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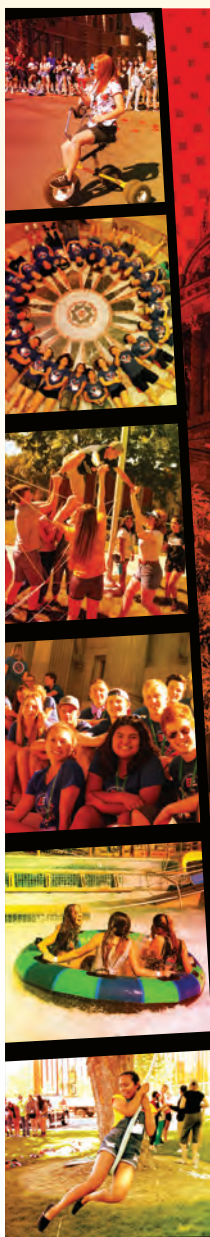
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ID-1



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

OR-2

New Carbon Tax Bill is Going to be Expensive for Eastern Oregon

Legislature scrambles to pass cap-and-trade carbon tax

Dear Members:

As the 2019 Oregon Legislature unravels and we study proposed bills, it is becoming clear that the new carbon cap-and-trade tax legislation is going to hit Eastern Oregon hard. Just as frustrating is the realization that proceeds from this new tax will do little to directly affect or reduce carbon gas emissions.

The new revenue stream is already being siphoned off for metro-area projects in the form of low-income rent subsidies, low-income job training programs, and additional and improved homeless shelters and soup kitchens.

This new tax is specifically aimed at the transportation sector. Trucking, freight haulers, river barges and railroads will all pay more for burning fossil fuels. It has been estimated this new carbon cap-and-trade tax system will add 16 cents to every gallon of diesel and gasoline bought in Eastern Oregon. That is an additional expense you, I and your co-op will have to absorb.

Due to effective lobbying, Oregon's larger fossil-fuel based utilities are being exempted from the new carbon tax for the first 10 years. Portland General Electric, PacifiCorp and NW Natural are being "carved-out" of the taxation criteria. While CBEC appreciates the utility industry being exempted from this new taxation for the first 10 years, it does place a bigger burden of raising the millions of dollars of additional carbon pollution tax revenue sought by the State on diesel and gasoline purchases.

Your co-op continues to urge you to become a member of our grassroots political response team. When needed, we will contact you via email to relay pre-addressed email messages to your legislative officials to notify them of your opinions on these unnecessary mandates that will cost you and your cooperative more money. To find out more about this program, please contact your local co-op office.

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

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Clay Smith, Secretary
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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



Greenhouse Gas Bill Centers on Cap-and-Trade

Lawmakers in Salem are in the midst of passing a bill that would make Oregon the second state after California to adopt an economy-wide cap-and-trade system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

The bill has support from Gov. Kate Brown and the statehouse's other top Democrats, but even its champions are treading carefully to protect the state's economy as they aim to address climate change.

Oregon has been inching toward this major environmental policy shift for years, as it has become increasingly clear that the state can't meet its 2020 goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

House Bill 2020 evolved from an earlier version of cap-and-trade legislation known as the Clean Energy Jobs bill that lawmakers considered but failed to pass during the last session.

House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, and Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, revived the controversial bill by creating a Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction that has been working on the new version since last summer.

As a reminder, the largest source of Carbon emissions in Oregon isn't the power sector, but the transportation sector. The overwhelming majority of your electricity is provided by near zero-carbon sources. Please see www.nwascopud.org/about/power-sources/ to learn more. Similarly, if you are considering a switch to an electric vehicle, please know our rates are very favorable to charge that vehicle with carbon free energy. Especially as compared to regional investor-owned utilities.

Northern Wasco County PUD is monitoring what cap-and-trade legislation could mean to the power sector and the overall economy in our region. We are optimistic that there would not be unintended financial consequences to our community and stand ready to participate in the legislative process to ensure your consumer-owned electric service utility and our community isn't negatively impacted.

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

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call 634-4571 to page
an on-duty employee.

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Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

Electric Co-op Policy Priorities

The 116th Congress kicked off in January with more than 100 new members in the House and Senate. We have been working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association—the national service organization that represents more than 900 not-for-profit electric cooperatives—to introduce ourselves.

As we educate lawmakers on issues that matter most to consumer-members and the communities co-ops serve, here are several issues we are bringing to their attention:

Energy policy and infrastructure.

NRECA will work to ensure any infrastructure package focuses on more than roads and bridges. It should include opportunities to modernize the electric grid and expand rural broadband access. This is critical to ensuring rural America is not left behind in the 21st century economy.

Environment. NRECA will encourage bipartisan support for renewable energy research and development, including programs that focus on finding a viable use for carbon capture, use and storage, which comprise a suite of technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. Cooperatives' use of renewables has more than doubled since 2010.

Broadband. As electric co-ops engage the new Congress, we will work to ensure all rural broadband discussions include the electric co-op perspective on the need to expand high-speed internet

service in rural areas. According to the Federal Communications Commission, 23 million rural Americans lack access to broadband. Millions of them are members of electric co-ops. That is why roughly 100 electric cooperatives are working to close the digital divide by bringing broadband to their communities, and more are exploring the option.

Tax policy. The 2017 tax reform law included a provision that treated federal grants as income. This threatens the tax-exempt status of some electric cooperatives, which rely on government grants to maintain and expand their infrastructure and provide services to local communities. America's electric cooperatives will seek to fix this unintended consequence.

Grid resilience. Protecting our nation's vast power grid is a national priority and focus for electric cooperatives. Ensuring appropriate information sharing and preserving existing partnerships and structures are essential to these efforts. We will advocate for resources and technologies that meet the unique cybersecurity and recovery needs of small and medium-sized utilities to help protect our systems.

With such a large freshman class of lawmakers, educating them about electric cooperatives and the issues we care about will take time and perseverance. Advocating for the interests of our consumer-members and the communities in which they live is at the heart of our business.



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www.cpi.coop

**Daylight Saving
Time Begins
March 10**

OR-6

President's Report

Last fall, some of you were asked to participate in a survey we conduct every two to three years. Information collected in this survey is primarily intended to support CPI's energy conservation and load-forecasting efforts, along with financial evaluations, marketing efforts and strategic planning.

This residential survey helped us gain information about homes, appliances, energy-use habits and opinions about energy issues. Regular surveying provides insights into key changes in appliance holdings, the housing stock, emerging technologies, customer attitudes and other drivers of energy use.

Some of the key findings include:

- Almost 80 percent of residential accounts serve an individual residence without a farm, increasing 10 percent over the last decade.
- 75 percent are single family homes.
- 40 percent of those homes were built prior to 1980, and 15 percent have been built since 2000.
- The average-size home is 2,031 square feet.
- 30 percent of the homes have access to natural gas.
- 50 percent have access to DSL or broadband service, while more than 15 percent have no access to the internet.
- 60 percent of homes have electric heat; 20 percent use natural gas.
- More than 70 percent use electricity to heat their water; 20 percent use natural gas.
- 20 percent had a home energy audit and/or participated in CPI's energy-efficiency programs.
- 23 percent of respondents were somewhat or very likely to install on-site solar if the cost to do so were \$10,000 or less; while only 3 percent were likely to do so if the cost were

\$25,000 or more.

- Respondents strongly agreed that CPI rebates were beneficial to energy efficiency.
- 81 percent said they read Ruralite magazine, and that CPI does a good job of informing them of energy issues.
- Overall satisfaction with CPI scored an 8.9 out of 10.
- Having employees who know the answers to your questions, being convenient to contact, being active in the schools and community, and working to keep rates low all scored above 4 on a scale of 1 to 5.
- 70 percent found our website useful or extremely useful.

We thank all of you who took the time to participate in this survey. You can find out more details of the survey on our website at www.cpi.coop.

Safe Heating

With the cold weather, many of us turn to space heaters to keep our homes comfortable inside. While these portable heaters keep our homes warm inside, they also create safety risks that we do not encounter during warmer months.

Place heaters at least 3 feet away from flammable materials and away from areas where they can be knocked over. Use only heaters with three-pronged grounded plugs directly plugged into three-hole wall outlets. Avoid using extension cords.

With these simple tips, your family will stay warm and safe during the cold. For more safety tips, visit www.cpi.coop.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO



Prosser Office
402 7th St.
Prosser, WA 99350
509-786-2913

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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1150
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Board Meetings, Agendas & Minutes

The Board of Trustees will meet on Wednesday, March 27 at 6 p.m. in the Prosser Office.

The board agenda for the upcoming meeting is available to members upon request no earlier than six days prior to the board meeting. Minutes of prior board meetings are available to members upon request. To request board agendas or minutes visit a Benton REA office, email priorityrequests@bentonrea.org or call 509-786-2913.

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Troy Berglund, Member Services Manager
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WA-7

BPA, States and Nez Perce Agree on Spill

Dear Members,

Last summer, I asked for your help in fighting to protect affordable electricity by supporting the eight Snake and Columbia River dams and stopping additional spill over the dams in 2019. Many of you reached out to your Washington state Senators and I am thankful for your support. House Resolution 3144 did not pass, but we recently celebrated a win with the signing of the operations agreement between Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the state of Washington, the state of Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe.

There will still be spill over the dams in 2019, but the parties involved have come to an agreement with common goals. The agreement is revenue neutral, good for fish and able to be implemented from a hydro operations standpoint.

Instead of costing BPA \$40 million, like what occurred with the 2018 spill, this agreement will generate an estimated 2019 positive revenue for BPA of \$500,000 to \$1 million. If you remember, Benton REA was responsible for paying \$110,406 of the 2018 spill expense through its wholesale power bill from BPA.

Under the 2019 plan, river water over the dams will be spilled at a higher flow rate during 16 hours of the day allowing fish to pass over the dams more easily, and water will be spilled at the lower "survival standard" amount for 8 hours of the day so that more water can be used for generation when electricity demand and prices are higher.

Provisions for dam operations in 2020 will be established at a later date. But for now, we have a win-win-win situation for BPA, salmon and Benton REA members. I wish to congratulate BPA on a job well done. They brought the parties to a consensus while achieving the goal of providing reasonably priced and reliable electrical power supply to BPA public power customers, like Benton REA.

I will do my best to keep you informed as more information about this issue develops throughout the year. For a federal and state update on other legislative topics, turn to page 25.

Sincerely,

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



Offices

Hermiston Office

750 W. Elm Ave.
541 567-6414

Boardman Office

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541 481-2220

Hours

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

Toll-Free

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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

Bills Seek to Ease the Energy Burden

Several bills to assist homeowners with replacing aging manufactured homes have been introduced in the Oregon Legislature.

Manufactured homes built before energy efficiency codes were adopted can have especially high monthly bills. This is a concern for electric utilities and their customers throughout the U.S.

Four bills are under consideration: to grant money for decommissioning costs, to create a loan program to qualified borrowers, to create a non-profit that could potentially purchase private parks (so renters can qualify for these programs), and to set up an advisory committee within the Housing and Community Development Department to focus on manufactured home replacements.

To gauge member interest on this topic, our recent energy efficiency survey of UEC members included this question:

How important is it for Umatilla Electric Cooperative to provide programs to assist members with grants and loans to replace their older, poorly insulated mobile or manufactured homes?

The response? A collective 68 percent answered either "Moderately," "Very" or "Extremely" important. Only 16 percent answered "not important."

Oregon electric co-ops are looking to support these bills, with Rep. Greg Smith and Sen. Bill Hansell as co-sponsors.

As noted last month in this column, lawmakers are moving forward to consider a bill that would make Oregon the second state after California to adopt a cap-and-trade system to regulate carbon emissions.

House Bill 2020 would potentially impact

UEC (though our power-purchasing cooperative PNGC) and a half-dozen members within our service territory. Its indirect effects to rural Oregon would be much broader. Information on how citizens may comment on this bill is available on our website.

Every two years since 2008, we have joined other cooperatives across the U.S. in Touchstone Energy's "National Survey on the Cooperative Difference." The survey looks at overall satisfaction and evaluates member interest in new services and technologies.

This year's study will target the opinions of 250 randomly selected UEC residential members through telephone interviews and online surveys sent via emails. (Surveys by email will be a first for UEC.) The survey is anticipated to be done by mid-spring.

Bellomy Research, a North Carolina firm, will do the calling on Touchstone's behalf; its Caller ID is "Electric Coop."

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our surveys, which help us better serve our membership. You don't have to wait for a survey to let us know what you think—you are welcome to contact us at any time with comments or concerns.

A reminder that our Annual Meeting & Membership Dinner is coming 5 p.m. Saturday, April 20, to a new location—the Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center at the Umatilla County Fairgrounds. Each year, attendance has grown, and we look forward to having room at EOTEC for the growing interest.



Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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Mission Statement

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

OR-9

Don't Be Surprised!



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Before picking up a shovel, pick up the telephone. Electric, water, sewer, natural gas, telephone and cable television lines often are buried underground. One wrong move can cause you and your neighbors to be cut off from vital services—or cause death or injury to you, from an electric shock or an explosion. At least two business days before you plan to dig, call Oregon's one-call center. Affected utility companies will come out and use color-coded paint to mark the locations of underground utilities. Calling ahead not only is common sense, it is the law.

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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

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 Douglas 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

Columbia Power Co-op



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

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Vice President Adam Temple
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Dan Cannon
Dave Humphreys
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MANAGER

Troy Cox

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

POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

OR-11

Rules for Student Grants

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

First place: \$1,000

Second place: \$600

Third place: \$400

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

The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, April 19. Applications need to be at the co-op office by this date.

Selection of Grant Recipients

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

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

Use of Grant

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

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

Contact Columbia Power Cooperative for an application:
Columbia Power Cooperative
P.O. Box 97
Monument, Oregon 97864
(541) 934-2311

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

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**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

Governor, Legislature Make Cap and Trade a Priority

The Oregon Legislature is moving ahead with one of the more sweeping and complicated pieces of legislation in modern Oregon history, targeting reductions in the state's carbon emissions. Gov. Kate Brown and the Democratic majority leadership in both the House and Senate are prioritizing passage of cap-and-trade legislation similar to a law enacted in California several years ago. As envisioned by Oregon's political leadership, cap-and-trade will affect electric utilities along with the manufacturing and transportation sectors and everyone using gasoline, natural gas and propane.

The cap on emissions is a firm limit that is reduced over time. The trade part is the establishment of a market that enables companies such as utilities or manufacturers to buy and sell allowances that let them emit specific amounts of carbon. Supply and demand sets the market price of the allowances.

As you can imagine, this will be complicated business. Electric cooperatives such as Central Electric won't be able to avoid the complexity. However, we will be helped by having an electricity supply that is more than 94 percent carbon-emission free, mainly due to our access to hydropower from the Federal Columbia River Power System. I have written numerous times about the value of this renewable resource, and the contradictory state policies and actions that undermine its value. I firmly believe Oregon cannot meet its carbon reduction goals without recognizing the benefits of federal hydropower.

Such policy conflicts are difficult to comprehend. The potential for higher costs imposed on the portion of CEC's energy supply not produced at the dams only worsens circumstances. CEC will also be impacted further by the likelihood of higher fuel prices since the transportation sector accounts for 40 percent of the state's carbon emissions. One economic study concluded the cap-and-trade program will increase fuel prices 16 cents per gallon. CEC's fleet management costs will certainly increase, which ultimately affects your electric rates.

It is too soon to say if cap and trade will result in unfair or inequitable treatments among utilities. We do know that with the political will and majority behind it, some form of cap-and-trade legislation is all but certain to pass this legislative session. A lot of questions still need answers from legislators. I am committed to meeting with legislators and working with the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association to minimize the financial impact of this legislation on Central Electric's rates and those of Oregon's 17 other electric co-ops.

Central Oregon Hearing

The Oregon House of Representatives is holding four public hearings on cap-and-trade legislation away from Salem. Central Oregon's opportunity to be heard is Saturday, March 2, at Central Oregon Community College in Bend, Cascade Hall from 9 a.m. to noon. I hope you will be able to attend.



Dave Markham
President and CEO



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OR-13

What is Your Carbon Footprint?

It is an interesting time in the energy business with so much talk about wind power, carbon reduction, electric vehicles and distributed (usually solar) generation. Right now, the Oregon Legislature is debating a cap-and-trade bill to set limits on carbon production and tax entities that produce carbon over a certain threshold. In this context, carbon is simply carbon dioxide gas emitted in the exhaust of anything that burns fossil fuel. CO₂ is a naturally occurring greenhouse gas. It contributes to the earth's greenhouse effect. Some people believe the additional CO₂ emitted from burning fossil fuels is a contributor to global warming.

Did you know water vapor is the No. 1 contributor to the Earth's greenhouse effect? Depending on the regional climate, water contributes to 36 to 72 percent of the overall greenhouse effect. CO₂ is the second-highest contributor at 9 to 26 percent.

You may ask yourself, "How much carbon do I produce when I heat my dinner in the microwave or watch the game on the big screen LED TV?" The answer is "very little."

Coos-Curry Electric gets its electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration—Columbia River Power System. BPA also receives all of the electricity produced by the Columbia Generating Station—a nuclear power plant in central Washington. Those two generating sources make up about 95 percent of Coos-Curry Electric's energy portfolio. There is zero carbon produced by either hydroelectric or nuclear power. The remaining 5 percent is made up of miscellaneous sources, including wind generation, small hydro projects and purchases by BPA on the open market that contain some electric energy generated from coal- or natural gas-fired power plants.

That means more than 95 percent of the electric energy you use emits zero carbon into our environment. Compare that with the U.S. average of 37 percent zero carbon-emitting sources. We are fortunate to live in a region where we have access to so much carbon-clean and renewable electric energy.

So, do you generate carbon in your day-to-day living? It's a question to think about the next time you jump in your car to go run some errands.

Brent Bischoff

General Manager and CEO



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

.....
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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

The question I posed to members last month regarding the location of the original West Oregon Electric Cooperative headquarters has been answered. Several longtime members responded, but the first to contact me was Pat Ray of Vernonia.

Pat told me the Red Building as you turn into Hawkins Park is where it all began. She says there were three business in the building at the time. Where the chiropractor is today was WOEC's office, and where the dentist is now were the post office and an ice cream parlor. Thank you, Pat, and the others who responded to the challenge.

With that said, does anyone have some photographs of downtown Vernonia from 1944 to 1956 that might show these business? If so, I would like to borrow them.

WOEC's history would not be complete without mentioning Nehalem Valley Cooperative Electric Association in Jewell. NVCEA was Oregon's first electric cooperative to receive funds from the Rural Electrification Administration circa 1937. Some original paperwork from that era shows board members W.T. Cathout and J.R. Long. Two other men from that era, William Wage and Lee Wooden, were instrumental in the formation of the cooperative. If you have information regarding NVCEA, please contact me.

Another piece of history lost in time is the formation of an electric cooperative in Yamhill. Very little is known about this co-op, but it is rumored to have been rolled into WOEC. Please contact me if you have any information from Yamhill.

This Month's Features

Be sure to check out Scott Laird's feature on pages 4-5, which explains the duties and responsibilities of WOEC's directors.

You can read more about electric vehicles on pages 28-29. WOEC Director Nick Galaday weighs in with information pertinent to any co-op member considering the switch to an EV.

We have also added EV information to our website. Go to www.westoregon.org and click on the "Electric Vehicles" button on our home page.

Bob Perry
General Manager





Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

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

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

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

www.surprisevalleyelectric.org

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

After hours and outages:
Call office numbers above

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

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John Erquiaga
Lake City

Kyle Weber
Alturas

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

CA-15

Share Your Favorite Photos

Share Your Best Shots

Pick your perfect scenic or wildlife picture and send it to us!

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

Pick shots carefully. Each person may submit no more than three photos. Selected pictures will be featured in our 2020 calendar. The winners will get a \$25 power certificate. The winner of the photo chosen for the calendar cover will receive a \$50 power certificate.

Each entry should include:

- Photographer's name and address.
 - A description of the photo.
 - An email address and telephone number where the photographer can be contacted.
- Only digital JPEG photos will be accepted. **Photos must be horizontal format and be at least 300 dpi at 11 inches wide by 9 inches tall.** Vertical photos will not be considered. Emails larger than 15 megabytes will not be accepted. Files can be sent in several emails if necessary.

The contest is only open to members of Surprise Valley Electric. Submissions will be accepted until July 31, 2019.

Contest Rules

- Eligibility: Photographers must be a member—or member's immediate family—of Surprise Valley Electric to enter. Surprise Valley Electric employees and their immediate family are not eligible.
- Limit: Three (3) entries per person.
- Location: Pictures must have been taken in Modoc and Lassen counties, California; Lake County, Oregon, and Washoe County, Nevada.
- File type: JPEG digital images.
- File size: **Minimum 300 pixels per inch at 11x9 inches; maximum 15 megabytes.**
- Format: Horizontal orientation only.
- Ownership: Image must be an original work you own.
- Permission: You must obtain the written permission of anyone depicted.
- Right-to-use: Surprise Valley Electric reserves the right to use the winning photographs in future publications promoting the contest, on our website and on our social media channels.
- Deadline: July 31, 2019.

Ready to Get Your Shot?

Submissions should be sent to lynnsvec@frontier.com along with supporting information. Find contest details at <http://surprisevalleyelectric.org>.

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Website: laneelectric.com

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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

Hello! Here's What's on the Horizon

Dear Co-op Community Members:

I would like to introduce myself and let you know how pleased I am to be serving you as acting general manager of Lane Electric Cooperative. While I have only been in this role for one month, I have been part of the Lane Electric team for 20 years, with 10 years in management. I am well-acquainted with our systems, have industry knowledge, and am familiar with many of our members and the issues that are important to you.

Many of you may be wondering who will be Matt Michel's permanent successor. That decision lies in the hands of our board of directors. They are following the general manager search & selection policy, and there will be updates as the process progresses.

In the meantime, I am laser-focused on keeping the organization running smoothly. I am grateful for a committed team of employees who are working alongside me to make sure you have safe and reliable power delivered to your homes and businesses. And when outages do occur, I assure you that we are committed to restoring power as quickly and safely as possible.

Here are a few things on the horizon for all of us:

- **District Meetings.** Stay tuned for exact dates and locations for the meeting in your area this May. See page 8 inside this issue for details on the directors whose terms expire and how to file to run for a seat on the board.

- **Broadband Feasibility and Education.** We have contracted with National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative to do a broadband feasibility study for our service area. Our board and employees will also receive education from NRTC about broadband—an entirely different industry than the electric utility that comes with its own terminology and systems. By pursuing this research, we are not guaranteeing we will be able to deploy broadband. We are doing our due diligence in response to member inquiries about the possibility, and we will keep you updated.

- **Communications Preference Survey.** As times and technology have evolved, we want to know from you how you would prefer to hear important news from us, such as outage notifications and updates. Expect a survey on this topic in the coming months.

On behalf of all the employees, from our linemen out in the field to our member service representatives in the office, we are moving forward in the cooperative way with an unending commitment to community and to you—our members.

If I haven't met you already, I look forward to doing so very soon. Thank you for your membership with Lane Electric Cooperative.

Sincerely,



Debi Wilson
Acting 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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OR-17

Manager's Report

Dear Members,

In 1938, Blachly-Lane began serving 125 members with more than 46 miles of energized lines, or just under three members per mile of line. Construction of new lines continues today. One thing new power lines still have in common with those built in the 1930s is that crews set wood poles, use steel hardware and string wire conductors tied to insulators. Yes, some of the materials have changed. We've added underground lines and transformers. But the backbone of our system is still poles and wire in large part because they have proven to be reliable.

Reliability is a key element of our strategic plan and our operational responsibility. To that end, our crews spend the winter inspecting the system, identifying problem areas, testing and treating wood poles, and planning for the upcoming construction season. The Public Utility Commission of Oregon holds all utility operators responsible for power line maintenance, and for repairing and rebuilding aged lines under the standards of the National Electrical Safety Code.

In February, the PUC sent representatives to inspect a portion of our system to ensure we are in compliance with the NESC and that our system is safe. I am happy to report we received assurance from the PUC that our facilities were generally in good condition, with minimal NESC violations. The violations are primarily associated with "foreign attachments," which are the responsibility of other operators who have facilities on our poles to correct.

One of my favorite quotes about maintenance is from the father of the quality movement following World War II, W. Edwards Deming: "The only thing that does not require maintenance is obsolescence." All of us here at Blachly-Lane take this responsibility seriously, and take pride in operating your electric utility safely and reliably. We won't relax our efforts to continually improve the work we do to provide safe and reliable electric service to our members.

Greg Gardner
General Manager





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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 am frequently asked about Klickitat PUD's debt levels, often from those with the belief the levels are too high.

They are definitely higher than we want. And, since that is the case, one can reasonably question what we plan to do about it and how we will measure progress.

Last fall, Klickitat PUD commissioners and managers finished updating our strategic plan. The plan is intended to provide direction and overarching policies to your PUD management and staff. We believe we are at the point where debt reduction can be a major focus. We have spent many years working on our costs and building our revenue side with the commercial operation of the HW Hill RNG facility. We believe we can now start to address our debt load.

We look at debt in three ways: actual debt, leverage ratio and the impact of debt repayment on our rates.

Klickitat PUD's actual debt today is about \$160 million. We plan to repay a minimum of \$12 million a year on this debt over the next five years. That would leave us with \$100 million in debt by 2023.

The leverage ratio is a measure of the amount of debt relative to the amount of assets. Our total assets before depreciation are about \$400 million. Given that our total long-term debt—including the new RNG facility—is about \$160 million, that is a leverage ratio of 40 percent. Another way to look at it is that we have a \$160 million mortgage on \$400 million worth of property and equipment.

Lastly, the cost-to-service debt paid by rates is about \$10 million a year, or about 30 percent of electric rate revenue. Our strategic goal is to reduce the impact of debt on our rates by reducing that debt over time to \$60 million.

You will note that we intend to repay a minimum \$12 million annually for each of the next five years. We believe we can exceed this repayment rate, and the board has challenged us to reduce our debt by a further \$40 million in that time frame. That means our goal is to reduce the debt level down to \$60 million in the next five years. We believe this will allow us to lower our rates relative to other Washington electric utilities.

I am happy with our progress the past 10 years. I think we have made significant improvements in our business risk models, which means a more stable rate forecast for the utility. I look forward to what we can deliver to you as our customers in the coming years.

Jim Smith

General Manager



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Board Vice President
Kennon McClintock

Board Secretary/Treasurer
Judith Simonson

General Manager
Annie Terracciano

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ID-19

NLI's Employees Committed to Serving Our Members

Well, we've almost made it! Winter is nearly behind us and spring officially begins March 20.

I am excited for winter to be over and am ready to gear up for the nice weather to come. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead Sunday, March 10, and start enjoying the longer days.

NLI employs 60 dedicated people from our area who serve as the backbone of the cooperative. Their dedication to their careers and to their communities is the key to our cooperative's success. Many of the people we employ grew up and went to school here. NLI offers them a challenging career with growth potential, apprenticeship opportunities, and a chance to learn a trade and pursue an education while also enjoying the Pacific Northwest lifestyle. We love this community and work every day to continue our proud history of being an involved, supportive and community-owned cooperative.



Bylaw Amendments

The Northern Lights Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the membership voted to approve the amendments to the bylaws. This allows us to ensure that current laws are being followed, the needs of NLI members are being met, the cooperative continues to be financially sound and that the bylaws are easier to understand. A copy of the updated bylaws can be found on our website at www.nli.coop.

Thank you to everyone who voted on the proposed bylaw amendments.

Cheers to spring!

Annie Terracciano
General Manager



Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative

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

Directors

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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

Hydropower Is a Way of Life in the Northwest

In past articles and through the years, you most likely have heard that ICL&P buys all of its power from the Bonneville Power Administration. There are 143 customers that buy power from BPA—a nonprofit federal power marketing administration that is part of the U.S. Department of Energy. BPA is self-funding and covers its costs by selling its products and services. A government agency that supports itself? Well, its customers actually do, through members like you and the bills you pay each month.

Here are some more interesting facts about BPA.

- We have some of the lowest rates in the country, thanks to the fact that 85 percent of the power BPA provides comes from renewable, reliable and carbon-free hydropower.
- The Columbia River Basin produces more hydropower than any other region in North America. There are 31 federal hydroelectric dams in the Northwest.
- Thanks to the irrigation benefits of hydropower, the Northwest has nearly 8 million more acres of farmland.
- The region's hydropower offsets emissions equivalent to 10 million cars.
- The Northwest can generate enough hydroelectricity to power 14 Seattle-sized cities.
- Hydropower plants at dams convert about 90 percent of the energy in falling water into electrical energy. By comparison, fossil-fueled plants lose more than half of the energy content of their fuel as waste heat and gas.
- What about fish passage at dams? There is a 96 to 98.68 percent survival rate for spring chinook at the lower Columbia and Snake River dams.
- Over the life of BPA's Fish and Wildlife Program (1981-present), its customers have invested nearly \$17 billion in the mitigation effort—the largest of its kind in the U.S. and likely the world.
- Sea lions have consumed as much as 45 percent of some salmon runs. Birds eat between 20 million and 25 million juvenile fish each year and predatory fish eat 2 to 7 percent of the juvenile fall chinook passing some dams, yet ocean conditions play the most pivotal role as chinook spend 80 percent of their life in the ocean before returning to spawn.
- Dams store up to 55.5 million acre-feet of water, which provides great recreation and protection from floods.
- The Federal Columbia River Power System provides shipping access from the Pacific Ocean to Lewiston, Idaho—465 miles inland—and is the third-largest grain export in the world. It is No. 1 in U.S. wheat exports, No. 2 in U.S. soybean exports and No. 1 for wood and mineral bulk exports on the West Coast.

These are just a few of the facts when it comes to hydropower in the Northwest. You can find more information online at BPA's website, www.bpa.gov, under Hydropower Flows Here.

Thanks for listening,

Max Beach
General Manager

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

ColumbiaREA.coop

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Neil Carpenter, Secretary/Treasurer
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Jay DeWitt, Director
Doug Logan, Director
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Vic Parks, Director
Glen Shipley, Director

Board meetings are normally the fourth Tuesday of each month. The meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. and is usually held in Walla Walla.

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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
Chief Financial Officer, Jim Cooper
Manager of Communications & IT,
Bob Greene
Manager of Safety Services, Jeff Myers

WA-22

Back Story

Over the last couple of months I've been telling you about your cooperative; our business model, strategic planning and direction, and our process of governance by a local board of directors. This month I need to talk to you about a difficult decision resulting from that planning process. Beginning with March usage, you will see a small rate increase. This increase will be reflected in your April billing statement.

We all want and need a reliable energy grid, so we all share in the costs of building and maintaining it. The cost of the grid and our fixed costs are primarily covered by the flat monthly rate (shown as a facilities charge on your bill) that every member pays. This flat monthly rate varies by the type of service that you have. A large commercial member pays more than a residential home because it costs more to provide and maintain the larger service. All members will see an increase in their flat monthly rate, but the energy usage charges for residential members will not be increasing.

These changes are consistent with our Cost of Service Study results and trends across the electric cooperative sector. Please look inside this issue for more information on how this rate increase will impact other member rate classes. Your board of directors and management team are reviewing all costs and are focusing on improvements that will save you money over the long term and continue providing you the service and reliability that you expect from us.

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, or feel free to contact me by phone at 509-526-4041 or email at speters@columbiarea.coop if you have questions or comments.

Best,



Scott Peters
CEO





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

www.midstateelectric.coop
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Engineering..... Option 4
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Vice President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

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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 is underway. The leaders of both the House and Senate—along with Gov. Kate Brown—have made it clear that passing cap-and-trade legislation is a priority.

Under cap and trade, the “cap” is a firm limit on carbon emissions that gets stricter over time. The “trade” part is for companies to 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.

Cap and trade is opposed by many Oregonians who argue the proposal will not make a dent in global carbon emissions and will raise the cost of almost everything consumed. Opponents believe our 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 Oregon's environmental initiatives already are stronger than those in many states and nations. If companies leave the state for less restrictive locales—or if Oregon companies switch to buying products manufactured and shipped under lighter regulations—Oregon is the loser.

Under the current Legislature, the end result is almost certain. It is essential the program is designed 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.

Join ORECA-Action at ORECA-Action.org in support of commonsense solutions for Oregon. By joining, you will maximize your voice and become part of a growing team of electric cooperative advocates in the state of Oregon. Together, we can make a difference!

MEC Prepares for Annual Meeting

Preparations are progressing for Midstate Electric's 67th Annual Meeting of the Members on Saturday, May 11. The event provides you with a chance to participate in the business of your electric cooperative. It also provides you with a firsthand look at many of our programs and services. Registration, health fair and barbecue lunch all begin at 10 a.m. The business meeting starts at noon.

**Please note: The new location is
La Pine High School.**

Scholarship Applications Due May 6, 2019

MEC is offering seven \$2,500 scholarships for persons attending accredited colleges/technical schools. Three scholarships are available for seniors who will graduate from La Pine, Gilchrist and North Lake County high schools; one scholarship is available to seniors attending home school or other high schools in MEC's service area; two at-large scholarships are for people who have already graduated but want to continue their education; and one scholarship is available for lineworker school. Applications are available at www.mse.coop.

**Dave Schneider
General Manager**



www.rrelectric.com

DIRECTORS

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Kurt Anderson

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Chad Black

Board meets the fourth Wednesday
of each month

P.O. Box 617
Malta, ID 83342

To call Raft River

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

Western Division

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



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

ID-24

You Are Invited Raft River Electric's 80th Annual Meeting

Take part in your cooperative's democratic process. You will be served a delicious dinner with dessert. Everyone who attends will receive a gift bag, plus there will be lots of prize drawings, including a grand prize \$1,200 power bill credit! Take this opportunity to meet with friends and neighbors and be a part of your co-op community.



Raft River High School
Malta, Idaho

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Registration and meal begin at 6 p.m.

Business meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Special thanks to Katie Sciarrino and her Bonneville Power Administration team for Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative Inc.'s 80th anniversary logo design.



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

Capital Credit Checks Mailed

The Big Bend Electric Cooperative Inc. Board of Directors recently approved the retirement of more than \$2.1 million to the cooperative's members. Refunds have been mailed to consumers who bought power from the cooperative during 1999, 2000 and 2017.

Capital Credit FAQ

Do I forfeit my capital credits if I'm no longer a cooperative member?

No, capital credits stay with you even after you are no longer an active member of the cooperative. It is important to keep your address current with us until all capital credits have been distributed.

Can I receive my capital credits in a lump sum after I leave the co-op?

No, we do not pay out early retirements. We need these funds to operate the business. When the board of trustees authorizes a retirement, checks are distributed.

I found an old capital credit check. Is it too late to cash it?

Our capital credit checks do not have a stale date on them. However, many banks will not cash a check more than six months old. If your check is more than a year old or your bank will not cash the check, please contact our office and we will issue a new check.

How often will I receive capital credit checks? How much will they be?

The amount of capital credits to be returned depends on prior years' margins and future capital needs. The board of trustees decides if there will be a capital credit retirement and which years to pay. The board has chosen to return capital credits to members for more than 40 years. Checks typically are distributed in February.

For more details on capital credits, go to www.bbec.org.

Feel free to contact our office with other questions. Send emails to capitalcredit@bbec.org

Hood River Electric Cooperative



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

541-354-1233
www.hrec.coop

[www.facebook.com/
HRECCoop/](https://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

Please Attend!

Hood River Electric Cooperative 73rd Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m.

Community Building, Hood River County Fairgrounds

The agenda includes:

- Election of three directors
 - Operating reports
 - Door prizes
- Dessert and coffee

Hope to see you there!

Report of the Nominating Committee

We, the Nominating Committee, appointed by the board of directors of Hood River Electric Cooperative, met February 5, 2019, at the office of the cooperative.

We nominated the following members for the board of directors to be voted upon at the March 14, 2019, annual meeting:

- Patrick Moore (incumbent)
- Doug Mahurin (incumbent)
- John McGhee (incumbent)

Respectfully submitted,

Bernie Wells, Chair
Jill House, Secretary
John Buckley
Dwight Moe
Matt Cody
Lucy Hill
Paul Aubert
Gorham Blaine

Harney Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

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

hec.burns@harneyelectric.org

Orovada, Nevada
775-272-3336

orovada.office@harneyelectric.org

www.harneyelectric.org

Find us on 

.....
Board of Directors

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

General Manager

Fred Flippence

Operations Manager

Jason Hill

Line Superintendent

Jason Radinovich

Electrical Engineer

Shane Sweet

Office Manager

Stephanie Bowen

Attorney

Raymond S. Kindley

OR-27

It's Annual Meeting Time

Dear Members,

The annual meeting of Harney Electric Cooperative is Saturday, May 4, at the McDermitt Community Hall in McDermitt, Nevada.

Three directors will be elected. Members have an opportunity to review reports on the progress of the cooperative and to conduct necessary business.

Dinner is served at noon. There is no cost. We hope you will attend this important function.

Sincerely,

Gary Miller

Secretary-Treasurer

.....

Dear Members,

As can be seen from the secretary's announcement above, it is annual meeting time again. It is a good opportunity to hear firsthand how things are going and what we expect in the future. Probably the most important aspect of the meeting is the election of the directors.

Nominees must reside in the district they would represent. Nominees are selected by the nominating committee or by petition signed by any 15 bona fide members. Any such nominations by petition must be received in the Hines office not fewer than 34 days before the meeting date. The petition deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, March 29.

The cooperative's service territory is divided into seven geographical districts. Each is represented by a board member serving a three-year term.

The districts open for board member election this year are:

- No. 3: Diamond, Frenchglen, Catlow; incumbent Gary Miller.
- No. 4: Fields, Andrews, Trout Creek; incumbent Rod Hagland.
- No. 6: Kings River, Orovada, Daveytown; incumbent John Ugalde.

Serving on the board of directors is not something one should take lightly. Neither is your decision as to who you feel would do the best job of guiding the policy decisions of your co-op. Your vote is important. Cast it carefully.

For those of you who will be able to attend the meeting, we look forward to seeing you there.

Fred Flippence

General Manager





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

Board of Directors

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

Manager Ken Dizes
Attorney Dale Storer

Board meets the third Wednesday of each month

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

ID-28

Time to Celebrate

It's time to celebrate the success of your electric cooperative's fully owned propane company. Salmon River Propane paid off its acquisition loan in 2017. Beginning in 2018, it began paying a dividend to its parent company, Salmon River Electric Cooperative. SRP paid SREC \$100,000 in dividends in 2018. This is extremely valuable to you, SREC's member-owners.

SREC first got its feet wet in the propane business in 1998 when it partnered with Cenex and established Salmon Country Services as a limited liability corporation and a division of SREC. In 2001, SREC bought the propane business outright from Cenex and continued to operate it as a division of SREC until 2003. In 2003, SREC spun off the propane division and established it as a fully owned subsidiary of SREC. That was the beginning of Salmon River Propane as you know it today.

SREC got into the propane business to diversify its revenue stream and to help offset retail electric rate increases. This was important at the time because the country was deep in discussions about deregulating the electric utility industry. The thought throughout the United States was electric cooperatives needed to diversify to survive deregulation and protect member-owners' interest in safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Fast forward to today, and we see that deregulation didn't really materialize as predicted. Many electric cooperatives that chose to diversify learned they made a mistake by not concentrating on their core business. SREC divested itself of some of its diversification business lines, but chose to make a go of its fully owned propane company. A committed electric cooperative board, propane board and employees were convinced they could be successful in the propane business. They took the necessary steps to put SRP on a path to success, and to fulfill its mission of providing benefits to its parent company and its member-owners.

I am extremely proud of what your propane company has accomplished. Without a doubt, your electric rates are lower than they would otherwise be without SRP, which also is a large supporter and investor in the communities and areas it serves: Challis, May, Clayton, Salmon, Stanley, Lowman, Mackay, Arco, Howe and everything in between. SRP prides itself on world-class service. Its success is a testament that its customers believe in that service.

Remember, you benefit when you make Salmon River Propane your propane, service and appliance supplier. When you see the great folks at SRP, make sure you tell them thank you.



Ken Dizes

Ken Dizes
General Manager



United Electric
CO-OP INC.

Directors

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

General Manager

Jo Elg

Engineering and Operations

Trevor Parke

Line Superintendent

Kay Hill

Executive Assistant

Trisha Moultrie

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

ID-29

On the Wire at United Electric

What is the Youth Rally Scholarship and Leadership Conference?

The Youth Rally is an awesome opportunity to learn about the electric utility industry, compete for scholarships, and develop self-esteem and leadership skills. High school sophomores and juniors from Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Wyoming, Washington and Alaska attend the annual weeklong event held on the Albertson College campus in Caldwell, Idaho. This year's conference is July 15-20. The week is jam-packed with a mixture of fun, learning, making friends and well ... fun!

Over \$10,000 is awarded in scholarships annually. Each student can compete for one of the scholarships, which range from \$300 to \$600. One lucky student will be selected to represent Idaho at the National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Additionally, you are eligible for a \$200 United Electric scholarship just for participating.

Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association sponsors the Youth Rally. Who is ICUA? I challenge all high school sophomores or juniors to attend the Youth Rally and learn about ICUA, as well as other regional and national organizations that support the public power network.

What are you waiting for? Download an application at www.uec.coop or pick up an application at the United Electric office at 1330 21st St. in Heyburn. Return the application by April 12 to the United Electric office or via email to tmoultrie@uec.coop, and we'll call you for an interview.

Mmmm ... not sure yet? Keep reading.

You will gain an understanding of the safety issues associated with distributing electric power, hear from your peers about the consequences of bad decisions with alcohol and drugs, meet leaders in the utility industry during the Power Forum, and visit the state Capitol in Boise. If that isn't enough, you'll have to make time for a trip to a water park, prepare for the talent show and make friends with the 100 other students at the rally.

Did I mention the price of admission to attend the Youth Rally? Zero. Nothing. Nada. Nil. Zilch. You get the point. United Electric covers all expenses for students selected to attend the event.

So, pack your toothbrush, your talent, your desire to learn, your sense of adventure and join us on the trek to expanding horizons. Only one suitcase per person allowed.



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

Randy R. Purser
President

Susan M. Harris
Vice President

Bret L. Zollinger
Secretary/Treasurer

Chad H. Angell
James D. McKelvey
Maddie Mocettini-Hansen
Dean L. Myler
Lynn O. Rothwell
Merlin A. Waddoups

Manager/CEO

Brad J. Gamett

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

ID-30

Electric Co-op Policy Priorities

The 116th Congress kicked off in January with more than 100 new members in the House and Senate. We have been working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association—the national service organization that represents more than 900 not-for-profit electric cooperatives—to introduce ourselves.

As we educate lawmakers on issues that matter most to consumer-members and the communities co-ops serve, here are several issues we are bringing to their attention:

Energy policy and infrastructure.

NRECA will work to ensure any infrastructure package focuses on more than roads and bridges. It should include opportunities to modernize the electric grid and expand rural broadband access. This is critical to ensuring rural America is not left behind in the 21st century economy.

Environment. NRECA will encourage bipartisan support for renewable energy research and development, including programs that focus on finding a viable use for carbon capture, use and storage, which comprise a suite of technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. Cooperatives' use of renewables has more than doubled since 2010.

Broadband. As electric co-ops engage the new Congress, we will work to ensure all rural broadband discussions include the electric co-op perspective on the need to expand high-speed internet

service in rural areas. According to the Federal Communications Commission, 23 million rural Americans lack access to broadband. Millions of them are members of electric co-ops. That is why roughly 100 electric cooperatives are working to close the digital divide by bringing broadband to their communities, and more are exploring the option.

Tax policy. The 2017 tax reform law included a provision that treated federal grants as income. This threatens the tax-exempt status of some electric cooperatives, which rely on government grants to maintain and expand their infrastructure and provide services to local communities. America's electric cooperatives will seek to fix this unintended consequence.

Grid resilience. Protecting our nation's vast power grid is a national priority and focus for electric cooperatives. Ensuring appropriate information sharing and preserving existing partnerships and structures are essential to these efforts. We will advocate for resources and technologies that meet the unique cybersecurity and recovery needs of small and medium-sized utilities to help protect our systems.

With such a large freshman class of lawmakers, educating them about electric cooperatives and the issues we care about will take time and perseverance. Advocating for the interests of our consumer-members and the communities in which they live is at the heart of our business.



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

March

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

April

CVEA Board Meeting: The April meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, April 18, 2019, in Glennallen

Voting Deadline: Director election ballots must be received in the correct CVEA mailbox by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, 2019
 *don't forget to sign the back of the ballot envelope

Annual Meeting: The CVEA Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, April 30, in the Copper Basin District and Thursday, May 2, in the Valdez District; registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6 p.m. Join us as CVEA celebrates 60 years!

AK-34

2019 Annual Meeting of Members

Copper Basin - Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Valdez - Thursday, May 2, 2019

Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc., invites you to the 2019 Annual Meeting of Members and 60 year celebration! The CVEA Annual Meeting is your chance, as a member-owner, to find out what is going on at your electric cooperative. This year, we'll celebrate our past and look forward to the future.

The meeting will be Tuesday, April 30, in the Copper Basin District at the Alaska Bible College Murdock Campus Center, and Thursday, May 2, in the Valdez District at the Valdez Civic Center. Registration and food service begin at 5:30 p.m. and the business meeting begins at 6 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting will be to hear reports, learn about CVEA projects and issues, ask questions about your cooperative, accept Director election results, and to transact any other business that may come before the Membership.

In addition to learning valuable information, members will enjoy trivia, honor CVEA's oldest and dearest members, and enjoy a few surprises. In addition, every member signed in by 6 p.m. will be eligible to win a ton of cool prizes, and a special 60 year celebration gift. Don't be late!

In April all cooperative members will receive the official notice of the annual meeting in the mail, along with the 2018 Annual Report, and the 2019 Director Election materials. Director candidate profiles, a ballot, and a stamped return envelope will be included.

Co-op members in the Copper Basin District will select two candidates, and members in Valdez will select one. As a member of your cooperative, the single-most important action you can take is to vote for your Board representatives.

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

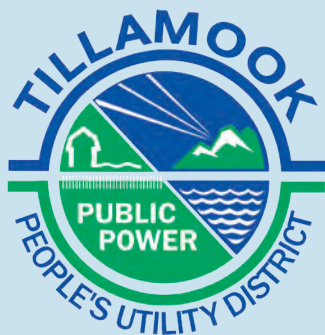
Ballots must be received in the designated CVEA post office box by 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, 2019. When voting, please remember the back of the ballot envelope must be signed by the member whose signature is on file. If you are unsure what is on your signature card, or need to update, please stop by either office or call 822-3211 or 835-4301 prior to March 25, 2019.

All valid ballots received by the deadline will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 CVEA energy credit!

So, please, when you receive your ballot, make your voice heard and exercise your right to vote!



#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

Tillamook PUD GREEN POWER

What is it and what does it mean
for you?



WHAT IS GREEN POWER?

Green Power is clean, renewable electricity
generated by local methane digesters
through the processing of waste.

WHAT ARE SOME GREEN POWER BENEFITS?

Improves our Environment- by processing dairy
waste at the digester facility, methane gases
released into the air are reduced, and so is the
potential for run-off into local water ways.

Local Power Generation- if a natural disaster occurs, the
availability of a local power generation source is a key factor to
our community emergency preparedness plan.



WHY IS GREEN POWER IMPORTANT?

Green Power supports our community in a
unique way. The digester provides an
important resource to local businesses, and
the community benefits from not only the electricity
generated, but also the positive environmental impacts.

HOW CAN YOU JOIN THE GREEN TEAM?

It's simple! Visit
www.tpod.org and click
on the Green Power icon.
Once there, you can
gather more information,
use the Green Power
Contribution Calculator
and sign up to support
the program. Any
Tillamook PUD customer
can join the team!



Choosing your contribution

Business and residential customers have
the option to select at what percentage of
their monthly kWh usage they would like
to be green. Each percentage is equal an
amount, and is applied in addition to the
regular kWh charge. These amounts are:

100%= 2 cents per kWh
50%= 1 cent per kWh
25%= .5 cents per kWh
10%= .2 cents per kWh





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

Board of Directors

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Roy Nageak Sr.

Secretary/Treasurer

Josiah Patkotak

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

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

Safety is a Full-Time Job

Living and working safely in Barrow and the surrounding area takes many forms. Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative Inc. would like to encourage our members, their families and our employees to be aware of their environment.

We often think about the weather, the possibility of encountering wild and domestic animals, and other issues that may affect how we live and recreate in the Arctic. But have you thought about the utilities, both below and above ground, in your community?

BUECI strives to maintain its systems safely and efficiently. It takes a team effort to ensure the water, wastewater, gas and electric systems are installed professionally and safely. As a multi-utility system operator, BUECI faces many challenges. However, we assure you that board members and staff do everything in their power to provide safe and reliable utility systems for our community. A resolution adopted by the BUECI Board of Directors in 2018 supports this safe and reliable mindset.

The BUECI Board of Directors joined a nationwide safety movement to increase employee awareness. The purpose of this effort is to reduce serious injuries and fatalities. Of course, this safety mindset is also relevant to our utility and community members. Opportunities to increase personal safety include being aware of overhead wires when you are working on or near roofs or moving larger boats; calling for utility locates—a free service—before excavating or disturbing the soil; and not using motorized vehicles on the power line, gas and utilidor rights-of-way.

Safety is important to the cooperative. Please visit our website at www.BUECI.org or call 907-852-6166 if you have a utility or safety concern.



Mel Hutchison

Electric Distribution Superintendent



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 2

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!



AK-37

Welcome to GVEA's Bill Payment Kiosk!

Don't stand in line to pay your bill when you can use GVEA's Bill Payment Kiosk!

To use the kiosk, you'll need to know your GVEA account number. It's listed on your GVEA bill.

Cash, checks, credit and debit cards accepted.



Conveniently located just inside the front door of the Fairbanks office



Need help?
 Step inside the lobby and ask a Member Service Representative

It's fast, safe and convenient!

Give it a try & win!

Use the new kiosk to pay your bill, and you will be automatically entered in that month's drawing for a \$50 Electric Credit!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 1

Artist's Opening Reception. Main Street Artists Gallery, 436 Main St., Quincy. 5 to 7 p.m. Reception for featured artist. Meet the artist and enjoy drinks and nibbles at Quincy's artist co-op gallery.
For more information, call 530-283-1909.

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.

March 2

A Taste of Beef, A Sip of Wine. Elks Lodge, 400 Main St., Susanville. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Get your tickets at Margie's Book Nook or the Lassen County Chamber of Commerce.
For more information, call 530-570-3663.

March 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 & 31

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.

March 4, 6, 11 & 13

Adult Climbing Night. Feather River College, 570 Golden Eagle Ave., Quincy. Basic instruction includes rock climbing terminology, top rope concepts, movement and belay techniques. All skill levels are welcome.
For more information, email rstock@frc.edu.

March 9

Best of Broadway Presents: 20th Year Anniversary Show. Veterans Memorial Hall, 1205 Main St., Susanville. Show times are 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Twenty songs, one from each of the last 20 years. Tickets are available at Margie's Book Nook.
For more information, call 530-260-6191.

March 13

Country Dance Lessons. Feather River Grange, 440 Main St. #55, Quincy.
For more information, call 530-283-2295.

March 14

Open House and Chamber Ribbon Cutting. Golden One Credit Union, 2942 Main St., Susanville. 6 to 7 p.m.
For more information, call 530-257-4323.

Plumas County Fire Safe Council Meeting. Plumas County Planning & Building Services, 555 Main St., Quincy. 9 to 11 a.m.
For more information, email nils@deercreekresources.com.

March 15 & 16

Cowboy Poetry & Music Show. Sierra Valley Grange Hall. Friday show is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday matinee is at 2 p.m. and evening show is at 7:30 p.m. Dave Stamey, Chris Isaacs, Richard Elloyan and Steve Wade perform.
For more information, call 831-345-9840 or visit www.sierravalleygrange.org.

Quincy Star Follies. Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds. 204 Fairground Road, Quincy. 6 to 8 p.m. Adults are \$15 and kids younger than 13 are \$10. Tickets are available at www.frcfoundation.org and Quincy Provisions.
For more information, call 775-232-9536 or visit www.quincystarfollies.com.

March 17

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.

March 18 to 31

Easter Scramble. Quincy. Hosted by the Quincy Chamber of Commerce. Beginning March 18, players can purchase a playing card from the Quincy Chamber or The Toy Store for \$1 each. Players take their playing cards to each participating Chamber member businesses and locate the golden egg inside the business.
For more information, email info@quincychamber.com or call 530-394-0541.

March 20

Community Book Club Meeting. Plumas County Library Conference Room, 445 Jackson St., Quincy. 4 to 5:30 p.m.
For more information, call 530-283-2665.

March 23

Zellamae Miles Women's Conference. Lassen Community College, 478-200 CA-139, Susanville.
For more information, call 530-257-6181 extension 8922.

March 24

Soroptimist International of Quincy Easter Egg Hunt. Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds. 204 Fairground Road, Quincy. Pictures with the Easter bunny begin at 10 a.m. Easter egg hunt begins at 11 a.m.
For more information, call 530-283-2265.

March 28

Senior Day. Diamond Mountain Casino, 900 Skyline Drive, Susanville. Noon to 3 p.m.
For more information, call 530-252-1100 extension 106.

Lassen County Chamber Mixer. Anytime Fitness, 2635 Main St. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
For more information, call 530-257-4323.

Manager's Message

Continued from page 32

Scholarships

Attending a college or university next fall? PSREC and PST offer two \$1,000 scholarships. Full details and an application can be found on our website at www.psrec.coop. The application deadline is Friday, March 15.

Get Ready for Spring Safely

Spring is just around the corner and we are starting to make plans for outdoor projects.

While you are eager to get an early start, please don't ignore safety. Check your surroundings both high and low. Be aware of overhead power lines when trimming trees or shrubs. If you are digging holes for new fence posts or planting trees or shrubs, please call 811.

The process is quick and easy. The 811 call center will take your information and notify PSREC and other utilities of your request. A professional is dispatched from the co-op and other utility services to locate and mark the location of underground lines where you plan to dig.

Please call a few days before you are ready to work to allow for processing.

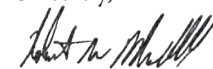
Be aware of any overhead power lines in your area as well. Look up before moving irrigation pipes, using a ladder, installing a new antenna or flagpole, or moving large trucks, trailers or heavy equipment.

For indoor projects that involve wiring and electrical fixtures, make sure you turn the power off at the breaker panel to avoid being shocked.

Remember, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It just might save your life.

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

Sincerely,


 Bob Marshall
 General Manager



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

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fnelson@psrec.coop

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thammond@psrec.coop

Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



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800-221-3474

For information about any
of our products, please
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visit our website at
www.psrec.coop

CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

It has been a fairly wild winter so far, and I would like to thank the hard work of Jason Harston, manager of engineering and operations; Scott Welch, district manager for the northern portion of our system and our entire operations team for the great work they have done in maintaining and upgrading our system.

I write these updates about two weeks before you receive the magazine, and there is always the worry of a significant outage having occurred by the time it gets to you, but we are pleased with the reliability of our system through mid-February.

Your board of directors has supported a continued commitment to reliable and safe electric service through the years and it shows.

Pacific Gas and Electric has declared bankruptcy and we are evaluating the impact on Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative. We are also reviewing the costs of new and proposed regulations in the aftermath of the significant fires in California across the last two years.

It has been five years since we had a rate increase, and we are looking at a potential increase in the fixed charges in the not-to-distant future. PSREC's staff will be discussing this with the board of directors and with the membership when, and if, such an increase is needed.

Energy Savings

At PSREC, we work hard to empower our members to take charge of their energy consumption.

Through our secure SmartHub app, we have tools you can use to access your historical energy use. This data can be graphically compared to temperature data for your area. We have observed that while there are several

other variables, the heating portion of most residential electric bills increases 3 percent for every degree the average daily temperature drops below 50 F.

Increased awareness of energy consumption habits allows you to choose when and how to save energy and, in turn, lower your bill.

If you don't already have one, create an online profile to access this helpful information. To get started, click the "Register for Online Access" link in the green login box at www.psrec.coop.

You need your account number and other identifying information for the primary account holder. If you have any difficulty, please give us a call. We are happy to assist you.

Telecommunications

Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications is working to replace the coax system in portions of west Quincy with fiber optics to provide broadband services with download speeds up to 1 Gbps and unlimited data use. If you aren't already on our interest list, please visit www.pst.coop or call 800-221-3474 to sign up for service.

We are also working on fiber optic for Chandler Road, American Way, and Hillside in parallel with parts of west Quincy. If you are in these areas and interested in service, please let us know as soon as possible, if you haven't already.

Other key projects include the replacement of an irreparable part of the coax system with fiber optic. We expect to start cutting out parts of the coax system in part of Graeagle, which will also improve the overall service in Graeagle.

In Portola, we are about to double the capacity of the northern part of town.

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

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District 6 – Jerald Anderson
District 7 – Sandra Green
District 8 – Wade Robison
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Proudly serving more than 10,000 residents and businesses throughout Nevada and Utah.

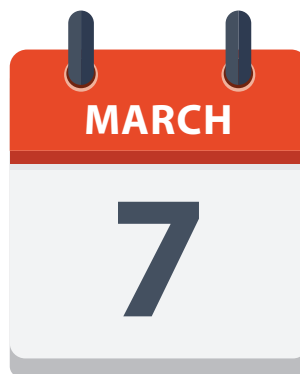
Winter office hours are in effect. The Ely office is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Eureka office is open Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

“Powering Your Future”

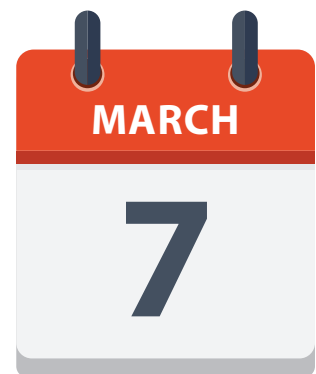
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

NV-40

Important Dates



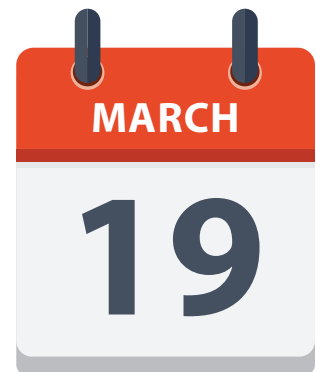
**Mt. Wheeler Power
bill due**



**Nomination
petitions deadline**



**Youth Leadership
Camp applications
available**



**Board of Directors
meeting**

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

Wells Rural Electric Company

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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

Caring About Our Community

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

D'Angelo's thoughts reflect Wells Rural Electric Company's philosophy toward our members and the broader community we serve. As a not-for-profit cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable, clean and affordable electricity, there is another important part of this equation: your well-being and that of our friends and neighbors. To your Board of Directors and employees, you are not just a customer, you are a member and the only reason WREC exists.

WREC was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build your cooperative.

At that time, nearly all members understood that WREC was different because they likely knew someone who helped create the cooperative. For many members, WREC's founding and the circumstances of the time are unknown. Over the past 61 years, some members may have come to think of WREC as simply an energy provider. But WREC is so much more. WREC is a cooperative that is constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of the members and communities we serve.

WREC is always looking at changes in the energy environment, evolving technology and shifting member expectations. For example, one of your fellow members who became a drone pilot is featured on pages 4 and 5 of this magazine. The use of drones to inspect power lines is quickly becoming an industry standard. Page 8 explains several easy do-it-yourself projects to help you reduce how much electricity you use for heating. This is especially



important as cold winter temperatures demand more electricity to keep our homes and businesses warm. Page 25 has information about using our mobile app to manage your account when it fits your schedule. Finally, pages 28 and 29 have programs that illustrate our long-standing commitment to our youth.

As members, you guide the decisions we make to improve and enrich our communities. Your questions and comments help us better understand your needs. Most importantly, you have an opportunity every year to vote for candidates for the Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of members of the cooperative and community just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local service organizations, charities and community events. When you support these efforts, you are also supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While times may have changed, our purpose and outlook have not. By working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and into the future.

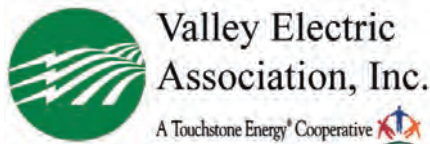
Clay R. Fitch

Chief Executive Officer



The founding Board of Directors in 1958 included, back row from left: Eyre Boies, John Moschetti, Charles Read, D. Vernon Dalton, Roger Smith, Blaine Sharp and Herbert Uhlig. Front row from left: Charles Ballew, James L. Ballard, Robert R. Wright and WREC's first general manger, George Blackett.

Wells Rural Electric Company Archive Photograph



NV-42



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or 775-727-5312, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday-Friday, except holidays

AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

We are here 24 hours a day,
seven days a week for your
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(775) 727-5312

Website: www.vea.coop

Email: wmc@vea.coop

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Meeting Challenges



March is the time for District Meetings, and I am looking forward getting together again with you, our members. I want to update you on where our Cooperative stands and what we can do to serve you better. I visited with many of you in December when I traveled to all districts, and I will do it again as I plan to visit districts throughout the year. I want to be accessible to you, and I want to become a familiar face in our communities.

Since the management transition in May 2018, Valley Electric Association, Inc. has taken steps to preserve our financial future while honoring our commitment to our members and communities. On pages 4-7 of this issue of the Ruralite, several stories provide the detail around the reasons for cost-cutting measures we have taken in recent months as well as the need for rate increases and a \$5 addition to the facilities charge for residential members. I hope you will read through the articles and bring your questions and comments to your respective district meeting. Please also check the website for information on the rate increases for other rate classes.

Your confidence in the financial integrity of VEA is so very important that immediately after I was appointed as interim CEO, the Board of Directors hired the accounting firm of Hinton Burdick to conduct a transitional audit of financial activities (internal controls, cash activity and expenditures) for the period of January 1, 2016 to July 31, 2018. This forensic review of VEA's financial activities was critical

in order to have an absolutely clear financial picture of VEA. Hinton Burdick found no wrongdoing or mismanagement of funds – including the funds resulting from the transmission sale.

As a demonstration of your Board's commitment to transparency, a copy of the letter regarding the forensic audit can be found on the VEA website.

As CEO, it is my responsibility to ensure that Valley is delivering high-quality services to you, that we are driving growth with our operating plan, that we maintain appropriate staffing, and that we are controlling costs. I've been tasked with evaluating every area of our business to establish a clear set of priorities and a more efficient organizational structure.

The announcement of a rate increase and job eliminations were difficult decisions, but had these action not been implemented, the increase in rates would have had a more serious impact on members.

I am very optimistic about VEA's future. Through the determination and dedication of our staff, Valley has emerged as a stronger Cooperative.

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.

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



Outdoor tools need routine maintenance before tackling your springtime lawn.

Spring Clean Tools, Too

While your lawn tools hibernated over the winter, they got dusty and maybe even rusty. Before you pull them out of storage to get your lawn ready for spring, clean and examine your tools for damage. Without proper maintenance, they might not operate well, could overheat and put you at risk.

Lawnmowers, trimmers, drills and all tools that have moving electrical and mechanical parts need routine maintenance every spring. Here are tips for cleaning and storing your power tools and lawn equipment.

- Thoroughly wipe down each tool with a damp cloth. Reach into hard-to-clean areas such as exhausts and intakes with a lightly oiled cotton swab. Dry the tools before using them.
- Blow compressed air from a can into vents and crevices to remove dirt from inside the tools.
- Replace filters in tools that have them, following manufacturer's instructions.
- Inspect each tool for cracks or broken parts. Do not use a broken tool.
- Turn on the tool and listen. Does it sound as good as it did last summer? If not, it might be time to replace it.
- Examine corded electric tools for damaged or frayed cords and exposed wires. Check plugs for bent or missing metal. If you spot a problem, have the tool professionally serviced to prevent shocks. Unplug the tool before inspecting it.
- Wipe off tools with a dry cloth after each use before storing them.
- Store tools in a dry location away from the weather and dust. If you have the box or case a tool came in, store it in that.
- Save instruction manuals for all of your tools so you can consult them when necessary.
- Periodically lubricate a tool's moving parts. Your instruction manual will suggest a type of oil.
- Remove batteries from cordless tools before storing them. Batteries that sit unused for long periods can corrode.



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.otec.coop
communications@otecc.com

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County
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George Galloway, Union
County
Greg Howard, Union County
Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, CEO and General
Manager

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

Stay Vigilant as Wildfire Season Approaches

This edition of Ruralite has two important articles for you to read. The first is about the political uncertainty of House Bill 2020—legislation around cap and trade. We hope the article on page 25 helps you better understand the far-reaching impact cap and trade could have on our local businesses and our members.

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is actively focused on the progress of this bill. You will see ongoing communication from our team as there are new developments.

The second article, found on page 28, discusses the continued risk of wildfires and OTEC's ongoing work to mitigate potential impacts to our system and territory. In preparation for the upcoming fire season, I am focusing this message on the potential risks of fire across OTEC territory.

Looking back on the latter part of 2018, devastating California and Oregon wildfires dominated news cycles. Oregon hit record costs fighting fires in 2018, exceeding \$500 million. As we look to 2019, we hope for good moisture. It is looking, however, like we may be facing another dry season that requires all of us to be extra vigilant to the dangers and risks of fire.

OTEC has more than 3,000 miles of power lines across four counties in Eastern Oregon. These lines cross federal, state and private lands, and operate in multiple environments and conditions—from high-country forest to high-desert rangeland. Fire risk is taken into consideration in general operations of the electric system in several areas. Extra attention is focused on equipment inspections, maintenance and vegetation management.

In the summer of 2015, OTEC and our members suffered a significant loss of natural resources and infrastructure in the Canyon Creek Fire outside of John Day. This fire burned approximately 110,000 acres, destroyed 43 homes and damaged more than \$1 million

in OTEC utility assets. The same year, Baker County withstood the Cornet-Windy Ridge Fire, which charred more than 38,000 acres and cost the cooperative more than \$1.3 million in damaged assets.

OTEC annually spends more than \$3.2 million in operation and maintenance expenses to maintain our vast distribution infrastructure. A heavy focus is on vegetation and tree management to maintain system reliability and performance, reduce safety hazards and reduce the risk of fire. As we all know, fire hazards multiply, especially in a dry year. Wildfires can start in myriad ways, ranging from vehicles in tall grass to high winds and lightning, all of which keep OTEC on high alert.

As we approach summer, I ask you to keep a watchful eye on our electric infrastructure across the system. Many of you, our member-owners, have been doing this for years and are very good about calling our office if you see a hazard in or near power lines.

As you are enjoying the outdoors, keep an eye out for leaning or broken trees that have the potential to come into contact with power lines, trees or other objects that may have blown into the lines, or broken or damaged equipment. Please contact us as soon as possible. Always stay clear of these hazards and never attempt to remedy issues yourself. Our staff is well-trained and ready to remove the hazard as quickly as possible.

Thank you in advance for the extra attention and watchful eye. Contact information listed on the left side of this page is the best way to notify us of a potential hazard.

Les Penning
General Manager



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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

Be Heard on Capitol Hill

Dear Members,

It is that time of year again when our legislators in Olympia are busy crafting new bills and changing some existing ones.

The Ohop Board of Directors and I have been busy staying current with those bills by conference calls with Kent Lopez—manager of the Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association and our lobbyist in Olympia—and with planned visits to Olympia with our legislators. Some bills have a tendency to move quickly through different committees, while others perceived dead all of a sudden grow legs and run straight to the floor for a vote.

Several bills in the hopper would hurt utilities and drive up electric rates. Most of them deal with renewable energy issues such as wind, solar and wave current, which are all good and clean energy, but since they are relatively new, the generation is more expensive than energy from hydro. Plus, we already pay for green power in our rates as our energy mix from the Bonneville Power Administration includes renewable resources.

The main message to our legislators is, “One size does not fit all.”

As electric cooperative consumers, we need to alert state lawmakers about the need to keep electric bills affordable. We remind them that their actions have consequences.

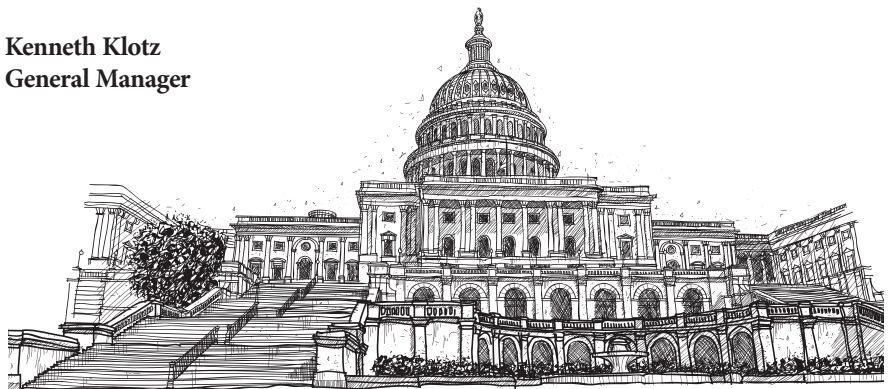
Sound, thoughtful energy policy can lead to great things. The electric cooperative program is a perfect example. But hastily enacted energy policy could have far-reaching impacts on the electricity we use every day, doubling or even tripling its cost in the coming years—and perhaps diminishing its availability.

This is where the voice of the people comes in. It's where you, as an electric co-op member, can make a difference and greatly influence the energy debate at federal and state levels.

Elected officials need to hear a constant drumbeat about how energy costs affect us. We can make our opinions heard via email, letter or even video. It's amazing how quickly elected officials respond when hearing from voters!

Let's keep that ball rolling to ensure when our representatives and senators vote on legislation that affects electric bills, your concerns are paramount in their mind.

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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Operations Manager

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Executive Assistant

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Ames Lake
Anderson Island

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

WA-50

Tanner Electric Scholarships

Tanner Electric Cooperative has a vested interest in the youth of today. They will determine the future of our nation. This is why we provide learning opportunities and scholarships to our young people, encouraging them however we can.

Local High School Scholarships

The TEC board has elected to grant a \$1,000 scholarship annually to a graduating senior in each of TEC's three service areas. To be eligible, applicants must be a graduating senior and a full-time dependent of a current TEC member. Details and an application can be found at www.tannerelectric.coop. All applications must be received in the TEC office by April 1.

Allan Billett Memorial Lineworker Scholarship

Do you want an exciting and rewarding career? Electrical line work may be for you. Nearly every American depends on electricity to function in today's society. Lineworkers are the backbone of the electric utility industry.

The TEC Board of Directors established the funding of the Allan Billett Memorial Lineman Scholarship in 2009—a \$4,000 scholarship awarded annually to a qualified student or individual interested in pursuing a career in the line construction trade and attending an accredited line college.

To apply, the applicant must be at least 17 years of age and be a resident of Anderson Island or the Snoqualmie Valley area. An application, job description and requirements can be found at www.tannerelectric.coop. Applications must be received in the TEC office by April 1.

Visit our website and apply today!



Parkland Light & Water Company

Owned By
Those We Serve

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Tacoma, WA 98448-0426
253-531-5666

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Janet Detering - Treasurer
Elaine Walter - Public Relations

GENERAL MANAGER
Susan Cutrell

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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

One Trustee to Be Elected at the Annual Meeting

As this issue of Ruralite goes to press, the incumbent is the only announced candidate for the trustee position

Gary Grazzini was appointed to the Parkland Light & Water Board of Trustees on October 25, 2007, and was elected to the board in March 2008.

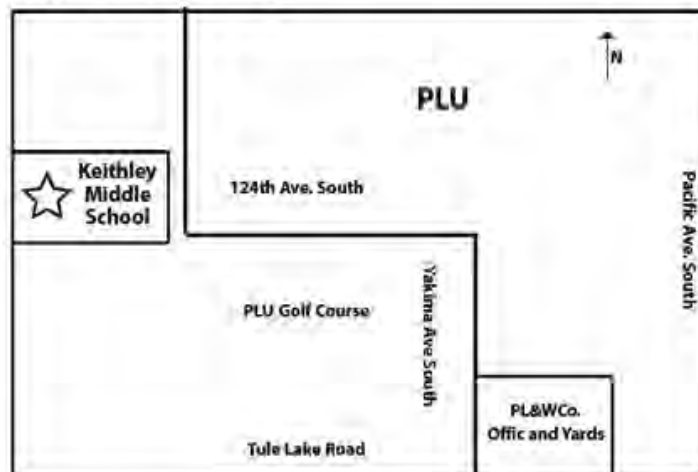
Gary knows the Parkland/Spanaway area and community well, having been a resident his entire life. He attended Western Washington University and retired from a career in sales. With his professional experience and knowledge in business and the local community, Gary brings positive attributes to the PL&W board.



The open position on the board is for a regular five-year term. Candidates can be nominated from the floor during the annual meeting. Members are encouraged to attend the meeting and vote for the candidate of their choice. PL&WCo. needs member participation to remain a strong, functioning mutual utility.

Please consider attending your annual meeting Tuesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m. at Keithley Middle School. A special invitation is extended to those who have never done so. The annual meeting is more than a business meeting. It is a celebration of the membership.

Map to Annual Meeting





**495 E. Columbia River Highway
PO BOX 216**

**Clatskanie, Oregon 97016
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www.clatskaniepud.com**

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Monday through Friday

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Don Hooper, Director

GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #4085500

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

Community Calendar

March 7: Clatskanie Chamber Meeting

Noon at Colvins

March 14: Rainier Chamber Meeting

Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

March 15: Keep it Local Columbia

County Job Fair - 10 am to 2 pm at 555
Commons Dr, St. Helens, OR

March 17: Happy St. Patrick's Day

March 20: Clatskanie PUD Board

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

Bulky Waste Day in Clatskanie:

Mark
your calendars now for the Annual
Clatskanie Bulky Waste Cleanup Day
April 13, 2019 8 am to Noon

OR-60

Each year Clatskanie PUD lends the support of our staff and resources to help the community based service centers, HOPE in Rainier and Turning Point in Clatskanie. PUD Staff members serve on the Board of Directors for each of these 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organizations. We assist with donations, fundraisers, and obtaining grants. Staff members help pickup and deliver commodities, and complete the annual toy drive pickup at Christmas.

These two service centers primary function is serving those in need as the local food banks. They also administer the Clatskanie PUD Share the Warmth energy assistance program, food stamp assistance, work experience through the Department of Human Services, and Veteran's assistance through Community Action Team.

To give you an example of the importance of the services they provide, on an average monthly basis at Turning Point they serve 100 boxes of food for 307 people. This includes 104 children, 40 seniors, 50 disabled, 9 that are new families, 11 that are homeless, and 45 who are employed but within the poverty level.

They also provide training for retail and food services to those who volunteer or work part time. These volunteers have gone on to obtain paying jobs and became self-sufficient.

The majority of the funds that keep Turning Point operating come from donations, sales through the thrift store, grants, fundraising events, and 12.5% from United Way. Clatskanie PUD is proud to provide a key role in supporting and sponsoring the major fundraising events of these two organizations. Last year the Seeds of Hope fundraiser in Rainier raised over \$19,000. This year the Reaching the Turning Point fundraiser more than doubled its first year total of \$5,400 by raising \$15,000, which is 13% of Turning Points annual budget.

We are grateful to all who have provided donations, sponsorships, and attended the two main fundraiser events for these important community service organizations.

We make it a priority for Clatskanie PUD and our staff to play a vital role in our communities. We strive to be very involved in and supportive of as many organizations as possible. My thanks to all of our staff who give countless hours volunteering, assisting, and donating their time, energy, and efforts to supporting not only the two food banks, but all of the community organizations in which they participate.

Marc Farmer
General Manager





KOTZEBUE
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

P.O. Box 44
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(Fax) 907-442-2482

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Chad Nordlum

General Manager/CEO

Martin Shroyer

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

AK-64

Notice to Members Regarding 2019 KEA Annual Meeting

The Kotzebue Electric Association 2019 Annual Meeting is Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

The George Francis Nominating Committee will meet March 7 to nominate KEA members to run for the Kotzebue Electric Association Board of Directors. If you are interested in running for the board, submit a letter to the George Francis Nominating Committee before they meet to have your name on the ballot.

Ballots will be mailed to the members April 5, and are due at the Kotzebue office by May 3.



Don't miss the Kotzebue Electric Annual Meeting, where you can learn about what your co-op is doing, and enjoy a free meal and possibly win a prize.



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Mountain Village

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Secretary

Helena R. Jones, Ambler

Treasurer

Peter Demoski, Nulato

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Robert Hoffman, Bethel
Robert Okitkun, Kotlik
Walter G. Sampson, Noorvik
board@avec.org

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

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



AK-105

A Message from Meera

You will soon receive ballots in the mail to elect two members to serve three year terms on AVEC's Board of Directors. Here are the candidates in alphabetical order.

Phyllis Clough: from Old Harbor on Kodiak Island, Phyllis has worked for the Kodiak Island Borough School District for over 37 years. She also serves on the Old Harbor Tribal Council and the local Advisory School Board. Phyllis was an AVEC delegate for 12 years and an AVEC board member from 2003 to 2018

Phyllis states: "I understand the frustration of rising costs of energy. These are challenging times as the federal and state governments continue to cut funding and energy programs. But these are also exciting times, as we seek to find ways to bring renewable energy to our rural communities and decrease our dependency on fossil fuels. I am committed to bringing positive change to our communities."

Nathan Moulton: A Yakutat resident since 2017, Nathan is a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington State. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Washington State and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage. He is the Executive Director of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe since 2017.

Nathan states: "I am always looking for ways to give back and being on the AVEC Board of Directors is a small way for me to contribute to the community. Rural Alaska has the highest energy rates in the country and I feel that we should be exploring renewable options in lieu of fossil fuel consumption or at the very least complementing current technology to lessen our dependence on fossil fuels.

Fred Sagoonick: from Shaktoolik, Fred was a Vietnam era Navy veteran and worked on the TransAlaska Pipeline. He has served on the Bering Straits Native Corporation board and on the Shaktoolik IRA and City Councils with two terms as Mayor. He managed the village corporation from 1999 to 2017. Fred has been an AVEC Director since 2007. Fred states: "While much has been done in recent years to improve the quality and reliability of power, there still remains much to be done in continuing to find areas where affordable alternative energy systems can be implemented for our members. I would like to continue to serve our members by helping AVEC to explore all possible avenues to provide reliable and economical power for all our member villages. I represent ALL our members and will work diligently to see that AVEC is the best utility in the state

Walter Sampson: From Noorvik, Walter attended Noorvik Elementary School, Kotzebue Friends High School and graduated from Chemawa Indian School in Oregon in 1968. He is a Vietnam veteran, earning two Bronze star medals. He worked six years in the Alaska National Guard and for NANA Regional Corporation for 40 years, retiring in 2014.

Walter states: "Since I joined the Board in 1989, it hasn't been an easy smooth road. There has been some turbulent times AVEC had to go through. Thanks to AVEC's dedicated leadership for guiding the ship in the right direction. State and Federal governments have made many cuts to energy funds. That impacts AVEC's operations. We have to meet the challenges together. I will continue to listen to viewpoints from membership and administration."

Meera Kohler, President and CEO



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

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Cort Cortez

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Theresa Phillips

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Nick Dominguez

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Catherine Schroeder

Customer Service Supervisor

Christina M. Nystrom

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

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

CA-106

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BEFORE YOU
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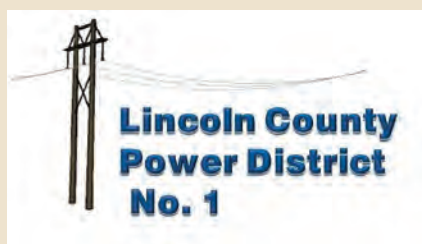
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Lincoln County Power District No. 1

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Toll free: 888-649-3814

Email: lcpd@lcpd1.com

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GENERAL MANAGER

David Luttrell

Board meets the second Tuesday
of each month



MISSION STATEMENT

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

NV-107

Let Legislators Know Your Thoughts

The 80th session of the Nevada Legislature began February 4. As with previous sessions, it began with a lot of committees and subcommittees holding hearings to gather background information on a variety of topics.

Energy is among the many items being discussed. Specifically, legislators are considering changes to laws dealing with how much energy in the state must come from renewable sources and what counts as renewable energy. Gov. Sisolak has indicated he would like to see a bill that requires at least 50 percent of Nevada's energy to come from renewable sources by 2030.

The power district fully supports the development and use of clean energy resources, but we don't believe a legislated mandate designed for the urban areas should be imposed on rural communities. Unlike urban areas, which are served by for-profit utilities that operate for the benefit of shareholders, most rural areas are served by either a power district, a rural electric cooperative or a municipal electric system. All of these are nonprofit organizations formed by the people they serve. Each of these rural utilities is governed by locally elected board members. We believe these local boards are best suited to determine what types of energy best serve our communities' needs—be it wind, solar, natural gas or something else.

In the case of rural utilities in Nevada, that something else is hydroelectric power. Much of rural Nevada receives the benefit of large-scale hydropower from the Colorado or Columbia rivers. In the case of the power district more than 80 percent of our energy comes from Hoover Dam. Hydropower is extremely clean, with little carbon or other greenhouse emissions. Yet in Nevada, large-scale hydropower is not considered a renewable resource. A renewable energy mandate that does not consider large-scale hydropower could force us to turn back some of our federal hydropower allocation.

I encourage you to let our legislators know how you feel as they consider laws regarding energy policy that may affect rural Nevada. Email your legislators and let them know rural electrics are not organized and do not operate like investor-owned utilities. Point out to them the value of local decision-making through local rural electric governing boards. Finally, emphasize the great value large-scale hydroelectric generation provides and its economic importance to our rural communities.

To find contact information for your legislators, visit www.leg.state.nv.us. Click on the link for the 80th session and then Legislator Information to find email addresses for your representatives. I have talked with many of these legislators over the years. They are genuinely interested in hearing how Nevadans feel on the topics they are discussing. Take them up on that offer and let them know the value of local governance and hydroelectric power.



David Luttrell, General Manager



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Midstate Electric Co-op
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

There will be plenty to talk about. That is my message to the scores of electric cooperative leaders who will descend upon Salem this month for ORECA's Legislative Day.

Electric co-op managers, directors and employees will travel from the Oregon Coast, high desert, Columbia Gorge and everything in between to meet with their representatives and senators on key legislative proposals.

Most notable is HB 2020—a bill designed to create a cap-and-trade program to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions. The bill has been the talk of the session. Two of the key players around HB 2020—Reps. Karin Power and David Brock Smith—are the subject of our feature story this month. But there are other issues to discuss as well, including legislation that addresses manufactured housing and broadband.

It's the most important day of the session and will help hone our lobbying skills for our next big adventure: the spring National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Conference in that other capital, Washington, D.C.

In the meantime, we will see you in the Oregon Capitol on Wednesday, March 20. We will try not to overstay our welcome, but there is, after all, plenty to talk about.



Remembering a Legendary Leader

I was sad to hear of the death of Wally Rustad, a legendary electric cooperative leader and longtime manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Government Relations team.

I vividly recall the day Wally called me and offered me a job as a lobbyist for NRECA. At the time, I was agonizing whether to leave my job on Capitol Hill to work for electric cooperatives. It turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made, and I am eternally grateful to Wally for his faith in me. He was always the first person in the office and supported his lobbying team to the hilt. I was honored to know him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Ted Case

Executive Director

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Joel Carlisle
Stephan Lauzier
Steven Silkotch

GENERAL MANAGER

Kevin Short

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

March and April Congratulations!

- ▶ Jennifer Miller 5 years
- ▶ Tami Slusher 28 years
- ▶ Shawn Trento 3 years

IMPORTANT DATES

- ▶ March 10—Daylight saving time begins.
- ▶ May 29—Director candidate petitions due.
- ▶ July 27—Annual Membership Meeting.

Easy Money

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

30536-001

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



AZ-56 **Postmaster:** Send address changes to Currents, 5605 NE Elam Young Pkwy., Hillsboro, OR 97124

A Message from the Manager

How to Stop a Killer

Would you stop a killer if you could? If a loved one—or even you—were threatened, would you act against the threat?

Almost half of everyone you know and love is threatened right now by a killer. Are you taking action?

This killer is heart disease, the No. 1 killer of all Americans.

According to the Center for Disease Control, 47 percent of us have at least one of the three risk factors of high blood pressure, high cholesterol or smoking that could lead to heart failure. One in every four deaths is caused by heart disease. About 610,000 of us are victims of this killer every year. Additionally, someone in the United States dies from stroke every four minutes. It is the No. 5 killer, claiming another 140,000 victims each year.

Anza Electric is proud to once again partner with the American Heart Association by sponsoring the SW Riverside County Heart and Stroke Walk on Saturday, April 13. We are walking together to raise awareness and funding for research and education aimed at reducing the deaths caused each year by these killers.

The American Heart Association has been the leader in heart health research funding for more than 90 years, contributing more than \$4.1 billion to this effort, including the funding of 13 Nobel Prize winners. Charity Navigator, an online watchdog for charitable organizations, has awarded the American Heart Association its highest rating of four stars, with 93 percent of every dollar donated going toward program funding.

The way to stop the heart disease killer is embodied in the American Heart Association's Life's Simple 7: not smoking, being physically active, maintaining a healthy body weight, eating a healthy diet, controlling blood pressure, controlling cholesterol and controlling blood sugar.

Please join our team. Come walk with us in April! Please consider donating to the Heart Association through Team Anza's Heart and Stroke Walk page at: www2.heart.org/goto/AnzaElectric.

Learn more about taking control of your life and health at the American Heart Association, www.heart.org.



Kevin Short

ANZA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 391909 • Anza, CA 92539

Phone: (951) 763-4333 • Fax: (951) 763-5297 • aec@anzaelectric.org • www.anzaelectric.org
Our crew is on standby 24 hours a day. To report an outage or other service problem, please call (951) 763-4333.



Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative Inc.

379597 AZ 75
P.O. Box 440
Duncan, AZ 85534
Phone: 928-359-2503
Fax: 928-359-2370
www.dvec.org

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Steven Lunt
CEO

BOARD MEETINGS

March 18
April 15
May 20

*Generally the third Monday
of the month*

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

AZ-143 **Postmaster:** Send address changes to Currents, 5605 NE Elam Young Pkwy., Hillsboro, OR 97124



Notice of Annual Meeting of the Members

The annual meeting of the members of Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative Inc. will be Wednesday, April 24, at the Duncan Junior High (Brubaker) Gymnasium at 5 p.m.

Registration begins at 4 p.m. and continues until the drawing for the door prizes begin. Refreshments will be served.

Seats are available for Districts 1 and 2 on the Duncan Valley Electric Board of Directors. If you are interested in running, petitions are available in the DVEC office and must be notarized by a DVEC employee. Qualified applicants must file a membership petition signed by at least 15 members who reside in their respective district. Only one member from each membership may sign a petition. Petitions must be delivered to the DVEC office by Thursday, March 21.

The descriptions of the cooperative membership eligibility and director qualifications, duties and responsibilities are set forth in the bylaws, which are available in our office or at www.dvec.org.

If you are interested in running or want more information on our annual meeting, contact the DVEC office at 928-359-2503.





Electrical District No. 2

P.O. Box 548
Coolidge, AZ 85128

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

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

AZ-144 **Postmaster:** Send address changes to Currents, 5605 NE Elam Young Pkwy., Hillsboro, OR 97124

Maintain Your Equipment

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



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

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

Tri-Cor Air Conditioning & Heating

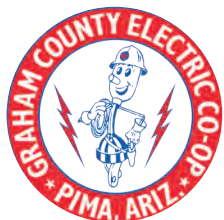
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Kirk Gray



AZ-145 **Postmaster:** Send address changes to Currents, 5605 NE Elam Young Pkwy., Hillsboro, OR 97124

Manager's Message

Another First for Graham County Electric Cooperative

Graham County Electric Cooperative experienced another first for the state of Arizona. On December 21, 2018, Pima Mayor C.B. Fletcher and Town Manager Sean Lewis were presented a check to help build a new manufacturing, sales and distribution facility to be occupied by Optimal Health Systems. This project was the first in Arizona to be funded through the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

GCEC Corporate Compliance Officer and Special Projects Manager Jenny Howard presented a \$375,000 check to Fletcher and Lewis. Santa Claus accompanied Howard during the presentation. The funding was made possible through the USDA REDL&G program, which is designed to help rural areas develop sustainable economies and create, enhance and/or preserve jobs. This project is a win-win-win.

Fletcher said he is ecstatic about how the different groups worked together to have the program come together.

"They can produce their own product here instead of hiring it out," said Lewis. "It just creates more jobs and allows them to work at a higher rate, so they can sell more and increase their tax base, which will help everyone."



Projects funded through the USDA REDL&G program do not cost GCEC's members anything. Funding for the REDL&G program comes to GCEC as an interest-free loan through the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. GCEC acts as a funding conduit for approved projects. Any costs associated with approved projects are borne by the loan recipient. The benefit for GCEC membership is increased electric sales, which helps keep rates down for all members. During the past six years, GCEC has experienced a 21 percent loss in electric sales due to municipal annexations of GCEC territory and installation of distributed generation.

This type of program offered by GCEC emphasizes the seventh cooperative principle, which states, "While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members."

This program is another example of GCEC's commitment to our mission statement: "We are committed to providing safe, reliable and efficient resources to enhance the lives of our members and the communities we serve."

Stay tuned for more good things to come.

—Kirk Gray

FLORIDA Currents

Members acknowledge that \$3.96, plus actual postage, is the cost to publish 12 issues a year of **Florida Currents** (USPS-8300). Published by Ruralite Services Inc., 5605 NE Elam Young Pkwy., Hillsboro, OR 97124—a not-for-profit Oregon cooperative corporation—the magazine serves the communications needs of consumer-owned electric utilities in Florida. Preferred Periodicals postage paid at Hillsboro, OR 97123 and at additional mailing offices.

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EREC
A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

Manager's Message

What Membership Means

By getting your electricity from a cooperative, you're a member—an owner—of the business. People unfamiliar with the co-op concept often ask why we call those who buy electricity from Escambia River Electric Cooperative “members” rather than “customers.”

Think about organizations of which you are a member. Maybe you belong to the Rotary, Quarterback Club, Kiwanis or some other type of service organization. Students often are members of music, academic or athletic clubs during their high school years.

These organizations have a common mission. Together, they accomplish more than an individual could. They pool resources and work together to help each member succeed.

This same principle holds true for co-op membership. As a member of an electric cooperative, you have access to many of the same benefits as other clubs, but with a big extra. You, and the other EREC members, own the cooperative. That means we answer to you—not investors who have never walked our streets or spent time in our schools.

Membership privileges go back to our cooperative's beginning 80 years ago. EREC was organized by farmers and rural residents from this area in 1939, with support from the federal Rural Electrification Administration. At that time, investor-owned utilities said there wasn't enough profit to be made to warrant the expense of building power lines into the countryside.

REA offered low-cost loans to bring electricity to unserved homes and farms, so folks began forming electric cooperatives to meet the need.

A \$5 fee was collected from each family—making them co-op members and owners—to generate capital for borrowing. The rest is history.

Electric co-op membership remains as important today as it was in the late 1930s. And all of the nation's 900-plus electric co-ops in 47 states share a common mission to keep energy safe, affordable and reliable.

We're part of something special: a nationwide network owned and controlled by people like you and me.



Clay R. Campbell



Inside

March 2019
Vol. 8, No. 5

Free-Range Dairies At a Crossroads 12

Four Florida dairy farmers are on a quest to expand consumers' choices—and ensure their survival for future generations.

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FKEC NEWS

March 2019

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Mailing Address:

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MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

By completing qualified energy-efficient upgrades FKEC members can earn up to \$500 from the co-op's 2019 Residential Rebate Program. Learn more at www.FKEC.com or call 305-852-2431.

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

SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

FKEC Board Proposes New Ways to Vote

At this year's Florida Keys Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting on April 6, we will be asking our members to vote on revisions to our bylaws. The FKEC Board of Directors is proposing to change our bylaws to expand the ways members can vote in district elections.

If approved by the vote, future voting in district elections will be allowed in person as well as by mail or electronic means. Currently, voting in a district election can only be done in person, and we realize this can be difficult for some of our members.

Only FKEC members —consumers with electric service in their name— are eligible to vote. More information about the bylaw change will be provided prior to the meeting in our Annual Report published in the April issue of *Florida Currents* magazine.

It is the purpose of your nine elected board of directors to represent your interests. At times, this can require changes to how we've done business in the past to incorporate new, modern options, tools or services to best meet your needs.

You Have a Voice

As a member of an electric cooperative, you have a voice and a vote under the cooperative principle of Democratic



Member Control.

Democratic Member Control ensures cooperatives are run by their members. To have your voice represented, directors are elected in the district in which they live by members in that district. FKEC has four districts from Key Largo to Marathon.

Your nine FKEC Directors, who serve three-year terms, are charged with establishing policies and reviewing operational procedures to promote a progressive, financially-sound utility.

We Appreciate You

Each year we hold our Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day to update you on the progress and future plans of this utility. This meeting is also our opportunity to thank you, our members, for your support.

Please join us at Coral Shores High School on April 6. Registration opens at 11:00 a.m. with free lunch, demonstrations, and interactive booths all available before the meeting at 1:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

CONTACT US

863-946-6200 (member services)
844-201-7203 (24-hour phone payments)
www.gladeselectric.com

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

214 SR 70 West
Lake Placid, FL 33852

808 N. Parrott Ave.
Okeechobee, FL 34972

POWER INTERRUPTION NUMBER

Moore Haven 863-946-6200

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John "Jack" Cox, President, District 8

Lake Josephine, 863-655-3056

James "Jim" Aul, Vice President, District 7

Lorida, 863-441-0441

Shannon Hall, Secretary/Treasurer, District 4

Lakeport and Brighton, 863-946-3242

Donnie Lundy, Trustee, District 1

Moore Haven, 863-946-0402

Barney Goodman, Trustee, District 2

Hendry County, 561-414-8737

Dr. John Huysman, Trustee, District 3

Ortona and Palmdale, 863-946-2911

Ladd Bass, Trustee, District 5

Venus and Hicoria, 863-441-2227

Lee Henderson, Trustee, District 6

Highlands Park, 863-633-9281

Angela Hodges, Trustee, District 9

Okeechobee, 863-801-3140

The Board's next meeting will be at 9 a.m. March 28 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

CEO Jeff Brewington

CFO Jennifer Manning

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

A Deep, Diverse History

While reviewing the proposed contents for this issue of Florida Currents, the cover shot brought a smile to my face. It is always good to see one of our innovative members at work.

But it wasn't just seeing Chad Rucks. The picture brought to mind the great diversity of our territory: dairy farms, cattle ranches, citrus, sugarcane, alligator farms—yes, at least two—sod farms, tree farms, fish farms, fish camps, Archbold—a world-famous research center—nurseries, watermelons, and many other fruits and vegetables. Our members are filling the dinner plates of Floridians and others across America.

Add to that diversity the fact we also have the honor to serve two Seminole reservations: Brighton and Big Cypress.

History is deep here.

We have built a diverse Board of Trustees to lead these many pioneers to success with their electric cooperative. Compared to the rest of the cooperative world, they are very young. Only two of them are retired from their original work, and those two remain active in local governments, neighborhoods and churches. The entire group brings to the table experience in government, manufacturing, transportation, construction, hospitality, customer service, finance, administration, ranching and farming. They've got you covered.

I wrote earlier of the territory itself. What's truly unique is the characters who choose to live and work here. It takes the salt of the earth to make it happen. I look forward to meeting some of you salty characters at the upcoming Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 23. Come on out and give thanks to our hardworking employees and your Trustees.



Jeff Brewington

**Your 74th Glades Electric Cooperative
Annual Meeting is Saturday, March 23,
at Moore Haven Middle-High School.
We hope to see you there!**

A Treatise on New Environmentalists

When Nancy Pelosi was sworn in as the Speaker of the House, she laid out her legislative agenda, stating, “We must face the existential threat of our time: climate change.”

She pledged to establish a House Select Committee on the climate crisis to focus on energy independence and global warming. The House Energy and Commerce Committee announced climate change will be the first issue it addresses this term.

New environmentalists, who are more liberal, are not satisfied with those initiatives, calling for much more ambitious policies, including an aggressive reduction in the use of fossil fuels or a national carbon tax to avert the catastrophic effects of climate change.

Possibly the best known and most effective environmentalist in history is Rachael Carson. She died of cancer in 1964. Her book, “Silent Spring,” was published in 1962, documenting the adverse environmental effects of the use of synthetic pesticides, especially DDT.

She concluded the use of DDT was devastating to bird populations. The book title referred to the absence of birdsong if DDT continued to be used. Her message was simple and understandable: DDT killed birds and should be discontinued. As a result of “Silent Spring,” DDT was banned in 1972, except for emergency purposes. Eagle and falcon populations have recovered remarkably, although the ban on DDT continues to be controversial

Commentary



By Gary Smith,
President and CEO



because of increasing levels of malaria in developing nations.

If you are over 40, you may remember another well-known environmental figure: Iron Eyes Cody, the crying Indian. Advertisements featuring him ran throughout the 1970s. The ad opens with an American Indian serenely paddling a birch bark canoe down a stream lined with trees. Trash starts floating past the Indian.

The picture pans out to a beach covered with bottles, wrappers and plastic containers. A background voice overlay begins, “Some people have a deep, abiding respect for the natural beauty that was once this country ... and now some people don’t.” At that moment, a car speeds by and a man throws a sack of fast food trash at the Indian’s feet. As the bag lands, it explodes and covers the Indian’s moccasins with french fries.

The camera moves to the face of Iron Eyes Cody. A single tear rolls slowly down his cheek. The voice overlay continues, “People start pollution ... people can stop it.”

It was an emotional ad that one everyone could easily understand. We inherited the most beautiful landscape in the world, and because some people are selfish, roads and

rivers are polluted and full of trash. We understood the problem and the solution. Pick up your trash. Don’t litter. Clean up your country.

Carson’s message was also simple: Birds over pesticides. It was effective. The EPA was formed in 1970 under the Nixon Administration because of her work.

New environmentalists exhibit no memory of Carson or her movement. As many as a million birds a year are killed in the U.S. by wind turbines. More than 100 golden eagles are killed each year at the Altamont Pass Wind Farm in California. Reportedly, as many as 18 million birds are killed each year by wind turbines in Spain. Wind farms are exempted from wildlife protection laws so wind energy can be produced to replace energy generated by fossil fuel.

New environmentalists argue more birds are killed by buildings, and many more are killed by climate change. All issues and movements must yield to the new environmentalists’ pursuit of the elimination of fossil fuels.

After the crying Indian ads ran, studies indicated litter pollution declined. Many of us focused on picking up after ourselves. But new

environmentalists have no time or energy for issues as simple as litter. They are too focused on the existential threat of climate change and the reduction in carbon emissions.

According to an NBC survey in 2018, raw garbage was strewn across 153 blocks in downtown San Francisco. Raw human feces were found on more than 100 of the blocks and discarded hypodermic needles on more than 40 blocks. An infectious disease specialist from UC Berkeley said the contamination was much greater than that in Brazil, Kenya or India.

In describing a neighborhood in the South Bronx, The New York Daily News said, “Needles are scattered on the ground like twigs and needles clumped under trees like piles of leaves. Needles are staked into a mud wall and floating in the pools of standing water.”

New environmentalists are so focused on carbon emission reductions they have no interest in addressing more serious environmental issues right in front of them.

Ms. Pelosi and the new environmentalists could learn a lot from Rachael Carson or Iron Eyes Cody. Perhaps those earlier environmentalists were touched by the better angels of their nature, to borrow a phrase from Abraham Lincoln. May we all be influenced by the best within us, in 2019 and beyond. ■

This article draws on issues raised in Tucker Carlson’s book, “Ship of Fools,” which contains a section on changes in the environmental movement.



Gulf Coast
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

www.gcec.com

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

John Bartley

TRUSTEES

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

71st Annual Meeting Is Around the Corner

Your ballot for the 2019 Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative annual meeting will arrive in your mailbox soon. The meeting is Saturday, April 27, at our Wewahitchka headquarters. Activities begin at 8 a.m. Central and end around 11 a.m.

At one time, a member had to attend the annual meeting to vote. Unfortunately, situations arose that made it impossible for some members to attend. To afford more GCEC members the opportunity to participate in the democratic process part of the annual meeting, members may vote by mail or online.

It is important that you participate in your cooperative. When your ballot arrives, we encourage you to vote in one of the following ways:

- **Internet.** Vote online at <https://gcec.coopballot.com>.

Follow the online instructions to place your vote on the secure website. Please make sure you have your voting PIN handy. That is on the paper ballot enclosed in your election packet.

- **Paper.** Vote via the U.S. Postal Service by completing the ballot in your packet and returning it in the postage-paid envelope included with election materials. Your ballot is mailed to a third party, which is conducting the voting process on behalf of the cooperative so we do not have access to completed ballots. We are unable to accept ballots hand-delivered to our offices.

In appreciation of your time, we will credit \$5 to your electric bill for participating. The cooperative also will work with the third party handling the election to randomly select 40 ballot PINs. These members will receive \$25 gift cards in the mail. We will randomly select 10 members to receive \$100 electric bill credits. These members need to visit one of our offices to redeem the credit.

The election will close 10 days before the annual meeting. We hope you will attend. We will have complimentary refreshments, children's activities and live music. Don't forget to bring the ticket enclosed in your voting packet so you can register to win the prizes given away at the meeting.

I encourage you to take part in the meeting. Each member has a voice in the operations of GCEC, and those voices need to be heard. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you.



Doug Birmingham

**Gulf Coast
Electric
Cooperative
offices will be
closed from
11 a.m. to
1 p.m. on
Friday, March 1.**



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

REPORT POWER OUTAGES

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

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

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

MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1
LEONARD CRAWLEY

District 2
KENNETH ODEN

District 3
BRUCE VICKERS
ASST SECRETARY/TREASURER

District 4
HOLLIS ALBRITTON

District 5
MAURICE HENDERSON

District 6
JOHN MARTIN

District 7
CHRIS PORTALE
PRESIDENT

District 8
ELLEN BACHMAN
SECRETARY/TREASURER

District 9
WILLIE DAWES
VICE PRESIDENT

BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE

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

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

March 26, 2019
April 23, 2019
May 21, 2019

FL 155

Don't Miss PRECO's Annual Membership Meeting

The Board of Directors and the employees of Peace River Electric Cooperative are busy preparing the Annual Membership Meeting for you, our invited guest.

PRECO is owned by the very people we serve with electric power. Our Annual Meeting is a once-a-year event where these member-owners can gather, enjoy a family-friendly atmosphere, learn more about the co-op and hear topics regarding issues that affect all members.

The day's events are all about you, providing an opportunity for you to meet PRECO's Board of Directors and many of the employees who serve you throughout the year. PRECO's Board, including three directors newly elected or affirmed at last month's district meetings, will be officially seated on this day. The cooperative business model puts members first by placing governance and oversight in the hands of your member-elected Board of Directors.

Registration officially begins at 10:00 a.m., so come on down and enjoy the fun and food before the

business meeting starts at 1:00 p.m. Free hotdogs, soft drinks, ice cream, kettle corn, funnel cakes and more are provided throughout the day. Activities and entertainment are available for all ages at various locations in PRECO's park. Special children's activities, including a climbing wall and an inflatable bounce house, will be on hand.



After the business meeting concludes, all registered members will be entered in a drawing for a large selection of door prizes. Be sure to bring your picture ID, such as a driver's license, to register for your chance to win!

We hope you can join us on Saturday, March 23rd at the cooperative's park in Wauchula. For more on Annual Meeting, see page 4 of this magazine.


Randy Shaw
PRECO CEO