



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

"We Care"

4230 Hatwai Road • PO Box 997
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(888) 798-5280 (Propane)
www.clearwaterpower.com

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Director of Engineering

Business Hours:

Monday - Thursday

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

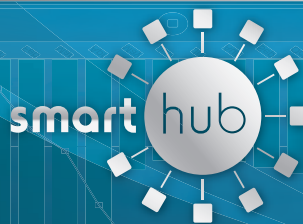
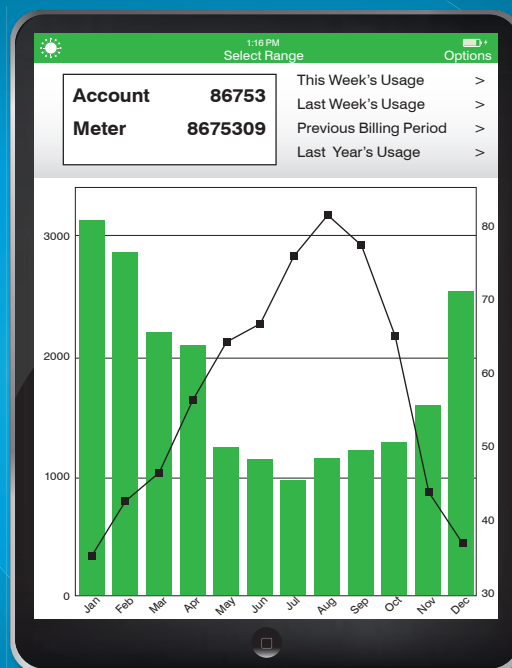
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ID-1

How Much Electricity Do You Use?

We have an app for that.



Download NiSC SmartHub from your app provider or
Visit our web site: www.clearwaterpower.com



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

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

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Manager

Thomas Wolff, Heppner

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

OR-2

Winter is Upon Us

Dear Members:

We are now in the midst of Winter 2019, and no doubt your home heating bills have risen accordingly. If you heat with electricity, your bills have risen significantly. The dense fog that has settled on our communities tends to bring colder temps, but also causes moisture to be infused into the air which makes it feel even colder. Thermostats are nudged upward to compensate for the colder feel.

I read with interest the recent front page East Oregonian stories about residents in their communities complaining about the higher electric bills. Your board has not raised rates in the past year—higher bills this winter reflect higher consumption.

As winter energy bills can be stunning, do consider the option of participating in the CBEC Equal-Pay Plan, which runs from May through April of each year. Annual electricity invoices are averaged, and a consumer pays the same amount each month, making household budgets much easier to manage through the cold winter months. A consumer will over-pay their consumption during the summer, and then underpay their consumption during the winter, to end-up net neutral by May. Certain adjustments may be made to the pre-set payment amounts as averaged consumption varies.

Speaking of thick fog, as I write this your CBEC crews have been in the field, knocking ice build-up from our power lines for five days now. We have recruited temporary helpers to work safely side-by-side with our linemen knocking off frost-induced ice to prevent damage to the lines and extended power outages.

While this condition is most prevalent in the Condon areas, crews have also been knocking ice in and around the Heppner service areas this week as well.

The Bonneville Power Administration has notified CBEC of "temporary transmission line de-energizations" of their power feeds into Condon and Fossil while their crews knock ice there. CBEC consumers can be thankful that many years ago, your co-op established a "loop transmission feed" between Fossil and Condon. When BPA notifies CBEC of a temporary outage on the normal transmission feed into Condon from DeMoss, CBEC can loop-feed power from the Fossil feed into Condon with only a slight bump in the service, thereby eliminating a five- to-six hour BPA outage.

Same for the reverse, when BPA shuts down the normal feed into Fossil from Antelope, CBEC can loop-feed our Fossil substation from the Condon feed, again with only a slight power bump, but without a multi-hour outage while BPA crews knock ice on their transmission lines. While slight bumps can cause digital alarm and appliance clocks to lose the time and begin to flash, it is much less inconvenient than a five- to-six hour BPA outage.

I am very proud of the long hours and dedicated service with which your CBEC line crews perform their work in preventing damage to our lines and in keeping the power on during these dark, cold winter days and nights.

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



Energy Burden and Affordability

The Oregon Housing and Community Services, Oregon Department of Energy, and the Oregon Public Utility Commission recently announced the publication of an initial 10-year plan to reduce energy burden and improve energy efficiency in affordable housing across the state. The plan, which is accompanied by an interactive assessment of energy use in affordable housing, provides recommended steps for Oregon to reduce the energy burden on low-income households. Northern Wasco

County PUD is very supportive of this effort as it matches what your locally elected Board of Directors and staff strive to do on your behalf, each and every day.

Energy burden is defined as the percentage of household income that goes toward energy costs. If a household spends more than six percent of their income on energy-related costs, they are considered energy-burdened. The interagency assessment and plan, along with the Oregon Department of Energy's recently completed Biennial Energy Report, indicate that lower-income families are more likely to be energy-burdened.

As I've previously stated here, Northern Wasco County PUD residential customers tend to consume more than the state and national average of electrical energy in their homes. We are committed to providing opportunities for you to reduce your personal energy consumption, and thereby electric bills to ease your energy burden. Please see www.nwascopud.org to learn more about energy efficiency and low-income assistance. The information also is available in our offices at 2345 River Road in The Dalles.

Many thanks to those of you that have already begun this process!

Roger Kline

General Manager



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

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

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Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5



Ground-fault circuit interrupters always should be used when operating power tools. Portable GFCIs take the guesswork out of determining whether an outlet is wired with a GFCI.

Photo by Mike Teegarden

Check Your GFCIs

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than two-thirds of electrocution deaths could be prevented with the use of ground-fault circuit interrupters.

GFCI outlets—which are more sensitive to current fluctuations than a fuse or circuit breaker—should be installed anywhere an appliance might come in contact with water.

Underwriters Laboratories suggests testing GFCIs monthly to make sure they are working properly. Push the “reset” button on the GFCI. Plug a light with an on/off switch into the receptacle. Turn the item on. Push the test button. The light should go off. Push the reset button again. The light should go on.

If the light remains on when the test button is pushed, the GFCI is not working properly. You should call an electrician to rewire or replace the GFCI. ■



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

MAILING ADDRESS

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541-929-3124
800-872-9036**

LOCAL OFFICES

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Philomath, OR 97370**

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www.cpi.coop

**Happy
Valentine's
Day**

OR-6

President's Report

In 2018, CPI partnered with more than 700 members to save approximately 2.1 million kilowatt-hours through energy-efficiency upgrades. That is enough to power more than 160 homes annually. Thirty of our commercial and industrial customers took advantage of the program, saving more than 1.2 million kWh.

Members participating in our net-metering program added 289 kilowatts in solar generation, bringing our total solar capacity to 1.7 megawatts. These systems generated 1.17 million kWh last year. That is enough to power 90 homes for a year.

Partnering with members in programs such as these not only keeps costs affordable, but contributes to our clean, renewable generation resources which are currently more than 97 percent carbon-emission-free.

Cap and Trade

This year, the Oregon Legislature meets in full session. A new cap-and-trade bill is all but certain to pass.

Under cap and trade, the state would implement a limit on carbon emissions beginning in 2021. The idea is to gradually lower emissions from 55 million tons of carbon dioxide annually to 10 million tons during a 30-year period. Companies can buy credits on the open market to exceed the limit. Money raised by the program would go into a funding pool for climate-friendly initiatives.

Many Oregonians oppose cap and trade, arguing the proposal will raise the cost of almost everything consumed without making a dent in global carbon emissions. They feel lawmakers should focus on policies that resonate

at least nationally, if not globally, to ensure the outcome has an effect on worldwide carbon output. The greenhouse gases emitted by Oregon truckers, commuters, utilities, manufacturers and other entities are barely measurable on a global scale.

It is important to note that Oregon's environmental initiatives already are stronger than those in many states and nations. Oregon loses if companies leave the state for less restrictive locales or if Oregon companies switch to buying products manufactured and shipped under lighter regulations.

Under the current legislature, the end result is almost certain. The important thing now is to design the program to do the least amount of economic damage possible. It is important to take the time necessary to craft good legislation and do what is best for all of Oregon, both rural and urban.

Rates

CPI's mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to our members. One of the board of directors' most important duties is to keep the cooperative financially sound and make careful decisions about how members share that responsibility through electric rates.

During the past year, we have been analyzing our costs and deliberating on how increasing cost pressures will affect electric rates in the future. Expect to hear more information on these matters in upcoming issues of Ruralite.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO



Benton REA

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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

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

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Board Meetings

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

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Steve Catlow, Manager of Finance and Administration
Jeff Bastow, I.T. Manager
Troy Berglund, Member Services Manager
Terry Mundorf, Attorney
HDR, Consulting Engineer
Blodgett, Mickelsen & Adamson, Auditor



WA-7

Your Trusted Community Partner

Dear Members,

The best part about being a member of Benton REA is just that ... it's your energy cooperative. You have a say in how our co-op is run because membership equals ownership. Being locally owned, operated and democratically run means you can trust Benton REA to focus on your needs, local priorities and decisions that are best for your community.

Electric cooperatives are organized around a strong commitment to make a difference and provide excellent service to our members. That's why Benton REA invests time, money and expertise to build our local economy. Unlike large investor-owned utilities, we are rooted right here in Benton and Yakima counties. We strive to improve members' quality of life by taking leadership roles in community development projects, and generously donating time, energy and resources to schools, non-profits and community events.

Throughout the years, we have answered the call to provide additional benefits and services because it is extremely important to us that our community thrives and prospers. This is why we provided the opportunity to Benton REA members to participate in the Co-op Solar Project, Benton REA's first community solar project. We host free energy conservation and computer classes for members who wish to reduce their energy use and learn about internet security and technology issues. We also partner with local schools to bring electrical safety education to the classroom.

Benton REA is committed to preserving your trust. That includes providing you with the best possible customer service along with making sure your lights come on when you flip the switch. We're dedicated to being your reliable source of power and information, your trusted community partner—your cooperative.

Sincerely,

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



Offices

Hermiston Office

750 W. Elm Ave.
541 567-6414

Boardman Office

400 N.E. Eldrige Drive
541 481-2220

Hours

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

Toll-Free

1-800-452-2273

Report An Outage

888-465-5701 day or night

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John Otis
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

Carbon Emissions Cap Coming to Oregon

After November's elections, the Democrats have super majorities in the state House and Senate, which means a "cap-and-trade" measure will be a priority during the 2019 Oregon Legislature. Gov. Kate Brown also made a clean energy jobs bill a priority during her campaign.

Rep. Greg Smith and Sen. Bill Hansell say it will be a heavy lift to influence policy on a measure to limit carbon emissions, and an open question as to how it will impact rural Oregon.



"Elections have their consequences," said Sen. Hansell, speaking at a Hermiston Chamber forum. "Democrats have a mandate, and they will do what they promised in the election."

Such a measure has been the subject of a Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction that has been meeting during the past year. Sen. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, a strong voice on that committee for eastern Oregon, said at a recent Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association (ORECA) meeting that while they can't stop the bill from passing, they will advocate that the Legislature must get the policy right.

One concern is that a cap-and-trade law could spur companies to shift production and employment to another state, harming our economy without benefit to the climate.

Another concern is that because the transportation sector creates the greatest amount of carbon emissions, a rise in gasoline prices could disproportionately affect rural Oregonians. Because of greater distances, we drive more miles for work, recreation and all types of goods and services.

Everywhere cap-and-trade legislation has been implemented, Sen. Hansell says, retail

gasoline prices have spiked. Every citizen will be directly affected, and every farm and business enterprise will be faced with absorbing or passing along the costs.

A third concern is the direct impact to local industries. Seven of the top 100 companies in the state for carbon emissions are situated in Rep. Smith's district in northeast Oregon.

At UEC, we take care to manage our carbon footprint. We are fortunate to be a consumer of carbon-free energy produced by the federal hydro system. We already are subject to climate change mandates to meet a portion of our future power demand with renewable energy, and have installed a 1-megawatt solar facility as a first step. We have energy efficiency programs that help save our members tens of millions of kilowatt-hours a year, which also contributes to the goal of avoiding the need for more power plants in the Northwest.

We are working with our members, our legislators, our power supplier PNGC and ORECA to raise awareness of potential impacts and unintended consequences, and to advocate for provisions to limit potential rate increases resulting from a cap-and-trade policy.

We are fortunate in having area legislators who have the seniority, skill and respect to effectively represent our regional interests. On this vital and challenging issue, please consider offering your support and assistance as they work to craft legislation that works for rural Oregonians and reduces adverse impacts.

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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Frank Roeder		Maupin Foreman

Mission Statement

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

OR-9

Legislature Makes Cap and Trade a Priority

Ted Case is executive director of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Salem. A native Oregonian, Ted spent 20 years in Washington, D.C., including stints as staff director of the House Water and Power Subcommittee that oversees the Bonneville Power Administration.

The Oregon Legislature is underway, and the leaders of both the House and Senate—along with Gov. Kate Brown—have made clear that passing cap-and-trade legislation is a priority. A cap-and-trade program, which California enacted several years ago, is designed to put the state of Oregon on a path toward reducing its carbon emissions.

The “cap” on emissions is a firm limit that gets stricter over time. The “trade” part is a market for companies, such as utilities and manufacturers, to buy and sell allowances that let them emit only a certain amount of carbon, as supply and demand set the price. As you can tell, it’s a bit complicated. For Oregon’s electric cooperatives, the issues are exceedingly complex.

The good news is that for Oregon electric cooperatives such as Wasco Electric, your actual carbon emissions are relatively small because of your reliance on the emission-free hydropower from the Federal Columbia River Power System. In fact, I will argue that Oregon cannot meet its ambitious carbon reduction goals without the renewable resources from our federal dams. Ironically, the state of Oregon has aggressively pursued policies and operations that significantly reduce hydropower generation at our federal dams.

There are other issues for us to consider. What will a cap-and-trade program mean for family-wage manufacturing jobs, which are so important to providing economic opportunity in rural Oregon? It would be devastating if these manufacturers were compelled to relocate to states such as Idaho that do not have a similar program.

Then there is the price at the pump. Emissions from the transportation sector account for approximately 40 percent of the state’s emissions. One economic study concluded that, under a cap-and-trade program, gasoline could increase immediately by an estimated 16 cents a gallon. This could disproportionately harm rural Oregonians, who often have to drive long distances for basic services such as health care.

Clearly, there are many unanswered questions about how this proposal will affect electric utility rates, our major industrial sectors, jobs and transportation costs in rural Oregon. What is known, however, is that this proposal has undeniable momentum and likely will pass the legislative assembly. Accordingly, we have no choice but to be at the table with the Oregon Legislature and Gov. Brown, forcefully making the case that Oregon cannot solve a global problem on the backs of rural Oregonians.

Ted Case

Executive Director
Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Owned By Those We Serve

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

• For Power Outages Call •
888.420.8826

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Director Carey Weatherly

General Manager

James K. Brooks

Office Manager/CFO

David Western

Superintendent

Todd Sherwood

Member Services

Todd C. Munsey

System Engineer

Jess Dory, PE

Mission Statement

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



OR-10

Wind, Rain and Tree-Caused Outages

Dear Member,

Some of you probably feel like you've been picked on by outages a little too often this winter. Honestly, we have had our share of outages, but we haven't been alone. Our neighbors in all directions have been hit too, most with outages longer in duration than ours. There is a good explanation. We experienced back to back storms with a decent amount of rain, immediately followed by unusually strong winds. That is always a recipe for outages.

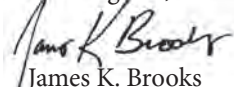


What concerns us, is the increasing number of diseased and dead trees falling from outside our easement. They don't need the wind to help them, they are just falling. When it's a rather calm day and you curiously lose power, a dead tree is increasingly the culprit. We have an aggressive program to inspect and maintain our right-of-way, but again, we can only go so wide. It's becoming more common that an 80' tree falls from outside our 30' right-of-way and causes an outage. With almost 1,600 miles of right-of-way to maintain through some of the most densely-forested territory in the Northwest, you can see the challenge before us. As we look for ways to work our tree crews and line crews more efficiently, we will be looking to see if the lines can be cost-effectively moved underground.

In the meantime, we have changed some things to keep you better informed during an outage. Our phone answering system has reduced, if not eliminated busy signals, and our website and social media outlets are updated more frequently. Our crews have done an outstanding job of responding and restoring power as safely and efficiently as possible. They also have been trying to relay information from the field more often. As you know, many areas without cell coverage or radio reception create a challenge.

Even with all the high-tech meters and computer programs to help us determine and predict the extent of these outages, nothing is more helpful than a member calling with specific information. Please don't ever hesitate to call 1-888-420-8826 to report an outage or check for updates on an existing outage. The more we know, the sooner we can react and get your power restored.

Best Regards,


James K. Brooks
General Manager

Columbia Power Co-op



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

DIRECTORS

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

MANAGER

Troy Cox

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

POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

OR-11

Legislature Makes Cap and Trade a Priority

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Ted Case
Executive Director
Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

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**Director of Member
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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

Keeping You Informed of Changes in Your Rates

I encourage you to take time to read the important articles about changes to your electricity rates on pages 28 and 29 of this issue of Ruralite. The first article communicates the details of the second phase of our rate redesign program under the five-phase implementation plan Central Electric launched two years ago. The second article advises you that we will likely need to increase kilowatt-hour energy rates in January 2020.

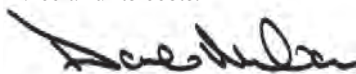
While both developments affect your electricity bill, there are important distinctions between the two rates changes.

Our article on the progress of the rate redesign program explains why we adopted this program two years ago and how each of the implementation steps between now and 2025 will take shape. In summary, the program gradually decreases the energy rate while also offsetting those decreases with increases in the monthly facilities charge. The rate redesign is driven by changes in consumers' energy choices, the need to treat all members equitably when charging for the services required to serve you, and the benefits of clearly showing members the costs of their energy use and the costs of delivering that electricity to you.

The average consumer's annual electricity bill is unchanged as a result of these offsetting actions, and the cooperative realizes no change in revenues. Ultimately, all members pay their fair share of operating the utility system and everyone gets a clearer price signal related to the electricity they use.

In mapping out these changes, we have avoided speculating about future energy rates. Our projections historically have made no assumptions of energy cost increases in an effort to avoid speculating about unknowns. However, our second article explains such an increase will likely be needed in January 2020 and the reasons behind the increase. This outlook is driven by the October 2017 increase in our wholesale electricity rates charged by the Bonneville Power Administration and another such increase scheduled for October of this year. Part of the increase is also due to the need to significantly increase the cooperative's investment in the major parts of the electrical system infrastructure during the 2020 to 2030 period.

I fully understand that most members prefer not to give a lot of time and thought to electricity service as long as it's reliable and affordable. Because continued reliability and affordability in an increasingly complex and expensive world are goals of both of these rates-related changes, I appreciate your willingness to spend time learning more about these important developments. All of us at Central Electric place a premium on keeping our members informed of the changes that affect them, their electricity service and its costs.



Dave Markham
President and CEO



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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

First Impressions

As I write this letter, I am three weeks into my new role as Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative general manager. I intend to focus internally within CCEC for the first couple of months. It will give me the opportunity to establish foundational relationships with the board of directors, staff and the crews. During the first few weeks on the job, I met with all employees, toured the four operations centers and started to understand the internal workings of the organization through one-on-one meetings with the senior staff. My first impressions are positive!

After meeting with all employees, I am particularly impressed with the strong safety culture. The mindset of the entire CCEC team breathes life into our safety motto: No job is so important, no service so urgent, that time cannot be taken to perform work safely.

The newest apprentice lineman is comfortable speaking up when he isn't sure how to safely perform his work. Each employee watches out for the safety and well-being of each other, our members and the general public.

Also noteworthy is the positive morale and sense of family among the staff and crews. They feel it is a privilege to come to work and serve our members and communities. As I toured the operations centers, I found the facilities and equipment clean and in good order. Professional pride is visible in equipment readiness to keep the lights on.

In my 30-year, career I've worked in a number of industrial and utility environments and facilities. On a high-level inside look, I'm pleased to report I see a healthy and capable electric cooperative.

I am honored to have the trust of the board of directors to lead Coos-Curry Electric in the coming years. My thanks to retired GM/CEO Roger Meader for his many years of capable leadership as well as the staff and crews for their professionalism that is apparent to me as the newcomer. I look forward to the weeks and months ahead as I reach out to meet you, our members.

Brent Bischoff

General Manager & CEO





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

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(Dist. 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, Chief Financial Officer Dan Huggett explains why electric cooperatives such as West Oregon Electric Cooperative use debt financing, also known as borrowing money. Debt financing is an integral, strategic and necessary part of how we keep the power flowing to your homes and businesses. Without the ability to use this important financial instrument, WOEC would truly be unsustainable. See page 4 for the story.

Looking back as we close the books on 2018, it was a good year for WOEC and our members. Having suffered no major storms, we avoided a lot of unnecessary repair expense. Winter is not over, however. The linemen who have been around here a long time tell me we can usually expect at least one major storm around the equinox as winter gives way to spring. Let's hope that doesn't happen.

I have a challenge for the membership. It's more of a trivia question, and it's something I haven't been able to pin down regarding WOEC's history. Where was WOEC's original headquarters located in 1944? What today we call the old building was on Maple Street and was built in 1956. But where did it all begin? If you know the answer, I would appreciate hearing from you.

I would like to thank those of you who have let me know how much you appreciate the linemen for all the hard work they do to keep the lights on, and those of you who have called to express appreciation for the front office staff for their professionalism as well. Thank you.

Bob Perry
General Manager



Don't Miss Out on Energy-Efficient Upgrades

West Oregon Electric Cooperative offers residential rebates on insulation, windows, doors, heat pumps, duct sealing and heat pump water heaters. In-home energy audits are available from the utility for free.

WOEC also offers commercial lighting rebates. A commercial lighting rebate requires a site audit before the project starts.

For more information about programs and eligibility, call 888-883-9879 or visit www.westoregon.org/members/rebates.



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

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Monday through Friday*

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

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Raymond Cloud, Secretary/Treasurer
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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

Power Outage? Use a Generator

During a power outage, the only options used to be lighting a candle or finding a flash-light and patiently waiting by the fireplace. Today, homeowners unwilling to wait out an outage are installing backup power generators.

A generator converts energy from fuel—usually gasoline—into electricity. Provided the generator is large enough, it can run a few appliances and lights.

While a generator certainly makes it more comfortable to endure an outage, improper use can be deadly.

If you are planning to use a generator, hire a licensed electrician to hard-wire a transfer switch adjacent to your existing circuit breaker box. Using a transfer switch eliminates the risk of electrical “backfeed” into power lines, which can kill utility workers repairing downed lines, and damage the generator and any equipment connected to it.

During an outage, you simply shut off the main breaker, isolating your home from power lines, and connect your generator to the transfer switch. Once the generator is running, you can choose which appliances and circuits you want to use by flipping the switches.

Because the transfer switch often is wired into more circuits than the generator can handle all at once, keep track of what is being powered. Running too many appliances at once can overload your generator. As a rule, the total running (rated) and starting watts of all the appliances used at one time should not exceed the generator's wattage.

Other tips:

- Place the generator on a level surface. If the generator is not level, fuel may leak from the fuel cap.
- Use an appropriately sized extension cord—usually 10, 12 or 14 gauge. A long or undersized cord could damage the generator and appliances. The lower the number, the thicker the cord and the more electricity it can carry. Don't run it under a rug. Heat can build up and spark a fire.
- Don't run a generator indoors or in an enclosed space, such as a garage or basement. Internal combustion engines produce deadly carbon monoxide gas.
- Fill the generator with clean, fresh, unleaded gasoline in a well-ventilated area while it is turned off. Keep the fuel 2 inches below the top of the fuel tank to allow expansion in hot weather and prevent overflow.
- Use the correct amount and type of oil. Refer to the engine manual. Always check the oil level prior to starting.
- Allow the generator to run about two minutes before plugging in extension cords, appliances or equipment. This allows it to reach a proper operating temperature and a constant voltage. Do not start a generator with items already plugged in.
- Start items from the largest power usage to the smallest. Keep in mind many items—especially ones with electric motors, such as sump pumps, furnace fans and air conditioners—require a surge of power to get them started.
- To avoid the possibility of a voltage surge, unplug all cords in the reverse order in which they were plugged in (smallest to largest power user), then wait about two minutes before you shut down the generator.

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

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Jerry Shorey, Oakridge District

Chris Seubert, Central District

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

Debi Wilson

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Tony Toncray

Engineering & Operations Manager

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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OR-16

A Fond Farewell

Dear Co-op Community Members:

A few weeks ago, I announced my resignation as general manager of Lane Electric Cooperative to spend more time with family and pursue other opportunities.

It was not an easy decision, as it was a privilege and my honor to serve you the past four years. I learned a great deal about your communities and the beautiful McKenzie River and Willamette Valley that we are all blessed to call home.

Some of my favorite memories during my time at Lane Electric include the following:

- Supporting the local 4-H Club's livestock auction. Each year, Lane Electric buys a cow, pig or lamb that is then processed and donated to food banks in our service territory. As a 4-H Club member in my early years, I always enjoyed talking with youth about their experiences raising the animals.
- Breaking bread with you every year at Lane Electric's district meeting dinners.
- Submitting this letter to you each month to keep you informed and connected with what's happening at your cooperative.

Partnering with the dedicated board of directors and employees was an inspiring and rewarding experience that contributed to my growth. I am thankful to have been given the opportunity to work alongside each and every one of them to help bring safe, reliable and economical power to you. Together, we worked through challenges and successes. I feel proud of what we accomplished.

In my absence, the board has a transition plan in place. Pursuant to the cooperative's succession policy, Debi Wilson, manager of finance and administration, is serving as acting general manager as the board searches for a permanent successor. Debi has been a team member at Lane Electric for 20 years, including the past 10 years as a manager. I know she will lead the co-op through the transition with poise and keen intellect.

Thank you for four great years and your membership with Lane Electric Cooperative.

All my best to you,

Matt

Matt Michel, former General Manager





Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative

Mail to: PO Box 70,
Junction City, OR 97448
Visit us at: 90680 Hwy 99 N,
Eugene, OR
541-688-8711
800-446-8418
blec@blec.coop
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: 541-927-3466) District 1
jacksche@blachlylane.coop
(Low Pass, Blachly, Deadwood and Indian Creek areas)

Curtis Short Vice Chairman

(ph: 541-359-9434) District 2
shortc@blachlylane.coop
(Fern Ridge and Elmira-rural areas)

Cheryl Haskell, Secretary/Treasurer

(ph: 541-554-1551) District 3
haskellc@blachlylane.coop
(Junction City-rural and Hwy 99N)

Marlene Northrup, Chairwoman

(ph: 541-998-1216) District 4
northrupm@blachlylane.coop
(Hwy 36, Hall Road and North Poodle Creek Road)

Vacant

District 5

General Manager

Greg Gardner
gardnerg@blec.coop

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The power of human connections

OR-17

Keep Your Co-op Local: Run for a Seat on the Board of Directors

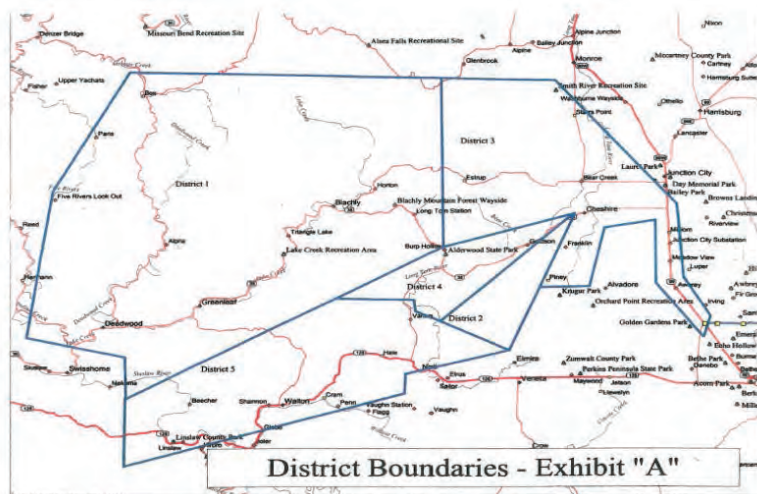
Dear Member,

If you are interested in getting involved in your cooperative, director positions for Districts 1, 3 and 5 are up for election at the next annual meeting at Elmira High School, April 27, 2019.

District 1—Incumbent Ernie Jacksch. This district can generally be described as the Blachly, Triangle Lake, Horton, Greenleaf and Deadwood areas.

District 3—Incumbent Cheryl Haskell. This district can generally be described as the Cheshire, Franklin and Junction City areas.

District 5—This seat is vacant. This district can generally be described as the Elmira, Veneta, Noti and Walton areas.



Keep Your Co-op Local

To have your name placed on the official ballot as a candidate, pick up a petition at Blachly-Lane's office at 90680 Highway 99, Eugene. The petition must be completed, signed by at least 15 members of the cooperative residing in the district for which a director is to be elected, and returned to the cooperative's office no later than Tuesday, February 26, 2019.

The District 1 and District 3 positions are for three-year terms. The District 5 seat will complete the remaining two years of the previously vacated term, with its next election in April 2021. Elections for Districts 2 and 4 will be in April 2020.

Please call us at 541-688-8711 with any questions regarding the nomination process. For more information about the role of individual board members, visit www.blachlylane.coop/content/member-owned-member-run.

Greg Gardner, General Manager



Board of Commissioners

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Douglas B. Miller

Vice President

Randy L. Knowles

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

Your PUD Update

I want to give you a general update on some things going on at Klickitat PUD.

Our new customer information and billing system is up and running. SmartHub, the new customer service tool, has received great customer reviews. We encourage you to register or download the app and see for yourself. The link can be found at www.klickitatpud.com. Get a one-time \$5 credit for registering on SmartHub and choosing paperless billing. We appreciate your patience during this conversion and hope you find the new bill format informational and easy to read.

Our renewable natural gas facility is performing well. The facility was designed and built to offer more value than the previous electric generation facility, and to reduce our risks to the electricity markets. There are not many opportunities to do both, as usually they are a tradeoff.

I have been quite active in Olympia lately to ensure the much-discussed carbon reduction legislation includes provisions that will allow us to capture value from our RNG facility for many years to come. We also are exploring ways to use the electric generation facility to bring more value.

KPUD is in the early stages of planning the RNG dedication ceremony to be held at the beginning of June, when the weather is better. I hope you will join us and tour the facility, which I believe is the most efficient RNG facility in the country. It is certainly one of the largest. What foresight our community leaders had when they worked to locate the regional landfill in Klickitat County.

We are working on many system improvement projects through the winter. The new substation capacity project in Bingen is complete. We are finishing a new high-voltage transmission interconnection project south of Goldendale, and are working on a new water system well in Lyle. Our vegetation management program is also moving along well in the Trout Lake, Glenwood and BZ Corner areas.

Lastly, the KPUD board voted Dan Gunkel as the new president of your board of commissioners. Doug Miller is vice president, and Randy Knowles is secretary.

I hope to see many of you at your local community meetings being planned for March through May.

Jim Smith

General Manager



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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

Keeping Your Lights On

As we move into February, I am eager for spring to arrive. I can't wait until I can officially say "happy spring!" However, we still have a couple more chilly months ahead of us. Northern Lights' primary goal is to keep your lights on no matter what the weather.

On average, across the entire system, our members received power 99.90 percent of the time in 2018.

That really speaks loudly to our hardworking linemen, dedicated employees and knowledgeable board of directors. It is also thanks to you, our members, for promptly reporting outages when they do occur.

When there is a power outage, Northern Lights crews work hard to respond and restore power as quickly and safely as possible. We are committed to providing reliable power 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and have linemen ready to respond should an outage occur regardless of the weather.

To be as reliable as possible, we work hard to protect our lines with our vigorous tree-trimming program and by installing raptor guards and squirrel deterrents. We also regularly patrol and maintain our lines to ensure they are in good working order.

Having a reliable supply of electricity is more than a convenience. It is a necessity. Our economy—and our way of life—depend on it. The employees and board of directors at Northern Lights are committed to maintain the electric distribution system to provide reliable electric service to our members. It's our mission.

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

Sincerely,

Annie Terracciano
General Manager





Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative

P.O. Box 300
Grangeville, Idaho 83530
Phone: 208-983-1610
Toll free: 877-212-0424
Fax: (208) 983-1432
Email: iclp@iclp.coop
Website: www.iclp.coop

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Greencreek

Vice President Kim Dahler
Kooskia

Secretary-Treasurer Jim Poxleitner
Cottonwood

Frank McIntire
Kamiah

Gerald Frei
Grangeville

Greg Smith
Syringa

Ernie Robinson
White Bird

Attorney

J.A. Wright

General Manager

Max Beach

c-21

Manager's Message

In May 2017, I wrote about the importance of clearing trees. After what the Northwest experienced in 2018, including the tragedies of the Camp Fire and others like it, I feel it's prudent to stress the topic again.

In Idaho, trees provide us with many benefits. For Idaho County Light & Power, they also present an electrical reliability and safety challenge. When a tree falls into a power line, it causes a short circuit, and usually an extensive amount of damage and an outage. It can also create fire. Overall, it inconveniences our members.

ICL&P goes to great lengths to avoid this. We spend more than \$200,000 a year on vegetation management to minimize the risk of trees contacting our lines. We bury lines when possible. Yet in many terrains, digging a trench 36 to 48 inches deep is nearly impossible, and underground cable has its own set of potential issues. Sometimes we use explosives just to get a pole in the ground.

Even with these efforts, trees remain our largest cause of power outages because most trees that cause outages are outside our 30-foot easements. While we work to keep the lines safe and the power on, we run into members who do not want their trees cut back much or at all. This puts us in a predicament. If we don't cut back the trees and/or vegetation to at least 10 feet from either side of the line, it usually grows back before the next cycle to cut it. It takes a lot of time and money to trim back the same trees each year if we don't create a big enough break. Since ICL&P is owned by those we serve, damages caused by one end up being paid for by all. Furthermore, the risk of forest fires created by these trees cannot be discounted.

In the past couple of years, we have worked with the Forest Service in certain areas to walk miles of power line and help identify potential danger trees inside and outside the right-of-way. It's important that we all work together when it comes to our power lines and forests. We can only control certain things in life. Mother Nature tends to get the best of us at times. For example, this past year we had many green trees uproot and fall through the line during windstorms after the same areas had just been inspected and the trees removed.

I assure you our people work hard to get the power restored when the lights go out. This often is at night and in very difficult terrain. As you can imagine, if a tree is going to fall over, it's probably not one with easy access. New poles must be set by hand or helicopter, and result in all-hands-on deck at your cooperative.

What can be done to prevent tree-related outages? When you get a call or knock on your door from one of our employees about trimming back or clearing a tree that is almost touching the energized line, please heed their advice.

Our goal is to provide you with affordable, reliable and safe power. It's in our best interests to work together and make our system better. Also, if a tree is on a line or if the line is down, I can't stress enough to stay away. If you have a tree near the power line, please don't cut it down yourself. Call ICL&P. If it threatens our power lines, we will cut it down at no cost to you. We can also help you find a qualified arborist.

Thank you for your time,

Max Beach



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

Board of Directors

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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, Jeff Myers

WA-22

Parting Thoughts

Our electric cooperative model is special. Last month, I wrote a brief Co-op 101. This month, I want to tell you about our upcoming 81st Annual Meeting of the Columbia REA membership.

Please save the date Thursday, April 18, at College Place High School. We would love to see you. As a bonus, there will be a great meal, attendance gifts and prize drawings.

The strategic direction and governance of your cooperative is provided by a nine-member board of directors. Like most of you, they are residential members who are part of our community and always have our best interests at heart. All board members serve three-year terms so that every year, one-third—one person in each of our three districts—is up for election.

Our bylaws require that we have contested elections. A nominating committee actively solicits interested members to run for election. Board members can plan to spend at least 14 days a year actively involved in board meetings and planning sessions. If you are interested in sharing your skills and energy in a community-focused organization that works to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy, please contact Doug Case, dcase@columbiarea.coop or 509-526-4041, as soon as possible so we can answer your questions and get you in contact with the nominating committee.

We are moving to a hybrid voting system this year that will allow you to vote by mail as we have in the past, but will also include an online voting option. We want to engage as many of our members as possible in the cooperative.

Also at the annual meeting, we will award four scholarships to deserving young people from our communities. More information about our scholarship program is available on our website at www.columbiarea.coop under “Your Co-op” and then “Member Services.” All local high schools have details about the three academic scholarships. The fourth scholarship is for someone attending an electric lineworker program.

I hope to see you at your annual meeting in April. In the meantime, my door is always open for you to stop in and talk. Feel free to call me at 509-526-4041 or email 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

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Engineering..... Option 4
Marketing..... Option 5
Operations..... Option 6

**After-Hours Outage and
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or 800-752-5935**

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

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Leland Smith, Sunriver

Vice President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Secretary/Treasurer

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Vic Russell, Fall River

Robert Reed, La Pine

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

Bud Kendall, La Pine

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

STAFF

General Manager

Dave Schneider

Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Bartunek

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

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

Initial review of this year's legislative session shows a number of proposed bills that could dramatically raise the price of electricity for Northwest consumers. 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 our electricity affordable and reliable, join us today. You will receive notifications and prewritten messages you can forward to your elected officials.

There are three ways you can become a grassroots advocate. 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. Together we can make a difference!

Board Districts up for Election

There will be an election for board of director positions to oversee the cooperative's operation at MEC's 2019 annual

membership meeting Saturday, May 11. Petitions for board districts 3 (Crescent), 4 (Gilchrist) and 6 (La Pine) must be on file on or before Tuesday, March 12.

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. Detailed descriptions are on page 8. Petitions for the three positions are available at MEC's headquarters facility.

Safety Reminder

Winter weather increases the chance of downed power lines. If you see a downed line, keep yourself and others away.

- Do not try to help by moving downed wires or cutting trees off power lines. Rubber boots, gloves or a long stick WILL NOT protect you from electric shock.

- If a line is blocking the entrance to your driveway, do not drive over it.

- Call 911, then report the situation to MEC immediately at 800-752-5935.

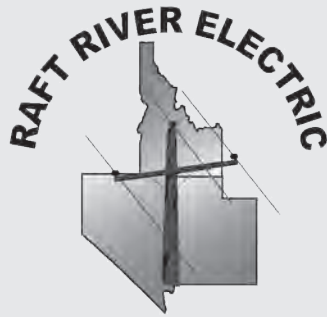
MEC's Scholarship Program

MEC's 2019 scholarship application is available at www.mse.coop. The final deadline for submitting the application and all required materials is Monday, May 6. Call 541-536-2126 option 5 for more information.

Payment Options

MEC offers a number of payment options for our members' convenience. We now accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express cards. See page 25 for more details.

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

Save the Date

for Raft River Rural Electric's Annual Meeting

*Join your cooperative employees, board and members
Tuesday, March 19, for the 80th annual meeting*

Happy 80th anniversary, co-op members! We hope you will join us in celebrating Raft River Electric's 80th anniversary of providing service to our members.

In thinking about Raft River Electric's 80th anniversary, I can't help but think back to the hardworking men and women who built this co-op in 1939 and how the concept of "Concern for Community" was just as important then as it still is today.

Take a minute and try to imagine what your life and the life of those in your community would be like without electricity. The work day would be dictated by the rising and setting of the sun. Electric co-ops began as a response to a deeply felt need in rural communities just like ours.

Raft River Electric is and always has been a permanent part of the communities in which we serve. We view the seventh cooperative principle, "Concern For Community," as an obligation. It's a duty, not a choice. We take our commitment to investing in our communities just as seriously today as those who did 80 years ago.

Raft River Electric works hard for the sustainable, efficient development of our communities while continuing to focus on the needs of our members. Your co-op will never forget it is owned by those it serves and deeply thanks those who courageously formed Raft River Electric 80 years ago.

I hope you will save the date for our 80th anniversary annual meeting on Tuesday, March 19, at Raft River High School in Malta. All members are invited and encouraged to attend and be a part of your co-op community. We will have our business meeting, informational booths, a dinner, prize drawings, member gifts and a grand prize of a \$1,200 power bill credit. Please celebrate with us at our 80th anniversary annual meeting!

Kurt Anderson
General Manager





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



Join Big Bend Electric staff, trustees and members at your co-op's annual meeting February 23.

BBEC's 80th Annual Meeting

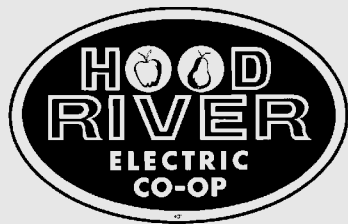
On Saturday, February 23, we will celebrate the 80th annual meeting for Big Bend Electric Cooperative at the Legion building in Ritzville. The annual meeting is a gathering of members to hear the state of the co-op, elect trustees, receive gifts, win prizes and enjoy a complimentary catered lunch.

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

As a member of BBEC, your annual meeting is an opportunity to learn more about the cooperative you own, meet BBEC staff and discover more about the services we provide.

See details on pages 4 and 5 in this edition and make plans to join us!

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

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Libby Calnon

Serving rural
Hood River County
since 1945

OR-26

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

It's mid-January as I write this, and we are kicking off 2019 with our annual audit. Staff members from our audit firm, Friend & Reagan PC, are onsite to examine our accounting records and transactions for 2018. Their work will culminate in publication of year-end financial statements and their audit report.

The reports for Hood River Electric Cooperative and Communications Access Cooperative will be presented to your boards of directors at their February meetings. Our auditors will attend the annual membership meetings in March to review the annual financial reports with the membership.

Another important task this month is setting the date for our annual membership meetings. The boards of directors for HREC and CACHE select dates for these meetings, which are held in March. You will be mailed a formal notification of the date, time and place for each meeting well in advance.

Your HREC Board of Directors also establishes a nominating committee each year. This committee nominates candidates for positions on the HREC Board of Directors. The terms of three directors expire each year. Members fill the director positions by electing or re-electing fellow members from the list of candidates identified by the nominating committee. Candidates can file a petition, as specified in the bylaws, or be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting. Members must attend the annual meeting to cast their votes.

Your co-op directors and staff aim to be good stewards of your cooperative by ensuring the business is financially sound, and the infrastructure that serves you is well-maintained and sufficient to meet the needs of the community. We look forward to serving you in 2019 and beyond.

**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

Orovida, Nevada
775-272-3336

orovada.office@harneyelectric.org

www.harneyelectric.org

Find us on 

.....
Board of Directors

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

General Manager

Fred Flippence

Operations Manager

Jason Hill

Line Superintendent

Jason Radinovich

Electrical Engineer

Shane Sweet

Office Manager

Stephanie Bowen

Attorney

Raymond S. Kindley

OR-27

Legislature Makes Cap and Trade a Priority

Ted Case is executive director of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Salem. A native Oregonian, Ted spent 20 years in Washington, D.C., including stints as staff director of the House Water and Power Subcommittee that oversees the Bonneville Power Administration.

The Oregon Legislature is underway, and the leaders of both the House and Senate—along with Gov. Kate Brown—have made clear that passing cap-and-trade legislation is a priority. A cap-and-trade program, which California enacted several years ago, is designed to put the state of Oregon on a path toward reducing its carbon emissions.

The “cap” on emissions is a firm limit that gets stricter over time. The “trade” part is a market for companies, such as utilities and manufacturers, to buy and sell allowances that let them emit only a certain amount of carbon, as supply and demand set the price. As you can tell, it’s a bit complicated. For Oregon’s electric cooperatives, the issues are exceedingly complex.

The good news is that for Oregon electric cooperatives such as Harney Electric, your actual carbon emissions are relatively small because of your reliance on the emission-free hydropower from the Federal Columbia River Power System. In fact, I will argue that Oregon cannot meet its ambitious carbon reduction goals without the renewable resources from our federal dams. Ironically, the state of Oregon has aggressively pursued policies and operations that significantly reduce hydropower generation at our federal dams.

There are other issues for us to consider. What will a cap-and-trade program mean for family-wage manufacturing jobs, which are so important to providing economic opportunity in rural Oregon? It would be devastating if these manufacturers were compelled to relocate to states such as Idaho that do not have a similar program.

Then there is the price at the pump. Emissions from the transportation sector account for approximately 40 percent of the state’s emissions. One economic study concluded that, under a cap-and-trade program, gasoline could increase immediately by an estimated 16 cents a gallon. This could disproportionately harm rural Oregonians, who often have to drive long distances for basic services such as health care.

Clearly, there are many unanswered questions about how this proposal will affect electric utility rates, our major industrial sectors, jobs and transportation costs in rural Oregon. What is known, however, is that this proposal has undeniable momentum and likely will pass the legislative assembly. Accordingly, we have no choice but to be at the table with the Oregon Legislature and Gov. Brown, forcefully making the case that Oregon cannot solve a global problem on the backs of rural Oregonians.

Ted Case

Executive Director

Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association



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

Board of Directors

President Bob Boren
Vice President Jeff Bitton
Sec./Treasurer Norman Wallis
Michael Miller
Doug Parkinson
Steve Rembelski
Earl Skeen

Manager Ken Dizes
Attorney Dale Storer

Board meets the third Wednesday of each month

Email: energy@srec.org
Website: www.srec.org

ID-28

Looking Forward

A new year is upon us, so I think it is appropriate to share some insights on events we are tracking into 2019 that will affect your cooperative.

The Bonneville Power Administration, SREC's sole electric power provider, continues to try to bend its upward rate trajectory downward. Market prices of electricity continue to compete favorably against BPA's wholesale power rates. This has BPA customers considering whether to sign new power supply contracts with BPA once existing contracts expire in 2028. BPA has bent its cost curve downward, which has facilitated BPA not raising wholesale power rates as much as they would have otherwise. Even so, BPA is raising SREC's wholesale power rates 5 percent effective October 1, 2019.

BPA recognizes the need to take steps to remain competitive. It is taking a hard look at how to leverage the value of the hydro system. This includes looking for ways to increase the value of secondary power sales that have traditionally kept BPA's rates competitive.

A recent spill agreement entered into by BPA could add more flexibility into the current spill regime while testing higher spill levels to facilitate fish passage through the dams. The agreement has some protections for BPA ratepayers as experimental spill regimes are put into place.

The Columbia River Operation Environmental Impact Statement and accompanying biological opinion are due in 2020. Snake River dam removal is being considered in the EIS. The outcome could have major impacts on BPA's competitiveness.

The Columbia River Treaty continues to be negotiated into 2019. At this point, it is difficult to determine the effects a new treaty would have on BPA and its customers.

Climate change is happening, which I'm sure isn't news to any of us. More uncertain is what steps, if any, can or should be taken to combat climate change and its effects. Some believe we should move away from central station service such as your electric cooperative provides and even eliminate the use of fossil fuels, biomass, nuclear and even large hydroelectric power generation. Those in favor of this approach prefer renewable electric power technologies such as wind and solar coupled with battery storage. Home electric power generation through solar arrays and batteries are becoming cost competitive with grid-provided electric power. This is changing the electric utility landscape and is driving much thought on retail electric rates, electric reliability, stranded utility investments and migration to a consumer-centric utility.

Your electric cooperative has explored providing community solar opportunities for our members. The business case ended up not being compelling due to SREC's low electric wholesale power costs and low retail electric rates. We do have three SREC members who sell excess electric energy back to the cooperative from solar arrays on their homes.

We live in exciting times. New and improving technology is opening new opportunities in the electric utility industry. Your electric cooperative continually scans the landscape for ways to better serve you, our members, with safe, reliable and low-cost electricity.

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

Left foot. Right foot. Big foot. Green foot?

Chances are you have heard the term “carbon footprint” at some point the past few years. It seems to be one of those words that people toss around in an attempt to sound “green.” But if you are like me, you may wonder what the word actually means.

Merriam Webster added carbon footprint to its collegiate dictionary in 2009. Webster defines carbon footprint as “the amount of greenhouse gases and specifically carbon dioxide emitted by something (such as a person’s activities or a product’s manufacture and transport) during a given period.” Today, the term is often used as shorthand for the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by an activity, person or organization.

What human activities contribute to CO₂ emissions? Your car’s engine burns fuel, which creates CO₂. Heating your home with oil, gas or coal creates CO₂. Heating your home with electricity may also create CO₂, as well as your general use of electricity, depending on the fuel source.

The electricity you buy from United Electric has a carbon footprint. When talking about electricity, carbon dioxide is typically measured as pounds of CO₂ per megawatt-hour. UEC’s average emission rate for 2017 was 20 pounds of CO₂ per MWh.

UEC has a low average emission rate when compared to CO₂ emissions for the state of Idaho and neighboring states, according to the Environmental Protection Agency’s eGRID2016 database as listed below.

- UEC: 20 pounds of CO₂ per MWh.
- Idaho: 189 pounds of CO₂ per MWh.
- Oregon: 306 pounds of CO₂ per MWh.
- Utah: 1,627 pounds of CO₂ per MWh.
- Washington: 187 pounds of CO₂ per MWh.
- Wyoming: 2,026 pounds of CO₂ per MWh.

Much of the electricity in Utah and Wyoming is generated with coal, which produces a large carbon footprint. Much of the electricity in Idaho and the Pacific Northwest is generated with hydro, nuclear, wind and solar—all carbon-free resources.

United Electric’s low carbon footprint is a direct result of our long-term power purchase contract with the Bonneville Power Administration. Almost 90 percent of the BPA resource is hydro. Hydro is carbon free. Approximately 9 percent of the BPA resource is nuclear. Nuclear is carbon free.

Twenty pounds CO₂/MWh—that’s a small green footprint.

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

Directors

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Susan M. Harris
Vice President

Bret L. Zollinger
Secretary/Treasurer

Chad H. Angell
Brad J. Gamett
James D. McKelvey
Dean L. Myler

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



Ground-fault circuit interrupters always should be used when operating power tools. Portable GFCIs take the guesswork out of determining whether an outlet is wired with a GFCI.

Photo by Mike Teegarden

Check Your GFCIs

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than two-thirds of electrocution deaths could be prevented with the use of ground-fault circuit interrupters.

GFCI outlets—which are more sensitive to current fluctuations than a fuse or circuit breaker—should be installed anywhere an appliance might come in contact with water.

Underwriters Laboratories suggests testing GFCIs monthly to make sure they are working properly. Push the “reset” button on the GFCI. Plug a light with an on/off switch into the receptacle. Turn the item on. Push the test button. The light should go off. Push the reset button again. The light should go on.

If the light remains on when the test button is pushed, the GFCI is not working properly. You should call an electrician to rewire or replace the GFCI. ■



Board of Directors

Lon Rake, President
 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

February

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

CVEA Offices Closed:

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

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

Scholarship Application Deadline:
 Thursday, February 21, 2019, prior to 6 p.m.

March

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

AK-34

Save the Date! 2019 Annual Meeting

Copper Basin: Tuesday, April 30

Valdez: Thursday, May 2

Help Wanted

Credentials & Election Committees

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

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

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

CVEA Community Foundation Scholarship Selection Committees

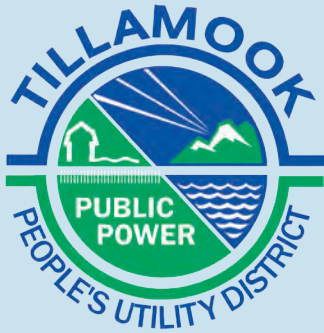
CVEACF Scholarship Selection Committees review scholarship application packets, determine which students to interview, conduct the interviews and select who will receive the scholarships being offered this year.

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

If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer for either of these opportunities to serve, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email crisp@cvea.org. The committee volunteer deadline is Tuesday, February 19, 2019.



#cveacelebrates60



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

Electric Vehicles: A Powerful Look At Transportation Innovation

Dear Customers:

Transportation is an essential component in our
lives. How we get from point A to point B is a choice.
As new technologies and innovations continue to
emerge, our transportation options continue to grow.

One type of transportation we hear about
frequently is electric vehicles. Auto manufacturers
have taken the EV movement seriously. Many
are preparing to phase out cars powered solely by
internal combustion engines. Ford plans to have
40 electrified vehicles by 2022. General Motors has
plans to go 100 percent electric—with at least 20
models by the year 2023—and others are following this trend.

This steady rise in EVs means Tillamook PUD can expect an increase in system
load, which our staff accounts for as it continues to monitor and design our system.
Building and updating our critical infrastructure—such as transmission lines, distri-
bution lines and substations—helps us prepare for future load growth and meet the
needs of our customers.

An increase in EVs also means Tillamook PUD needs to be on the cutting edge of the
movement so we can support our customers as they navigate this new and exciting auto-
motive revolution. From a conservation perspective, we need to be aware of our impact
on the environment and take steps to help reduce our utility's emissions.

Due to age and operational challenges, earlier this year we decommissioned two of
our vehicles, replacing them with two highly efficient and cost-effective fully electric
Chevy Bolts. This decision has proven to be of great benefit to our utility. We are able
to operate these cars for a fraction of what it cost to operate the previous vehicles.

There is lots of EV information available. We recognize this can be overwhelm-
ing, so we developed a simple yet comprehensive section about EVs at www.tpod.org/electric-vehicle. The section includes EV facts, a comparison savings calculator and an
EV charging station location map.

Customers and community members will have the opportunity to check out our
Chevy Bolt EV at the Tillamook Home and Garden Show April 13-14 at the Tillamook
County Fairgrounds. Additional Tillamook PUD EV community endeavors include a
possible test-driving workshop and a DC fast-charging station in our parking lot.

You have the power to choose the mode of transportation that best suits your lifestyle.
The deciding factors are up to you and vary for each person, so explore your options
and use us as a resource. If you have EV questions or concerns, visit our website or con-
tact us with any inquires. Our Energy Services Department is a fabulous EV resource.

Todd Simmons, General Manager





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

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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

You're 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 Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative'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 utilities, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and the larger community we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer. You are a member of our cooperative.

Without you, we would not exist.

In 1964, BUECI 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 utilities where there were none.

At that time, community members understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped create the cooperative. For many people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks may have come to think of us as another utility provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving 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 the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings each spring. We want to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use utilities more efficiently. We look to explore more options that will help you manage your utility use. We seek to keep pace with the changing utility environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

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

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local high school students through a co-op-sponsored scholarship program.

While 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.



Owned By Those We Serve

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Corporate Headquarters

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

Delta Junction Office

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

Nenana Office

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

Report Outages:

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

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!



AK-37



As you're zipping across the snow, keep an eye out for guy wires. They can be hard to see in the twilight of winter. Hitting a guy wire can wreck your day, your sled and your body.

Remember: Rights of way granted to GVEA by its members are private property. Please respect your neighbors' right to privacy.

Power line rights of way are NOT public access routes.

- No legal public thoroughfare is created by the installation of a power line.
- Landowners retain all rights of ownership.
- Property owners can prosecute trespassers.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 1

Artist's Opening Reception. Main Street Artists Gallery, 436 Main St., Quincy. 5 to 7 p.m. Reception for featured artist.

For more information, call 530-283-1909.

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

For more information, call 530-283-3402.

February 2 & 3, 8 & 9, 15 & 16, and 22 & 23

Ranger-led snowshoe walks. Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, Lassen National Park. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. A \$10 park entrance fee applies unless a valid passholder is present. Snowshoes are provided.

For more information, email lavo_information@nps.gov.

Community Supper. Quincy Methodist Church. 445 Jackson St. 6 to 7 p.m.

For more information call 530-283-1740

February 7

Lassen County Chamber of Commerce Mixer. Diamond Mountain Casino. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call 530-257-4323.

February 16

Cabin Fever All You Can Eat Spaghetti Feed. Downieville Community Hall, 322 Main St. Proceeds benefit Downieville Volunteer Fire Department.

For more information, call 530-289-3126.

February 17

Cabin Fever Concert Series. The Buckhorn, 225 Main St., Sierra City. Yuba Dogs perform. Tickets are \$15 and include a free beverage and bottomless snack bar.

For more information and tickets, call 530-862-1076.

Historic Longboard Revival Ski Racing.

Plumas-Eureka State Park, Johnsville Ski Bowl. Registration at 10 a.m. Period costumes, music, food and fun.

For more information, call 530-832-4309.

February 28

Lewis Price Concert. Lassen Community College.

For more information, call 530-257-6181.

March 2

The Great Yuba Pass Chili Cook Off. Yuba Pass on Highway 49. 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call 530-289-3262.

March 10

Cabin Fever Concert Series. The Buckhorn. 225 Main St., Sierra City. Paul Kamm and Eleanore McDonald perform modern folk music. Tickets are \$15 and include a free beverage and bottomless snack bar.

For more information and tickets, call 530-862-1076.

March 15 & 16

Cowboy Poetry & Music Show. Sierra Valley Grange Hall. Dave Stamey, Chris Isaacs, Richard Elloyan and Steve Wade perform. Friday show is 7:30 p.m. Saturday matinee show is 2 p.m. and evening show is 7:30 p.m. Dinner on Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. Dinner on Saturday from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Shows \$25, dinner \$12.

For more information, call 831-345-9840 or visit www.sierravalleygrange.org.

Manager's Message

Continued from page 32

PST will continue to improve this system, and our other broadband networks over time. We are not here to extract money from the community and ship it out to other regions. As with our electric system, we will steadily improve all our systems and expand our coverage.

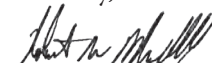
For more information, or to sign up for service, please call us at 800-221-3474 or visit www.pst.coop.

Scholarship Deadline Approaches

It is not too late to turn in an application to win one of two \$1,000 scholarships. These scholarships are open to high school seniors and older students, with no upper age limit. Details are on page 5 and at www.psrec.coop. The deadline is Friday, March 15.

For more information, please call me at 800-555-2207 ext. 6076, or email me at bmarshall@psrec.coop.

Sincerely,



Bob Marshall
General Manager

Ready.Set.Go!

It's never too early to take great photos for
PSREC's annual photo contest!

- Up to six (6) amazing photos will be chosen by an unbiased team of judges at Ruralite magazine.
- Winning photos will be featured on one cover of the PSREC Ruralite magazine following the Annual Member Meeting in September 2019, where winners will be announced.
- Winners will receive a \$100 credit on their bill.

See details soon at www.psrec.coop
and in Ruralite magazine.

PSREC PhotoContest2019

...coming soon!

Look for details in April 2019 Ruralite.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

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fnelson@psrec.coop

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dshort@psrec.coop

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dhansen@psrec.coop

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lprice@psrec.coop

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

Tom Hammond, *Herlong*
thammond@psrec.coop

Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



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

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

CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

We had an interesting storm in early January. The big storm, with wet, heavy snow, shortly after the New Year is just the type of storm that has wreaked havoc on the region in the past, but we are delighted to share that we did not have a single outage.

This is attributable to a great deal of hard work, both in strengthening our system and in tree trimming and hazard tree removal. PG&E has also been improving its right-of-way clearance on the transmission lines that serve us from the west.

We also had a good deal of luck. Three winters ago we were prepared, but a windstorm cut both power supplies and knocked down transmission poles. So far, so good, at the time I write this.

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

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

Community Solar

As you may have seen in the December issue, the PSREC Community Solar Program is now offering 100 kilowatt-hours-a-month blocks to members. PSREC offers members the choice of a monthly adder to their existing rate or a onetime upfront fee to participate in the Community Solar Program.

Buying solar power from PSREC's

Community Solar Program is a great option for members who may not want to make the large upfront investment in a solar system, are renting, or live in an area with shading where a solar system would not produce optimal energy output. Community solar is a great, maintenance-free way to use renewable power without solar panels on your roof.

For more information, or to sign up for the PSREC Community Solar Program, please call us at 800-555-2207 or visit www.psrec.coop.

Telecommunications

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

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

We previously informed members that we acquired an abandoned cable TV system and have been refurbishing it to provide broadband as quickly as possible to members. This has been a two-steps forward, one-step back process as years of neglect slow the rollout to everyone. We replaced parts of the system in Graeagle with fiber optics, which will improve service to a key affected area, and will improve service to the customers on the coax system, which is a nice win-win.

Continues on page 25



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

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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

Important Dates



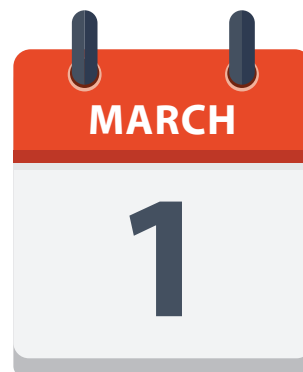
**Mt. Wheeler Power
bill due**



**Cover contest
submission deadline**



**Board of
Directors meeting**



**Scholarship
application deadline**

For more important dates, visit:
mwpower.net/content/community-calendar

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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

Heavy Ice Tests the Grid



Thick fog and bitter cold temperatures for days on end blanketed power lines in heavy ice. The weight of the ice not only took a toll on the power lines, it shredded branches from trees which often fell on the power lines as well.

It's been a long battle for line crews fighting to keep electricity flowing despite unusual winter weather. Ice accumulation on power lines, as much as four inches thick, and nearby trees led to numerous "bumps" and several outages in mid-January.

In every column I write, my goal is to help you understand what is happening at your electric cooperative. One situation our line crew encountered illustrates why the ice build-up was such a challenge.

A member called our 24-hour customer service center at 1-800-566-6696 to report an outage. When crews arrived, they found that the weight of the ice on the overhead wires had pulled an anchor out of the ground. Without the anchor, the wires lost tension and slapped together causing a short circuit. Normally, crews would install a new anchor and restore safe clearances but the ground was frozen so hard that even our most powerful digger truck couldn't drill through. Imagine that scene. The ground is so solidly frozen that crews couldn't dig through it but the weight of the ice pulled an anchor out anyway.

Our crew had to come up with "Plan B". They hauled in a 4,800 pound concrete road barrier to serve as a temporary anchor. They used trucks and winches to pull the wires back into place and connected the guy wire to the



Ice falls in sheets and wires spring back after a lineman uses an insulated "hot stick" to knock ice off the power line. See more ice-storm photos on page 28.

Photograph courtesy of Jacob "Magurt" Manning

barrier. By morning, the ice had thickened so much that the weight bent the pole, drug the concrete block forward and stood it on its end. Time for Plan C.

In many respects, the power lines held up miraculously well under unprecedented conditions. In other cases, the ice exposed places where improvements are needed. For now, we are making essential repairs. Once the weather improves, we will focus on making the system even more reliable and resilient.

Keeping the grid on and making repairs required a Herculean effort. We appreciate our members who reported outages by calling 1-800-566-6696. Your calls helped crews pinpoint the trouble spots and restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Crews worked tirelessly, with support from office staff, to remove ice keeping your homes warm and your businesses open.

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer



NV-42

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Cost Reductions, Rate Adjustment



Immediately following the transition to new management in May, the Valley Electric Association Board directed a thorough review of the Co-op's operations, which included re-evaluating priorities, strategies, finances, budget, staffing, the scope of work being performed by external consultants, and operational expense levels.

With the Board's approval, business improvements that reflected revised priorities and significant reductions in annual operating expenses were implemented.

Had we continued to spend at pre-May 2018 levels, we would have been challenged to meet our operational expenses. In order to cover expenses, this could have required an increase in electric rates of as much as 26%. Since May, however, we have reduced controllable expenses by \$5 million.

That effort continues. In 2019, we are in the process of reducing expenses by an additional \$6 million.

Under the Board's direction, we also took action to stabilize VEA's energy supply costs. As I explained during district meetings in December, Valley Electric kept energy rates stable during the recession of 2008 and the decade-long recovery by managing the Co-op's power purchase contracts, which pushed energy costs into the future. This, in effect, shielded our member-consumers during the recession.

It was the right thing to do, but at some point deferring these costs had to end. In June, the Co-op used \$60 million in proceeds from the 230-kilovolt transmission sale to "buy out" the existing contracts to keep energy rates stable. The new power deal started

delivering lower-priced power in June.

The cost reductions we have made thus far are intended to reduce the impact of an energy rate increase. As a necessary action, we conducted a cost-of-service study to gauge the shortfall between revenue and operational expenses. The gap is far smaller than what we could have been facing in pre-May 2018. With the cost-of-service study just wrapping up, the actual impact soon will be known.

The Board and I are sensitive to rate adjustments, and we will do our utmost to keep rates as low as possible for all members. We will communicate information to our members just as soon as we can.

In the meantime, Valley Communications Association will be adjusting its pricing during the first quarter of 2019. We believe the market supports this while allowing VCA to remain competitive. (More details on Page 25.)

I am happy to report that we are well on our way to establishing VCA as a viable business that can stand on its own – in less than three years. We are very proud of that, and we believe it is essential that VCA pay its own way.

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 Service



valleycom.com

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

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AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

We are here 24 hours a day,
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(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



Ground-fault circuit interrupters always should be used when operating power tools. Portable GFCIs take the guesswork out of determining whether an outlet is wired with a GFCI.

Photo by Mike Teegarden

Check Your GFCIs

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than two-thirds of electrocution deaths could be prevented with the use of ground-fault circuit interrupters.

GFCI outlets—which are more sensitive to current fluctuations than a fuse or circuit breaker—should be installed anywhere an appliance might come in contact with water.

Underwriters Laboratories suggests testing GFCIs monthly to make sure they are working properly. Push the “reset” button on the GFCI. Plug a light with an on/off switch into the receptacle. Turn the item on. Push the test button. The light should go off. Push the reset button again. The light should go on.

If the light remains on when the test button is pushed, the GFCI is not working properly. You should call an electrician to rewire or replace the GFCI. ■



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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Serving the communities of:

Aleknagik	Ekuk
Clarks Point	Manokotak
Dillingham	Portage Creek



Touchstone Energy®

AK-47

ANNUAL MEETING

Are You Ready to
Hear About Our Year?



2019 Annual Meeting

The 2019 Annual Membership Meeting is Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at the Dillingham Elementary School gym. Registration starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7 p.m. All member/owners are welcome to attend.

PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER.



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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Bingaman, Union County
Vice President Charlene
Chase, Baker County
Sec./Treas. Wayne Overton,
Baker County

David Baum, Union County
Aletha Bonebrake, Baker
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

Legislature Makes Cap and Trade a Priority

Ted Case is executive director of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Salem. A native Oregonian, Ted spent 20 years in Washington, D.C., including stints as staff director of the House Water and Power Subcommittee that oversees the Bonneville Power Administration. For more information on cap-and-trade legislation, please turn to page 4.



The Oregon Legislature is underway, and the leaders of both the House and Senate—along with Gov. Kate Brown—have made clear that passing cap-and-trade legislation is a priority. A cap-and-trade program, which California enacted several years ago, is designed to put the state of Oregon on a path toward reducing its carbon emissions.

The “cap” on emissions is a firm limit that gets stricter over time. The “trade” part is a market for companies, such as utilities and manufacturers, to buy and sell allowances that let them emit only a certain amount of carbon, as supply and demand set the price. As you can tell, it’s a bit complicated. For Oregon’s electric cooperatives, the issues are exceedingly complex.

The good news is that for Oregon electric cooperatives such as OTEC, your actual carbon emissions are relatively small because of your reliance on the emission-free hydropower from the Federal Columbia River Power System. In fact, I will argue that Oregon cannot meet its ambitious carbon reduction goals without the renewable resources from our federal dams. Ironically, the state of Oregon has aggressively pursued policies and operations that significantly reduce hydropower generation at our federal dams.

There are other issues for us to consider. What will a cap-and-trade program mean for family-wage manufacturing jobs, which are so important to providing economic opportunity in rural Oregon? It would be devastating if these manufacturers were compelled to relocate to states such as Idaho that do not have a similar program.

Then there is the price at the pump. Emissions from the transportation sector account for approximately 40 percent of the state’s emissions. One economic study concluded that, under a cap-and-trade program, gasoline could increase immediately by an estimated 16 cents a gallon. This could disproportionately harm rural Oregonians, who often have to drive long distances for basic services such as health care.

Clearly, there are many unanswered questions about how this proposal will affect electric utility rates, our major industrial sectors, jobs and transportation costs in rural Oregon. What is known, however, is that this proposal has undeniable momentum and likely will pass the legislative assembly. Accordingly, we have no choice but to be at the table with the Oregon Legislature and Gov. Brown, forcefully making the case that Oregon cannot solve a global problem on the backs of rural Oregonians.

Ted Case

Executive Director

Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association



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

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

General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49



Get Your Money-Saving Power Strip

To serve our customers, Ohop Mutual Light Co. must simultaneously manage what I call the three E's: energy, economics and environment. Each is a major challenge by itself, but all three are connected.

Most of us agree it is a good idea to create energy from sources such as wind or sunlight. However, these sources are quite expensive and less reliable than our hydro power. As part of our contract with the Bonneville Power Administration to reduce energy consumption, Ohop is required to spend a certain amount of money each year on conservation projects such as appliance rebates and heat pumps.

We continue to offer LED bulbs and advanced power strips to help our members.

Did you know many of your home electronic devices continue to use electricity when they are turned off? This is called phantom load or standby power loss. Think of all those times when we fall asleep in front of the television, or leave the room for an extended period of time with items running at full power. There is an extra cost with no benefit.

Ohop wants to help you save money by reducing these occurrences. According to the Department of Energy, these items account for approximately 5 to 10 percent of your annual energy costs.

Advanced power strips offer the same features as a standard power strip, but also detect when there is no movement for a period of time and automatically shut off TVs and other connected items. This can save up to \$30 annually.

Stop by our office to receive your free LED bulbs and advanced power strip—a \$90 retail value. You must be an Ohop Mutual Light Co. member to qualify. Supplies are limited, so hurry!

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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Steve Walter

Chief Financial Officer

Rob Carr

Operations Manager

Nick Himebauch

Executive Assistant

Lisa Peabody

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Jeff Gillette
Paul Bay
Mark Dilger
Dutch Siedentopf

*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

2019 TEC Director Elections

Dear Members,

Tanner Electric Cooperative Board of Directors positions are up for re-election at the 2019 annual meetings Saturday, May 18, for Anderson Island and Wednesday, May 22, for North Bend/Ames Lake.

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

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

If you are interested in running or want more information, email Administrative Assistant Lisa Peabody at lisa@tannerelectric.coop.

Incumbent directors up for re-election are:

- Anderson Island, Ed Stephenson
- North Bend, Mark Dilger
- Ames Lake, Roger Guay

Steve Walter

General Manager



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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Gary Hauenstein - Vice President
Gary Grazzini - Secretary
Janet Detering - Treasurer
Elaine Walter - Public Relations

GENERAL MANAGER
Susan Cutrell

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

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

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

WA-52

Annual Meeting Notice

Parkland Light & Water Co. hosts your annual meeting Tuesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Keithley Middle School commons, 12324 12th Ave. South, Tacoma.

Please plan to
attend.
We need your
vote!



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

Gary Grazzini has announced his candidacy for the five-year term. Candidates also may be nominated from the floor. If you are also interested in running for this position, please announce your candidacy by February 11 by calling our office at (253)531-5666 so your name can be published in the March edition of Ruralite.



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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Linda A. Hooper, Vice President
Merle Gillespie, Secretary
Stephen D. Petersen, Treasurer
Don Hooper, Director

GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #3034501

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

Community Calendar

February 7: Clatskanie Chamber

Meeting - 7:30 am at Colvins

February 16: Reaching the Turning

Point - Dinner, Music & Auction

Fundraiser for Turning Point, Tickets on
sale for \$25 each at Turning Point

February 18: Presidents' Day

CPUD
office closed

February 19: Rainier Chamber Annual

Meeting - 8:30 am at Rainier Big Green
Building

February 20: Clatskanie PUD Board

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

OR-60

I am very pleased to announce the current rankings of Clatskanie People's Utility District compared to all other utilities in the State of Oregon, as we continue to have the lowest rates. Each year the American Public Power Association prepares a national report for the U.S. Department of Energy publishing the rates of every electric utility in each state. This includes all electric utilities; cooperatives, people's utility districts, municipals, and investor owned utilities. The report shows the rates for residential, commercial, industrial, and an overall ranking.



In residential rates and commercial rates, CPUD ranks the lowest rates in Oregon. For industrial rates, we are tied for the fifth lowest rates; and in total overall rates we have the lowest overall rates in Oregon. We are very proud of this achievement. We strive to provide a high level of quality service while maintaining an exemplary safety record, minimal outages, and do so while keeping our rates as low as possible. It is a tribute to the board and staff who work together to be fiscally responsible in every decision we make.

One of the ways we keep the rates as low as possible is to constantly be looking for opportunities to be more efficient and cost effective in our operations. To align with the initiatives in our Strategic Plan adopted last year by our Board of Directors, we have identified a way to create innovative value-added services for our customers by expanding our office hours while achieving efficiencies within our organization. We are pleased to announce starting May 6, 2019, our office will have expanded office hours Monday through Thursday from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm, and will be closed on Fridays.

Our recent customer survey showed 80% were supportive of our effort to expand our hours Monday through Thursday to provide service for our customers who cannot come in during the regular 8:00 am to 5:00 pm schedule, because they work those same hours or commute to work. These expanded hours will allow them to come in before or after their work hours. We will also expand our hours to be available to all our customers by being open on holidays that we have previously been closed. In 2019 we will be open Veterans Day, and then in 2020 and beyond we will be open Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, and Veterans Day.

This change will also be more convenient for contractors to come in and get things done on their way to the job site. It will increase our efficiency as our crew will have more time to spend on job sites, reduce the number of setups and take downs, and reduce travel times. We will also be reducing fuel costs by not having our trucks and vehicles on the road for a day each week, which will reduce our carbon footprint.

Our customers will not lose any coverage for outages as our crews will continue to be ready to roll out to restore power just as we do now; 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We see this move as a win-win for our customers, contractors, and our staff. We are excited to announce the expanded hours Monday – Thursday will begin Monday, May 6th!

Marc Farmer, General Manager



KOTZEBUE
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

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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

You're 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 Kotzebue Electric Association'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 the larger community we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer. You are a member of our cooperative.

Without you, we would not exist.

In 1955, KEA 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, community members understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped create the cooperative. For many people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks may have come to think of us as another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving 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 the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings each spring. We want to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We look to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use. We seek to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

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

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local high school students through a co-op-sponsored scholarship program.

While 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.



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Mekoryuk	Upper Kalskag
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Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



AK-105

Evan Newman is retiring!

Holy Cross is one of AVEC's smaller communities with a population of 155 in a beautiful area in the Yukon-Koyukuk district. The Newman family has lived in Holy Cross for generations and Evan has been a power plant operator for at least 35 years. When he hangs up his hat in early February, I am quite certain he will have a very difficult time staying away from the power plant!

Evan was born in February 1953. His father, Maurice, was a plant operator before him and taught Evan skills that have been a great asset for AVEC and the community through today. Selected as Power Plant Operator of the Year on more than one occasion, Evan's commitment and dedication are legendary.

Everyone at AVEC knows Evan and he is known for his punctuality, attention to quality and dedication to his community. He was always an eager participant in any training opportunities that came his way. He is known for his excellent work ethic and eagerness to learn at every opportunity.

AVEC's field employees have complimented Evan numerous times over the years, saying he truly cares about doing a good job and he puts in extra effort to make things better. One example is when Evan noticed that vehicles driving on the dirt road past the power plant kicked up a lot of dust that covered everything in the power plant, including the engine air filters. He hauled water to the power plant and sprinkled water on the dirt road to keep the dust down. He also hung signs asking folks to please slow down driving past the plant as the dust that got kicked up was affecting the generators. He even brought in extra dirt to fill some of the potholes on the dirt road.

Good luck in your retirement Evan—we are all going to miss you!

Meera Kohler
President and CEO





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

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

CA-106

SCAM ALERT



DEMANDING MONEY

Lassen MUD will never demand payment over the phone. If you receive a call like this. Hang up and call us at 530-257-4174



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.



ALWAYS CALL OUR LOCAL NUMBER

Scammers can spoof our number to make it look like they are calling from our office. Never dial a toll-free number to contact us. Always use 530-257-4174.



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

OR-400

Case in Point

Any organization is smart to look ahead, but occasionally you also need to return to your roots.

In January, the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board of Directors undertook a strategic planning session to look at the association's future. ORECA is involved in a wide range of activities: legislative and regulatory advocacy, education and training, and safety programs for our cooperatives. We discussed these programs at length and evaluated some important recommendations going forward. We also decided to add a program to our plate that is a throwback to an earlier time.

At our meeting, the ORECA board approved an initiative to begin raising funds and securing crews for an ambitious rural electrification project in Guatemala in 2019-2020. As stated by ORECA President Dave Schneider in our feature story this month, this project is an attempt to return to our roots: bringing electricity to those who wouldn't otherwise have it, just like it was for Oregon's electric co-ops 80 years ago.

I have no illusions that our Guatemala project will be easy or without complications, but I suspect that when the lights are turned on in these villages, it will be one of the most worthwhile endeavors we've ever been a part of.

Saying Goodbye to a Friend

A few weeks ago, the Oregon electric cooperative family lost one of its great thinkers—and gentlemen—when former Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative Director Ed Dowdy died.

Dowdy was a nuclear engineer and former U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Energy science adviser, including during negotiations of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. He was also associated with the Los Alamos National Laboratory. In addition to being whip smart, Ed was a great friend of ORECA.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Ted Case

Executive Director



FLORIDA Currents

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EREC
A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

Manager's Message

Minimizing Power Blinks

While power blinks can aggravate us, they are actually an indication the electrical system is working correctly. They occur on every power system, and are an important feature of an efficient and safe power delivery design.

A blink occurs when a breaker, or switch, opens along any part of the power system. Usually this happens because of a large, quick increase of electrical current. This can occur due to lightning, a squirrel simultaneously touching energized and grounded equipment on a power pole, a tree limb touching a line or any number of other reasons.

When one of these conditions occurs, electrical equipment called a relay senses this rise in electrical current and tells the breaker to open to prevent the flow of excess power. After opening, the breaker closes quickly.

This short delay—usually fewer than 2 seconds—allows the equipment to clear.

If the equipment clears—the power spike has returned to normal—everyone on that power line just experienced a blink.

Escambia River Electric Cooperative uses many methods to keep power blinks to a minimum. One of the most common ways



Clay R. Campbell

to reduce blinks is to keep trees trimmed away from power lines. EREC has right-of-way crews that work every day alongside our lines keeping trees and branches cut back. EREC also operates a thorough maintenance program to identify and repair sources of service interruptions to diminish the effects and frequency.

Power blinks will never disappear from our electrical system. While

EREC employs various techniques to reduce the frequency of blinks, there are a few ways you can work with us to keep frustration to a minimum:

- Keep us informed of any trees and limbs located close to a power line.
- Buy an alarm clock with a battery back-up that maintains power through momentary outages.
- Install an uninterruptible power supply on your computer to provide battery backup. It will give you time to save your work and properly shut down your computer.

By working together, we can minimize the effects and frequency of power interruptions and maintain the reliability of your electric distribution system. ■



Inside Sprouting Young Gardeners 12

February 2019
Vol. 8, No. 4

Introducing children to gardening helps plant healthy habits for a lifetime.

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FKEC NEWS

February 2019

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MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

FKEC offers meter surge protectors, and for the best defense recommends members use meter surge protection combined with plug-in devices. Learn more at www.fkec.com/FormService/meter-mounted.cfm

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

SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

FKEC Expands Rebate Program

Over the last five years, there has been such a positive response to our annual residential rebate program that we have increased funding with the goal to offer the program throughout 2019.

In the past, FKEC's Board of Directors allotted \$75,000 annually to fund a residential rebate program. When those funds were depleted the program ended for that year. This year your board has increased funds to give more members the opportunity to earn a rebate.

In addition to increasing overall funding for the program, we have also increased certain rebates to better match the cost of that improvement. We hope this helps members better afford to make strides in home energy efficiency.

Please remember, to be eligible for a rebate the qualified improvements must be made in 2019 and meet the program's criteria (see facing page).

It is always our goal to provide services and programs that meet our members' needs and interests. As we've watched participation in the residential rebate program steadily increase, we knew we needed to expand the program. By allocating more money to fund rebates, this year members won't have to rush to make energy improvements before funds run out.

Even if you're not making an energy



improvement that qualifies for a rebate, you can still save on your electric bill by following these low cost and no-cost ways to use energy wisely:

- Turn off lights when not in a room
- Use fans to augment cooling
- Turn off fans when not in a room
- Set air conditioners at 78-degrees or higher for cooling
- Use curtains or blinds to reduce heat transfer
- Turn off your water heater when gone for three or more days
- Use stove exhaust fan (if vented to the outside) to remove kitchen heat
- Avoid "energy vampires" by unplugging electronic devices when not in use
- Only run washing machines, dryers and dishwashers with full loads
- Line dry clothing, sheets, and towels

Please join us in our commitment to conserving our natural resources and take strides to use energy wisely. For more information, free copies of our energy guide are available at an FKEC office or online at www.FKEC.com/pdf/FKEC-EnergyGuide-web.pdf



"Neighbors Working for Neighbors"

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OFFICES

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

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

214 SR 70 West
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863-531-5000

808 N. Parrott Ave.
Okeechobee, FL 34972
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POWER INTERRUPTION NUMBER

Moore Haven 863-946-6200

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

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The Board's next meeting will be at 9 a.m. February 26 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

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

FL-153

CEO's Message

Prepared for a Great Year

Another year has closed and plans have been set in place for a successful 2019. Work on the 2019 strategic work plan and budget began in June with a survey of all employees. Trustees took a hard look at the goals we all wanted to achieve. Departmental employee meetings followed, generating action items to realize our goals. The plan was scrutinized by the Board of Trustees and approved at the September board meeting. From there, staff generated the budget required to accomplish the plan, which the Board of Trustees analyzed through November and most of December. Trustees gave their blessing to the complete plan at the December 20 board meeting.

The plan calls for continued improvements in keeping the lights on and restoring outages promptly, which are my personal priorities. It also seeks to meet annual financial milestones, develop new loads and build relationships. Developing new loads is wrapped around our anticipation of Airglades International Airport moving closer to reality. Building relationships focuses both internally and externally. We want to improve all employee-to-employee relationships and, most importantly, we want to improve our relationship with you, our members. Several homeowner association meetings are already posted to my 2019 schedule. I look forward to meeting with you.

I also look forward to gathering with many of you at the cooperative's 74th Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 23. We will again meet at Moore Haven Middle-High School. Remember to bring your picture ID—your only cost of admission. As usual, each registered member will receive a nice registration gift and have the chance to win additional prizes, including a pretty good looking, well-maintained pickup.

Come to your Annual Meeting and hear more about the successes of 2018 and the plans for 2019.



Jeff Brewington



Gulf Coast
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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P. O. Box 220
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Carl Goodson
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

You're 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 Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative'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 the larger community we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer. You are a member of our cooperative. Without you, we would not exist.

In October 1941, GCEC 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, community members understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped create GCEC. For many people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks may have come to think of us as another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving 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 the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings each spring. We want to engage with you and obtain your feedback. We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We look to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use. We seek to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

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

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local high school students through scholarships and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program to Washington, D.C. Project Helping Hand helps members in times of financial need. When you support these efforts, you support the community and make it a better place for everyone.

While 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. ■



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

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Wauchula, Florida 33873
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Fax: 866-201-1814

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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

February 26, 2019
March 26, 2019
April 23, 2019

FL 155

You're Invited to District Meeting this Month

Peace River Electric Cooperative is made up of members. All electric co-ops are owned by the very people they serve, so everyone who receives power from PRECO is a member-owner. Member ownership is what makes co-ops unique.

Members have a say in the governance of their cooperative by electing member-representatives of their choice. These representatives make up PRECO's Board of Directors. Every person on the Board of Directors receives power from PRECO, so—just like you—they are members too.

The Board's responsibilities include maintaining policies, rules and regulations, along with such duties as maintaining compliance with governmental regulations and even setting electric rates. It's an important job so it is vital to have a Board of qualified individuals.

Each year, PRECO holds District Meetings for three of the nine districts we serve. These meetings are significant because:

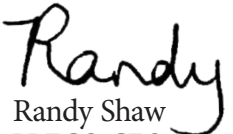
- It's your opportunity to elect or affirm a Director to PRECO's Board
- Current co-op news and information are shared
- Door prize drawings are held
- Every registered member account receives a \$10 electric bill credit
- Registered members are entered in a drawing for an Echo Plus Bundle with LED smart bulb kit (\$250 value)

If you are a member of District 3, 6, or 9, please make plans now to attend this important event. Members in these districts will receive a flyer in the mail about a week before the meeting. If you don't know what district you're in, you'll find it on your monthly electric bill.

Save the date:

DISTRICT 3	FEBRUARY 12	KENANSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
DISTRICT 6	FEBRUARY 7	LAKEWOOD RANCH HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT 9	FEBRUARY 11	ATHENS BAPTIST CHURCH (BEREAH)

We look forward to meeting you. See page 4 for more District Meeting information.


Randy Shaw
PRECO CEO



Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc.

www.MarlboroElectric.coop

676 Hwy. 9 East
P.O. Box 1057
Bennettsville, SC 29512

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Monday–Friday

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MISSION STATEMENT

The focus of Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc. is to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economic principles and management.

Fulfilling Our Commitment

At MEC, we are more than just an electric company. We are a local business—the largest headquarters in our home county. Like all businesses, we have an obligation to pay our fair share of taxes to help improve the communities we serve.

Electric cooperatives have the same rights and responsibilities as other businesses, including the obligation to pay taxes. By fulfilling this duty, the cooperative has a significant impact throughout Marlboro and Dillon counties. From road construction to public schools to the salaries and benefits of police and firefighters, property taxes paid by MEC and our affiliates help make the communities we serve a better place to live and raise a family.

In 2018, Marlboro Electric paid more than \$1.1 million in property taxes in Marlboro and Dillon counties combined, making it one of the highest contributors to the tax base in either county—\$886,076 to Marlboro County and \$273,928 to Dillon County. In the past five years, Marlboro Electric has paid more than \$3.9 million in property taxes to Marlboro County and more than \$1.3 million in property taxes to Dillon County.

As a not-for-profit business that serves more than 6,500 consumers in Marlboro and Dillon counties, Marlboro Electric does not pay corporate income tax. However, because it is a member-owned cooperative, Marlboro Electric returns all proceeds above operating expenses to its members in the form of capital credits. MEC returned more than \$355,941 in capital credits to its members in 2018.

Electric co-ops in South Carolina pay tens of millions of dollars in taxes each year to federal, state, county and municipal governments. In addition to the taxes paid by Marlboro Electric, the MEC co-owned wholesale power aggregator for the state's electric co-ops, Central Electric Power Cooperative, paid more than \$155,000 to Marlboro County and more than \$66,000 to Dillon County in property taxes.

Tax payments and capital credits are only two ways your cooperative contributes to the communities it serves. School systems, law enforcement, government salaries, road maintenance and so many other services are underwritten locally by property tax dollars. Since co-op members as well as the public at-large depend on these services, Marlboro Electric plays a significant role in funding them as part of their commitment to the community.

As you can see, we are continuously looking out for you, our members, and the area we all call home.



MELVIN CARABO Trustee

Willie Wiredhand is the longtime mascot and spokesplug of electric cooperatives around the country. Willie, with his light-socket head, wire body and electrical plug for legs, was adopted in 1951 by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Here's your task: Willie will be hidden somewhere on a page in every issue of *Currents*. Let's see if you can find this friendly face among the news and stories as you read! He was in last month's edition as well.

