Together we become a voice that is heard. Columbia Basin will never release your information to any non-cooperative group or purpose.

We all need to work collectively to maintain our secure, reliable and affordable electric service.

Regards,

Tommy Wolff
CEO/General Manager





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

Board of Directors

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

- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Integrity
- ▶ Customer Service
- ▶ Respect
- ▶ Operational Excellence
- ▶ Sustainability

OR-3

Manager's Report



New Year Means New Technology Offerings

The start of 2019 means the beginning of some new technology choices for you, our customer-owners.

We will soon have Interactive Voice Response (IVR) available when you call our offices. You will be able to pay your PUD bill, review your account information and eventually report an outage once the IVR tool is fully integrated into our enterprise system. As a reminder, you can already pay online at www.nwascopud.org 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are no additional charges or fees

associated with using these services.

Secondly, in April we will begin installing our advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). The communications system is the first step, with new meter installations beginning closer to summer time. Please stay tuned for more specific communications on this wonderful project. We're very excited for the increased products and services this technology will allow us to offer, as well as increased reliability and improved outage response times.

These expanded offerings are just part of what we're working towards in support of our community.

Best to all and Happy New Year,

Roger Kline

General Manager



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

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

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Board of Trustees

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Vice President

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Cindy Corpe
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District 3, Belvedere

Pete Palmer
District 4, Nespelem

Patrick Morin Jr.
District 6, Nespelem

Ron Heath
District 7, Disautel

Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

DIY Energy Audit

Resolve to increase your home's energy efficiency

You don't have to call in a professional to find air leaks. Try these tips for a DIY energy audit:

Turn your heating system off and the fan on. Go into the attic or under the house—wherever the heating system's handler is located. If there is a leak in the return, it will blow air. Other warning signs are furnace cycling, drafts, cold floors, uneven temperature control and excessive fan noise.

On a windy day, hold a lit candle or incense stick next to areas you suspect are allowing air to leak into or out of your home. If the flame or smoke stream travels horizontally, the area has an infiltration problem.

Look in the attic. If light is coming in from below, air is leaking in.

Pull off the floor vent cover. Is the boot where the air supply vent meets the top edge of the floor securely attached all the way around the opening? If there are any gaps, seal the edge with caulking or a small nail and hard cast tape, available from heat pump suppliers.





CONSUMERS POWER INC.

MAILING ADDRESS

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

LOCAL OFFICES

6990 West Hills Road
Philomath, OR 97370

1900 W Oak St.
Lebanon, OR 97355

Russ Sapp
CHAIRMAN

Eric Horning
VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Plagmann
SECRETARY

Kevin Christopher
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Roman Gillen
PRESIDENT/CEO

Scott Muller
TREASURER/CFO

www.cpi.coop

Happy New Year!

OR-6

President's Report

Update Your Contact Information

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

CPI's integrated voice response system can take hundreds of incoming phone calls without callers getting busy signals for extended periods. The phone number for the incoming call is matched to the phone number we have on file for your physical address. An outage ticket is generated immediately so line crews can be dispatched 24/7 to start power restoration.

There is another reason to make sure CPI has your current phone number. We rely on your phone number to contact you for scheduled outages when we have to make repairs to our system.

It is easy to make sure we have your current phone number, whether it is a cell or landline.

Call CPI at 541-929-3124 or 800-872-9036.

Press option 2 at the prompt and then option 3. Be sure to have your CPI account number ready. Enter your phone number, and you are done.

Capital Credits

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

A retirement is the amount you receive back as a capital credit allotment. It is a percentage of your total capital credit balance. The

amount to retire is determined by the board of directors annually, based on the financial condition of the cooperative.

At the end of 2018, the CPI Board of Directors authorized the return of approximately \$800,000 in patronage capital. This represents the remaining capital credits for 1990. Checks were mailed in December to members who received service from CPI that year.

To date, CPI has returned more than \$20.7 million in patronage capital to CPI members. The securing of new and the retirement of outstanding capital credits is an important way cooperatives distinguish themselves from other types of businesses. It demonstrates the benefit of member ownership—one of the seven cooperative principles—in a practical way.

2019 Legislative Session

The Oregon Legislature begins its regular session Tuesday, January 22. There will be a number of issues and bills that could affect the cost of electricity. From cap and trade to the Oregon Department of Energy, we will keep you updated throughout the session and, as always, work hard to keep your electricity safe, reliable and affordable.

Thank you, Ken!

After 49 years of exemplary service to CPI members representing Zone 8, Ken Gardner has retired from the CPI Board of Directors. Words cannot express our heartfelt gratitude for his many years of selfless service, wisdom and guidance, for which we will always be in his debt.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO



Benton REA

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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

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

Board of Trustees

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

Board Meetings

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

General Manager

Michael J. Bradshaw

Management Staff

Derek Miller, Engineering Manager
Jeff Ekrut, Operations Manager
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



@BentonREA



@BentonREA

WA-7

Welcome Ron Johnson, District 4 Trustee

Dear Members,

I'm pleased to announce that on October 31, 2018, the Benton REA Board of Trustees appointed Benton REA member Ron Johnson to fill the District 4 trustee position left vacant when former Trustee and Secretary of the Board Mark Platt, retired from the board in June.

Ron and his wife, Karen, recently moved to West Richland, but they are not new to the area. Having vacationed in the Tri-Cities many times over the years, they've decided to call West Richland their "forever home". The Board of Trustees interviewed several candidates for this position and unanimously selected Ron to serve the remainder of Mark's term, ending in 2020. The Benton REA Board of Trustees and management staff look forward to adding Ron to our team with the goal of continuing our efforts to provide you with reliable and affordable electric service. You can read more about Ron on page eight of this magazine.

Benton REA was founded on the basis of local control. As a cooperative, we are owned and governed by our members. Each of our eight trustees live in the Benton REA districts that they represent and receive their electricity from Benton REA, just like you.

Dedication and commitment to the cooperative are required of all trustees in order to effectively serve on the Benton REA board. Each month they invest many hours preparing for and attending the Benton REA board meetings. Many of our trustees also represent Benton REA at various regional and national meetings, which requires additional time, travel, and dedication. All trustees have attended training and continuing education to help them better serve you. Ron is looking forward to starting his education process soon.

I would like to thank all the Benton REA trustees for their time and dedication associated with serving on the board. Our eight trustees are listed on the left side of this page. Biographies of all the Benton REA trustees are available at BentonREA.org/trustees. If you do not know your trustee district number, please give us a call at 509-786-2913 and we will be glad to help you determine who represents you on the Benton REA Board of Trustees.

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

Directors

President

Bryan Wolfe

Vice President

Jeff Wenholz

Secretary-Treasurer

Steve Platt

Lee Docken

Phil Hamm

John Otis

Glenn Rohde

General Manager

Robert Echenrode

Mission

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

umatillaelectric.com

OR-8

A Safety Milestone, a Critical Need

This fall, when our 85 employees reached 1,000 days without a lost-time injury, we wanted to honor the occasion.

So our employees decided to make a donation to the Legacy Oregon Burn Center in Portland—\$1,000 in honor of the 1,000 days. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 125, the union representing a portion of our workforce, quickly matched that amount.

The combined \$2,000 donation was delivered in person to the burn center in early December. (Please see photo on Page 4.)



There is no greater priority at UEC than the safety and health of our workforce, including the crews that maintain and upgrade our power lines, substations and other equipment. The state of local health care is of vital importance to our cooperative and our communities, and donations approved by our Board of Directors in recent years have helped support such services.

In our area, recent expansions of buildings and services at Good Shepherd Health Care System in Hermiston and St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton are welcome enhancements. The Oregon Burn Center is of special importance to us, given the dangers inherent in operating an electrical system, as it is the only such center between Seattle and Sacramento. In an emergency, every minute counts!

Lifeflight, the air ambulance we would call in an emergency event, is another critical element of our local care system. Each year, to

prepare us for a possible emergency, Lifeflight provides landing zone safety training to our crews free of charge.

Given the importance of rural health care, we are especially pleased that our partner in producing this magazine, Ruralite Services, will devote an article each month in 2019 on the topic. The Ruralite series is supported through a sponsorship from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, Wash.

“The overall aim will be to help communities,” said Ruralite Editor Leon Espinoza. “Shining a light on what’s working—and the heroes behind the work—is intended to be the impetus for others to take action.”

The impact of services in our community provided by hospitals, clinics and related organizations goes beyond health care. In our case, Good Shepherd has partnered with UEC on a Revolving Loan Fund to help assist small business expansions. Good Shepherd also is our partner in Northeast Oregon Now, a free-access community news web site you can visit at www.neonow.com.

As the new year begins, we appreciate the opportunity to deliver you safe and reliable electricity and help support your efforts to make our communities ever better places to live and work. A happy and prosperous 2019 to all!



Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO



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

Office Hours:

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

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Stacy Eakin	Director
Robert Durham	Director
Robert Hammel.....	Director
Jim McNamee	Director
DeOra Patton	Director

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Kelsey Lepinski	Customer Service Rep.
Mackenzie Wolfe.....	Customer Service Rep.
Casey McCleary	Operations Manager
Jim Green	Engineering Technician
Brewster Whitmire	E&O Assistant
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BJ Ayres	The Dalles Lineman
Wesley Woods	Serviceman
Dan Funkhouser	Grass Valley Foreman
Frank Roeder	Maupin Foreman

Mission Statement

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

OR-9

Capital Credit Retirement

Last month, Wasco Electric retired all of the 1988 and a portion of the 1989 capital margins back to members and former members.

The total capital credits returned to members who received service in 1988 and 1989 was \$400,026. In addition to these general retirements, the co-op retired \$90,324 to the estates of deceased members during the year, bringing the total capital credits returned to the members in 2018 to \$490,350.

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

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

Next month, each member who received service last year will be mailed a statement of their 2018 capital credit allocation. The member's allocation amount is based on the year-end operating margin.

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

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

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



Jeff Davis
General Manager

Owned By Those We Serve

Douglas Electric Cooperative Inc.
1981 NE Stephens St.
Roseburg, Oregon
Phone (541) 673-6616
(800) 233-2733
Outage (888) 420-8826

Officers

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

General Manager
Keith Brooks

Office Manager/CFO
David Western

Superintendent
Todd Sherwood

Member Services
Todd C. Munsey

System Engineer
Jess Dory, PE

Mission Statement

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



OR-10

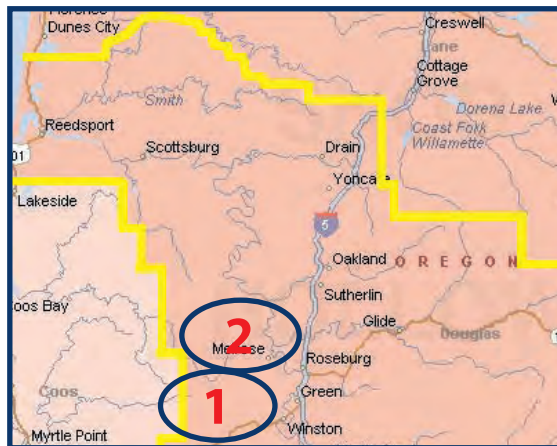
Board Member Elections

Dear Member,

If you are interested in getting involved in your cooperative, director positions for District 1 and District 2 are up for election at the next Annual Meeting to be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds April 6, 2019.

District 1 - Incumbent - Terry Nelson This district can generally be described as Camas Valley, Tenmile, Olalla, Porter Creek and Reston areas.

District 2 - Incumbent - Evan Barnes This district can generally be described as Happy Valley, Lookingglass, Flournoy Valley and part of Melrose, south of Doerner Road.



Qualified applicants must file a membership nomination petition, signed by 15 or more members who reside in the respective district. Petitions must be in your cooperative's headquarters on or before February 1, 2019.

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

Columbia Power Co-op



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

DIRECTORS

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

MANAGER

Troy Cox

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

POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

OR-11

Minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Members

The 69th Annual Meeting of Members of the Columbia Power Cooperative Association was held in the school gymnasium at Mitchell, Oregon, on December 1, 2018.

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

Temple announced a quorum was present and declared that it was an official meeting of CPC. He asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the meeting notice and dispense with the reading of the December 2, 2018, annual meeting minutes.

Upon motion by Cheryl Jenison, seconded by Judy Wilson and carried, the motion to dispense of reading the meeting notice and the 2017 annual meeting minutes was approved.

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

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

Manager Troy Cox introduced the board and special guests, and then presented the financial report for the

audit year ending September 30, 2018.

Cox covered the figures contained therein and said the electric plant has increased by about \$782,000. He said members' equity of nearly \$7.4 million is now at 29.5 percent of total assets. The members' equity should start increasing slightly each year now that we are not borrowing any more money for rebuilding the system. Once the member equity ratio reaches 40 percent, the board will have the option of returning some of the patronage capital.

Cox said power sales were steady and the cost of power purchased from the Bonneville Power Administration was steady. It was a good year with more than \$4 million in operating revenues, producing margins of \$462,811.

Cox recognized the employees at CPC and thanked them for the outstanding job they do.

Local singer/songwriter Robert Cannon entertained the crowd with music. Director Dan Cannon entertained the crowd with an array of humor and poetry.

Walton announced the election process was completed. Dave Humphreys was elected for a new three-year term in the Spray/Service Creek area. Dallas Newton was elected to a new three-year term also in the Spray/Service Creek area.

There being no further business to come before the members, the meeting was adjourned. Members were invited to Mitchell School for a home-cooked dinner prepared by Mitchell School members.

**Brian Campbell
Secretary**

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

DIRECTORS:

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

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

STAFF:

President and CEO
Dave Markham

Chief Financial Officer
Rawleigh White

Director of Operations & Engineering
Brad Wilson

Corporate Information Officer
Lisa Cutter

**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

Washington Whale Recovery Plan Includes Spill, Dam Removal Study

Acting on the recommendations of his task force for orca recovery, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee has proposed budgeting \$1.1 billion to fund recovery efforts for Puget Sound's killer whale population. While taking steps to ensure the whale's recovery is critical, I am concerned by the broad-based proposal's potential impacts on the four federal dams on the lower Snake River.

I wrote about this issue in November's Ruralite, when it became clear the dams and their operations were on some task force members' agenda. The task force's profile skyrocketed when a mother whale carried her dead calf around Puget Sound for more than two weeks during the summer. The world learned of the pod of 74 whales known as the southern resident orcas threatened by dwindling food sources, water and noise pollution, and falling birth rates.

Among the governor's 26 funding recommendations is \$750,000 for the task force to facilitate a stakeholder process assigned to, according to a statement issued by his office, "inform a path moving forward should the Lower Snake River dams be removed." This is intended to "provide a better understanding of the environmental, economic and social impacts of the dams." Another \$580,000 is dedicated to revising Columbia River water quality standards to allow increased spill at the dams to help salmon migration. This means increasing the amount of water bypassing the generating turbines, thereby requiring purchases of fossil-fuel produced energy to replace the lost hydro production. The action drives up costs and increases carbon emissions for an unproven benefit.

Inclusion of these efforts is not surprising, but it is disturbing how the proposals were included. The task force based its recommendations on public comment gathered largely through an online survey. The statistics behind its responses are telling.

Task force members report 12,270 survey responses, but only 3,898 had unique internet protocol addresses—the identification for the origin of a message sent on the internet. This statistic shows 68 percent of the surveys were from the same origin. Three IP addresses were the source of 400 responses and 21 other IP addresses each originated more than 100 responses. Additionally, nearly 8,700 comments were specific to hydro-power, but an initial sampling of 800 of those comments revealed repeated verbatim points about increasing spill and removing dams. These two issues generated more than 12,500 comments while all other questions averaged about 4,000 responses.

While a certain amount of mass mailing is expected with such surveys, it is disheartening that such an important public decision can hinge on a process vulnerable to easy manipulation.



Dave Markham
President and CEO



Board of Directors

President

John G. Herzog, Brookings/Harbor

Vice President

Georgia A. Cockerham, Brookings/Harbor

Secretary/ Treasurer

Daryl C. Robison, Port Orford/Langlois

Cheryl L. McMahan, Southern At-Large

Jim Kolen, Gold Beach

Peter C. Radabaugh, Bandon/Coquille

Daniel Loshbaugh, Northern At-Large

Attorney—Tyler Pepple

Staff

General Manager/CEO

Brent Bischoff

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.

Dear CCEC Members,

Happy New Year! It is with great pleasure I introduce myself, Brent Bischoff, as your new Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative Inc. general manager and CEO.

I would like to share a bit about myself. I have relocated to Bandon from Moses Lake, Washington, where I lived with my wife, Sharon. I bring to you years of experience and leadership, most recently as the senior manager of Power Delivery Engineering at Grant County Public Utility District. Prior to joining Grant County PUD, my experience included the position of general manager at Skamania County PUD, several management positions within the Bonneville Power Administration and U.S. Naval service as a nuclear submarine officer. I hold a Master of Engineering from the University of Idaho and a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Brigham Young University.

CCEC has strong leadership from its board of directors and a staff that is well respected in the utility industry. Together, we promise to uphold the commitment to be your trusted energy partner.

I am excited about getting to know the CCEC employees, community leaders and the membership as a whole during the coming years. We will continue to meet our goal to ensure a safe, reliable, affordable supply of electricity to power the lives and lifestyles of our members. I look forward to partnering with you to help ensure our mutual success and am thankful for the opportunity to serve Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative as your general manager and CEO.

Have a happy and prosperous new year!

Brent Bischoff

General Manager and CEO





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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Brett Costley
(Dist. 4 – Vernonia)

Vice President Jim Buxton
(Dist. 3 – Vernonia, Keasey)

Sec./Treasurer Rosemary Lohrke
(Dist. 6 – Chapman, Scappoose)

Brian Baker
(Dist. 1 – Jewell, Elsie, Hamlet)

Robert VanNatta
(Dist. 2 – Mist, Apiary, Birkenfeld)

Nick Galaday
(Dist. 5 – Timber, Buxton)

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Bob Perry

Contact the board:
directors@westoregon.org

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

OR-14

Manager's Message

In this month's feature on page 4, we discuss outage restoration with Don Rose, West Oregon Electric Cooperative's operations manager. While we're on the subject of outages, I would like to take a few minutes to talk to you about social media—specifically, our website, Facebook and Twitter.

I have noticed a trend in members posting outages on Facebook. This is helpful information during a major outage, and we thank you for taking the time to do so. During major outages, it's all hands on deck here as we work through the process of restoring power. We make an effort to keep you updated on our progress during those hectic times.

Facebook is a good tool, but it's not the tool you should use to report a power outage. Power outage reports should be called into the office, any time day or night. The operator will log your call into the outage database. Your account information is crosschecked and forwarded to the operations center, where it is analyzed so we can dispatch crews effectively.

It's important we have a record of your outage to ensure we get everyone back on as soon as possible. If you just post an outage on Facebook, the information does not get documented and can be lost.

We only have nine phone lines coming in to the office, so during an outage it is likely you will get a busy signal. If this happens, keep trying and you will eventually get through.

It's also important to let you know that we do not monitor Facebook 24/7 except during a major outage when we have folks here in the office and as opportunity arises between the lulls in action. Our goal is to ensure you enjoy the benefits of reliable electric service, so please always call in an outage.

Keep in mind, you should never put account information on social media sites where it could be used by others.



WOEC Celebrates 75 Years

West Oregon Electric Cooperative celebrates 75 years of service to our members in 2019. We have made a few changes to our logo to reflect our diamond anniversary. Watch upcoming issues of Ruralite to learn more about the history of your co-op. We look forward to celebrating this anniversary with you.

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

If no answer after hours, call the
Modoc County Sheriff's office at
530-233-4416

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

Dennis Flynn, President
Valley Falls

Scott Warner, Vice President
Lakeview

Raymond Cloud, Secretary/Treasurer
New Pine Creek

Wesley Cook
Cedarville

Craig Joiner
Lookout

John Erquiaga
Lake City

Kyle Weber
Alturas

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

CA-15



**SVE's LED incentive
program is a great way
to save money when
increasing lighting,
comfort and value.**

Upgrade to LEDs

Consider an LED lighting upgrade today for your shop, barn or commercial building. SVE's new incentives may cover between 25 and 70 percent of your upgrade costs.

Upgrading your lighting will reduce your monthly utility bill while increasing the comfort and value of your commercial space.

The process is simple:

- Contact SVE for a site review.
- Contact an electrician or lighting contractor to determine the best LED type and get a project cost estimate.
- Provide the estimate and project details to SVE.
- SVE will review the proposed upgrades and determine eligibility.
- After installation, contact SVE for review. Remember to save all receipts.
- SVE will complete the incentive calculation and provide a check to the member.

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

Lindsey K. McCarthy
Marketing & Public Relations Manager

BOARD MEETINGS

Fourth 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

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Washington D.C. Youth Tour	8
LEC Rate Change	28

OR-16

Rate Changes Start This Month

Dear Co-op Community Members:

The Lane Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, on behalf of the cooperative membership, is committed to keeping your co-op financially sound while making careful decisions about how members share that responsibility through rates. Effective for bills generated this month, the board decided to decrease the kilowatt-hour rate for residential rate class members and increase the monthly basic charge for all rate classes.



Lane Electric's 2019 budget anticipates more construction, including several undergrounding projects, to improve reliability for decades to come. We borrow to finance these long-term improvements so each generation of members pays a fair share of the cost and benefit. The change to the basic charge across all rate classes reflects all current members' share of the improvements.

Predictability is why the residential kilowatt-hour rate is decreasing. A lower kWh rate for the first tier of use helps stabilize your bill during cold spells when you use more electricity to stay warm. Also, a lower rate helps Lane Electric collect only the revenue it needs to meet operational goals. The cost to deliver that energy to you across the miles is more appropriately collected in the basic charge that stays the same each month regardless of how much energy you use. You can read more about rate structures and this rate change on pages 28-29 of this month's issue.

Meeting operational needs with affordable rate structures continues to be a focus of the board of directors. The board, and all Lane Electric employees, understand the economic challenges that members face. We continue to offer energy-efficiency programs and have several ways to help you manage paying your monthly bill. If you would like to learn more about our payment options, including Pre-Pay, please visit our website or call us at 541-484-1151.

Matt

Matt Michel, General Manager



Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative

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

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

Board of Directors:

Ernie Jacksch

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

Curtis Short Vice Chairman

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

Cheryl Haskell, Secretary/Treasurer

(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)

Vacant

District 5

General Manager

Greg Gardner
gregg@blachlylane.coop

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

OR-17

Manager's Report

Dear Members,

Let me start by wishing all of you a very happy new year! This is the time of year many folks like to make their New Year's resolutions, usually starting with losing those 5 pounds we've gained over the holidays.

At Blachly-Lane, it's the time of year to set performance goals for 2019, and the priority of every employee is a safety-related goal. Safety is built into our mission statement and is always of utmost importance for electric cooperatives. The consequences of an electrical contact with high-voltage lines are quite literally life changing. That concern and priority extends from our crews to our members and the general public because you, too, might be confronted with a downed power line caused by a winter storm, high winds, ice or snow. We consider any downed line "hot" until we can prove otherwise, and you should too.

Other hazards each of us face are winter road conditions such as ice, snow, darker days, downpours and debris on the roadway—not to mention distracted drivers. Blachly-Lane employees responding to outages in the middle of the night are routinely exposed to hazardous road conditions on the job as well as when traveling to and from work, so we make sure to cover these topics with all employees at our safety meetings through the year. You share those roads and those conditions, and I encourage you to slow down, keep your eyes on the road, keep a safe following distance and arrive alive.

Safety is a priority for your board of directors, Blachly-Lane management and employees. From all of us, we wish you a very safe and prosperous new year.

Greg Gardner

General Manager





Board of Commissioners

Randy L. Knowles

President

Dan G. Gunkel

Vice President

Douglas B. Miller

Secretary

.....
Jim Smith

General Manager

Kevin Ricks

Renewable Energy Asset Manager

Gwyn Miller

H.R. & Business Services Director

Mike DeMott

Power Manager

Mark Pritchard

Operations Manager

Ron Schultz

Engineering Manager

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

KPUD 2019 Budget at a Glance

The 2019 operating budget was approved by the board of commissioners December 11. No rate increase is planned this winter, but a 1.5 percent electric rate increase is anticipated in spring. A separate public rate hearing process will be held at that time.

The budget includes an expected Bonneville Power Administration rate increase of 5 percent effective October 1, 2019, and it reflects our external costs increasing 2.5 percent as we have seen the past several years.

This budget follows two years where we have not raised electric rates. In the 2018 budget, we budgeted borrowing \$5 million for capital projects. Due to our improvements in financial performance, we did not borrow these funds. We have had two good years in a row and feel confident in our future.

Since the addition of the Renewable Natural Gas facility, we are feeling a decrease in rate pressures. RNG began commercial operation November 1, 2018. We are just finishing tuning the plant and, as of today, the system is operating to all standards and expectations. The contract associated with this facility will provide a more stable base for our future than the previous generation facility. We are exploring ways KPUD can use the electric generation facility in the future. This would be done only if we can obtain contracts that increase external net revenues to our utility and hence our customers.

Highlights of the 2019 operating budget. Revenues have been increased \$16 million from 2018. The proposed electric rate increase equates to about \$450,000. The remainder is primarily from the White Creek wind project and the RNG facility.

Expenses were increased \$2 million, including BPA and external costs. That leads to the question "Where does the other \$14 million go?" Seven million dollars will go toward additional debt repayment, \$6 million to electric system improvement projects and \$1 million toward improving our cash balance.

We plan to focus on core systems in 2019, starting with a new customer information and billing system, and new accounting software. This will provide more understandable bills as well as tools for our customers to better manage their accounts with us. This will allow the utility to better manage its finances.

We have increased our vegetation management program and plan significant upgrades to our system infrastructure for long-term reliability and improved service. We will talk more about the specific projects in future articles. During 2018, we completed a strategic plan to set targets for our electric rates in the future. Reducing long-term debt is a significant part of that plan. We will develop more detailed targets and financial metrics in 2019.

I want to wish you all the best for 2019. I look forward to another successful year.

Jim Smith

General Manager



NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.

The power of local service

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

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

Outside Sandpoint:
800-326-9594

Board President
Steve Elgar

Board Vice President
Kennon McClintock

Board Secretary/Treasurer
Judith Simonson

General Manager
Annie Terracciano

Board of Directors by District

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

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

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

Dist. No. 4—David Pemberton, Careywood, ID
208-661-5911

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

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

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

ID-19

Happy Retirement to Mark Contor

Northern Lights is preparing to say farewell to Engineering and Operations Manager Mark Contor. Mark is retiring at the end of January after more than 35 years of service to the cooperative. His hard work and dedication have been assets to Northern Lights through the years.

Mark started his career at NLI as a lineman in 1983 and was promoted to the role of engineering and operations manager in 1994. Since he became E&O manager, Northern Lights has seen substantial growth throughout our service territory. In 1994, NLI served 9,852 members, with \$12 million in total revenue and \$40 million in total assets. Today we serve 17,342 members, with \$34 million in total revenue and \$90 million in total assets. Mark has been a vital part of ensuring this rapid development has gone smoothly and easily throughout the years. His valued skills in the electric industry have been a huge part of ensuring Northern Lights could keep up with the demand of our members.

Mark has overseen several significant system improvements at NLI during his tenure. These projects include the purchase and upkeep of our Lake Creek Hydro Electric Dam, which produces 10 percent of our power needs; the designing and construction of the NLI headquarters in Sagle, Idaho; substantial improvements to our metering system; the organization and implementation of procedures that ensure NLI always follows strict environmental policies; the construction of several new substations and substation rebuilds; and the growth of our electrical system as a whole. Mark's extreme attention to detail, along with his outstanding organizational skills and superb work ethic, have contributed greatly to NLI's success as a cooperative. He's always been there when needed and will be greatly missed.

Please help me wish Mark a happy retirement and make sure to say hello if you see him on the golf course!

Annie Terracciano
General Manager



Above, Mark Contor in his younger days at NLI. Below, Mark will retire from NLI after 35 years.





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

You Are More Than a Customer

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this reflects ICL&P's philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader service territory we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different bottom line. While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community we serve are of paramount concern.

You are not just a customer to us. You are a member of our co-op and without you, we would not exist.

In 1938, ICL&P was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped create ICL&P. For most people, our founding and its circumstances are long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that constantly evolves to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings and other events, such as area member meetings, from time to time. We host these events to engage with you and get your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use, such as providing energy-efficiency rebates and being able to review your use on SmartHub, our online portal. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

ICL&P members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community, which is why we support local organizations such as 4-H, emergency medical technicians, quick-reaction units and rural fire departments and many others. When you support these efforts, you support the community and make it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.

I hope you have a blessed 2019.

Max Beach

General Manager



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

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 9 a.m. and is usually held in Walla Walla.

Staff

Chief Executive Officer, Scott Peters
Executive Assistant/HR,
Jennifer Aichele
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

Parting Thoughts

Happy 2019, and welcome to the new year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. January is a time for fresh starts, new resolutions and making great strides. It's no different at Columbia REA. I thought this would be a good time to provide a little Co-op 101 and talk about what we are focusing on in 2019.

Columbia REA is an electric cooperative created by our members more than 75 years ago to deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy. We are a community-focused organization. You will see us supporting our county fairs, 4-H, FFA, Little League sports team, arts, education, chambers of commerce and libraries. Our board of directors is composed and led by local members, like you, who always have your and the community's best interests at heart. At the end of the year, any excess revenues get shared back with you over time. To date, Columbia REA has returned more than \$16 million to you, our members.

I hope this explains a little bit about who we are and what we do.

Your cooperative is in good shape. We are experiencing steady growth, have a great team of experienced, dedicated employees and a board that is focused on doing the right thing.

Late last year, the board and managers met in a strategic planning session and emerged with four overarching goals: 1) Provide safe and reliable service to our members; 2) Provide timely and effective communication with our members; 3) Maintain existing safety culture of zero accidents for our employees and members; and 4) Create a strong financial base that builds equity and meets financial targets.

There are lots of individual projects and initiatives that will feed the success of these larger goals, but please note we are absolutely member focused.

One item that will feed into the fourth goal is a pending rate increase happening in March. Buying power is our largest single cost, and our wholesale power rates from the Bonneville Power Administration are increasing again this year. We had no rate increase in 2018, but now our rates will be going up. We are working diligently to calculate the final amount and will communicate that information as soon as possible.

Thanks for taking the time to read this. My door is always open for you to stop in and talk, or feel free to contact me by phone at 509-526-4041 or email at speters@columbiarea.coop if you have questions or comments.

Best,

Scott Peters
CEO





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

Member 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:

Happy New Year! The year 2018, from a calendar perspective, is behind us. The calendar year is the fiscal and operating year for Midstate Electric Cooperative. Staff will be busy closing out 2018 during the coming weeks.

As we jump into preparations for 2019, your board of directors has chosen Saturday, May 11, as the date for the MEC annual membership meeting. Please make a note of it on your calendar. You will receive formal notification of the time and location of the meeting well in advance.

Districts 3 (Crescent), 4 (Gilchrist) and 6 (La Pine) are up for election this year. Candidates to represent those districts may be nominated for director by filing a petition signed by at least 15 members of the cooperative who reside in that district. Petitions for the three positions may be obtained at MEC's headquarters facility and must be filed with the secretary on or before Tuesday, March 12.

For information about qualifications and duties of directors, call 541-536-2126 option 5. For detailed descriptions of districts 3, 4 and 6, see page 8.

Sophomores and Juniors: Last Call

It is time to submit your applications for the 2019 Washington, D.C., Youth Tour, June 13-20. More than 1,800 students from across America take part in the Youth Tour experience, and so can you.

This all-expenses-paid trip gives students the opportunity to watch history come alive as they explore museums, memorials and monuments with students

from their state. Students also have the chance to meet their U.S. representatives and senators.

High school sophomores and juniors whose parents are MEC members are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is January 31. Call 541-536-2126 option 5 for information.

Oregon Legislature Returns to Salem

The Oregon Legislature returns next month for a long-haul session that likely will not end until late June. MEC will be actively involved working with other electric cooperatives through the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association to remind lawmakers about the importance of affordable and reliable electricity.

If this legislative session is like the last, a number of bills will be considered that could dramatically raise the price of electricity and jeopardize our cooperative values. As the session progresses, we may need to call on our political grassroots advocates—ORECA-Action—to band together in a collective voice to affect the political process.

If you have not become a grassroots member in support of Oregon cooperative values to promote common-sense solutions in keeping electricity affordable and reliable, don't wait. Join us today! There are three ways you can join our grassroots program. Go to www.mse.coop and click on the ORECA-Action Grassroots button on the upper right of the home page, call 541-536-2126 option 5, or email your name and address to marketing@mse.coop. Thank you for your support.

General Manager Dave Schneider



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

Raft River Rural Electric Co-op, Inc. COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Get the latest news from *YOUR co-op*

BY-LAW CHANGE PROPOSALS

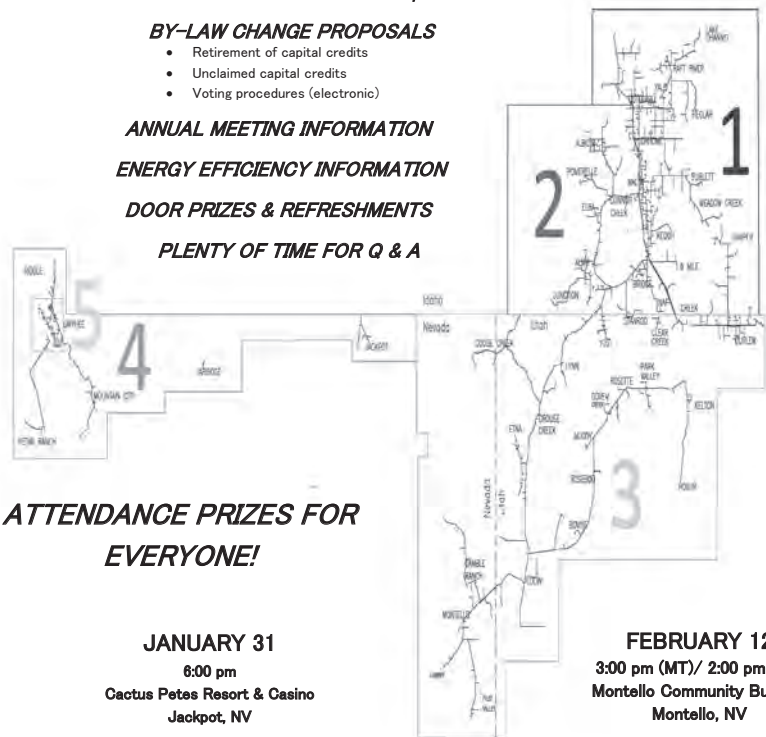
- Retirement of capital credits
- Unclaimed capital credits
- Voting procedures (electronic)

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

ENERGY EFFICIENCY INFORMATION

DOOR PRIZES & REFRESHMENTS

PLENTY OF TIME FOR Q & A



ATTENDANCE PRIZES FOR EVERYONE!

JANUARY 31

6:00 pm
 Cactus Petes Resort & Casino
 Jackpot, NV

FEBRUARY 12

3:00 pm (MT)/ 2:00 pm (PT)
 Montello Community Building
 Montello, NV

FEBRUARY 12

6:00 pm
 Park Valley School
 AND
 Grouse Creek School
 (Internet Video Conferencing)

FEBRUARY 26

6:30 pm
 Raft River H.S. Auditorium
 Malta, ID

FEBRUARY 28

5:30 pm
 Human Development Center
 Owyhee, NV



For more information please call our office
 (800) 342-7732 or (208) 645-2211



BIG BEND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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

Ritzville office 659-1700

Toll free 866-844-2363

Pay by phone 844-255-3682

For after-hours emergencies

866-844-2363

www.bbec.org

TRUSTEES

President Dan Hille

Vice President Ken Story

Secretary John Harder

Treasurer Lyle Holt

Robert Clinesmith

Curtis Dahl

Stacy Kniveton

Lanny Hayes

Dennis Swinger Sr.

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Yvette Armstrong

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf

WA-25



Photo courtesy of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Emergency Preparedness

The fierce winter weather in our area can wreak havoc on electrical equipment and power lines. One of Big Bend Electric's primary goals is to provide you with reliable power. However, there are times when Mother Nature doesn't cooperate and unexpected outages can occur. If weather conditions this winter create an unexpected outage, it is best to be prepared with an emergency kit.

The kit should include water, nonperishable food, a flashlight, extra batteries, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, first-aid kit, medications, manual can opener, multipurpose tool, cash, blankets, pet supplies and activities for children.

Big Bend Electric linemen work hard to get power restored as soon as possible, but sometimes repairs are out of our hands. The majority of your power comes from Bonneville Power Administration dams. The power generated at the dams has to travel quite a distance over transmission lines operated and maintained by other entities, such as BPA, Avista, Franklin PUD and Grant PUD. As the transmission lines get closer to our area, the power is converted to a lesser voltage that travels through distribution lines that Big Bend Electric operates and maintains.

There have been several power blinks and outages lately due to transmission line failures beyond our control. Unfortunately, when outages happen due to transmission line problems, we are at the mercy of the above-mentioned transmission line providers to get power restored.

It is always best to be prepared and have an emergency kit ready when winter storms hit. Big Bend Electric Cooperative will continue to work hard and restore service as quickly and safely as possible when outages occur.

Call 866-844-2363 to report an outage 24/7.

Hood River Electric Cooperative



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

541-354-1233
www.hrec.coop

www.facebook.com/
HRECCoop/

DIRECTORS

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Secretary Patrick Moore
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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

Happy New Year!

I hope you enjoyed the holiday season and are looking forward to the start of a great 2019.

This is a busy time of year for Hood River Electric Cooperative. In the coming weeks, staff will work with an independent auditor to close out our records for 2018 and prepare the financial and operating data that will be presented at our annual meeting in March.

At its January 2018 meeting, your board of directors will select a date for our annual meeting and appoint a nominating committee. The nominating committee prepares a list of nominations for director positions, which are three-year terms. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, please contact one of the directors listed on this page.



Save Money and Energy in 2019

If your New Year's resolution is to save money, here are some free and low-cost ways to cut energy waste and lower your electric bill:

- Keep your doors and windows closed to keep the heat in. This includes interior doors to garages and unheated basements.
- Open curtains and blinds during the day on windows getting sun. Close all curtains at night to keep the heat inside.
- Set your thermostat a few degrees lower. Each degree you lower saves on heating costs. Set it even lower when you are away or asleep.
- If you have a heat pump, let it run as needed. Use a programmable thermostat to match your daily routine and maximize savings.
- Help your furnace by keeping furniture and window coverings from blocking heating registers. Clean or replace furnace filters monthly.
- If you have zonal heat, only heat the rooms you are using. Close doors to unused rooms.
- If you feel a cold draft, warm air is escaping. Seal or weatherstrip around windows, doors and plumbing penetrations to stop air leaks and keep heat in. Lay draft stoppers on the ground in front of doors.
- Set your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees. Install energy-saving showerheads and faucet aerators to reduce the amount of water you need to heat.
- Turn off or unplug lights, appliances, electronics and chargers that aren't in use. Don't pay for what you don't use!

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

Libby Calnon
General Manager

Harney Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy
Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

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

hec.burns@harneyelectric.org

Orovada, Nevada
775-272-3336

orovada.office@harneyelectric.org

www.harneyelectric.org

Find us on 

.....

Board of Directors

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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

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

We experienced a busy 2018 at the cooperative and have a busy 2019 planned. I would like to thank Harney Electric staff members for their support and help accomplishing all of our 2018 goals.

We completed the transmission project that replaced the section between the Fields switchyard and Fields Substation, and the new line between Fields Substation and Quinn River Substation.

We upgraded our Lawen, Dog Mountain, Riley, Fields and Kings River substations. We installed many new meters in those areas, which will give us automated readings to the Hines office. As part of that upgrade, we installed communication equipment that gives us the ability to monitor and control the circuit breakers from the Hines office. We plan to complete similar upgrades and meter installations for two more of our substations in 2019.

We will be busy in 2019 with the above-mentioned projects in addition to some of the regular upgrades necessary to keep and improve our system's efficiency and reliability.

As we work to keep the cooperative operational, we must also keep a close eye on changes taking place in the electric industry. We were able to defeat the Energy Choice Initiative in Nevada, but now face a push to increase the renewable portfolio standard for Nevada.

The carbon cap and trade in Oregon will probably be passed in the 2019 legislature, and we will need to work hard to get parts of the bill changed to make sure it does not harm the cooperative. On the federal level, we are working to keep power from the Columbia River system competitive and affordable.

We began a grassroots program called ORECA-Action in 2017 to achieve the cooperative's goals. I invite you as a Harney Electric member to join and get involved this year. For more information on ORECA-Action, go to harneyelectric.org and click on the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association logo at the bottom of the page.

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

Sincerely,

Fred Flippence
General Manager





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

Board of Directors

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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 be defined as making something ready for a serious, unexpected and often dangerous situation. My intent on writing about emergency preparedness is to keep it fresh on all our minds.

An emergency can exist if your electricity is disrupted. Your preparations for power outages can be a rewarding exercise and perhaps lessen negative effects. Emergency preparedness usually includes the planning objectives of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. You should consider every item electricity affects in your life and apply these planning objectives.

Mitigation and preparedness are similar, but let's consider mitigation to be those actions one might take to minimize the amount of harm we might sustain if an event occurs. Preparedness includes those things we do to respond effectively when an event happens. Some mitigation steps we might take in relation to future power outages include having alternative lighting, water supply, heat source, cooking source and electricity supply. Even making our homes more energy efficient can be a mitigation measure.

Preparedness steps could include things such as having an emergency food and water supply, 72-hour emergency kit, stored fuel, fresh batteries, candles, firewood, propane camp stove, first-aid supplies, extra blankets and even an emergency cash supply. Emergency phone numbers should be readily available and periodically checked for accuracy.

Response to a power outage can include items such as knowing how to safely operate the various appliances or equipment serving as backup to electric appliances. For example, knowing how to start your generator and safely interconnect with your electric system is important. Even knowing how to disconnect your electric garage door opener during a power outage can be a valuable thing to practice ahead of time. Response needs to be evaluated alongside each mitigation or preparedness step that is put in place.

Recovery includes the following: Make sure you are adequately insured, that you have replenished emergency supplies and, perhaps most importantly, assess your response to the emergency and make changes to your preparations as needed.

Emergency preparedness is all about planning, practicing and critiquing your response to an expected emergency. It obviously extends beyond being prepared for power outages. It is in everybody's interest to consider each emergency they and their family may experience, and apply the four emergency planning objectives considered above.

Happy New Year, and may 2019 find you safe, healthy, happy and prosperous.



Ken Dizes

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@uec.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.

ID-29

On the Wire at United Electric

Did you think Christmas had come early when you opened your power bill from United Electric the first of December and saw a credit on your account? The board of directors, management and staff were excited to be able to offer a rebate to customers who received power from United Electric in 2018.

Because United Electric is a nonprofit cooperative, the amount of revenue required to operate the cooperative is monitored closely, and revenue above the cost of conducting business is returned to members.

The co-op example that always comes to mind is REI, a national outdoor retail co-op focused on its members and the community—just like every co-op. There is a small membership fee to join REI. As a member, you receive a portion of the cooperative's margins each year based on a percentage of purchases you made. That's what being a nonprofit cooperative is all about.

United Electric had a good financial year in 2018, and the board of directors determined it prudent to return a portion of 2018's margins back to the members who received power in 2018. Two main factors contributed to the good financial health of United Electric:

- The co-op experienced record kilowatt-hour use as well as record peak demands in several months during 2018. Increased use meant higher-than-projected revenues.
- The co-op has been prudent in managing expenditures and strived to gain efficiencies, all while working hard to maintain exceptional service and commitment to the members.

Like any electric utility, United Electric uses its revenue to operate, maintain, upgrade and expand its system, and restore power when outages occur. The board of directors evaluated United Electric's cash position and overall financial well-being, as well as the condition of the distribution system when making the determination to return a portion of 2018's margins—just in time for the holidays.

Wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year,

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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Dean L. Myler
Randy R. Purser
Lynn O. Rothwell
Merlin A. Waddoups

Interim Manager/CEO
Bo Betzer

The board of directors
meets the fourth Friday
of each month at 8:30 a.m.

ID-30

DIY Energy Audit

Resolve to increase your home's energy efficiency

You don't have to call in a professional to find air leaks. Try these tips for a DIY energy audit:

Turn your heating system off and the fan on. Go into the attic or under the house—wherever the heating system's handler is located. If there is a leak in the return, it will blow air. Other warning signs are furnace cycling, drafts, cold floors, uneven temperature control and excessive fan noise.

On a windy day, hold a lit candle or incense stick next to areas you suspect are allowing air to leak into or out of your home. If the flame or smoke stream travels horizontally, the area has an infiltration problem.

Look in the attic. If light is coming in from below, air is leaking in.

Pull off the floor vent cover. Is the boot where the air supply vent meets the top edge of the floor securely attached all the way around the opening? If there are any gaps, seal the edge with caulking or a small nail and hard cast tape, available from heat pump suppliers.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2019



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

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

Copper Basin District

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

Valdez District

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

After hours outage line

(866) 835-2832

Important Dates

January

CVEA Offices Closed:

The CVEA offices will be closed Tuesday, January 1, 2019, for the New Year's Holiday

CVEA Bylaws Amendment Petition

Deadline: Recommended Bylaws amendments must be submitted by petition no later than 6 p.m. Thursday, January 10, 2019

CVEA Board Meeting: The January meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, January 17, 2019, in Valdez

February

CVEA Board Meeting: The February meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, February 21, 2019, in Glennallen

CVEA Offices Closed:

The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, February 18, 2019, for President's Day

Scholarship Application Deadline:

Thursday, February 21, 2019, prior to 6 p.m.

Director Nomination Deadline: Thursday, February 14, 2019, prior to 6 p.m.

AK-34



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

Want Your Vote to Count? Update Your Signature Card!

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

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

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

Many times, we see envelopes signed by people in the household who are not listed on the signature card, or by current organization leaders whose names have never been added. It is very important that residential and business members ensure that the people they want to be able to transact business with CVEA or vote on CVEA issues, have signed the signature card kept on file.

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



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

Harry Hewitt, President
Barbara Trout, Vice President
Doug Olson, Treasurer
David Burt, Secretary
Mike Gardner, 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

New Year, New Projects

Dear Customers:

I cannot believe 2019 is here already. This past year has gone by exceptionally fast. Nevertheless, I am ready for the new year and looking forward to new opportunities and growth for Tillamook PUD.

Though we plan many of our projects years in advance, before a new year begins we create a road map of projects and goals we would like to achieve in the coming year. Much of the planning begins in the fall and is centered around the budget process. One consideration is whether a project can be slated for completion in the coming year. Once projects have been identified, budgeted for and approved, the plan is set in motion.

On the list this year are several significant infrastructure improvement projects: replacing the residential electric service meters in our service territory; rebuilding a section of line from Rockaway to Wheeler; converting voltage levels in the Nehalem area from 20.8 kilovolt to a standard 24.9 kV; and building a feeder tie from Cape Kiwanda to Pacific City. Each of these projects has common themes, increasing the strength and reliability of the system so we can continue to provide optimal electrical service to our customers.

Continuing to connect with our customers and community is an important focal point in our strategic plan. New this year is the addition of Tillamook PUD Town Hall meetings. These informal meetings will occur throughout the county once a quarter. The goal is to provide a platform for customers and community members to learn about our latest projects, introduce our latest innovations and ask questions. We also plan to increase our connection with local youth through energy-efficiency projects, electrical-safety presentations and job shadowing opportunities.

We continue to focus on energy-saving solutions as well. Our Energy Services Department assists business and residential customers with energy-saving projects to achieve the best energy option for their specific needs. For businesses, LED lighting, refrigeration and compressed air systems are designed to reduce energy consumption, which can also provide a significant reduction in operating costs. On the residential side, high-efficiency heat pump systems and weatherization projects continue to be beneficial options for our customers to save energy and money.

These projects are just a piece of the many things happening at the utility in 2019. Continue to stay connected with us by checking out the Projects section on our website, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or contact us via phone or email if you have inquiries.

2018 was a productive year for Tillamook PUD, and 2019 is likely to bring even more challenges and opportunities. I am proud of the work we do and the goals we plan to achieve in 2019. Bring on the new year. The best is yet to come.

Todd Simmons, General Manager





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

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Roy Nageak Sr.

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

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

BUECI Welcomes New Electric Distribution Superintendent

Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative Inc. is pleased to announce and welcome Mel “Hutch” Hutchison to BUECI as the new electric distribution superintendent.

He is responsible for supervising the construction, maintenance, and repair of distribution lines and related installations for the electric system and overseeing the cooperative’s safety message and central facilities.

A 38-year veteran in the electric utility industry and a former lineman, his prior positions have taken him across many areas of the state, including villages in rural Alaska, so he is no stranger to our weather conditions.

“I am thrilled to be part of the BUECI team,” Hutch says. “My professional career has been in the utility industry, and I look forward to continuing that tradition as I begin a new chapter in Utqiagvik. I look forward to meeting local leaders and sitting down with them to get to know them and their future needs and construction plans.”

“Please join me in welcoming Mr. Hutchison to our cooperative,” says BUECI General Manager Ben Frantz. “His experience and knowledge from throughout his career—and particularly in Alaska—add greatly to our efforts in service to our membership.”

You can contact Hutch at 907-852-3868 or mel.hutchison@bueci.org.



Owned By Those We Serve

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John Sloan, Secretary (District 6)
Bill Nordmark, Treasurer (District 7)
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David Messier (District 1)
Gary Newman (District 4)

Corporate Headquarters

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

Delta Junction Office

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

Nenana Office

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

Report Outages:

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

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!



AK-37

Remembering our friend, Bob Huffman

Bob Huffman, a long-time member of the GVEA family, passed away on December 8, 2018, at the age of 91. Bob worked at GVEA for 30 years, beginning as a line-man, then Line Superintendent, and eventually retiring in 1983 as GVEA's General Manager. When researching Bob's time at GVEA, we found the following summary of his tenure, which appeared in the February 1983 edition of the Ruralite. It best describes Bob's service to GVEA's members and how he guided the Co-op through one of the most significant times of growth in our State's history.

"It's no secret in the utility business that Co-op people are very special people. One of those special people is GVEA General Manager Bob Huffman, who is retiring this month. During his 14 years in this position, Bob has successfully guided your Co-op through a challenging period of dynamic growth. Golden Valley has indeed been fortunate to have experienced the farsighted and dedicated leadership that Bob has provided. On February 11, 1983, Bob will hand over the management responsibilities of the Co-op to another special person, present Assistant Manager Mike Kelly."



Bob Huffman's retirement comes after 30 years of service to GVEA. He has seen the Cooperative grow from fewer than 2,000 services to over 19,000. Through Bob's fine leadership, the utility weathered such storms as the oil embargo, phenomenal pipeline growth, double-digit inflation and geometric growth in government regulations. Bob leaves the utility in a strong position to handle the challenges of the 1980s. Some of the accomplishments that will bear fruit in the future can be chalked up in large part to Bob's relentless pursuit of reliable, low-cost power for his fellow Interior Alaskans. He has been a fierce fighter for interconnection of area utilities, the Tie-Line between Fairbanks and Anchorage, the Susitna hydroelectric project, the first royalty oil contract in the state, and many other worthwhile projects. Bob will be missed by his fellow employees and many friends among the membership. However, we will all continue to benefit from his knowledge and experience. Bob will be serving as Chairman of both the State of Alaska and Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Energy Power Committees."

We at GVEA hold a deep appreciation for Bob's contributions and service. Bob is survived by Betty, his wife of 66 years. We ask that you please keep Betty and the entire Huffman family in your thoughts and prayers. ■

Manager's Message

Continued from page 32

Telecommunications

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

We continue to upgrade the remainder of the system in west Quincy to provide broadband via coax, and will proceed with Chandler Road, Plumas Pines, Loyalton and Sierra Brooks expansion during 2019.

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

Scholarships

PSREC and PST are again offering scholarships to students who receive either electric or internet services from PSREC or PST at their primary residence in Plumas, Sierra, Lassen and Washoe counties. An application can be found on page 28. There is no upper age limit to apply for scholarships. The deadline is March 15. More information can also be found on our website at www.psrec.coop.

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

Sincerely,



Bob Marshall
General Manager

PSREC Winter Rate Assistance Program

Encouraging energy conservation in low-income households

PSREC is still taking applications for the Winter Rate Assistance Program.

Once approved you can receive a discount on your kilowatt-hour rate during the heating season.

This program is available to PSREC income-qualified members for electric

service at their permanent residence in Plumas, Sierra, Lassen and Washoe counties. Income qualifications and restrictions apply.

Call today for an application and program details, 530-832-4261 ext. 6047 or access the information at www.psrec.coop.

WRAP Income Requirements	
Number in Household	Maximum Annual Income*
1-2	\$31,020
3	\$39,060
4	\$47,100
5	\$55,140
6	\$63,180

***Income levels are based on 190% of the federal poverty level and are subject to change each year. For each additional household member, add \$8,040 a year. Proof of income must be current to within six weeks from the application date.**

Resources for Additional Assistance and Emergency Programs:

Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance and Weatherization Assistance Resources.

Worried about high energy bills this winter? You may qualify for heating assistance or home weatherization assistance. Contact your local agency for more information and applications.

Plumas and Sierra Counties

Plumas County Community Development Commission
530-283-2466

Lassen County

Lassen Economic Development Corporation 530-256-3531

Washoe County

Nevada Home Energy Assistance Program 530-684-0730

Personal Crisis and Emergency Assistance Resources

Have you experienced a crisis and need immediate assistance? Please contact the

following organizations to find out if help is available. Be sure to communicate with PSREC staff to find out if you can make payment arrangements to ensure your electricity is not disconnected.

Plumas County

Plumas Crisis and Intervention
530-283-5515

Portola Family Resource Center
530-832-1827

Lassen County

Fort Sage Family Resource Center
530-827-3007

The Salvation Army Social Service Center 530-257-0314

Sierra County

Sierra County Family Resource Center
530-993-1110

Washoe County

Nevada Home Energy Assistance Crisis Intervention Program 530-684-0730



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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fnelson@psrec.coop

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dshort@psrec.coop

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lprice@psrec.coop

Dave Roberti, *Sierra Valley*
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Tom Hammond, *Herlong*
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Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



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

CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

Happy New Year! 2018 was a full, productive year for Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative and Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications. PSREC continued to improve system reliability and response times through our supervisory control and data acquisition system. The operations department worked hard to upgrade and automate control of key switches, which will accelerate power restoration in outage situations.

We also increased vegetation management and removal of hazard trees on our system to improve reliability and fire safety. State law now requires landowners to allow us on private property to remove trees that are hazardous to our power lines, even when outside of the right-of-way. We appreciate the increased cooperation we have had from our members on this key reliability and safety issue.

The Camp Fire was a horrific event for our neighbors in Butte County. Our cooperative, and the region, was affected as the main feed from PG&E between the central valley and Plumas County was cut a few minutes after 8 a.m. on November 8. PSREC switched to our backup power supply within a few minutes, and stayed partially or wholly on backup power for a few hours short of three weeks.

PSREC has invested in a connection to the Nevada grid and our own cogeneration facility between the state prisons near Susanville. Because we invested in improvements to our system controls, we were able to quickly switch our system in discrete pieces that greatly increased the speed of restoring power. In addition, our new solar plant came on line in time to help cover our morning peaks.

After several days, we worked with PG&E and shifted some of our western substations onto PG&E's islanded system that was keeping Plumas County customers on line. PSREC

serves two state prisons and one federal prison. We are grateful they ran their generators day and night, allowing us to carry the rest of the membership until we were able to switch load back to PG&E.

Your board of directors has invested in a reliable grid year after year. We have a far-flung electric system with only six customers per mile of line. These investments have paid off. If it wasn't for our sustained efforts over time, we would have been faced with rolling blackouts for three weeks.

Be Prepared for Outages

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

You can receive updates on major, system-wide outages via text. To sign up, text "PSREC" to 95577. Please report all outages to us, day or night, at 800-555-2207.

Thanks to our backup transmission feed from NV Energy, our High Sierra Cogeneration Plant, the prisons running their on-site generators and member conservation, we were able to keep the lights on for 20 days during the PG&E outage caused by the Camp Fire. We appreciate everyone pitching in to conserve and prevent rolling blackouts.

Our operations staff did a great job through all this, working in shifts that covered our SCADA system 24 hours a day during the holidays. Thanks so much to Jason Harston, Scott Welch, and their staff and crews for going above and beyond.

Continues on page 8



MT. WHEELER POWER

1600 Great Basin Blvd.
Ely, NV 89301

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

Emergency Contacts

Ely Office
775-289-8981

Eureka Office
775-237-5693

Outside Ely / Eureka Area
800-97-POWER

Board of Directors

District 1 – Ron Miller
District 2 – Mary Kerner
District 3 – Robert Pratt
District 4 – Catherine Bakeric
District 5 – Rick Hendrix
District 6 – Jerald Anderson
District 7 – Sandra Green
District 8 – Wade Robison
District 9 – Ron Niman

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

*Winter office hours start November 12. The
Ely office will be open Monday through
Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Eureka office
will be open Monday through Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

“Powering Your Future”

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

NV-40

New Year, Same Commitment to Community

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed that, “Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.”

To a large degree, this reflects Mt. Wheeler Power's philosophy toward our members and the broader service territory we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different “bottom line.” While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation: your well-being and that of the larger community. To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member of our co-op, and without you, we would not exist.

Mt. Wheeler Power was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped create Mt. Wheeler Power. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are so much more. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we can do this because of members like you.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

Mt. Wheeler Power members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local charitable organizations and provide programs like CARE and Santa's Elves. When you support these efforts, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Shellie Watts, Member Services and HR Manager



Wells Rural Electric Company

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Bob Wilcox

Director Emeritus

D. Vernon Dalton

website:

www.wrec.coop

Outage Hotline:

(800) 566-6696
24 hours a day

Carlin office:

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

Wendover office:

1706 West Butte Street
P.O. Box 3699
West Wendover,
Nevada 89883
(775) 664-2204

Wells office:

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

NV-41

CEO Message

I could have easily closed a pop-up ad I recently encountered, but the headline was troubling. The banner read, "Secrets your electric company doesn't want you to know ..."

I know better than to fall prey to click bait, but in the aftermath of Question 3, I'm unusually suspicious of propaganda against electric companies. Essentially, the ad claimed that your electric company doesn't want you to install solar panels because it would cut into its profits.

While that claim may be true in some cases, it's not true for your member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative. In fact, Wells Rural Electric Company (WREC) adopted a net metering policy long before such policies became an industry practice or were required by legislation.

WREC's net metering policy enables members who generate less than 50 kiloWatts to offset their usage with electricity they produce. In rare cases where a member produces more electricity than they use, WREC will purchase the excess electricity at the wholesale rate.

Only eleven WREC members currently utilize the net metering policy. While I don't know all of the reasons why there has been limited adoption of solar in our service area, I do know that our low cost for electricity yields a longer return on investment, and our access to clean, renewable hydroelectricity already provides the same environmental benefits.

As is often the case with technology, we will probably see more members install solar as the industry matures and the costs come down. However, it's no secret that you can reduce your monthly bill, and you don't have to wait until you can install solar panels. Start saving today with energy efficiency and conservation.



One of your employees likes to say, "Our best kept secrets have been published." In the case of energy efficiency and conservation, we were promoting those well-established programs when I began my career 37 years ago.

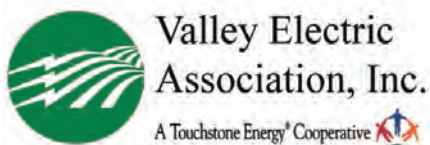
Our programs have evolved over time, but the philosophy behind them has remained constant: WREC provides safe, reliable, clean and *affordable* electricity. Energy efficiency and conservation immediately reduce your individual usage. When adopted by many consumers, energy efficiency and conservation help keep wholesale prices affordable.

As I write this column, we are just a couple of days away from the winter solstice and the longest night of the year. Our use of electricity for light and heat often increases during long nights and cold days. While I don't want to discourage anyone from enjoying the comfort and convenience of electricity, I do want you to get the most from your energy dollars.

Visit www.wrec.coop for a complete list of rebates available to qualifying members for installing energy efficient-lighting, appliances, windows and insulation. Even if you have taken advantage of WREC's programs in the past, advancements in technology—especially in LED lighting—probably make it worthwhile to upgrade some of the devices around your home or business.

Best wishes for a bright and prosperous New Year!

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer



NV-42

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Doing the Right Thing on IPTV



A topic that came up frequently during my visits with members in December was the challenge with Valley Communication Association's IPTV service. I got a question about it at nearly every stop I made, which I expected.

For many months, consumers have had to deal with "pixelation," lost signals and other issues. If you have the service, chances are, you know what I am talking about. (For non-subscribers, IPTV is a subscription cable-type service that delivers high-definition television programming through our broadband network.)

Working with the firm that produces the IPTV feed for us, we tried everything to solve the problems and improve consistency and reliability. For a cooperative that prides itself on reliability, the situation could not be tolerated. It was not easy to face up to the fact that IPTV was never going to meet our standards, and so we had to make it right with active IPTV subscribers. We quit charging subscribers. We also issued credits for the November charges. And, we won't charge them while a team of our Valley Communication employees is conducting an assessment of alternative products that may be a suitable replacement product. That could take a few months.

It was the right thing to do, however, and our consumers seem satisfied with the actions we took. They have said as much in the correspondence we have received and through the feedback I

got during my tour of the districts.

I was heartened by the courtesy, patience and kindness from members. They, too, were disappointed but were understanding of the situation.

IPTV is an example of my commitment to transparency as CEO. Of course, we had high expectations when we rolled out IPTV. At some point, however, you have to admit there is a problem, get the right people involved and find a solution that is best for members.

As stewards of the Cooperative, enabling transparency through information is a primary objective of the Board as it is with myself. As CEO I intend to demonstrate this day-in and day-out. Simply put, the Board demands this, and our members deserve it.

Members can expect to see me frequently in their districts, and not just during our annual district meetings. The best way to share information about our Cooperative is to talk with members face to face whenever possible. I believe this is the right thing to do.

Until next month,

Angela Evans
Chief Executive Officer

Angela Evans was named CEO of Valley Electric Association in October. She served at the executive level at utilities in New Mexico, Texas and California for more than 20 years before joining VEA in 2017.

LIGHTNING FAST

Internet Speeds



valleycom.com

800 E. Highway 372
P.O. Box 237
Pahrump, NV 89041

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800-742-3330 (within Nevada)
or 775-727-5312, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday-Friday, except holidays

AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

We are here 24 hours a day,
seven days a week for your
emergency needs.

(775) 727-5312

Website: www.vea.coop

Email: wmc@vea.coop

Commissioners

Joe O'Leary

Paul Rogers

Shan Rowbotham

General Manager

Matt Boast

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

Need Help With Your Utility Bills?

The following organizations may be able to help.

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

WA-43

DIY Energy Audit

Resolve to increase your home's energy efficiency

You don't have to call in a professional to find air leaks. Try these tips for a DIY energy audit:

Turn your heating system off and the fan on. Go into the attic or under the house—wherever the heating system's handler is located. If there is a leak in the return, it will blow air. Other warning signs are furnace cycling, drafts, cold floors, uneven temperature control and excessive fan noise.

On a windy day, hold a lit candle or incense stick next to areas you suspect are allowing air to leak into or out of your home. If the flame or smoke stream travels horizontally, the area has an infiltration problem.

Look in the attic. If light is coming in from below, air is leaking in.

Pull off the floor vent cover. Is the boot where the air supply vent meets the top edge of the floor securely attached all the way around the opening? If there are any gaps, seal the edge with caulking or a small nail and hard cast tape, available from heat pump suppliers.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2019





557 Kenny Wren Rd.
P.O. Box 350
Dillingham, AK 99576

907-842-5251
Toll Free: 800-478-5296
After Hours: 907-842-5555
Fax 907-842-2799
www.nushtel.com

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Clarks Point	Manokotak
Dillingham	Portage Creek



Touchstone Energy®

AK-47

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2019

The board and staff at Nushagak Cooperative remind you to be careful around electricity, and wish you a safe and happy new year. We look forward to serving your energy needs in the coming year.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

District Offices

4005 23rd Street
P.O. Box 226

Baker City, OR 97814
541-523-3616

567 West Pierce
Burns, OR 97720
541-573-2666

400 Patterson Bridge Road
P.O. Box 575
John Day, OR 97845
541-575-0161

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

www.otecc.com
communications@otecc.com

**Report Outages at
866-430-4265**

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Follow us at twitter.com/OTECoop
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Baker County

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

Les Penning, CEO and General
Manager

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

New Year Offers Chance to Look Back

At Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, the execution of our short- and long-term planning is an ongoing strategic part of our operations. Those plans are aligned to ensure we fulfill our core mission to safely provide members with reliable electric and related services that support the local economy and the quality of life in the communities we serve.

We do this guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles and our core values. As a result, our primary focus is on our core business of delivering electric services, the very reason we were formed by our member-owners 30 years ago.

This time of year is a good opportunity for us to look back on some of the primary focus areas and major investments we made in our infrastructure. We invested more than \$5 million in key capital projects, including the completion of three major substation upgrades. These upgrades focused on the industrial parks in both La Grande and Baker City to increase capacity for current load, positioning for growth and improving system capabilities. The third substation near Seneca also increased capacity and reliability.

In 2018, the OTEC Board of Directors approved major revisions to our line-extension policy in response to member feedback about the process and costs associated with new and upgraded services. Now fully deployed, these changes create a much better process and experience for our member-owners.

We also completed the last of our substation telemetry projects. This technology allows us real-time visibility into the health of the substations, allowing for expedited and more informative decisions to be made on areas such as performance and recovery.

As we move into 2019, we will continue to focus on our core service of delivering reliable power to our member-owners while looking ahead to upcoming changes.

The political winds may be blowing in a

fleet of new regulations as a byproduct of the legislation focused on a cap-and-trade bill that targets reducing carbon. We remain mindful of solar and battery technology that is exponentially improving in both performance and cost. We benefit from a carbon-free, clean hydro resource that provides 95 percent of our power and will continue to be vigilant in our review of resource options. As costs increase in one form of generation, they may decrease in another.

Our job is to ensure the timing of such an investment provides our member-owners the best product at a competitive rate.

We continue to work to meet our member-owners' needs and expectations, responding when a major change will affect our service territory. An example of an upcoming project in this space is the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, positioning OTEC to serve member-owners and supporting our communities' tourism efforts as the EV market continues to expand.

In 2019, we will remain focused on other advancing technologies used to charge EVs and will support a high-speed charging corridor through OTEC territory, which will be capable of adding 250 miles per hour of charge to the average EV.

The court-ordered spill over the dams clearly demonstrated the impact politics has on our cooperative. The new legislative session in 2019 will be no exception. We will continue to stay involved, keep you informed and leverage the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association (ORECA)—our statewide cooperative association—to lobby for what is best for the co-op, our communities and our member-owners.

OTEC sees a promising 2019 ahead. From all of us here at your cooperative, we wish you a happy new year.

Les Penning
CEO and General Manager



Member-owned since 1921

Ohop Mutual Light Co.

34014 Mountain Highway E.
Eatonville, WA 98328
Phone: 253-847-4363
Power problems: 253-847-4363
Pay by phone: 888-477-8085
Email: office@ohop.coop
www.ohop.coop

Board of Directors

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

General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

A Little Easier

At Ohop Mutual Light Company



Hello Members,

By the time you read this, the Christmas holidays will have come and gone and the new year will be upon us. In the words of David Zumbo, "In the midst of the dawn of sunshine, armed with faith and hope, we enter the splendid and bright New Year."

At Ohop Mutual, we are striving to make 2019 a little easier by providing our members an opportunity to simplify their monthly billing and payment process with some of the following programs:

- **Recurring payments.** Tired of calling in monthly to make your payment by credit card or writing and mailing a check? Ohop Mutual can set up your account to automatically make your payment for your electric bill. You will continue to receive a monthly statement showing your billing charges and automatic payment.
- **EBill.** Want the ease of checking your bill or making a payment 24 hours a day? Sign up for our EBill program. In addition to being able to make payments quickly, members will find it easy to view their power bills, monthly use and payment history on their computer, tablet or smartphone.
- **Pay by phone.** Need to make a payment by telephone after the office has closed? Ohop Mutual offers 24-hour access to our Pay-By-Phone system. Just call 888-477-8805 and follow the automated instructions. Payments can be made by credit card or check.

On Another Note

House Bill 2565, "Fuel Mix Disclosure," directs electric utilities in Washington to report to their consumers the fuel mix used to generate the electricity that serves their local loads. Since Ohop receives all of its power from the Bonneville Power Administration, Ohop's fuel mix and the BPA's fuel mix are the same.

Coal	0.63%
Hydro	89.53%
Natural gas	0.82%
Nuclear	8.87%
Biomass	0.08%
Petroleum.....	0.03%
Other	0.04%

If you have questions about our fuel mix or want to take advantage of our billing and payment programs, please call. Customer service is happy to assist you.

Kenneth Klotz
General Manager



45710 SE North Bend Way
P.O. Box 1426
North Bend, WA 98045-1426
Telephone: 425-888-0623
Toll-free: 800-472-0208
www.tannerelectric.coop

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Chief Financial Officer

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Operations Manager

Nick Himebauch

Executive Assistant

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

North Bend
Ames Lake
Anderson Island

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

WA-50

When the Lights Go Out

Tanner Electric Cooperative's phone outage management system lets you easily report an outage from your home telephone or the SmartHub app on your mobile device. It can handle incoming calls and reduces the chance you will get a busy signal.

When power is out, call our main number—425-888-0623—and press 1 to report the outage. Your call generates an outage ticket for TEC's outage response. You will hear a message with information about the outage.

It is important to note TEC must have an up-to-date telephone number where you receive service. To update your telephone information, call one of the phone numbers listed at left and press 2. Have your TEC account number available.

Repair priorities. Because transmission lines and substations must be properly working before distribution lines, tap lines and services can work, TEC repairs transmission lines and substations first. Next comes main distribution lines. Repairing these lines restores power to a large distribution area. Tap lines can then be worked on. Repairing a single tap line might restore service to several individual services. With all of the feeder lines in the area repaired, individual services can be worked on next.

Following these steps allows TEC to restore service to as many people in as short a time as possible. The next time you see a TEC repair crew, be sure to wave. They often work under difficult conditions. We believe they are among the best in the industry.

Be prepared. Service reliability and safety are primary concerns for TEC, for you and your neighbors.

Rain, fallen trees, vehicle accidents and animals can cause power outages. Whatever the reason, power disruptions have an impact on many areas of our lives. Most disruptions of energy services are resolved in minutes and hours, rather than days or weeks. However, emergency management professionals recommend preparing yourself for a minimum of three days in case of a disaster.

Power Outage Tips

- Leave a porch light on so repair workers—and you—know power is back on.
- Install surge protectors to protect equipment.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Food in a refrigerator will last 12 to 24 hours if kept cool. Food in a full freezer can last 24 to 48 hours.
- Prepare an emergency kit that includes a flashlight, radio, bottled drinking water and easy-to-prepare food.



Parkland Light & Water Company

Owned By
Those We Serve

12918 Park Ave.
P.O. Box 44426
Tacoma, WA 98448-0426
253-531-5666

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Mon-Thu, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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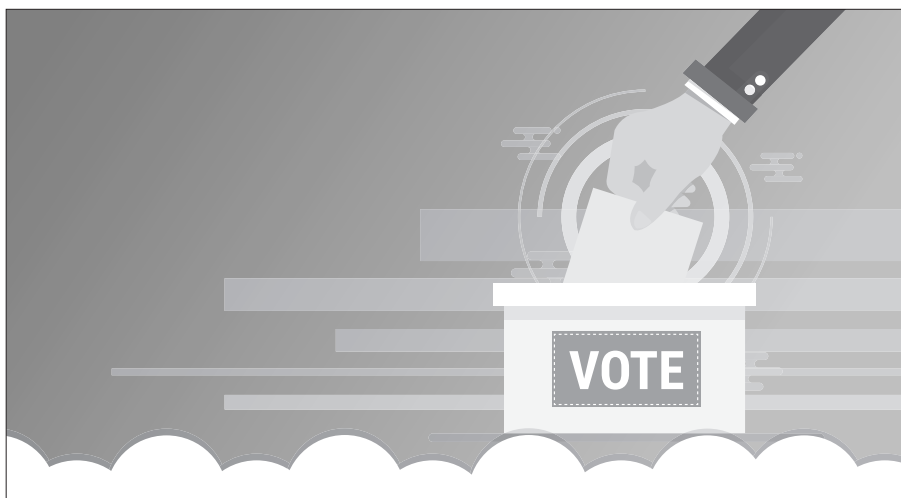
Susan Cutrell

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

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

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

WA-52



Will You Run for Office?

Parkland Light & Water Co.'s annual meeting is Tuesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the commons area at Keithley Middle School. The address is 12324 12th Ave. South.

One trustee will be elected for a five-year term. Members interested in running for the position should declare their candidacy by Monday, February 11, so their name can be published in the March issue of Ruralite.

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



495 E. Columbia River Highway
PO BOX 216

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

Office Hours: 8 am to 5 pm
Monday through Friday

Please call to report outages
(503) 728-2163

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GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #2061500

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

Community Calendar

January 1: Happy New Year- CPUD
office closed

**January 3: Clatskanie Chamber
Meeting** - Noon at Colvins; Chamber
Board Election for 2019

January 10: Rainier Chamber Meeting
Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

January 15: Important Safety Training
CPUD office will open at 10 am.

**January 16: Clatskanie PUD Board
Meeting** - Workshop at 5:30 pm, followed
by regular board meeting at 7 pm.

January 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
CPUD office closed

OR-60

Happy New Year everyone! The start of a new year is a good opportunity to let you know a couple of the goals we will be working on this year, and share with you some of the results of our recent customer survey.

In 2019 we will be installing Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in Clatskanie and Rainier. We will install two Level 2 Chargers and one DC Fast Charger at the CCR Rider Transit Center in Rainier and here at our District office in Clatskanie. With the future direction of the auto industry leaning toward EVs we want to provide, both those residing within our service territory and those traveling through, an opportunity to top off their vehicles in our communities. We are excited to provide service to this new growing transportation segment and are in the process of setting rates for this charging service.

Our recent system audit revealed a startling fact that over 2,800 of our meters are over 40 years old, well past their service life expectancy. We are developing a plan to update our meter system from the old electromechanical meters to new solid state digital meters. Customers will be able to see their usage on their meter as a digital readout instead of the old spinning wheels. We will be selecting a vendor and starting a pilot program in 2019, then phase in the remaining meters over the following two years.

We contracted Acti-Dyne from Scappoose to conduct an independent third party customer survey to see how we are doing, where we can improve our customer service, and find out what is on our customers' minds. I am pleased to report to you that our approval rating with our customers stands at 88.3% which is a good start, but also plenty of room for improvement. A couple of areas that stand out is that 92% of our customers support the District providing funds for low income energy assistance, which overwhelmingly supports the Board's decision last year to increase funding to our Share the Warmth program and dedicate late fees to help keep the program funded going forward.

We were also pleased that 77% of our customers read the Ruralite magazine. Our customers also responded that 52% use Ruralite as their primary source of information about the District, while 28% use the Clatskanie PUD website, and 18% our Facebook page. Since the Ruralite costs us less than it would to mail a first class letter to each customer, it has proven to be the best and most cost effective way to communicate with our customers each month.

We will share more results in future issues. Thanks to those who took the time to respond to our survey. We will update the survey regularly in order to monitor any changes and shifts in the thoughts and needs of our customers and our progress in serving them.

Marc Farmer
General Manager





KOTZEBUE
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

P.O. Box 44
Kotzebue, AK 99752
907-442-3491
(Fax) 907-442-2482

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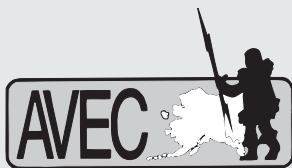
Kotzebue Electric Association Inc., a locally owned utility dedicated to cooperative principles, will make electric energy, and other value-added utility services and products available to its members' at the lowest cost consistent with sound economic and management practices, which improves utility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

AK-64

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2019

The board and staff at Kotzebue Electric Association remind you to be careful around electricity, and wish you a safe and happy new year. We look forward to serving your energy needs in the coming year.



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Mountain Village

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Elim	Pitkas Point
Emmonak	Quinhagak
Gambell	Russian Mission
Goodnews Bay	St. Mary's
Grayling	St. Michael
Holy Cross	Savoonga
Hooper Bay	Scammon Bay
Huslia	Selawik
Kaltag	Shageluk
Kasigluk	Shaktoolik
Kiana	Shishmaref
Kivalina	Shungnak
Kobuk	Stebbins
Kotlik	Teller
Koyuk	Togiak
Lower Kalskag	Toksook Bay
Marshall	Tununak
Mekoryuk	Upper Kalskag
Minto	Yakutat
Mt. Village	Wales

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



AK-105

A Message from Meera

November 30, 2018 is a day many of us will not forget soon. At 8:29 a.m., a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Anchorage. That seems modest compared with the 9.2 Good Friday earthquake in 1964, but this one was centered much closer, so was strongly felt in and around Anchorage.

The earthquake was felt hundreds of miles away and caused a fair amount of damage to roads, bridges and buildings. The Minnesota Boulevard off ramp to International Airport Road—a mile from AVEC headquarters—was pictured on national news and hundreds of social media sites! Dozens of buildings have been declared unsafe to occupy and it is likely, when all is said and done, that damages will total hundreds of millions of dollars.

Thankfully, the AVEC property suffered no damage other than a lot of rattled employees. Pictures and other artwork fell off walls and several computer monitors came down. Shelves were emptied of files and books but because we strengthened our building against earthquakes when we remodeled a few years ago, damages were minimal.

The Christmas season is upon us and the New Year shines bright ahead. We are planning on a lot of construction activity in 2019 and here is a sampling:

- The 20 mile intertie between St. Mary's and Mt. Village will be built over this winter and work will continue at the St. Mary's power plant to integrate the new wind turbine. We also expect to break ground for the new tank farm there.
- The tank farm in Noorvik will undergo repairs to the dike and liner.
- Generator overhauls/replacements will occur in Chevak, Elim, Goodnews Bay, Holy Cross, Kiana, Koyuk, Marshall, Mekoryuk, Minto, Old Harbor, Quinhagak, Scammon Bay and Toksook Bay.
- Roofing and deck projects are planned for Alakanuk, Ambler, Anvik and Holy Cross.
- Battery system upgrades will occur in Eek, Shungnak and Wales

In addition, we expect to build services to connect dozens of homes, install or replace streetlights as needed by the communities and continue pole replacements and right-of-way clearing in many of our communities. We wish you all bountiful fish and game, good fortunes and healthy families in the New Year!

Happy New Year,

Meera Kohler
President and CEO





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

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Christina M. Nystrom

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

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

CA-106

General Manager's Message

The start of a new year is an opportunity to reflect on the past and look to the future. 2018 was a challenging year in many ways, but time and time again our excellent staff, with the support and assistance of many others in our community, stepped up to the challenge.

One of the biggest challenges we faced in 2018 occurred as a result of the Whaleback Fire at Eagle Lake. Approximately seven miles of high-voltage distribution lines serving customers on the north side of the lake was completely destroyed by the fire. Since this was the only source of power to those customers, we rented a 1.5 megawatt diesel generator to provide power while we made repairs. The line ran through very rough terrain, and rebuilding the line in that location would have required helicopters and blasting to get new poles across the lava beds. With great cooperation from the Forest Service and Lassen County, we were able to replace the line with buried cable along Eagle Lake Road. The project was completed in just under two months, at a cost of just over \$3M, including the cost of the temporary generator.

2019 is shaping up to be another productive year as we continue our efforts to provide reliable electric service to our customers at the lowest practical cost.

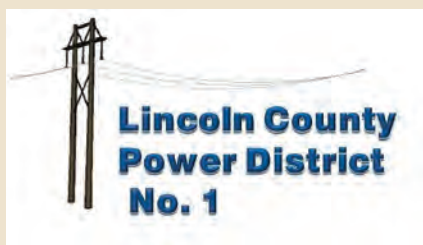
A reliable power supply is very important to our customers, which is why we are planning to construct the Skedaddle substation. This project will provide an interconnection to the Reno-Alturas transmission line that runs along the eastern side of our service territory. After construction is complete, we will take deliveries of power through this interconnection instead of the PG&E Caribou line that interconnects with our system in Westwood. The Caribou line has had a number of extended outages over the past several years. In 2018 alone, the line went down on two occasions. In November, during and after the Camp Fire, it was out for 21 consecutive days. Fortunately, we were able to "island" with Honey Lake Power, so our customers did not have to experience what would have been an extreme hardship.

The Skedaddle Project will greatly improve the reliability of our power supply for many years to come. At the time of this article, we are about 90% finished with the permitting process, and we expect to sign interconnection and transmission agreements with NV Energy early in 2019. Design and construction will take about 1½ to 2½ years, and we're prepared to move forward with this next phase once we have permits and contracts in place.

As a community-owned utility, we are dedicated to keeping costs as low as possible while providing high-quality, reliable service to our customers. The projects described above are just a few of the things we do to improve the reliability and efficiency of our system.

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

Doug C. Smith
General Manager



Lincoln County Power District No. 1

HC 74, Box 101
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Phone: 775-962-5122
Toll free: 888-649-3814

Email: lcpcd@lcpcd1.com

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GENERAL MANAGER

David Luttrell

Board meets the
second Tuesday
of each month



MISSION STATEMENT

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

NV-107

Great Things Ahead

We are very excited for the new year. Ballot question 3, the Energy Choice Initiative, was defeated and is behind us for now. To those who took the time to learn the impacts of this initiative, thank you. With the campaign demanding much of our attention, we remained focused on day-to-day operations and accomplished a lot in 2018. Now we look forward to accomplishing even more in 2019.

As indicated in Dianna Troyer's article in this edition, we will soon complete construction on our new administrative and operations buildings in Panaca. Some staff will move into the buildings in February, and we will hold an open house. The buildings will complete the first phase of a three-year effort to move the entire Power District operation to the new site. Information in your January invoice will indicate the day of the open house and our new business address.

The second major activity on the horizon is additional work on the 69,000-volt transmission line that feeds all of Lincoln County's power. We will issue a construction contract in early 2019 to replace structures on a 12-mile stretch in Delamar Valley. We are on track to complete reconstruction of this 122-mile transmission line by the end of 2023. Upon completion, we will have spent more than \$15 million replacing the original 1937 line while minimizing the impact on service rates.

Our crews will focus on another major project, continuing to replace the 22,000-volt distribution line that runs through Meadow Valley between Caliente and Caselton. We will remove one substation, rebuild another, and complete an additional 6 miles of line reconstruction. That will leave just the 22,000-volt system in the Indian Ridge and Highland Knolls, which we will replace in 2020.

Lastly, we are excited to begin the transition to an automated metering infrastructure. AMI will allow us to eliminate monthly meter reading, implement pay-as-you-go service plans, and respond to power outages much faster, among other things. The payback on the investment to convert to AMI is just a few years, and we will roll out AMI over a three-year period to minimize impact on rates.

With that, I want to reiterate that a rate adjustment may become necessary later this year. However, the above projects, which have been planned for and capitalized, will have little impact on our rates. The most direct and immediate impacts on our rates are increases in the cost of Hoover Dam hydroelectric power and the power we buy in the wholesale market, which we have little control over. As we continue to monitor this situation, we remain committed to not adjusting rates until after the summer irrigation season, and only after we have public meetings with our customers.



David Luttrell, General Manager



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The power of human connections®

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Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.
Umatilla Electric Co-op
Umpqua Indian Utility
Wasco Electric Co-op
West Oregon Electric Co-op

OR-400

Case in Point

Well, that went fast. It was 10 years ago last month that the Cases rolled into Oregon from Washington, D.C., during one of the most historic blizzards to ever hit Portland—a welcome mat with 3 feet of snow on it.

At the time, our kids were small and wildly talkative. They are no longer small and sometimes barely utter anything to us at all. Teenagers do that.

Things change, but one thing has never changed during my decade at the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association: the commitment of our members to doing the right thing by providing affordable, reliable and safe electricity to Oregonians every single day. But it's not the same people. Since I arrived in that storm, most of the original CEOs of our 18 co-ops have retired. A group of experienced, service-minded leaders has been replaced by the next generation of leaders who are becoming legends in their own right. Much credit needs to go to the co-op boards of directors who take their hiring responsibilities seriously.

During our annual meeting, I always say the most important business of the day is not the high-powered panels or expert speakers. It is our awards ceremony, during which we recognize our best and brightest. After all, it is not the co-op legacy or our hydropower that makes this program great. It is our people.

In 2019, I resolve to more fully appreciate and recognize those co-op leaders who go the extra mile for our members and ORECA. It is a long list. I can't wait to see what this year—and the next 10 years—will bring. But I'd prefer to leave the snow shovel in the garage.



Ted Case

Executive Director



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www.dvec.org

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Steven Lunt
CEO

BOARD MEETINGS

January 22
February 19
March 18

*Generally the third Monday
of the month*

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

CEO's Message

'Amazing' is the Right Word

As often as you hear the word "amazing" these days, I don't find myself using it very often. It seems many times the word is used to describe something that really is not that amazing after all. But I never hesitate to use the adjective when I talk about Duncan Valley Electric's electrical system and what it takes to keep it up and running.

The electrical grid has been called the greatest real-time delivery machine in human history. It continually balances electricity supply and demand in increments of milliseconds. It links power plants, transmission systems and distribution networks across thousands of miles to homes and businesses with an overall reliability record exceeding 99.999 percent.

The electrical system grows even more sophisticated every day. Today, consumers can connect their own energy

production system—usually solar panels—and, in a small way, actually become part of the grid. What also amazes me is how much this engineering marvel is taken for granted when just a couple of generations ago it was seen as a life-changing miracle.

The care and management of our distribution system is an around-the-clock responsibility for the employees of Duncan Valley Electric. Our members frequently praise our linemen for restoring power outages in all kinds of weather, day and night.

Few realize this work is a relatively small share of our crews' workload. Every day their normal work involves projects that extend service to new customers or secure its reliability. They make



Steven Lunt

proactive improvements, replacing poles, crossarms, and wire. They maintain clearances and remove vegetation around power lines.

This dedication and expertise maintains our system of substations,

6,600 power poles, and 450 miles of distribution line, all spread across 1,700 square miles.

This system operates around the clock delivering electricity to you—as much as you need, whenever you need it. Some might say such a system is not amazing at all because it does its job, day after day, only being noticed during rare periods of failure.

When such instances average less than one-thousandth of a percent of the time, I can't help but think, "amazing."





Electrical District No. 2

P.O. Box 548
Coolidge, AZ 85128

Phone: 520-723-7741
Fax: 520-723-5252

*To report an emergency
or a power outage after
hours or weekends, call:*
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ED2 is a full-service electric utility serving the greater Casa Grande Valley of Pinal County—including in and around the cities of Coolidge, Florence and Casa Grande—since 1923.

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Maintain Your Equipment

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

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



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

Tri-Cor Air Conditioning & Heating

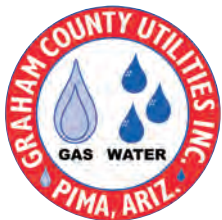
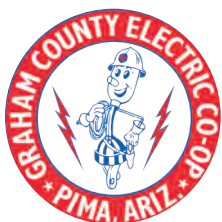
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CEO and General Manager:

Kirk Gray



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Manager's Message

Thank You Once Again

After elections results were announced early November 7, Graham County Electric Cooperative members, directors and staff all had a collective sigh of relief. Proposition 127 "Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona" was soundly defeated. Statewide, Prop 127 was defeated with almost 69 percent voting against the ballot initiative. Graham County voted 89 percent against Prop 127! Hopefully the election results will send a message to those out-of-state interests that Arizona can manage its own affairs. I would like to personally thank our directors, staff and members for all the time and effort they put in getting the truth out concerning Prop 127.

The results of this election highlights the fifth cooperative principle—Education, Training and Information, which states, "Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation."

I want to assure you, our member/owners, that GCEC is actively involved in pursuing energy alternatives that make economic and environmental sense. GCEC constantly look-at projects that will provide our membership with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. We are evaluating two renewable energy projects that will complement GCEC's current electric



generation resource mix. We will only proceed with projects that make economic sense and take into account environmental impacts.

Nationally, the Environmental Protection Agency on August 21 released the Affordable Clean Energy rule as a replacement of the Clean Power Plan. This new rule would provide states with a definition of the "Best System of Emission Reduction" and a three-year window to devise an implementation plan that applies to individual generation plants such as Arizona Electric Power Cooperative. Once the ACE rule is published in the Federal

Register, the EPA will accept comments during the 60 day public comment period. The EPA will hold public hearings on the matter and release the final rule in early 2019. The ACE rule is a significant improvement to the CPP because it allows individual generating plants to implement emission-reduction technology, yet still use their current generation assets through the end of their useful life. This rule will help eliminate the possibility of "stranded generation assets," which we all have to pay for. GCEC encourages our membership to participate in this rule-making process.

Rest assured that the directors, management and staff of GCEC are looking after your interests as member/owners and thank you, once again, for your continued support in issues affecting your cooperative.

—Kirk Gray

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Harold Burdick, Treasurer
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Stephan Lauzier
Steven Silkotch

GENERAL MANAGER

Kevin Short

IMPORTANT DATES

- February 18— President's Day,
(co-op office closed)

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

January and February Congratulations!

- Donald Kay 2 years
- Sandy King 5 years
- Katherine MacIver 31 years

Easy Money

Interested in a \$10 bill credit? Sign up for Auto-Pay at www.anzaelectric.org. Once you are done give us a call or email to let us know. We will issue the bill credit once Auto-Pay has been confirmed. It's that easy!

29180-001

If this is your account number, contact the AEC office and claim your \$25 bill credit.



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A Message from the Manager 2019

It is challenging to wrap my mind around the fact that we are now beginning the 20th year of the new millennium. As Albert Einstein once said about the relativity of time, "When a man sits with a pretty girl for an hour, it seems like a minute. But let him sit on a hot stove for a minute, and it's longer than any hour. That's relativity." I also can't decide if the past few years have gone by quickly or not, but from where I now stand, the years seem to be a brief and fleeting memory.

I hope that everyone in our cooperative enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. Winter is in full swing, and we've experienced some of the weather that goes along with this time of year. Please be careful with your homes, taking extra care with heating.

Looking back to 2018, there is a lot to remember. There is also a lot to examine closely and then file away for future reference, only to be taken off the shelf if absolutely necessary. Our state has experienced some of the most awful catastrophic wildfires in our history, with an incredible loss of life and property. The terrible lessons we are starting to learn about our changing environment and the steps we must all take to better prepare for these tragic events are enormous. Anza Electric Cooperative is up to this challenge.

Always looking forward, we have developed a wildfire mitigation plan. We will be sharing this plan with our members soon, with schedules for public meetings, discussions and learning opportunities. We are partnering with our firefighting agencies to develop better communications and safety procedures. Our elected officials are on board with our work here and fully support our efforts. We are working to harden our system, monitor wind events, and provide increased diligence and responsiveness to local conditions. Please stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Probably the greatest take-away from this year's events in our area was the community spirit that was shared during the Cranston Fire. It was awe-inspiring to see everyone affected by the fire and outage working together for the common good. That is us at our best. We are going to need that in the future, and I hope we can remember how that effort succeeded.

Here's to the very best for everyone in the New Year! Please be safe in everything you do and enjoy your time, whether it's spent with someone you care about or sitting on a hot stove.

Dr. Einstein would be proud.



Kevin Short

ANZA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Our crew is on standby 24 hours a day. To report an outage or other service problem, please call 951-763-4333.

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Manager's Message

My New Year's List of Gratitude

Many of us start the new year by making lists: New Year's resolutions, goals we want to accomplish or a maybe even a "honey-do" list. The list I have on my mind as I begin this new year are the top 10 reasons I'm grateful to be a member of an electric cooperative.

I'd like to share that list with you because, as members of Escambia River Electric Cooperative, we all have this list of benefits in common.

10. Cooperatives provide goods and services that may not otherwise be available, or not at a reasonable price. We provide electricity, but cooperatives all across the nation provide numerous services such as housing, child care, health care, groceries, hardware, telecommunications and financial services.

9. When you get services from a cooperative, you are more than a customer. You are a member-owner in that business.

8. Cooperatives are accountable to you, the member-owners. This results in more competitive pricing, reliability and efficiency.

7. Cooperatives are interested in keeping costs low for members, not in making profits for faraway stockholders.

6. Co-op members have a say in the future of their co-op. Remember, you are more than a



Clay R. Campbell

customer. You are a member-owner.

5. Cooperatives are socially responsible organizations, dedicated to the well-being of the community. We sponsor safety programs and local events, help get new businesses started and more.

4. Cooperatives have an annual meeting each year where members can vote on directors for the cooperative. As a member-owner, you

have a voice in your cooperative.

3. Co-ops are good employers. The money employees earn and spend stays in the area.

2. Cooperatives are part of a national alliance of cooperatives. Although staffed by local people, we have access to a broad network of resources and manpower.

1. The No. 1 reason to be glad you're a co-op member? Cooperatives have been playing a major role in improving the lives of Americans for decades. Not only do we provide a vital service for our daily lives, we are an integral part of the communities we serve.

This year, the same as every year since 1939, EREC will be there for you to provide competitively priced reliable energy services and to invest time, money and expertise to build the economy and strengthen relationships with our member-owners. ■



Inside

January 2019
Vol. 8, No. 3

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In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, Panhandle communities begin the long road to healing.

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January 2019

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MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

Be environmentally friendly and save money by resolving to use energy wisely in 2019. To learn more download our Energy Guide at www.FKEC.com or ask for a free copy at either co-op office.

Unless otherwise noted, "FKEC NEWS" writing, design & photography by:

Nikki Dunn Cullen, news@fkec.com

SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

Ring in the New Year:

Past Progress & Future Plans

Another year is in the books, and while we ring in 2019 I like to reflect on last year's progress and what our plans are moving forward.

Operations

In 2018, we continued storm recovery work. While our power system was up and running only two weeks after Hurricane Irma in 2017, repairs to restore our system to its full strength continued in 2018 and will into 2019. Over the last year, we were also able to thoroughly reflect on our storm restoration success and document all lessons learned. This is important to ensure we are more prepared than ever to face any storm.

Moving forward into 2019, FKEC will Pursue available FEMA Hazard Mitigation Funding for major transmission projects, and other projects include increasing the reliability of the Ocean Reef express feeder.

Improving the function and strength of our Marathon facility is another project slated for this coming year. We hope to expand the office to provide many of the same functions our Tavernier headquarters does, with cooking and sleeping accommodations available for storm recovery crews.

Customer Service

In addition to remaining committed to operating a reliable, strong power system,



we are also dedicated to providing quality customer service. I'm proud to report in 2018 we achieved a 97.5 percent overall satisfaction rating. This research is provided by an independent auditor who randomly surveys FKEC members to monitor the caliber of our work. In 2019 we will strive to conquer that remaining 2.5 percent to reach a four-star rating!

Programs and Services Offered

We also continue to improve and increase the services we offer to benefit our members. Our green services now include our solar loan program and net metering for members generating solar power. To date, we have provided nine solar loans totaling \$172,850. We continue to explore green programs to give interested members the opportunity to implement alternative energy practices. To encourage wise use of energy, in 2018 we offered our rebate program for the fifth consecutive year. And this year stay tuned for news about an increased rebate program we will roll out in 2019.

Our future is bright and we look forward to continuing to serve you, our members, and this wonderful community.

GLADES

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OFFICES

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

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

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

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

POWER INTERRUPTION NUMBER

Moore Haven 863-946-6200

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John "Jack" Cox, President, District 8
Lake Josephine, 863-655-3056
James "Jim" Aul, Vice President, District 7
Lorida, 863-441-0441
Shannon Hall, Secretary/Treasurer, District 4
Lakeport and Brighton, 863-946-3242
Donnie Lundy, Trustee, District 1
Moore Haven, 863-946-0402
Barney Goodman, Trustee, District 2
Hendry County, 561-414-8737
Dr. John Huysman, Trustee, District 3
Ortona and Palmdale, 863-946-2911
Ladd Bass, Trustee, District 5
Venus and Hicoria, 863-441-2227
Lee Henderson, Trustee, District 6
Highlands Park, 863-633-9281
Angela Hodges, Trustee, District 9
Okeechobee, 863-801-3140

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

EXECUTIVE STAFF

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

FL-153

CEO's Message

Capital Credits Retired

At the 2018 Annual Meeting, I reported our strategic work plan called for the retirement of members' capital credits for 1983 through 1987. However, a gal named Irma paid us a visit in September 2017 and upended our finances.

Restoration from Hurricane Irma cost us more than \$8 million. To this day, we are still battling with FEMA for recovery of those extraordinary expenses.

In spite of the carrying costs of that extra debt, we were bound and determined to retire some portion of our loyal members' capital credits. It took all year to work out our finances, but we found a way to retire capital credits from 1983 in December. The retirement totaled \$562,135.

Those of you who were members in 1983 and remain so today should have received a credit on your December bill. Checks were mailed to those who have left the cooperative. I hope the timing found favor with you and made your Christmas merrier!

The cooperative's 2019 Annual Meeting is just around the corner. It is Saturday, March 23, at Moore Haven Middle-High School. This is our 74th annual meeting and will be the last in the near future at which we give away a vehicle. As a part of cost-cutting measures, six staff vehicles were removed from the fleet. After this year, there won't be enough spares to give one away at the annual meeting. I invite you to attend this year's meeting for your last chance to win a vehicle. Watch next month's Florida Currents for more details.

Until we meet again, I wish you all a prosperous and happy New Year.



Jeff Brewington



Hope Endures After Hurricane Michael

At the first of October, a disturbance popped up near the Yucatan peninsula. It was predicted to be a rain event for the northern Gulf of Mexico coast. It intensified until it was a tropical depression and then a tropical storm that took the name Michael.

Within a few days, Michael was predicted to be a Category 1 hurricane when it made landfall on the northern Gulf. By October 8, it was projected to be a Category 2 and then a Category 4. It came onshore October 10 and was measured as a Category 4. It will likely be re-evaluated as a Category 5 once all the final wind measurements are concluded.

We have dealt with Opal, Ivan, Rita, Erin, Dennis and other named storms during the past 25 years. I have seen the damage they inflicted. I have talked to people who worked repairing damage after Andrew and Katrina. They were devastating storms. However, with due respect to other people's storms, I have never seen anything approaching the damage Michael inflicted on the people and property in northwest Florida, southeast Alabama and southwest Georgia.

Michael came onshore near Panama City. It almost completely leveled Mexico Beach slightly to the east, leaving only flattened homes and businesses. Panama City and suburbs to the east of it were almost completely destroyed.



Commentary

By Gary Smith
President and CEO



POWERSOUTH
ENERGY COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

PowerSouth's transmission system was utterly ruined in some areas east of Panama City and damaged well north into Alabama. In some areas, miles of transmission structures were broken off near the ground and blown into tree lines 50 feet away.

When we surveyed the damage to our transmission system after the storm, there was no electric service from Panama City into southern Georgia. Hundreds of electric distribution poles were broken off or blown apart. Electric wire was lying in the roads and hanging in broken trees. The majority of power poles were either destroyed or severely damaged.

Many buildings were destroyed. Others had fallen trees on them. Hundreds of thousands of acres of pine plantations were broken off about 6 feet off the ground.

Roads were barely passable. Often only one lane was open.

The people in the area were still in shock, and some did not have any idea where they would live or whether their lives could be rebuilt.

The destruction was so complete I thought it would be months before basic electric, water or sewer services would be restored.

I wondered if the area would recover for decades or would ever be the same.

However, I underestimated the determination and resolve of the people to rebuild their lives. Eleven days later, we again traveled our transmission system. Roads were cleared. Thousands of vegetation-clearing personnel, linemen and contractors were working to restore basic electric infrastructure. Destroyed houses were being removed. Others were being repaired. Businesses were reopening in the areas that had electric service.

For three weeks, PowerSouth's crews commuted to the Panama City area, working 12-hour days with contractors to rebuild our transmission system. Transmission service was restored to all substations nine days from the time Michael made landfall. All of our

substations were connected to the grid within two weeks, and the system was totally rebuilt within three weeks.

Our people and the work they accomplished were remarkable. It is amazing what people can do when challenged with a crisis and working together. I couldn't be more proud of what PowerSouth's people did to restore electric service to a devastated area so quickly. They went well beyond the call of duty to restore electric service to a shattered area.

By the first of November, electric service was restored to all customers able to take service. While not nearly complete, the restoration was well underway. Hope was real, and it was evident.

Crises can tear communities down, but they can bring people together, too. It was remarkable to see the communities and people come together and work together to rebuild lives. Thousands of workers came into the area and worked for weeks to restore basic necessary services. Cooperatives are known to work together, and they did, but others joined the restoration effort, too.

The area still has a long way to go to be back to normal, but great progress has been made with the investment of so many people. There is certainly hope again, just three weeks after Michael destroyed the area. Anything is possible with hope. ■



Gulf Coast
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICES

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

9434 Highway 77
Southport, FL 32409
850-265-3631 or 800-568-3667

www.gcec.com

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

John Bartley

TRUSTEES

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

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

Lives Changed Forever

It is hard to believe we are beginning another year. Recent events made time pass faster than usual and changed our lives forever.

On Sunday, October 7, our friend, Trustee Waylon Graham, died at the age of 82. Read about Waylon on page 26.

That same day, a disturbance in the southwestern Caribbean Sea became a tropical depression. By the next day, it was Hurricane Michael. It made landfall near Mexico Beach on October 10. It is a day that will never be forgotten.

Hurricane Michael was a record setter: the strongest storm of the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season; the third-most intense Atlantic hurricane to make landfall in the contiguous U.S. in terms of pressure, behind the 1935 Labor Day hurricane and Hurricane Camille of 1969; the strongest Atlantic hurricane to form in the month of October since Hurricane Wilma; the strongest storm in terms of maximum sustained wind speed to strike the contiguous U.S. since Andrew in 1992; and the fourth-strongest landfalling hurricane in the contiguous U.S., in terms of wind speed.

I don't have to tell you Hurricane Michael was devastating to our area. Our electric distribution system was 100 percent out. As soon as it was safe to begin work on the system, your co-op employees did, with assistance from other co-ops and contractors increasing the workforce from 80 to more than 1,600, practically overnight. The three weeks without electricity were tough. Some members were without power longer, and some homes and businesses were damaged to the point they still do not have power.

Communications at the co-op were down. We had no landline phones, internet, cellphones or truck radios. We could not access our computer servers or email. We opted to not produce Florida Currents magazine in November and December.

Many of you have had billing questions. We typically bill on the 10th, 20th and 30th for the previous month's usage. With our computer systems down and all employees focused on power restoration, we did not generate bills in October. Billing resumed in November. Please refer to the service dates on your bills for the billing time period. If you required a meter change-out due to the storm, compare the number on your meter to the meter number on your bill. Contact our office if the numbers are different.

We will work with members on their accounts during this difficult time. Through this month, late fees are being waived and payment arrangements are being made.

The Southport and Wewahitchka office lobbies have resumed regular business hours: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central time, Monday through Friday. Our Tyndall office remains closed due to severe storm damage. The Southport drive-thru has storm damage, so you will need to come into the lobby. Flex Pay is operational.

Hurricane Michael has caused many heartbreaking losses, but the cooperative spirit cannot be broken. It led to formation of GCEC in 1941, and is what keeps it going strong as we press forward into 2019. Let us hold our heads high and be strong together. From all of us at Gulf Coast Electric, we wish you the best in the new year. ■



Doug Birmingham



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

REPORT POWER OUTAGES

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

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

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

MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1
LEONARD CRAWLEY

District 2
KENNETH ODEN

District 3
BRUCE VICKERS
ASST SECRETARY/TREASURER

District 4
HOLLIS ALBRITTON

District 5
MAURICE HENDERSON

District 6
JOHN MARTIN

District 7
CHRIS PORTALE
PRESIDENT

District 8
ELLEN BACHMAN
SECRETARY/TREASURER

District 9
WILLIE DAWES
VICE PRESIDENT

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

January 22, 2019
February 26, 2019
March 26, 2019

FL 155

Make 2019 the Year of Energy Efficiency

As one year fades into the rearview mirror, we typically turn our attention to the next and wonder what lies ahead. Many people will make New Year's Resolutions by committing to change a trait or behavior for the better or by choosing goals they want to reach during the coming year.

I want to challenge you to set a goal of making 2019 the year of becoming more energy efficient. Since electricity powers our lives and so many of the comforts we enjoy, using energy is inevitable. So why not concentrate on controlling how much we use?

I recommend these energy efficiency tips:

- Turn off lights and ceiling fans in unoccupied rooms
- Turn off computers, game systems and other electronics when not in use
- Caulk around windows and doors to keep conditioned air inside
- Set the water heater to your lowest comfort point but no higher than 120 degrees
- Clean the clothes dryer lint filter after every cycle; check and clean the vent hose periodically
- Don't set the fridge below 37 or the freezer below 0
- Refrigerator, water heater or air conditioner more than 10 years old? Replace them; look for the ENERGYSTAR label

- Have your HVAC system checked by a professional once a year
- Replace your HVAC filter monthly
- Replace incandescent lightbulbs with LED bulbs
- Consider replacing single-pane windows with energy efficient windows
- Use curtains and blinds to let sun in during winter and keep sun out during summer
- If your attic has little or no insulation, bring it up to R-30
- Contact PRECO for a free energy audit

These are just a few of the many steps you can take to reduce your energy use in 2019. For more tips, information and energy saving resources, visit

www.precocoop.com, EnergyStar.gov and MyFloridaHomeEnergy.com.

By using less energy, everyone wins. Using less energy reduces the demand on our nation's natural resources, delays the need to build additional electric generation sources and—perhaps best of all—decreases your power bill.

At PRECO, we look forward to helping our members use electricity safely and efficiently in 2019.



Randy
PRECO CEO