CLEARWATER POWER CO.
"We Care"
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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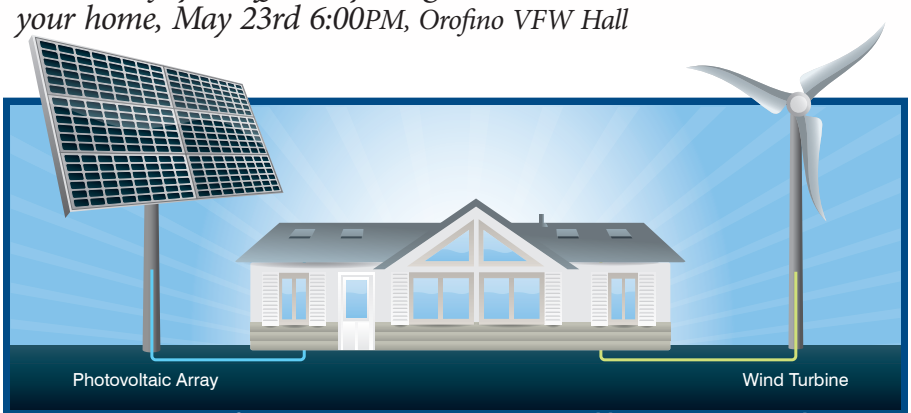
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Lorrie McCabe
Manager of Financial and Office Services
Douglas Pfaff
Manager of Engineering and Operations
Robert Pierce
Manager of Member Services
Reed Allen
Director of Member Services
Edwin Ausman
Director of Purchasing and Warehousing
Travis Bailey
Director of Information Systems
Joe Stockard
Director of Operations
Cynthia Tarola
Director of Accounting
Lance Wilson
Director of Engineering

Business Hours:
Monday - Thursday
7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Closed Fridays

ID-1

Net Metering Seminar

How to Safely & Efficiently Integrate Solar & Wind Generation at your home, May 23rd 6:00PM, Orofino VFW Hall



90-minute seminar focuses on connecting your own renewable generation to your home.

Interest in generating electricity at home via solar or wind has grown each year but there are many technical, regulatory & financial challenges. Getting started can be daunting. Clearwater Power is offering a free seminar to address common questions:

1. What is Net Metering?
2. How are metering and billing handled?
3. What is required to connect a generation project to the grid?
4. What is the value of the electricity I generate?
5. What can I expect to generate from my project?
6. What are the pros and cons of using batteries or a Tesla Power Wall?
7. Are there any tax incentives or funding sources in my area?

The seminar includes an overview of Clearwater Power's solar and wind generation & net-metering facility. We'll have plenty of time for Q&A following the seminar.

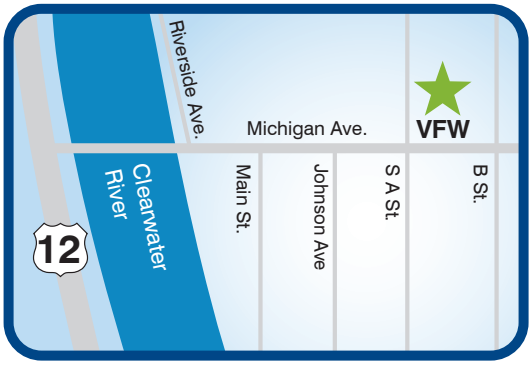
Renewable Generation & Net Metering Class

Thursday, May 23rd

6:00PM - 7:30PM

VFW Hall, 330 Michigan Avenue, Orofino, Idaho

FREE ADMISSION
COFFEE AND COOKIES



Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative

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

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

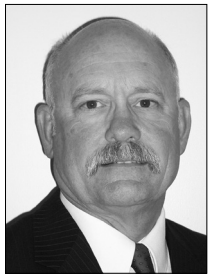
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Lori Anderson, Condon
Todd Lindsay, Sand Hollow
Stacie Ekstrom, Ione

Manager
Thomas Wolff, Heppner

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

OR-2

Spring Has Sprung—Be Safe When Outdoors



Members:

Spring has sprung! Finally, the foothills have taken a nice green color as the grass begins to grow. As the weather warms and you begin to get outside and start your spring chores, be sure to remember safety around power lines!

Whether it's flying kites or drones, digging out irrigation pipes and getting them strung and into use, or spraying fields using mobile units with long booms, do take that extra moment and think about power line safety. **LOOK UP!** Make a note of the location and height of your area's electric power lines.

Your local power provider, Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, wants all to be safe and sound when working around and under power lines. Think ahead and **LOOK UP!** before you begin an outdoor project.

Have a safe and productive spring after being cooped up all winter!

Best Regards,

Tommy Wolff
CEO/General Manager

NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PUD

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

Board of Directors
Connie Karp, President
Roger Howe, Vice President
Clay Smith, Secretary
Howard Gonser, Treasurer
Dan Williams, Director

Manager
Roger Kline

Board Meetings
Usually the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the PUD offices, 2345 River Rd. The public is always welcome.

Our Mission
To provide reliable, competitively-priced energy and related services that benefit our customers, in the tradition of public power.

Our Core Values and Beliefs
Local citizens championed and fought to create our People's Utility District. They believed—and we believe—in the public's right to own and control its electric utility.

Today, our values are a legacy from our public power heritage, as well as guideposts for a changing future.

We believe in:

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

Manager's Report



Current technology and new infrastructure

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for working hard to conserve energy over this very cold, and late winter season. Now that we're well into warmer weather, your PUD team is supporting all of your new construction projects, remodels, and doing our work to keep the power flowing safely and reliably.

We're busy working through our long list of reinvestment projects as well as some system expansion and growth work too. Maybe you'll notice them, maybe you won't, but know that they are all integral to keeping your electric service available when you need and want it.

One project that we're very excited about is the advanced meter infrastructure project. We are one of the last utilities in the region to update our systems to this current technology. We waited for the costs to come down and for the technology to become very mature. As a matter of fact, over 50 percent of all utilities across the nation have some version of advanced meter infrastructure in place now—electricity, water, natural-gas, and the like. More science-based facts can be found at www.nwascopud.org. Look at the top of the banner to find Advanced Meters. We have a very comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) section there, as well. We look forward to offering you more products and services once the systems are all in place.

On a different note, this is a great time of year to conduct an energy-audit to help identify the specific things we can do together to better manage your energy consumption (which directly affects the amount of your PUD bill). The audit is free.

These are just some of the actions your PUD is taking on your behalf. Help is just an office visit or a phone call away. Also remember, you can interact with your account 24 hours a day, 7 days a week online at www.nwascopud.org. Paying your bill this way, or through our automated telephone system has no service fee!

Roger Kline
General Manager

NESPELEM VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.

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

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

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District 6, Nespelem

Ron Heath
District 7, Disautel

Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

Electrical Safety Starts With You

Every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. None will last forever. When electricity is involved, failures present electrical hazards. In recognition of May being National Electrical Safety Month, Nespelem Valley Electric Cooperative recommends looking around your home and correcting any safety hazards.

Outdoor outlets or those in damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include ground-fault circuit interrupters. GFCIs are designed to sense abnormal current flow and break the circuit to prevent electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years. In areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button, then hitting the black reset button. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these signs, contact an electrician.

Power strips with surge protectors safeguard expensive electronic equipment from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules. Surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can absorb. If your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, replace it when it hits that limit because that is when surge protection stops. Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they have stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replace it.

Extension cords are designed for temporary use. If you regularly use extension cords to connect equipment to wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. Contact an electrician.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it is frayed, cracked or has heat-damaged insulation, replace it.

If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, it will not provide the protection intended. Always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the U.S., causing more than $1.3 billion in property damage.

Electricity is a necessity for modern living. NVEC is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to members. Please keep these electrical safety tips in mind, and address potential hazards before damage occurs.

NVEC offers electrical safety presentation to schools, clubs and other organizations. Contact member services to schedule a presentation for your organization. ■

CONSUMERS POWER INC.

MAILING ADDRESS

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

LOCAL OFFICES

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Philomath, OR 97370

1900 W Oak St.
Lebanon, OR 97355

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Kevin Christopher
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Roman Gillen
PRESIDENT/CEO

Scott Muller
TREASURER/CFO

www.cpi.coop

Mother's Day is May 12

President's Report

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at CPI we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment such as televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you are left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use. Avoid covering them with throw rugs or they can become overheated, creating a fire hazard.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and CPI is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all of our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so that you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs.

Dial 811

Building a deck? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? 811 is the number you should call before you begin any digging project.

People digging often make risky assumptions about whether they should have their utility lines marked.

Every digging job requires a call—even small projects such as planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines.

Calling 811 before every digging job gets your underground utility lines marked for free and helps prevent undesired consequences for you and your neighbors.

We want you to be safe as you enjoy the beauty of springtime in Oregon.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO

Benton REA

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, Prosser, WA 99350**

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

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Board Meetings, Agendas & Minutes

The board of trustees will meet May 8 and May 29 at 6 p.m. in the Prosser Office unless otherwise indicated on our website.

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.

General Manager

Michael J. Bradshaw

Management Staff

Derek Miller, Engineering Manager
Jeff Ekrut, Operations Manager
Steve Catlow, Manager of Finance and Administration
Jeff Bastow, Information Technology Manager
Troy Berglund, Member Services Manager
Terry Mundorf, General Counsel Attorney
Blodgett, Mickelsen & Adamson, Auditor

@BentonREA
@BentonREA

WA-7

42 Million Strong

Dear Members,

Benton REA is a member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), a national trade organization representing more than 900 electric cooperatives. You're not only a member of Benton REA, you're part of a 42-million-strong network of co-op members. We may seem like a small utility, but we are a powerful force when we work together.

NRECA serves electric co-ops and advocates for us in Washington, D.C. It researches emerging technologies and educates and trains co-op employees and trustees.

Electricity helped build rural America, and it can do the same for rural communities across the globe. NRECA International has brought electricity to more than 160 million people in 45 developing countries. Electricity has the power to improve education, health care, safety and economic opportunity. Benton REA financially supports NRECA International. If you would like to do the same, visit NRECAInternational.coop.

I was honored to witness retired Benton REA General Manager Chuck Dawsey receive NRECA's 2018 International Award on March 11 at the NRECA Annual Meeting. This honor is bestowed to individuals who serve with distinction the cause of international, cooperative rural electrification through NRECA. Chuck has worked with electric cooperatives in the Philippines, Ghana and Uganda. We are all proud of the work he's done to promote the electric cooperative business model around the world. You can read more about Chuck's award on page 25.

Taylor Smith, one of Benton REA's Youth Tour delegates, represented Washington state on the Youth Leadership Council at the NRECA Annual Meeting in Orlando. Organized by NRECA, the Youth Tour is a wonderful opportunity for the children of co-op members. Each year, one Youth Tour delegate from each state is selected for further leadership training through NRECA. Articles about Taylor's experience will be in future issues of Ruralite. We thank Taylor for her time and dedication in the Youth Tour.

NRECA's purpose is to power communities and empower employees to improve the quality of their lives. The resources Benton REA receives as a member of NRECA help us serve you, and ultimately fulfill our own mission of enhancing the quality of life for all of our members. You can learn more about NRECA by visiting Electric.coop.

Cooperatively,

Michael J. Bradshaw

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



UMATILLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Offices

Hermiston Office
750 W. Elm Ave.
541 567-6414

Boardman Office
400 N.E. Eldrige Drive
541 481-2220

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

Toll-Free
1-800-452-2273

Report An Outage
888-465-5701 day or night

Directors

President
Bryan Wolfe

Vice President
Jeff Wenholz

Secretary-Treasurer
Steve Platt

Lee Docken
Phil Hamm
John Otis
Glenn Rohde

General Manager
Robert Echenrode

Mission

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

umatillaelectric.com

A Look Back at a Productive Year

With the bright economic prospects of our communities, 2018 proved to be another eventful year for UEC, as outlined on pages 4-5 and 28-29 of this edition of *Ruralite*.

Led by the industrial sector, power sales rose 19 percent from the previous year, surpassing 2.5 billion kilowatt hours in 2018. Operating revenue rose to $128 million, up from $118 million the previous year.



Our members have invested billions of dollars in our local economy in the past few years. And in turn, our cities, counties, ports, schools and utilities are investing hundreds of millions more to meet the exciting needs of our growing communities.

Among our system improvements, three substations were finished in the past year to serve the industrial sector. We have three more substations in the works for our expanding irrigation and agricultural sector.

Our plans to construct a transmission line from McNary to Hermiston to address the residential and commercial needs in and around Umatilla, Hermiston and Stanfield will soon be realized. The project is out for bid and members may begin to see increased activity north of town.

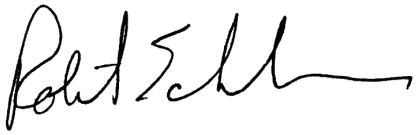
In all, over the next two years, $65 million in system upgrades are underway or planned to meet your energy needs, from Boardman to the Blue Mountains.

Looking ahead,

- We continue to work closely with PNGC, our power supplier, to identify and help Bonneville Power Administration manage costs. We are working to create the greatest value through our partnerships.
- The carbon tax, as proposed in the Oregon Legislature, has the potential to do great harm to our rural economy – impacting us by hundreds of millions of dollars. But we are working to help our local legislators to minimize the economic impacts on all of us.
- Sending each of our workers home safely each night and keeping our system safe for you will always be our utmost priority. Our employees, managers and your Board members have each signed a pledge to achieve zero accidents by looking out for and protecting one another. I am proud to report another year of no lost-time days for our employees.

Today, with more than 80 years of company history, it's easy to lose sight of what made UEC so valuable to the community in the very beginning.

It was the membership then, and it's the membership now, that reminds us of our essential mission, and shows us the way ahead. Thank you!



Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO

Wasco Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

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Ron Holmes ..... Vice President
Mathew Clausen..... Secretary
Jerry Duling ..... Treasurer
Stacy Eakin ..... Director
Robert Durham ..... Director
Robert Hammel..... Director
Jim McNamee ..... Director
DeOra Patton..... Director

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

Mission Statement

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

Electrical Safety Starts With You

Every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. None will last forever. When electricity is involved, failures present electrical hazards.

In recognition of May being National Electrical Safety Month, Wasco Electric Cooperative recommends looking around your home and correcting any safety hazards.

Outlets

Outdoor outlets or those in damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include ground-fault circuit interrupters. GFCIs are designed to sense abnormal current flow and break the circuit to prevent electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years. In areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button, then hitting the black reset button. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these signs, contact an electrician.

Surge Protectors

Power strips with surge protectors safeguard expensive electronic equipment from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules. Surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can absorb. If your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, replace it when it hits that limit because that is when surge protection stops.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they have stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replace it.

Extension Cords

Extension cords are designed for temporary use. If you regularly use extension cords to connect equipment to wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. Contact an electrician.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be under-sized for the intended use. If it is frayed, cracked or has heat-damaged insulation, replace it.

If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, it will not provide the protection intended. Always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the U.S., causing more than $1.3 billion in property damage.

Electricity is a necessity for modern living. Wasco Electric is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to members. Please keep these electrical safety tips in mind, and address potential hazards before damage occurs.

Owned By Those We Serve

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

• For Power Outages Call •
888-420-8826

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

General Manager
James K. Brooks

Office Manager/CFO
David Western

Superintendent
Todd Sherwood

Member Services
Todd C. Munsey

System Engineer
Jess Dory, PE

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

DOUGLAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

You Spoke, We Listened

Dear Member,



As we put the restoration work behind us from Snowmageddon 2019, we are getting back to making some of the positive changes we planned before the storm. For a while now, we have been getting feedback that our office hours make it extremely tough for working folks to conduct business with the cooperative. Since our office hours mirror most other businesses in the area, our members must either skip lunch or take time off work. On a number of occasions, I have run into a frustrated member in the parking lot at 5:15 pm, upset that they were too late to make a payment or other arrangements. With that in mind, we began to research ways to solve the problem by looking at some of our co-op peers in Oregon and around the Northwest.

Many have switched to 10-hour work days, typically closing the office on Fridays. Our outside crews have been working this schedule for years. It would allow the co-op to be open for an hour and a half longer each day, enabling members to visit the office either before or after their work day. In addition, many of our peers realize a cost savings by not rolling trucks or heating or cooling the office one day a week. Truly, we are not sure if we would see cost savings. For us it was more about convenience for you, the member.

Last year we did some polling to determine what our members preferred. Of those visiting the office, 50 percent preferred 4/10s over traditional work hours, 33 percent preferred traditional hours and 17 percent had no preference. So, we have listened and will try it for a while to determine if it is a long-term solution. Starting June 3, we will be open from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The office will be closed on Fridays.

Rest assured that if it has unintended consequences or if the membership as a whole is less satisfied, we will switch back. Also keep in mind you can always contact the cooperative for many services, 24 hours a day by calling 888-420-8826.

Best Regards,
James K. Brooks
General Manager

Columbia Power Co-op

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

DIRECTORS
President Paul Walton
Vice President Adam Temple
Sec./Treasurer Brian Campbell
Dan Cannon
Dave Humphreys
Dallas Newton
Judy Wilson

MANAGER
Troy Cox

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

POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

OR-11

Electrical Safety Starts With You

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Extension Cords

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If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it is frayed, cracked or has heat-damaged insulation, replace it.

If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, it will not provide the protection intended. Always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the U.S., causing more than $1.3 billion in property damage.

Electricity is a necessity for modern living. Columbia Power is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to members. Please keep these electrical safety tips in mind, and address potential hazards before damage occurs.

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

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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 NW 6th Street, Redmond, OR.

www.cec.coop

CEC Looks to 2019 and Beyond

At last month's 78th annual meeting, I highlighted Central Electric's chief accomplishments made possible by the board of directors' leadership and dedicated staff. But as I reminded the audience, the complexity of the issues we are confronted with is growing. Various external pressures challenge our efforts to keep rates low and reliability high.



Since 2009, the Bonneville Power Administration has enacted five rate increases. The sixth goes into effect October 1, with an estimated average increase of 2.9 percent for electricity and average 3.6 percent for transmission services. While CEC successfully kept its rates at current levels despite a BPA rate increase two years ago, we will likely need to increase member rates in January 2020.

On another front, House Bill 2020—Oregon's carbon cap-and-trade legislation—poses unintended fiscal consequences that would potentially expose Central Electric to millions of dollars in additional costs between the years 2021 and 2030. The bill calls for a reduction in carbon emissions in the electric, industrial and transportation sectors. Businesses in these sectors annually emitting above 25,000 metric tons of carbon-dioxide will receive carbon credits, which decrease each year, to assist with their costs of transitioning to a cleaner energy portfolio.

The credits a business receives are determined on carbon emissions over a three-year span: 2017, 2018 and 2019. Due to load growth, CEC will exceed the threshold in 2020—a full year before the law goes into effect, but after the distribution of the carbon credits. Ironically, CEC would not receive any carbon credits and would be subjected to financial penalties, despite having a 96 percent carbon-emission-free energy resource portfolio. But the two large investor-owned utilities in the state get a reprieve—enough credits to cover 10 years of carbon emissions, and they are only required to be 50 percent carbon free by 2040.

Recent efforts to educate our governor's staff and legislators regarding these inequities and to find a solution to minimize the financial impacts has gained traction. But your voice needs to be heard, too. I encourage you to visit www.cec.coop; click on the Community tab, and then ORECA-Action. There you can join your fellow CEC members and other Oregon electric co-ops members to share your concerns about this legislation with policymakers.

A long and challenging road lies ahead of us. But if the co-op's history is any indication, I am optimistic we will successfully meet these challenges and protect the interests of CEC and its members.



Dave Markham
President and CEO

Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Attorney—Tyler Pepple

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Corporate Services/CFO
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Engineering Manager
Matt Mjelde

Marketing and Member Services Manager
Jacob Knudsen

Operations Manager
Randy McDonald

Local numbers
Coquille..... 541-396-3118
Port Orford..... 541-332-3931
Gold Beach..... 541-247-6638
Brookings 541-469-2103

Area office hours 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday through Thursday.
Closed Friday.

After-Hours Outage Number
866-352-9044

Call Before You Dig
811

www.ccec.coop

When the Power Goes Out, Are You Ready?



Despite unusual cold weather and some snow this past winter, Coos-Curry Electric experienced a typical number of minor power outages. As you likely know, our electric utility neighbors to the east and northeast were not so fortunate. They experienced a once-in-100-years storm that wreaked havoc on their power systems. Days of heavy rain in late February were immediately followed by feet of wet, heavy snow, causing trees to crumple under the weight. A drive on Highway 38 between Reedsport and Drain will give you a firsthand look at the devastation. Power lines were smashed to the ground under the falling trees.

Within hours of the snowfall, Douglas Electric Cooperative lost power to all but a handful of its 10,000 members. It took staff a week working with county and other emergency crews just to open roads and assess the damage. The majority of Douglas members were without power not for hours or days, but for a week or more.

Mother Nature is the one unknown posing the greatest threat to the electric system. The unfortunate experience of our neighbors leaves me asking some probing questions. Has Coos-Curry Electric made adequate preparations to recover from a major storm or disaster? And, what would my family and I do if power was out at home for days or weeks?

As the new CEO at Coos-Curry Electric, I will be meeting with the management team to review our emergency and disaster response plan. We will take the opportunity to learn from our neighbors and identify ways to improve our plan. Preparation for the many possible disaster scenarios is not practical, but we can plan how we will respond, organize ourselves and our resources, call on outside assistance, and work with other agencies when Mother Nature unleashes her fury.

Likewise, I need to review with my family our emergency response plan at home. Be it an extended power outage, flooding, earthquake or fire, we need to think about and establish our immediate response and follow-up actions. We have done it in the past, but now that we are in a new community and environment, it is time to review and revise our plan. What about you and your family?

Human nature leads us to think "it will never happen to me." Let's learn from our neighbors, assume that some time "it" will happen to us and do the work to be prepared. With preparations in place, we can knock on wood our preparations are adequate, and enjoy the sunny days all the more.

Brent

Brent Bischoff
General Manager/CEO

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

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Nick Galaday
(Dist. 5 – Timber, Buxton)

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

GENERAL MANAGER
Bob Perry

Contact the board:
directors@westoregon.org

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

Manager's Message



This month, we continue our review of West Oregon Electric Cooperative's 75 years of service to our community with part two. I want to thank Scott Laird for his help in taking on this project. It's amazing the information he has been able to put together for this series.

Last month's cover photo was a reminder that we escaped what could have been a very disastrous winter storm event. Lane Electric Cooperative and Douglas Electric Cooperative will have storm repairs measured in the millions of dollars. Many members of these two cooperatives were without power for several weeks.

We were pleased to lend a hand when called upon. In WOEC's 75-year history, none of us know of the co-op ever sending out a crew—let alone two—in mutual aid to other utilities. Normally, it is WOEC calling for help.

In the five years I have been here, WOEC has experienced four FEMA-level events, two of which qualified for some level of federal assistance. It is not a matter of if, but when, this will happen again to WOEC members.

Take the time now to decide if you are prepared to be without electricity for two weeks or even a month. If not, you need to start making preparations now for such an event. It will happen. It's just a matter of when.

The Boy Scouts have a motto: "Be prepared." It was true when I was a scout, and it's just as true today.

Regards,

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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Dennis Reed, Line Superintendent

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Dennis Flynn, President
Valley Falls

Scott Warner, Vice President
Lakeview

Raymond Cloud, Secretary/Treasurer
New Pine Creek

Wesley Cook
Cedarville

Craig Joiner
Lookout

John Erquiaga
Lake City

Kyle Weber
Alturas

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

"Owned by those we serve"

CA-15

Electrical Safety Starts With You

Every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. None will last forever. When electricity is involved, failures present electrical hazards. In recognition of May being National Electrical Safety Month, Surprise Valley Electric recommends looking around your home and correcting any safety hazards.

Outdoor outlets or those in damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include ground-fault circuit interrupters. GFCIs are designed to sense abnormal current flow and break the circuit to prevent electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years. In areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button, then hitting the black reset button. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these signs, contact an electrician.

Power strips with surge protectors safeguard expensive electronic equipment from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules. Surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can absorb. If your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, replace it when it hits that limit because that is when surge protection stops. Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they have stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replace it.

Extension cords are designed for temporary use. If you regularly use extension cords to connect equipment to wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. Contact an electrician.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it is frayed, cracked or has heat-damaged insulation, replace it.

If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, it will not provide the protection intended. Always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the U.S., causing more than $1.3 billion in property damage.

Electricity is a necessity for modern living. SVE is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to members. Please keep these electrical safety tips in mind, and address potential hazards before damage occurs.

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

LANE ELECTRIC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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J. Ingrid Kessler, Vice President, Central District

Kathy Keable, Secretary, McKenzie District

Hugh Buermann, Treasurer, Row River District

Jack Billings, Central District

Jerry Shorey, Oakridge District

Chris Seubert, Central District

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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)

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You're Invited to District Meetings

Dear Co-op Community Members:

I am thrilled to write this message officially as your general manager. After 20 years at Lane Electric, beginning as controller in 1998 and then finance and administration manager from 2009 until now, this is exactly where I want to be. This is where my heart is.

I am honored to work alongside your board of directors on local, regional and national issues that affect our cooperative and you, our members. I am providing a seamless transition for the board and our dedicated employees, and look forward to leading our co-op into the future.

You know as much as I do that 2019 has been eventful! Just five weeks after the historic snowstorm and resulting widespread outages, a torrential downpour drenched the Willamette Valley, causing flooding, landslides and evacuation notices that affected many of you. This was a disaster preparedness reminder that came sooner than we all imagined one would.

I encourage you to read pages 4-5 in this issue to learn about the experience of Zechariah English, an employee who is also a Lane Electric member and was affected by both the snow and the flood. He also is our disaster preparedness advocate. Page 8 continues our snowstorm 2019 recap and includes answers to FAQs we received after the storm. Page 25 includes tips for safely using a generator.

For more information about disaster preparedness, I invite you to attend our upcoming district meetings. We are especially grateful to Lane County Emergency Manager Patence Winningham-Melcher, who will present disaster preparedness information at each meeting.



Also at our district meetings, you can meet with your directors, hear updates from your board president, legal counsel and me, and learn about the financial condition of the co-op. The meeting will include a question-and-answer session, dinner and door prizes. You should have received your voter's packet in the mail by now or will soon. You can mail your ballot or turn it in at a district meeting.

District Meeting Dates and Locations
Dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 2, Twin Oaks Elementary (Eugene)

Thursday, May 9, Westridge Elementary (Westfir)

Tuesday, May 14, Lowell High School Gymnasium

Thursday, May 16, Upper Mckenzie Community Center

Thursday, May 23, Dorena Grange

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting nearest you!

Sincerely,

Debi

Debi Wilson
General Manager

Find us on Facebook • follow us on twitter • YouTube

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
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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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections

Safety Is the Top Priority

Dear Members,

Safety is our top priority here at Blachly-Lane Electric Co-op and something we each take seriously each and every day. We know that working on and around high-voltage lines is dangerous and never to be taken lightly. We also know the consequences of having an electrical contact accident all too well because each of us has known someone or are familiar with the story of someone who has. That is why your board of directors, management and staff have put safety as our highest priority and one of our performance goals.



Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative staff with their safety award from the Northwest Public Power Association.

Two years ago, Blachly-Lane and several other Oregon co-ops engaged in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's national Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program. RESAP focuses on continuous improvement, and requires commitment from the top of the organization down to front-line employees. The program sets performance goals, evaluates key performance metrics, and includes peer inspection and evaluation from participating co-ops. Several of our employees, including me, have visited our neighboring co-ops to go through a multiday inspection and documentation of their safety programs and facilities' condition. At the end, the inspectors sit down with management and provide honest feedback and suggestions for improvement. Blachly-Lane will go through our second such inspection later this year. I expect we will demonstrate a vast improvement over our last inspection, in part because of the safety improvements made to our facilities in the past few of years.

Operations Manager Mary Locke, General Foreman Matt Smith and Line Foreman Ken Gast attended the Northwest Public Power Association Engineering and Operations Conference in April, where they received the first-place safety award on behalf of Blachly-Lane for electric utilities our size. This is a great accomplishment that took all our employees working together to achieve. We know that awards, while appreciated by our peers, are not nearly as important as knowing our employees go home each and every day injury free.

Join us in making safety your first priority in your own homes and places of work. Our communities and families count on each of us to protect ourselves and each other from danger.

Greg Gardner, General Manager

Klickitat PUD
Owned By Those It Serves

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800-548-8358

Your PUD Update

I mentioned in the February Ruralite that we have been active in Olympia this year. I have been asked what we are trying to achieve with these efforts.

So far, two bills we proposed have been passed and are slated for the governor's signature. The first bill will provide sales tax advantages for renewable natural gas sold in Washington state. The current rules give RNG a 3% tax advantage over natural gas if the RNG is used as a transportation fuel. The bill just passed will provide that same tax advantage for any use of RNG. Since RNG results in lower emissions than natural gas regardless of use, we argued successfully that the tax advantage should apply to all uses.

The second bill was created along with the Washington PUD Association and other member utilities. This bill requires the state Department of Natural Resources to work more closely with utilities to find ways to reduce the risk of wildfires by improving practices, rules and interactions with the DNR. In the past, it has felt that our relationship with the DNR was adversarial. This bill was put together to try and restore a working relationship with them. Utilities and the DNR are charged with providing services to the public. There should be no room for antagonistic behavior.

The bill passed unanimously through both the House and the Senate. It requires the DNR to create and participate in a task force of utility and firefighting experts to develop standard agreements for access, easements and vegetation management practices on DNR land. It also charged the department with developing procedures and work groups to find ways to reduce the risk of wildfires due to the interaction of power lines and vegetation.

I have been impressed by the commitment of current Lands Commissioner Hillary Franz and Chief Forester George Geisler. I think this bill will build opportunities for us to work together for the greater good of our customers and the state.

We also have been working with various associations to educate legislators and the governor on the costs, implications and tradeoffs of very strict carbon emission laws. My short summary for you is that we can achieve an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in Washington state relatively cheaply and quickly. However, 100% clean requirements will take many years and cost nearly 10 times what achieving an 80% reduction would cost. Given that Washington state is blessed with an incredible hydroelectric system and more than 70% of the power generated in the state is already carbon free, this seems like a large price to pay to be even cleaner than other states.

Don't take me wrong. Klickitat PUD has been in the renewable energy business for more than 20 years, and we believe environmental stewardship is important. However, there are many challenges we as a society face. In a world with limited funds, we should be prudent by not trying to go too far in some areas and potentially ignoring others.

Jim Smith
General Manager

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www.nli.coop
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Sagle, ID 83860

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866-665-4837

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208-263-5141

Outside Sandpoint:
800-326-9594

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Board Vice President
Kennon McClintock

Board Secretary/Treasurer
Judith Simonson

General Manager
Annie Terracciano

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Dist. No. 2—Judith Simonson, Noxon, MT
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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

Northern Lights 84th Annual Meeting



May is here, which means it's time for our annual tradition. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 11, 2019, the day of the Northern Lights' 84th annual meeting. The meeting will take place at the Panida Theater, 300 N. First Ave. in Sandpoint, Idaho. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the meeting kicks off at 10 a.m. PDT.

The annual meeting provides an opportunity for members to meet the board of directors and NLI employees, as well as being updated on the financial condition and future plans of the cooperative. There will be coffee and snacks for all to enjoy, and a variety of great door prizes, including two community solar units and a $250 energy credit. Each member who attends will also receive a $25 energy credit—limit one credit per membership.

This year, three districts are up for election. Those seats are held by Mike Dolan, District 1; Kennon McClintock, District 5; and Jim Woodward, District 7. All district incumbents were uncontested, so there will be no election. Each shall remain the director for his respective district.

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

I hope to see you there!

Annie Terracciano
General Manager

Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative

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

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Greencreek

Vice President Kim Dahler
Kooskia

Secretary-Treasurer Jim Poxleitner
Cottonwood

Frank McIntire
Kamiah

Gerald Frei
Grangeville

Greg Smith
Syringa

Ernie Robinson
White Bird

Attorney
J.A. Wright

General Manager
Max Beach

Capital Credits

At the March board meeting, your board of directors voted to retire more than $221,000 in capital credits. If you were a member in 1984, 1985 or 1986, you will see a credit for your portion on your June power bill.

Since the cooperative was formed in 1938, the board of directors has authorized the return of more than $3.4 million back to the members. Being a not-for-profit electric cooperative is what separates us from other forms of businesses. Any part of our member's investment in the cooperative that is above and beyond the cost of doing business is allocated back to members and retired over a period of time, usually 30 to 35 years, or when the cooperative is finanically able to do so.

Until retired, the capital credits are used to keep your power bill low. The cooperative uses these dollars to grow and replace the $25 million in plant (poles, transformers, wire, trucks, etc.) that is spread throughout 1,080 miles of power line. This supplements the amount we need to borrow for capital improvements.

Further, we will offer the early discounted capital credit program again this year. Information will come out in a few months discussing the option to receive your 2018 capital credits early. Nearly 25% of the membership has participated so far. If you are one of the 25% who participated last year, you won't need to do anything this year to continue with the program.

Competitively Priced Energy

Competitively priced does not mean the cheapest. It means we deliver a product to members at the lowest-possible cost it takes to serve the rural areas where you live and work.

ICL&P serves more than 4,000 meters across 1,080 miles of distribution line in two counties. The annual revenue generated from electric sales averages $5,300 per mile of line. The cost to serve a system averaging 3.7 members per mile is much different than the cost to serve a concentrated city load exceeding 40 customers per mile, with revenues in excess of $75,000 per mile of line.

In addition to the challenges of delivering low-cost power to a sparsely populated rural system, the rising costs of the power we buy from the Bonneville Power Administration continues to be a concern. Management spends considerable time negotiating BPA rate increases to keep our bills in check to ensure we spend your money in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Reliable Energy

Your cooperative continually works to deliver reliable service. Ideally, we would like to have the lights on 24/7. However, that is not a reality given the elements our power lines are exposed to. Thanks to an aggressive tree-trimming program, we have reduced the number of tree-related outages. The costs associated with this program are high, but the value of clear rights-of-way and reduced outages are beneficial to all. When our team is in your area to trim back vegetation, remember they are there to improve system reliability and need to trim back at least 10 feet from the power lines—maybe more, depending how fast the vegetation grows. This saves you money in the long run.

In addition to tree trimming, we continue to upgrade portions of the system by replacing aged poles and components, including the installation of animal guards.

Max Beach
General Manager

Columbia REA
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections

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

ColumbiaREA.coop

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Neil Carpenter, Vice President
Doug Logan, Secretary/Treasurer
Patrick Dennis, Director
Jay DeWitt, Director
Dennis Munden, Director
Vic Parks, Director
Glen Shipley, Director
Katie Woolridge, 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

Back Story



Two weeks ago Columbia REA held its 81st Annual Meeting. First off, a big thank you to College Place High School, our hosts again this year! And thank you to all 280 of you who attended. We hope you had some fun, and found the meeting to be informative and worthwhile. Dinner by Marty Bray and *A Chef's Creation* is always memorable, and was well worth the trip through the buffet line again this year.

Among the 134 members, 27 employees and many special guests with us that night, were three of our four scholarship winners for 2019, a very impressive quartet of local and regional high school seniors no doubt destined for great things. Columbia REA is proud to be a part of the next phase of their education, a worthwhile endeavor indeed.

Another worthy and necessary endeavor that took place at the meeting was the election of our new Directors. A total of seven candidates were up for election in our three voting districts, and here are the results:

2019 Board of Directors Election Results

	Votes	Percent
DISTRICT 1:		
Patrick Dennis	**478**	**72.9 %**
Todd Kelly	178	27.1
DISTRICT 2:		
Dennis Munden	**317**	**47.8**
Michael Scrimsher	184	27.8
Dan Dotta	162	24.4
DISTRICT 3:		
Jay DeWitt	**424**	**64.4**
Miriam Grant	234	35.6

Thank you to all of you who voted. Our new online voting option resulted in a record number of votes cast! And finally, thank you to all of our Director candidates who offered to lead our cooperative. Our members' willingness to participate in our leadership process is what makes Columbia REA special and successful…for 81 years and counting!

Best,

Scott Peters

MIDSTATE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

Departments
Member Service.....Option 3
Engineering.....Option 4
Marketing.....Option 5
Operations.....Option 6

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President
Leland Smith, Sunriver
Vice President
Alan Parks, Fort Rock
Secretary/Treasurer
Diana Cox, Christmas Valley
Vic Russell, Fall River
Robert Reed, La Pine
Gordon DeArmond, Crescent
Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist
Ken Wilson, Chemult
Bud Kendall, La Pine

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

STAFF
General Manager
Dave Schneider
Operations/Engineering Manager
Steve Hess
Marketing Manager
Teresa Lackey
CFO/Accounting Manager
Jami Bartunek
Information Services Manager
J.D. Powers
Attorney
Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

Most of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking, constantly checking phones and email to keep up with the demands of our lives. Thanks to technology, we can efficiently accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely.

With so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our spare time. Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide if our time and effort to attend is beneficial. The answer to the question "What's in it for me?" must be compelling.

You may think attending Midstate Electric Cooperative's annual meeting would be easy to lump into the "no benefit to me" category. I ask you to rethink that conclusion.

MEC exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our member/consumers. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a valuable perspective—and we invite you to share it with the co-op.

At the annual meeting, we will discuss challenges, the co-op's financial health and priorities for the coming years. The annual meeting is also the time to elect the board of directors who represent members of the co-op. Board members are local consumers, just like you.

MEC is one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. It is worth noting that the health of the co-op and the well-being of the community are closely intertwined.

Perhaps you believe you have nothing to add to the discussion so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that affect the reliability and affordability of your energy. We want to hear from you to better form our decisions as we plan for the future.

While MEC provides convenient electronic options for bill paying and communication, there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our small corner of the world.

Mark your calendar for the annual meeting Saturday, May 11, at La Pine High School. Doors open at 10 a.m. Whether you have never attended, it has been awhile or you frequently attend our annual meeting, please plan to stop by. Our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you! A barbecue, health fair, high-voltage safety demonstrations, bucket truck rides, displays and door prizes will be provided.

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

Dave Schneider
General Manager

RAFT RIVER ELECTRIC
Celebrating 80 Years of Service
#HydroFlowsHere

www.rrelectric.com

DIRECTORS
President Gary Jones
Vice President Dennis Poulsen
Secretary-Treasurer Larry Henson
John Campbell
Lindsey Manning
Krinn McCoy
Blaine Tanner

INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER
Chad Black

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Chad Black

Board meets the fourth Wednesday of each month

P.O. Box 617
Malta, ID 83342

To call Raft River
- Office hours 208-645-2211
- Toll free 800-342-7732

(After hours and outages)
- Pay-by-phone 844-244-1497

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

(After hours and outages)

Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

ID-24

A Successful 80th Annual Meeting

Thank you to everyone involved in making the Raft River Electric 80th annual meeting a success!

I would like to thank Raft River Jr/Sr High School for providing the facilities and staff to assist with meeting setup. The Raft River High School FCCLA club provided a delicious meal that was much appreciated.

I also want to thank the many vendors and local sponsors for donating the various and much-anticipated door prizes. A special thanks to the graphic design team from Bonnevile Power Administration who designed the 80th anniversary logo, and to Dick Stroh and Craig Hardin, both with BPA, for their knowledge and help with the information booths.

Members visited and learned about conservation, member services, engineering, operations and BPA's Hydro Flows Here campaign. Another thank you goes out to the American Legion Albion Post No. 124 for its service, not only at the annual meeting, but also to our country.

RREC employees did a great job making this year's annual meeting an enjoyable and informative experience. Our employees are some of the most committed people I know. We could not accomplish what we do without their support and dedication.

Thank you to Election Committee members for their time and hard work managing our larger-than-normal voter turnout. The members voted to elect the following board members for 2019: John Campbell, District 1, and incumbent Dennis Poulsen, District 3. Congratulations to them and a thank you for serving our cooperative and its members.

Last but not least, thanks to all of our great members who take an active role in being a part of this great cooperative. Let us never forget the work and sacrifices made by those who were instrumental, working together 80 years ago, laying the foundation to build the system that continues to provide our rural communities with electricity.

If you have any questions about your co-op, please contact me. As always, we must work together as we continue this journey to power our communities. History has proven that we are more powerful together!

Thank you,

Chad Black
Interim General Manager

BIG BEND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

P.O. Box 348
Ritzville, WA 99169

Ritzville office 659-1700
Toll free 866-844-2363
Pay by phone 844-255-3682
For after-hours emergencies
866-844-2363
www.bbec.org

TRUSTEES
President Dan Hille
Vice President Ken Story
Secretary John Harder
Treasurer Lyle Holt
Robert Clinesmith
Curtis Dahl
Stacy Kniveton
Lanny Hayes
Dennis Swinger Sr.

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO
Yvette Armstrong

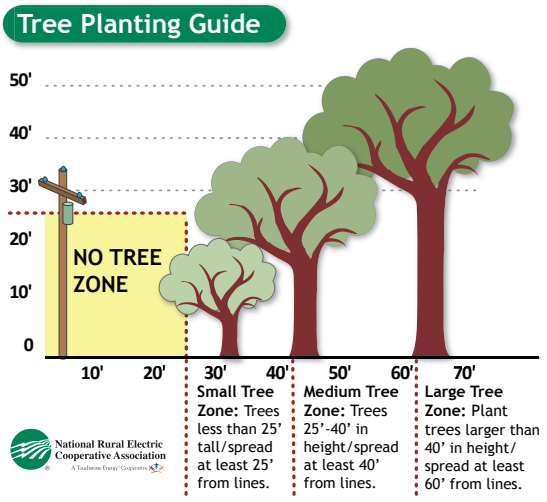
LEGAL COUNSEL
Mark DeWulf

WA-25

Be Mindful When Planting Trees

Most people recognize the importance of trees. They provide shade in the summer and help shield us from winter winds. Trees enhance the beauty of the landscape, provide a habitat for many animals and give children a wonderful place to play.

Trees also can create costly and dangerous situations when they come into contact with electric utility lines. Vegetation contacting lines is responsible for many outages and annoying blinks for our members.



Planting trees and bushes near power lines costs in multiple ways.

- **Money.** Big Bend Electric has spent more than $1.1 million the past three years to trim trees around lines. This money comes out of your pocket. Big Bend Electric is a not-for-profit company owned by our members. Any funds we receive in excess of our costs are returned to our members. The more money we spend to trim trees is potentially less profit being returned to you.
- **Safety hazard.** If a limb is in contact with a line and someone touches that tree or shrub, they could be seriously injured.
- **Reduced electric reliability.** Trees and limbs coming in contact with electrical lines cause outages and power blinks.
- **Fire hazard.** Limbs in contact with electrical lines can spark fires.

Hood River Electric Cooperative

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

541-354-1233
www.hrec.coop

www.facebook.com/HRECCoop/

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

General Manager
Libby Calnon

Serving rural Hood River County since 1945

Manager's Message



Dear Members,

Spring had a bit of a slow start this year in the valley, but temperatures have finally warmed and the fruit trees have blossomed. Below are a few items to note as we make our way toward a productive summer serving you.

Facility inspections. Warmer and drier weather allows us to perform detailed inspections of the poles, wires, transformers and related equipment that deliver electricity to you. These inspections help us identify weaknesses that could cause outages if not corrected. Each year, we inspect a portion of our service area and make a list of maintenance projects for our crew to complete. This proactive approach helps ensure your service is safe and reliable.

Tree trimming. Tree trimming is another proactive maintenance project. If you see trees growing into the power lines, please call us to report them. We appreciate your cooperation with tree trimming on your property. Trimming or removing trees before they cause outages helps keep our service affordable and reliable.

New substation and transmission line. We are excited about the progress being made on a proposed new substation and transmission line to be located in the Pine Grove area. This project has been considered for some time, and plans are being developed by both Hood River Electric Cooperative and the Bonneville Power Administration. Siting, design and construction are likely to take three to five years. The result will be an electric distribution system that is even more reliable and can accommodate future load growth in both Pine Grove and Odell.

Member survey. We wish to thank all of our members who completed our 2019 member survey. We will provide a summary of the results in next month's Ruralite and announce winners of the drawing for the five $100 bill credits. Your feedback will help your board of directors and staff finalize our strategic plan and goals for the next few years.

On behalf of everyone here at HREC, we wish you a safe and happy summer.

Libby Calnon
General Manager

Harney Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

277 Lottery Lane
Hines, OR 97738
541-573-2061
hec.burns@harneyelectric.org

Orovada, Nevada
775-272-3336
orovada.office@harneyelectric.org

www.harneyelectric.org

Find us on

Board of Directors
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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

Electrical Safety Starts With You

Every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. None will last forever. When electricity is involved, failures present electrical hazards.

In recognition of May being National Electrical Safety Month, Harney Electric Cooperative recommends looking around your home and correcting any safety hazards.

Outlets

Outdoor outlets or those in damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include ground-fault circuit interrupters. GFCIs are designed to sense abnormal current flow and break the circuit to prevent electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years. In areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button, then hitting the black reset button. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these signs, contact an electrician.

Surge Protectors

Power strips with surge protectors safeguard expensive electronic equipment from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules. Surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can absorb. If your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, replace it when it hits that limit because that is when surge protection stops.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they have stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replace it.

Extension Cords

Extension cords are designed for temporary use. If you regularly use extension cords to connect equipment to wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. Contact an electrician.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it is frayed, cracked or has heat-damaged insulation, replace it.

If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, it will not provide the protection intended. Always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the U.S., causing more than $1.3 billion in property damage.

Electricity is a necessity for modern living. Harney Electric is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to members. Please keep these electrical safety tips in mind, and address potential hazards before damage occurs.

Salmon River
Electric Cooperative, Inc.
SERVICE • ELECTRICITY • PROPANE

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 fourth Wednesday of each month
Email: energy@srec.org
Website: www.srec.org

SREC Safety Update


Ken Dizes

Your electric cooperative considers safety to be our business. We work to instill a culture of safety in our workplace and at each touchpoint with our employees, board, contractors, members and the general public. We don't want safety to be something else we do, but what we do day in and day out.

Each task performed by our employees is considered with safety being the overarching goal. Only then are things such as efficiency, economics, time, materials, equipment including personal protective equipment and methods factored in.

Oh, we have not perfected all this, but I assure you we work to improve on it each day.

Public safety is a priority. It is our duty to educate the public and members about the dangers of electricity. We are in the grade school each year educating students about electrical safety. It is amazing how attentive they are when our linemen give electric safety demonstrations. The students' keen and inquisitive minds are demonstrated with their good questions during presentations. I always enjoyed presenting.

I remember one time as a lineman responding to a kite in a power line. We arrived on the scene and a mother was there with her son. The mother said her son told her the kite caught in the power line with the string dangling to the ground was dangerous. He said she needed to contact the power company. I was one of the linemen who presented to this student. This experience was a testament to me of the importance of teaching our youth and their willingness to learn.

I can't finish my report to the membership without reminding you of some additional safety concerns. The overhead power lines we use to distribute electricity throughout our electric system are not insulated and can electrocute you if you come in contact or even get too close. We recommend you keep everything at least 10 feet from them. Tall items such as ladders, antennas and upended sprinkler pipes have the potential to get into the power lines. Trees that grow too near or into power lines can be life threatening.

Overhead power lines can be taken to the ground by many things, including lightning, high winds, extreme cold, fire, hardware failure or foreign objects, including automobiles. Downed power lines can still be energized. Stay clear and call the power company right away. Notify the utility if you see low-hanging lines.

Buried power lines are insulated, but can easily be dug into and cause electrocution. Call 811 to get an underground line locate before any digging.

Working on electrical equipment for the nonelectrician is dangerous. I recommend you leave that work to qualified electricians.

Your safety is our concern. Our goal is zero employee and public electric contact accidents and fatalities. Contact us if you are uncertain about electrical hazards around you and to find out more about safe working distances around electricity.

Ken Dizes
General Manager

United Electric
CO-OP INC.

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

General Manager
Jo Elg

Engineering and Operations
Trevor Parke

Line Superintendent
Kay Hill

Executive Assistant/Billing Specialist
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

Trade Your Troublesome Trees

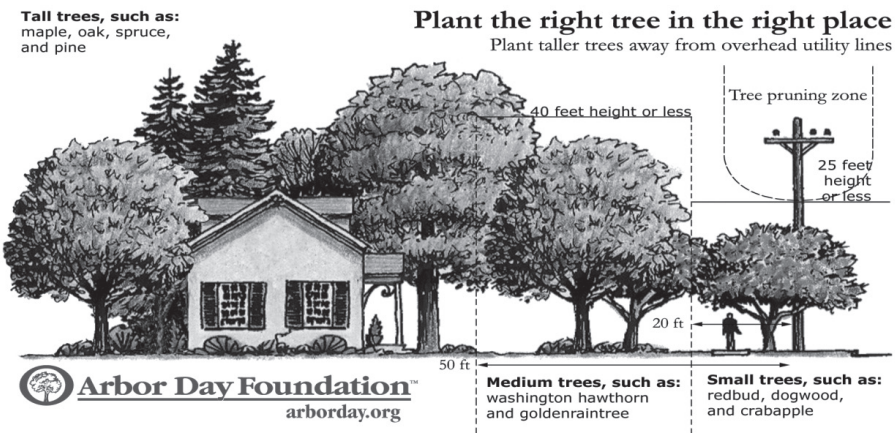
Few things are more inconvenient to you than a power outage, or more dangerous than a downed power line on your property. A leading cause of power bumps, power outages and downed lines is tree growth near the lines. The Trade-A-Tree Program was implemented to get to the root of the problem and prevent trees from growing into power lines.

The Trade-A-Tree Program is intended to encourage property owners to replace trees that threaten primary high-voltage lines. Trees in the secondary service line to the home are the responsibility of the property owner and are not eligible.

For every tree removed, United Electric will reimburse the member up to $50 to replace the tree. Sounds simple enough, but how does the program work?

1. You must provide written authorization to remove the tree.
2. The tree is cut to ground level and sprayed to prevent new growth.
3. Buy a new class 1 tree that meets program requirements from the business of your choice. Carefully consider where you plant the new tree.
4. Bring the receipt to the United Electric office and you will receive either a check or billing credit up to $50 to replace the tree.

At United Electric, we recognize the benefit of trees to the environment. They provide shade in the summer, a windbreak in winter, and ultimately help conserve energy and lower home energy costs. However, trees in or near primary high-voltage power lines can disrupt power service, decrease system reliability and pose a safety hazard.



Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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Fax: 208-588-3038
Email: office@lrecoop.com
www.lostriverelectriccoopinc.com

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Susan M. Harris
Vice President

Bret L. Zollinger
Secretary/Treasurer

Chad H. Angell
James D. McKelvey
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

LREC Welcomes New Director



Lost River Electric Cooperative welcomes Maddie Mocettini-Hansen as a new board director. Maddie was appointed in February by the LREC board to fill the vacancy in District 1.

Maddie was born and raised in Boise. She attended Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Oregon, where she played golf and softball. Maddie graduated with a bachelor's degree in marketing from Boise State University.

In 2013, Maddie moved to Moore with her husband, Jake, and their two wonderful girls.

"I enjoy participating in recreational activities that this valley has to offer," she says. "I enjoy the small-town lifestyle, the people and the communities."

Maddie's commitment to the local community is evident in her dedication in serving on multiple committees and associations. Lost River Electric directors and staff appreciate Maddie's insight and capabilities, and look forward to working with her as she serves the cooperative.

AK-34



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

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

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

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

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. Please follow the same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe.

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



2019 1959 Copper Valley ELECTRIC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Board of Directors
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Paul Kildal, Vice President
Dan Stowe, Secretary
Will Stark, Treasurer
Brad Honerlaw, 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

May

Annual Meeting: The CVEA Annual Meeting and 60th Birthday Celebration will be Tuesday, April 30, in the Copper Basin District and Thursday, May 2, in Valdez; registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6

CVEA Board Meeting: The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, May 16, 2019, in Valdez

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, May 27, 2019, for Memorial Day

June

CVEA Board Meeting: The June meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, June 20, 2019

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

Safety Is Our Top Priority



Dear Customers:
There is no doubt that safety plays a vital role in our lives. Whether it be in the community, workplace or at home, the implementation of safe practices and creating a safe environment is essential.

At Tillamook PUD, we make safety a top priority. We devote time and energy into making sure everyone is aware of how to stay safe. We regularly discuss safety and take the necessary steps to ensure safe methods are used.

Our staff receives frequent training. We are prepared to respond to a variety of situations, including traffic incidents consisting of wire down, or storm events with broken equipment. In every incident, we follow a systematic protocol for repairs and restoration: make safe, communicate, restore. Crews first survey the scene and make it safe. They communicate the situation with people, both on the scene and back at the command center, then work to restore power to the area. Safety always takes priority in the restoration process.

We value the safety of our customers and the community, and continue to look for opportunities to educate everyone on important safety considerations. We frequently discuss the dangers that could occur around electricity, and specific safety measures to help educate and protect everyone.

Helping our youth understand the importance of electrical safety is also significant to our safety mission. We visit schools and attend community events to present electrical safety demonstrations. We remind children to stay away from electric utility equipment, never climb trees near power lines and fly kites in wide open spaces away from power lines.

We also continually distribute information on how to prepare for and stay safe after storms and other natural disasters that could leave behind hidden electrical hazards, such as downed power lines and submerged electrical devices.

Each year, we dedicate May to electrical safety. This year, we invite you to join us every Friday afternoon at the PUD in May to view an electrical safety demonstration and learn more about electrical safety.

We are proud to provide safe and reliable electricity to our community. As we plan for the future, we will continue to provide our customers with the latest advice and technology to use electricity in safer and smarter ways. Let's all make safety a top priority.

Sincerely,

Todd Simmons
General Manager

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

Board of Directors

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Karl D. Ahgeak
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Lewis F. Brower
Josiah Patkotak
Richard Ungarook Sr.
Tina Wolgemuth

General Manager
Ben L. Frantz

BUECI is pleased to announce the 2019 Board of Directors

Title	Name	Term Expires
President	Price E. Brower, CCD, BLC, DGC	April 2020
Vice President	Roy M. Nageak Sr., CCD,BLC	April 2021
Secretary	Herman Ahsoak, CCD **(Newly Elected)**	April 2022
Treasurer	Don A. Nungasak, CCD **(Newly Elected)**	April 2022
Director	Karl Derek Ahgeak, CCD	April 2021
Director	Frederick F. Brower, CCD, BLC	April 2020
Director	Lewis F. Brower, CCD	April 2021
Director	Josiah B. Patkotak, CCD	April 2020
Director	Tina A. Wolgemuth **(Re-elected)**	April 2022

Thank you for your participation and congratulations to the board!

Golden Valley Electric Association

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Owned By Those We Serve

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Corporate Headquarters
758 Illinois Street
PO Box 71249
Fairbanks, AK 99707-1249

Hours: 8 am to 5 pm, M-F

907-452-1151
1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
Fax 907-458-6365

Delta Junction Office
1681 Richardson Hwy.

Hours: 8 am to 5 pm, M-F

907-452-1151
1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
Fax 907-895-5472

Nenana Office
7259 Parks Hwy.

Hours: 8 am to 5 pm, M-F

907-452-1151
1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
Fax 907-832-5438

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

View Outage Map:
gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!

YouTube BLOG

AK-37

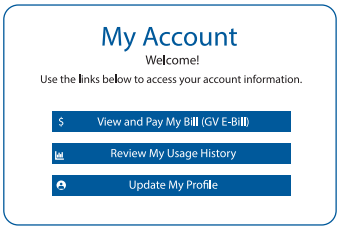
Check out

My Account

GVEA's new Member Portal

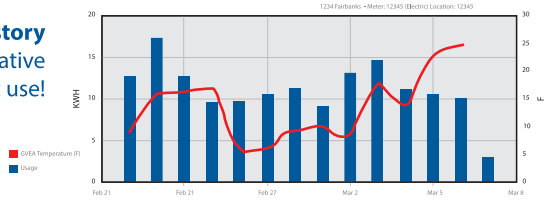
Take a minute to look around **My Account**. This is a single sign-on point that will give members access to their account information and a variety of useful resources.

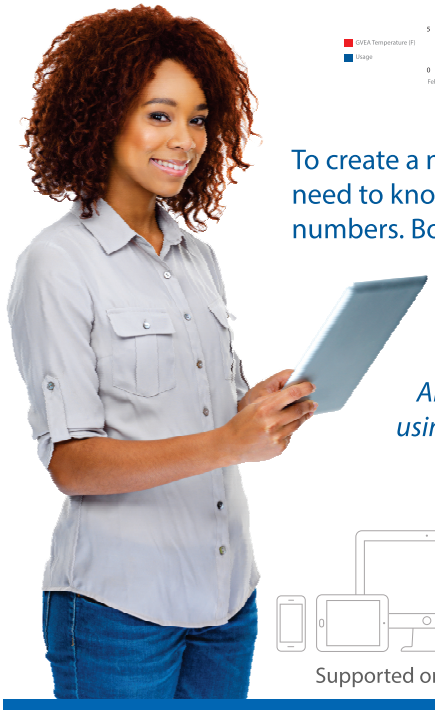
My Account home page



From the **My Account** home page, you can select what you'd like to view on your account.

Select **Review My Usage History** and you can view informative graphs of your electric use!





To create a new Member Portal account, you'll need to know your GVEA meter and account numbers. Both are listed on your GVEA bill.

Already using GV E-Bill? Simply sign in using your existing User ID and Password.



Supported on all devices

Golden Valley Electric Association

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Manager's Message

Continued from page 32

District 5 (Lake Davis-Long Valley-Washoe County areas) is served by David Hansen. The boundaries of each district are on the PSREC website if you would like to check on which one you live in.

See page 28 for qualifications and nomination information for the board of directors.

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

Look Up and Live

As irrigation season approaches, it is a great time to remind members to look up and live. Whether cutting trees, working with irrigation pipe or moving any long objects, make sure you look up for power lines.

Telecommunications

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

With plans offering download speeds of 20Mbps or more, depending on location, multiple-device households finally can stop fighting over bandwidth.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 800-555-2207 ext. 6076, or email me at bmarshall@psrec.coop.

Sincerely,



Bob Marshall
General Manager

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 2, 3, 4 & 5

Chicago at the West End Theatre. 541 Main St., Quincy. 7 to 9 p.m.
For more information, call 530-283-1956.

May 4

Quincy Rotary Annual Golf Tournament. Plumas Pines Golf Course. 402 Poplar Valley Rd., Graeagle. Registration begins at 10 a.m. with shotgun start at 11 a.m. Fee is $100 and includes golf cart, lunch, and awards hor d'oeuvres.
For more information, call 530-283-0800 x11.

May 5

Cinco de Mayo. Graeagle Fire Hall. 7620 Highway 89. Doors open at 5 p.m. Buffet style meal will be served. Tickets are $25 per person.
For more information, call 530-836-0446 or email jpolson@plumasruralservices.org.

May 10

Portola Pre-school Cooperative Barn Quilt Painting. Tickets are $40 each.
For more information, call 530-832-4401.

May 11

Annual Cancer Awareness Walk. Downieville School. 130 School St., Downieville. Lunch, raffle and educational information included. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
For more information, call 530-289-3473.

Lassen Land & Trails Trust Paiute Meadows Trail Run. There are three races; 4.5- mile course, 50K course and half marathon course.
For more information, call 530-257-3252 or visit www.lassenlandandtrailstrust.org.

May 12

Mother's Day Brunch. Monticola Club. 140 South Lassen St., Susanville. First seating is 9 to 10:30 a.m. and second seating is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is $20 each.
For more information, call 530-251-3685.

May 25

Opening Day Celebration of the Kentucky Mine Museum. Noon to 4 p.m. Free concert.
For more information, call 530-862-1310.

May 30

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia Workshop. Plumas Sierra County Fairgrounds. 204 Fairgrounds Rd., Quincy. Mineral Building. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The new program explains the basics of Alzheimer's and dementia.
For more information, call 530-895-9661 or email kadcock@alz.org.

June 1

Downieville Motorcycle Rally. St. Charles Place. 203 Main St., 6 p.m.
For more information, call 925-382-7067.

June 8

Lassen Land & Trails Trust Farmer's Market. Historic Uptown Susanville, North Gay Street. 8 a.m. to noon every Saturday through September 14th.
For more information, visit www.lassenlandandtrailstrust.org.

June 15

Tour de Manure. Cycle the meadows and historic ranching communities in the Sierra Valley. Registration opens at 7 a.m. Start time between 8 and 9 a.m. Sierraville Firehouse, 102 E. Main St. Proceeds benefit Sierraville Volunteer Fire and Rescue.
For more information, visit www.tourdemanure.org.

Mile High 100. Almanor Recreation and Park District. 101 Meadowbrook Loop, Chester. 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is not a race but a collection of tours for cyclists of all abilities.
For more information, call 530-258-2562 or visit www.milehigh100.com.

June 30

Summerfest. White Sulphur Springs Ranch. 2200 Highway 89, Clio. 4 p.m. Concert fundraiser sponsored by the Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council (MVSC). Tickets are $55 for adults and $15 for kids 12 and under.
For more information, call 530-386-5973 or visit www.whitesulphurspringsranch.com.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President
Fred Nelson, *Clio*
fnelson@psrec.coop

Vice President
Dick Short, Graeagle
dshort@psrec.coop

Secretary/Treasurer
David Hansen, *Doyle*
dhansen@psrec.coop

Larry Price, *Quincy*
lprice@psrec.coop

Dave Roberti, Sierra Valley
droberti@psrec.coop

Tom Hammond, *Herlong*
thammond@psrec.coop

Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager
Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop

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

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

CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

The electric utility industry in California is rapidly changing due to legislation and wildfire impacts. Given the last two horrific fire years, the California Legislature and the California Public Utilities Commission have been busy adding additional requirements for all electric utilities in California. Sometimes, and for some utilities, these regulations make great sense. In other cases, they add significant costs with marginal benefits, especially to utilities that have been working hard to maintain and operate a safe electrical grid.

Your board of directors and management team strives to operate the cooperative in the most efficient, cost-effective manner possible, but the costs to operate the cooperative are increasing due to these changes in regulatory requirements and continued tree mortality. As a result, the board is considering a mid-year rate increase.

It has been five years since the last increase of 3.7 percent. The wet winter this year has allowed us to delay the proposed increase to the middle of 2019. However, we will not be able to count on another wet winter, and we must plan for normal years. In addition, even though we have received the benefit of increased hydropower this year, other power costs have increased, offsetting our wet-year savings. Members have indicated to us at past rate meetings they would prefer to see multiple smaller increases rather than one large cost increase.

We will host meetings May 7 and 8 to discuss the proposed rate increase and Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative's Wildfire Mitigation Plan. The meeting on Tuesday, May 7, is at 6 p.m. at the Milford Community Center. The meeting on Wednesday, May 8, is at 6 p.m. at the PSREC headquarters in Portola. We encourage you to attend one of these member-only meetings if you would like to learn more and provide input on PSREC's Wildfire Mitigation Plan and the proposed rate increase.

At this time, the proposed rate increase would affect only the facilities charge and would be implemented in two parts. The first increase, if approved, would take effect July 1 and be an additional $4.32 for residential members. The second increase, if approved, would take effect January 1, 2020, and be an additional $2.67 for residential members.

As much as possible, we try to operate on a cost-of-service basis, meaning each member pays the costs associated with providing service to their property, and each rate class should have roughly the same rate of return. Our cooperative's costs do not change much with use. Up to 70 percent of our costs are fixed, including the cost of operating the utility and the fixed portion of our power plants. We are collecting only a portion of our fixed costs through facilities charges. We also try to get the cost of service as close as possible to actual costs when looking at all electric homes versus homes that use primarily propane, or seasonal versus full-time residents. For these reasons, the proposed rate increase will be to the facilities charge so we can collect more of our fixed costs through the fixed fees.

We will have more information on residential, small commercial and irrigation rates at the meetings. Please join us May 7 or May 8 to learn more and provide your input.

Director Elections

This year, Districts 2 and 5 are up for election. District 2 (Graeagle-Mohawk areas) is served by Dick Short.

Continues on page 25

MT. WHEELER POWER

1600 Great Basin Blvd.
Ely, NV 89301

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

Emergency Contacts

Ely Office
775-289-8981

Eureka Office
775-237-5693

Outside Ely / Eureka Area
800-97-POWER

Board of Directors

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

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

Summer office hours start May 6. The Ely office will be open Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 5:30 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



Annual Meeting

Bills Due & Summer Office Hours Start

Mother's Day



Board Meeting

Closed for Memorial Day

For more important dates, visit

mwpower.net/content/community-calendar

Wells Rural Electric Company

Board of Directors
F. Scott Egbert
President

Gerald Anderson
Vice President

M Jonathan Dahl
Secretary/Treasurer

Kirk Dahl
Orlin Kidner
Ouida Madison
Fred Montes de Oca
Lois Nannini
Jim Whited
Bruce Widmer
Bob Wilcox

Director Emeritus
D. Vernon Dalton

website:
www.wrec.coop

Outage Hotline:
800-566-6696
24 hours a day

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

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

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

Visions of the Future



The vision a handful of leaders put in motion 61 years ago makes your life more enjoyable, safer and more convenient to this day. Wells Rural Electric Company's original Board of Directors took an enormous leap of faith when they decided to unite our communities through the creation of a rural electric cooperative to bring safe, reliable, clean and affordable electricity to you, our members.

One example of how far into the future those leaders looked is the decision to contract with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for a long-term wholesale power supply. Senate Bill 358 is making its way through the Nevada Legislature at this very moment. If enacted, this bill will require every provider of electricity in Nevada to produce 50% of its electricity from renewable resources by 2030. Because WREC's wholesale power supply is primarily produced by hydropower, the electricity you use every day is already 84% renewable and 96% carbon-free.

Because of another long-term vision, your Board members have lobbied the Nevada Legislature for years to count hydropower as renewable. The investment of both time and money in helping elected officials understand hydropower, rural issues, local control, electric cooperatives and cost-based rates has persuaded members of the Legislature to include hydropower as a renewable resource in this mandate. As a result, your electric cooperative will be exceeding what will be a distant goal for other electric utilities, as it has for decades.

Your current Board of Directors and management team are looking far into the future as well. On Thursday evening, April 11, WREC announced an investment in the future of your cooperative. More than 50 people were present and about a dozen watched on facebook live as WREC presented plans for construction of a new operations center.

With your support, your locally-elected Board thoughtfully invests the money you entrust to them. These investments include building and maintaining the power lines that reliably deliver electricity and technology that allows you to conduct business with your cooperative at your convenience. WREC also invests in energy-efficiency improvements in your homes and businesses and in the equipment and training your employees need to serve you efficiently and affordably.

This is the perfect time to invest in a new operations center that will not only meet current needs but enable your electric cooperative to provide the excellent service you've come to expect well into the future. Interest rates are low, and WREC's financial health is rock-solid. Subject to any new developments, WREC does not expect BPA to increase wholesale power costs in October. WREC has controlled its cost over the past five years. As a result, we do not foresee a need for a rate increase for the next two years, even with the investment in a new building.

We are excited to share this important step in the growth of your electric cooperative with you. Renderings of the proposed operations center appear on pages four and five inside this magazine. Video of the announcement ceremony, additional drawings and frequently asked questions are available on www.wrec.coop.

As design and construction move forward, developments will be shared with you at community organization and local government meetings, as well as through social media, our website and coming editions of Ruralite magazine.

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer

Valley Electric Association, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

NV-42

LIGHTNING FAST
Internet Service
Valley Communications Association
A Valley Electric Company
valleycom.com

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1 Peter Gazsy	**DISTRICT 2** David Hall
DISTRICT 3 Rick Johnson	**DISTRICT 4** Kathleen Keyes
DISTRICT 5 Kenneth Derschan	**DISTRICT 6** David Dawson

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

AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY
We are here 24 hours a day,
seven days a week for your
emergency needs.
(775) 727-5312
Website: www.vea.coop
Email: wmc@vea.coop

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Clearing the Air



I came to Valley Electric Association two months ago as the interim Chief Executive of Valley Electric Association with a promise to open the books and open the doors to members. I remain committed to those goals. Please check out our website to see the documents that have been posted that speak to our openness and transparency: http://vea.coop

A group of members have submitted a petition with the goal of replacing existing Board members with new ones. I have always believed that peaceful protest is the American way. Members have an absolute right to present their facts.

Ken Johnson, a former VEA executive, and his wife are leading a group that is attempting to remove all the VEA board members from every district, even though nearly all of the signers are from the two Pahrump districts. The bylaws, however, require Board members be elected – and recalled – from voters in the districts they represent. The Johnsons' petition also calls for a special meeting.

The intent of their effort is clear enough, and no one here at VEA has a problem with that. However, VEA's bylaws are in place for a reason, and the petitioners have made mistakes in crafting their petition and in their reading of the bylaws governing such a meeting.

While we remain open to the concerns of all our members, the bylaws exist for the Cooperative and the members.

Further, I would like to point out that the only VEA Board member who has faced re-election during the recall campaign was re-elected with 75% of the vote against a very well respected, highly decorated retired Army officer. That is a strong indication of the feelings of some of our members regarding the Board and its actions.

Meantime, as interim CEO, I am working every day to determine how we can address members' concerns.

The bylaws are the bylaws, and the process for removal of Board members straightforward. The petition and the resulting requests from the Johnsons are in conflict with the VEA bylaws, which were put in place by members many years ago.

Additionally, there have been repeated references to former CEO Angela Evans' arrest and the assertion that the rate increase was necessitated by use of ratepayer money to pay for a "cover-up." In an attempt to clear up the circumstances surrounding Ms. Evans issues, VEA retained an independent law firm to investigate. The report concluded that no laws were broken. The allegation that "hush money" was involved is a glaring mistake, and there is ample evidence it is simply untrue.

No embezzlement occurred.

A forensic review was conducted of the Valley Electric Association, and the results of that have been made public. Our annual audit – completed only a few weeks ago – made similar findings: There was no misappropriation of members' dollars. The most recent audit also is on the VEA website.

Everyone at Valley Electric Association are committed to fair, open and honest dealings with our members. We ask that others be accurate and fair in their public statements.

Until next month,

Dick Peck
Interim Chief Executive

Dick Peck was named Chief Executive of Valley Electric Association March 4, 2019. His 47-year career in public power has included 24 years as a CEO of rural utilities in the West and four years of consulting in South America and Southeast Asia.

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.

KittitasPUD
Serving Kittitas County since 1937



Kittitas PUD is looking for an additional freelance writer to share local stories in Ruralite magazine.

Freepik.com photo by rawpixel

Storyteller Wanted

Kittitas PUD is searching for an additional freelance writer to supply feature articles and images for its edition of Ruralite magazine.

Feature stories should focus on local residents, events or history, and should be approximately 900 words and include supporting photos that help illustrate the story. Knowledge of AP Style and previous feature-writing experience is helpful, but not required.

The PUD's new freelancer will be required to meet deadlines and must be willing to follow up if the edition's editor requests additional details or images. Articles will be published every other month. Submit writing and photography samples, along with a brief introduction, to Ruralite Assistant Editor brandonp@ruralite.org. Type "Kittitas PUD Freelance" in the subject line.

Successful applicants should be able to:

- Find interesting local stories involving people, events and history.
- Interview and report with accurate quotes.
- Provide high-quality photos shot from varying angles and distances.

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
Report Outages at
866-430-4265

Find us on
Facebook.com/OTECoop

Follow us at twitter.com/
OTECoop (@OTECoop)

Officers/Directors:

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

David Baum, Union County
Aletha Bonebrake, Baker County
Robert Cargill, Harney County
George Galloway, Union County
Greg Howard, Union County
Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, CEO

Ron Williams, Attorney

May is National Electrical Safety Month

National Electrical Safety Month can take on many different meanings. At Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, safety is the priority for our employees and the public. We focus on safety both at work and at home.

Our lineworkers are in hazardous circumstances daily. In fact, line work ranks in the top 10 most dangerous professions. We work to protect the public from our electric infrastructure, but weather or extreme circumstances could lead to potential danger if members find themselves near downed power lines.

In next month's issue of Ruralite, you will see an example of work we've done with our community and industry partners to help improve awareness and communicate the dangers of downed power lines.

OTEC participates in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, a national electric cooperative program that lays out a comprehensive framework to support and manage safety. The program leverages the cooperative network to establish best practices throughout the country.



Safety measures continue to evolve, from personal protection equipment to safety practices. OTEC's involvement in RESAP is another way your cooperative keeps the safety of its employees and the public at the top of its priorities.

Part of keeping safety at the forefront is not only practicing safety at work, but taking safe practices home as well. This includes using ear and eye protection while working in the yard or shop, using ladders safely and being aware of hazards around you.

Life can turn on a dime and circumstances can change quickly. It pays to be cautious, both at work and at home.

Les Penning
CEO



Downed power lines are extremely dangerous. If you see downed lines, keep yourself and others away, and alert OTEC.
Photo by ungvar/Adobe istock



Member-owned since 1921

Ohop Mutual Light Co.

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

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

General Manager
Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

Smooth Sailing
at Ohop Mutual Light Co.

Hello Members,
With the busy days of summer just around the corner, I would like to take this opportunity to remind our customers of the programs offered by your cooperative to help your life run smoothly.

Budget Billing
Take the guesswork out of your monthly electric bill. Ohop Mutual can figure a flat monthly budget for you based on your 12-month use history.

Recurring Payments
Tired of calling in monthly to make your payment by credit card? Ohop Mutual can set up your account to automatically charge your credit card. You will continue to receive a monthly statement showing how much is charged to your credit card.

EBill
Want the ease of checking your bill or making a payment 24 hours a day? Sign up for our EBill Program. In addition to being able to make payments quickly from your computer, tablet or smartphone, members can view their power bills and payment history.

Interactive Voice Response
With interactive voice response, you can check your account balance and make a payment with Visa, Mastercard or electronic check 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by phone. Call 888-477-8085 to begin using IVR. Please note, to use IVR you must have a current phone number or PIN on file. If you do not have a PIN, please call our office.

Metering Loan Program
Our metering loan program assists members who want to add a transfer panel, or upgrade, replace or repair an existing meter base or weatherhead. If you have a system that needs maintenance, please call our office to check on the availability of this program.

If you are interested in any of these programs, please call our office. We are happy to assist you.

Ken Klotz
General Manager

TANNER ELECTRIC
Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

Chief Executive Officer
Steven Walter

Chief Financial Officer
Rob Carr

Operations Manager
Nick Himebauch

Executive Assistant
Lisa Peabody

Board of Directors
President Ed Stephenson
Vice President Kendel Lyman
Treasurer Mike Hodge
Secretary Susan Serrette-Egan
Roger Guay
Jeff Gillette
Paul Bay
Dutch Siedentopf

An electric utility owned by those we serve in:

North Bend
Ames Lake
Anderson Island

Tanner Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer

No Ballot Required for 2019 Director Elections

TEC Members,

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

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

No ballot is required this year because there is no incumbent from North Bend, and the directors from Anderson Island and Ames Lake are running unopposed.

Directors appointed for three-year terms are Ed Stephenson Anderson Island; Roger Guay, Ames Lake; and Steve Nicholes, North Bend.

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

Don't forget, one lucky member at each meeting will win a 65-inch 4K television.

Parkland Light & Water Company

Owned By
Those We Serve

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

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Gary Hauenstein - President
Gary Grazzini - Vice President
Janet Detering - Secretary
Elaine Walter - Treasurer

GENERAL MANAGER
Susan Cutrell

Incorporated in 1914—
The country's oldest
mutual cooperative

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

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

WA-52

Notice of Board Vacancy

Are you interested on serving as a Parkland Light & Water Co. trustee? Interested member-owners are invited to submit a letter of interest and resume to:

Parkland Light & Water Co.
Attn: Susan Cutrell
PO Box 44426
Tacoma, WA 98448

Submissions must be received by May 15, 2019. Interviews will be conducted with selected candidates. The successful candidate will be appointed by the board.

PL&W Articles of Incorporation:

Article V. Section 3.

A vacancy in the board of trustees shall be filled by the remaining members of the Board, who shall appoint a member of the Corporation as trustee to serve until the next annual meeting, at which time a trustee shall be elected by a majority vote of all members present and voting, to serve during the unexpired term.



CLATSKANIE
PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT
Owned by the People We Serve

495 E. Columbia River Highway
PO BOX 216
Clatskanie, Oregon 97016
(503) 728-2163 Office
www.clatskaniepud.com

Office Hours: 7 am to 5:30 pm
Monday - Thursday
Closed Friday - Sunday

Please call to report outages
(503) 728-2163

Automated Secure Payment Center
1-844-262-2431

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Bob Wiggins, President
Linda A. Hooper, Vice President
Merle Gillespie, Secretary
Stephen D. Petersen, Treasurer
Don Hooper, Director

GENERAL MANAGER
Marc Farmer

CPUD $10 Bill Credit Drawing
Account #7006500
If this is your account number, please call the office to claim your prize. Congratulations!

Community Calendar

May 1: Port of Columbia County Candidate Forum - 6 pm at 103 W C Street, Rainier. Hosted by Rainier & Clatskanie Chambers

May 2: Clatskanie Chamber Meeting 7:30 am at Colvins

May 9: Rainier Chamber Meeting Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

May 15: Clatskanie PUD Board Meeting - Workshop at 5:30 pm, followed by regular board meeting at 7 pm.

May 16: Clatskanie Community Job Fair: 9 am to Noon at the CPUD Community Room

May 27: Memorial Day - CPUD office closed

OR-60



Many of you probably remember the television show called MythBusters. I decided to use this month's back page to address a few myths that I continue to hear from time to time from customers.

Myth #1: The rates are higher because of the building.

The building was paid for mostly with cash, in fact 60% of the costs were paid with cash out of the District's reserve account. The other 40% utilized our line of credit initially, which was then paid back by bonds issued in 2014. Those bonds are twenty year bonds. In essence the bonds, and therefore the building, will be paid off in 2034. This process was done for two purposes. One is to greatly reduce the monthly cost that would be placed in rates over the next 20 years, thus the actual impact on rates is very minimal. The second reason is so the building would not be 100% paid for by current customers, but instead the costs would be spread out long term to be paid by future customers who would also be benefiting from the facilities. This is a more equitable sharing of costs and benefits by both current and future customers.

Myth #2: Rates are higher because of the Ruralite magazine.

The Ruralite magazine, which is the main way we use to communicate directly with our customers each month, costs less than if we developed and sent out a monthly first class letter to each customer. The costs are kept low through the sales of advertising in the magazine and the fact that 24 of the pages costs are shared by all the subscribers throughout the U.S. with all the utilities that use Ruralite. This is what drives the costs per magazine to such a minimal amount per customer per month. The impact to budget and rates is therefore inconsequential. With 77% of our customers from our recent survey responding that they read it, there is not a more cost effective and efficient way we could communicate monthly with our customers.

Myth #3: Staff receives either free or discounted power.

I can unequivocally state that this is simply not a true assumption. Every staff member pays the same rates as all of our customers. There are no discounts given to staff or the Board of Directors.

Myth #4: There is a bowling alley and swimming pool in the new facility.

I first want to note that my improved bowing average has nothing to do with this myth, but is simply because my wife gave me a bowling ball for Christmas so I go bowling more often. I can assure you there is no bowling alley or swimming pool in the Clatskanie PUD facility.

Have a great spring everyone. Stay safe - don't forget to call 811 before you dig!

Marc Farmer
General Manager

KOTZEBUE
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

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

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

May is Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at Kotzebue Electric, we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include ground-fault circuit interrupter features. GFCIs are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment such as televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. When the limit is reached, protection stops and you are left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. Always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use. Avoid covering them with throw rugs. They can overheat, creating a fire hazard.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and KEA is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all of our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs.

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Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.
4831 Eagle Street
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-561-1818
800-478-1818

/AlaskaVillage



A Message from Meera

Many of you will remember that a few years ago AVEC offered an energy audit for businesses in our communities. Now there is another opportunity through the Alaska Energy Authority.

Through a grant from USDA, AEA is currently offering grants to commercial building and fishing vessel owners to pay for 75% the cost of an energy audit. Reimbursement rates for the audit cost are set based on the square footage of the facility. The funding expires in June so building/vessel owners who want a map for energy savings need to take advantage of this opportunity before **May 15**.

Small, for-profit businesses are eligible, including Native village corporations, electric coops, and commercial fishers. Buildings/vessels must be used for commercial purpose. The non-propulsion systems of fishing vessels (e.g. refrigeration, lighting, etc.) are eligible for audit under the program.

USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) energy efficiency improvements grants, which covers 25% of energy efficiency upgrades (from $1,500 to $250,000), require a qualified energy audit to be eligible for participation. Although the Energy Audit grant funding is ending soon, these REAP grants are available continuously, with application deadlines typically at the end of October and the beginning of May. The qualified energy audits may be used in the REAP application as long as there have not been any significant changes in the building/vessel since the audit was performed.

Please don't delay! Every day you wait to implement efficiency is a day you are unnecessarily spending on wasted energy, and the first step toward becoming more efficient is a building energy audit. AEA can help you with that. Sign up today, spots are limited.

You can find more information about this opportunity on AEA's website:www.akenergyauthority.org/efficiency/commercialaudit.

Meera Kohler
President and CEO

LASSEN
MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

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

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

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

CA-106



Garrett Prater was the 2015 scholarship recipient.

Scholarships Available

Calling all high school seniors and returning college students! LMUD is accepting applications for the 2019 LMUD Community Scholarship. Visit www.lmud.org, and download the application or stop by our office at 65 S. Roop St.

The deadline to submit your application has been extended to Tuesday, May 15.

NV-107

Lincoln County Power District No. 1

201 Bullionville Road
Panaca, Nevada 89042

Phone: 775-728-8200
Toll free: 888-649-3814

Email: lcpd.@lcpd1.com

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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.

Getting Caught Up



I want to thank you—our customers—for your patience as we completed the move of our administrative office from Caselton to Panaca. We are now fully up and running at the new location, and we have noticed a dramatic increase in foot traffic at the new office, which confirms we picked a good, convenient location.

I also want to thank the roughly 160 members who toured the new buildings during our open house. They were treated to a high-voltage safety demonstration, a pole-testing demonstration and a demonstration of the control system we use to operate the electric grid in Lincoln County. Members were also able to learn about our online bill pay options, enjoy snacks and have a chance to win prizes. Congratulations to Suzanne Reifsnyder, the winner of our grand prize, a 65-ounce Yeti cooler.

During these busy months, I neglected to congratulate the high school students who the power district selected to attend the Youth Leadership Conference this summer. This program is a weeklong event that teaches students leadership, communication and time-management skills. The Utah Rural Electric Association hosts the event each summer at Snow College in Ephraim, Utah. UREA brings in great speakers who motivate and challenge attendees to excel at whatever life path they pursue. This year's attendees are Isbiel Riera, who will serve as the youth leader, Cody Hatch and Makayla Minick from Pahranagat Valley High School; and Kylie Truman, Sadie Soderborg and McGarren Segler from Lincoln County High School.

At the power district, we believe it is important to help Lincoln County's youth reach their full potential. They are our future leaders. We try to help this up-and-coming generation in many ways, including sponsoring students to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. and offering college scholarships and summer jobs to high school seniors. Our employees frequently reinforce our commitment to youth, serving after work hours as rodeo team leaders, Boy Scout leaders, church youth group leaders and Little League coaches.

In this edition of Ruralite, we highlight four employees who volunteer their time as assistant coaches at the high school level. Dell O'Connor, Dane Bradfield, Steve Lucchesi and Eric Bernal spend countless hours each year giving back to the community by helping the athletes at Lincoln County High School.

Lastly, I want to note that we have added a part-time assistant. Kris Shoup from Caliente has joined the power district and will be assisting in the office and performing janitorial care of the new buildings. If you call and Kris happens to pick up, be patient as she learns the ropes of our billing and customer service systems.

David Luttrell, General Manager

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

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Case in Point



My middle-school-age daughter is studying government, and it's been a bit humbling. She is a smart girl, and I've looked at her homework. It is apparent she knows more about the Founding Fathers and our Constitution than I do—which is hard to admit, as I lived in Washington, D.C., for two decades.

There is one thing I can teach her that would even make the Founding Fathers proud: The right of citizens to petition their government is alive and well, and I get to see it firsthand.

The time I get to spend with my members in the halls of Congress and the Oregon State Capitol is one of the great perks of the job. This month, I am in Washington, D.C., with 25 Oregon co-op leaders. This trip comes on the heels of the extremely successful Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Day in Salem in mid-March.

Through these meetings, one thing has been abundantly clear: These folks really know how to lobby. They have excellent relationships with their legislators—or are building these relationships—and they know the importance of being politically active. Moreover, they are enthusiastic about electric co-ops and the communities they serve, and this comes through in their meetings with legislators.

I think this type of dialogue between ordinary citizens and their elected officials is exactly what our Founding Fathers envisioned when they set up this government more than 230 years ago. But if you want to know where this is addressed in our Constitution, you'll have to ask my daughter.

Ted Case
Executive Director

Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc.

www.MarlboroElectric.coop

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

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

Lessons for a Lifetime



It's funny how your memory works. Some things you can't remember to save your life: Your first trip to the beach, what you ate for supper last night, your wife's birthday (just kidding, honey). But some memories, no matter how many days pass by, will always feel like yesterday.

A few buddies and I are practically running down Marlboro Street. Elementary school is out and there is one thing on our mind: an orangeade from Bair Drug Store. Orangeade is like lemonade, but with oranges—freshly squeezed and delicious! We take a shortcut down the alley and enter the drug store through the back door. After ordering a few orangeades and a couple Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, we lay claim to one of the wooden booths and enjoy our spoils.

Looking back, I realize the best part of going to Bair wasn't the delicious orangeades and Reese's. It wasn't the twirling comic book stand filled with the latest comics. It was my mom. See, my mom was the bookkeeper at Bair. When my friends and I came running in after school, we could always see her eyes brighten. She was always happy to see her son and I was always happy to see her.

My mom, like many, devoted her life to instilling values in her children in hopes we would become the best adults we could possibly be. Below are a few lessons she taught us through her words and actions.

- Be nice to people. My mom tried to be nice to everyone. It sounds simple, until it's not. Throughout your life, people will make you angry. People will do you wrong. People will not be nice. Be nice to them anyway. This world has enough people who are not nice to each other. There is no need to add to it. It costs nothing to be nice to someone, so why not do it? Trust me. You will never regret it.
- "Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14
- Speak to everyone. My mom never met a stranger. It is all too easy for us to overlook others because we are more concerned with our own affairs. If we can look past ourselves for one moment, we may end up changing someone's day just by the kind words we choose to speak to them.
- Help people that are in need. Growing up, my mom would help anyone who needed it, even if that meant sacrificing herself. She had a huge heart and it showed. Give freely to those in need. Always remember that no one has ever become poor by giving.

This Mother's Day marks the second one without my mother. She passed away in February 2018. I have missed her every day since. It comforts me to know she is in heaven looking down on me. I hope it comforts her to know the lessons she taught me will stick with me until I see her again.

JAMES GRANT
Trustee



Willie Wiredhand is the longtime mascot and spokesplug of electric cooperatives around the country. He was adopted in 1951 by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.
Here's your task: Willie is hidden somewhere in every issue of Currents. See if you can find this friendly face among the news and stories as you read!

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Steven Silkotch

General Manager
Kevin Short

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 29—Director candidate petitions due
- July 27—Annual Membership Meeting

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

May and June
Congratulations!

- Betsy Hansen..... 2 years
- Scott Wallace..... 2 years

Easy Money

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

33694-001

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

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A Message from the Manager

Done Too Soon



Kevin Short

In 1970, legendary singer/songwriter Neil Diamond released a song that was a delightful romp through most of our last 2,000 years of history. The lyrics name 25 historical figures, pulled seemingly at random from our shared past, and then went on to explain why these famous—and some infamous—individuals should be sung about in American pop music.

The tune was called "Done Too Soon." It was a celebration of life in and of itself, but with a caveat: As Diamond explained in the lyrics, each of the names was a person of significance who died too early in their lives. His story was that these individuals would have gone on to further greatness had their lives continued just a few more years.

These days, I'm reminded of this song every time I receive news of the passing of a friend, regardless of age or circumstance. Such was the case when I learned of the passing of one of our own, Board Director Joel Carlisle.

During the last decade of his service to our cooperative, Joel became a good friend. He was always interested in promoting the well-being of our community and took an active part in his role as a director of Anza Electric. We often traveled together to our state's and nation's capitols, meeting with elected representatives to discuss our local needs and how they could be best served by smart legislation.

During numerous trips, our conversation frequently turned to our personal histories. I learned that prior to Joel's career in firefighting, he was a commercial pilot and flight instructor. This was exciting for me, since I had briefly followed the same path. We swapped stories of all the craziness that can result in teaching others to fly—mostly funny, with a small amount of the wisdom that "any landing you can walk away from is a good one." Quite a few of these stories were embellished by hearing them at my favorite Irish pub in Washington, D.C., over a pint or two. The telling got better as the evening went on.

As a cooperative director, Joel was engaged and informed, never backing away from a subject even if he was not an expert. He constantly sought continuing education, especially the learning that comes from the industry experts employed by his cooperative. As he often stated, "You guys have the knowledge. The board needs to listen to you."

I can't help but think that Joel was done too soon. His support for our mission was unwavering and continued throughout his time with us. He exemplified what it is to be an elected representative of member interests in the greatest business model ever created. He will be sorely missed.

Clear skies, Joel!

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.

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Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative Inc.

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www.dvec.org

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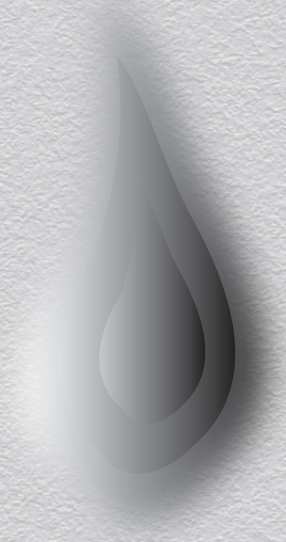
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Steven Lunt
CEO

BOARD MEETINGS
May 20
June 17
July 15

Generally the third Monday of the month

Owned By Those We Serve—Incorporated June 1947

Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections



Be Safe Around Natural Gas

Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative reminds you to call your local gas provider if you smell natural gas in or around your home or business.

Natural gas is orderless, so the gas supplier adds a chemical called mercaptan. This chemical has an odor similar to rotten eggs.

A gas leak could be dangerous. If the odor is strong in your home or business, remember to observe these safety tips:

- Do not light matches.
- Do not turn lights on or off.
- Do not use the telephone.
- Notify everyone in the home or building, if possible.
- Call the gas company from a nearby home or business. Duncan Valley Electric's number is (928) 359-2503.
- Do not re-enter the building until the gas company has informed you it is safe. ■

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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:
800-668-8079

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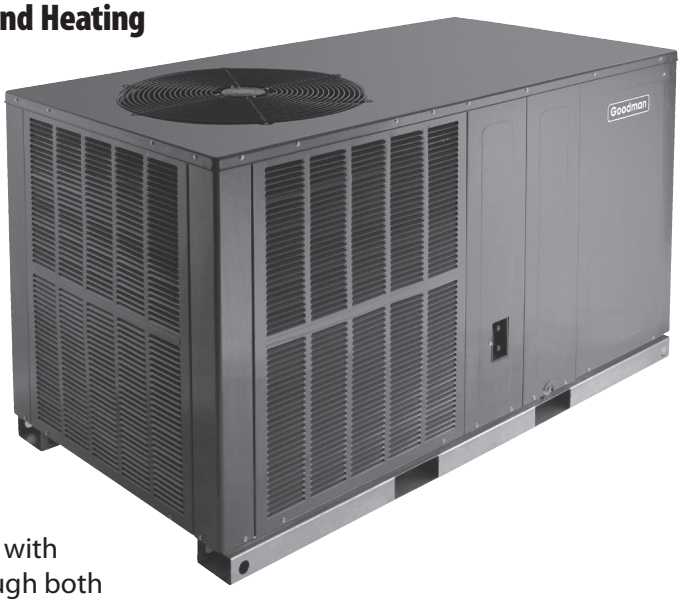
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ED2 is a full-service electric utility serving the greater Casa Grande Valley of Pinal County—including in and around the cities of Coolidge, Florence and Casa Grande—since 1923.

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

a division of Electrical District No. 2

(520) 836-4820 or (520) 723-8566

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The power of human connections

Manager's Message

Conveniences of Life



With today's busy lifestyles, we sometimes take for granted the conveniences in life. Socioeconomic studies have directly correlated the availability of reliable, safe and affordable utilities with economic prosperity. We have come to expect that when we flip on the light switch, lights come on. When we open the valve on our water faucets, we expect water to start flowing. When we turn up our thermostat on a cold winter day, we expect that natural gas to flow into our heating system to warm our homes.

Do we really think about what it takes to deliver these modern conveniences of life? Graham County Electric and Graham County Utilities have more than a thousand miles of energized electric lines, natural gas pipelines and water lines, but the most important asset cooperatives have is our people.

On March 18, the nation recognized our gas and water crew with National Gas Worker Appreciation Day. On April 8 we recognized lineman with Lineman Appreciation Day. The week of April 22 through April 28 we recognized Line Locator Safety Awareness Week along with our meter department personnel. On April 24, we recognized Administrative Professionals Day.

We celebrated these days to recognize the dedicated employees of Graham County Electric and Graham County Utilities for their hard work, their dedication to serving the membership and for their individual expertise associated with their positions.

We have a diverse group of employees who bring skills and expertise to their positions at the cooperatives. Our dispatch personnel and line crews provide 24/7/365 response to outages and emergency situations. Our meter department provides 24/7/365 assistance with line locates, meter connect and disconnect functions. Our administrative personnel provide information services, customer assistance and outage communications to our membership.

The next time you see or have contact with cooperative employees, I encourage you to simply tell them "thank you" for all they do to make our lives better.

The board of directors of Graham County Electric and Graham County Utilities thanks the employees for their work and dedication to providing safe, reliable and efficient resources to our members and communities. I would like to thank each and every cooperative employee for their contribution in fulfilling our mission statement, which states, "We are committed to provide safe, reliable and efficient resources to enhance the lives of our members and the communities we serve."

—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.

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to 5605 NE Elam Young Pkwy., Hillsboro, OR 97124.

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EREC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Manager's Message

It's Electrical Safety Month



Clay R. Campbell

Although we celebrate National Electrical Safety Month in May, we really need to focus on electrical safety every month of the year.

Cooperatives across the nation promote member education about how electricity works and how to prevent electrical accidents. Cooperatives consider it part of our responsibility to our community to make sure people of all ages respect electricity and know how to be careful around it.

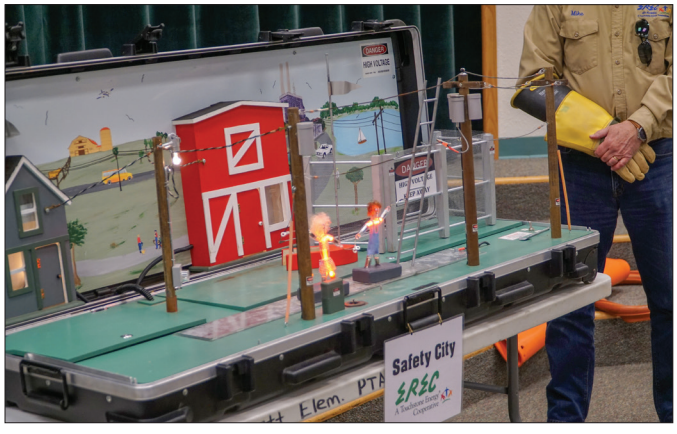
Like many co-ops across the nation, Escambia River Electric Cooperative conducts safety presentations at schools using a live demonstration called Safety City. This program shows how electricity travels through wires, and what happens when a kite hits a power line or a ladder comes in contact with electricity.

Each month, we provide safety information in this publication, offering tips and reminders about how to stay safe around electricity and other dangers.

Electrical safety also is a priority for line crews, who encounter dangerous situations every day. EREC provides safety-training sessions to help lineworkers do their jobs while keeping safety top of mind. All employees must perform their jobs according to safety standards. We want to be sure every employee goes home at the end of the day as healthy and whole as they came to work that morning.

Safety is a priority for our members and our employees. We hope you will make it a priority for your family as well.

EREC is dedicated to educating and caring for members, employees and our community during National Electrical Safety Month in May and every month of the year. ■



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Restoring Hope, Rebuilding Community 12

The Sonder Project shifts its focus to help with Hurricane Michael recovery.

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FKEC NEWS

APRIL 2019 www.FKEC.com

FLORIDA KEYS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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District 1, Key Largo, Secretary

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District 1, Key Largo

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District 2, Tavernier

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District 3, Islamorada

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MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

To learn about current programs and services being offered by FKEC visit www.FKEC.com, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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



CEO Scott Newberry concludes his presentation by highlighting how FKEC achieved our highest reliability to date in 2018.

SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

On Saturday, April 6, we held our 78th Florida Keys Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day.

We were happy to welcome 493 registered members along with their families to enjoy our informative booths, live line safety demonstration and a free lunch. FKEC's Chef Eddie Dudley and his crew not only served delicious pulled pork, but also fresh fried mahi-mahi.

At 1 p.m. in the Coral Shores Performing Arts Center, FKEC Board President Dr. James Boilini called the meeting to order. After introducing the Co-op Board of Directors, Dr. Boilini recognized the work of the Charitable Trust Board

Following the introductions, Secretary Mike Puto and Treasurer Cale Smith presented their reports, and I had the opportunity to share some highlights from our work in 2018.

While last year I did an in depth presentation that described our successful recovery from Hurricane Irma, this year I focussed on the financial impact of the storm and the steps we've made to recover those costs through our FEMA claims. I also highlighted our plans for three FEMA mitigation projects which will reinforce poles in our water crossings, relocate poles at Sea Oats Beach, and upgrade guy-supported poles to stronger self-supporting poles.

In 2018, we also replaced the insulators on all transmission poles in Marathon as part of our permanent repair projects. Moving forward we have plans to continue replacing the transmission insulators up to Islamorada — which like the project in Marathon may be FEMA reimbursable.

Despite the cost of storm recovery, FKEC is financially sound, and our rates remain lower than the Florida co-op average. In 2018 our average rate for the first 1,000 kWh was $107 compared to the average of $124 for cooperative electric utilities in Florida.

To conclude, I had the pleasure of



FKEC's Will Heaton, Kendall Pinder, and Sean McMahon meet and mingle with FKEC members.



FKEC welcomed guest speaker Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell.

reporting that FKEC achieved our highest reliability to date in 2018. With a mere 31.2 minutes out on average per member, we are back to 99.994% reliability only a year after impact from Hurricane Irma. For your reference, the national average of minutes out is 167.6, and the state is higher at 207.1.

Such high reliability can only be achieved through the combination of foresight and planning, as well as hard work and persistence.

Guest Speaker

Following my report, Dr. Boilini welcomed our guest speaker Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell to the stage. Powell was impressed by how many involved members FKEC had in attendance, and talked about her work to support Everglades restoration, our unique Florida Keys environment, and her initiatives in healthcare.

We always appreciate when our elected officials take time to attend our meeting and address you, our member-consumers and the people they are elected to represent.

Continued on page 6



FKEC's Lisa Baxter welcomes her daughter-in-law and her granddaughter to their first annual meeting.



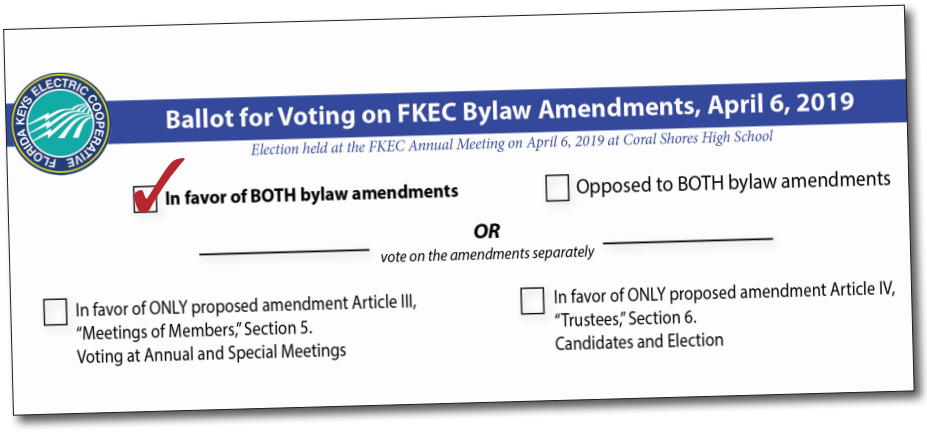
FKEC's "Chef" Eddie Dudley and his team serve delicious pulled pork and fresh fried fish.



FKEC's Mike Roberts talks with members as they visit the company's informative booths.



Alberto Gonzalez-Novoa with Van Philpot gives a thumbs up — it was another successful, well-attended meeting.



Ballot for Voting on FKEC Bylaw Amendments, April 6, 2019

Election held at the FKEC Annual Meeting on April 6, 2019 at Coral Shores High School

☑ In favor of BOTH bylaw amendments ☐ Opposed to BOTH bylaw amendments

OR

vote on the amendments separately

☐ In favor of ONLY proposed amendment Article III, "Meetings of Members," Section 5. Voting at Annual and Special Meetings

☐ In favor of ONLY proposed amendment Article IV, "Trustees," Section 6. Candidates and Election

Bylaw Amendment Vote

At this year's meeting, members were also asked to vote on an amendment to our bylaws. The FKEC Board of Directors proposed changes to our bylaws to expand the ways members can vote in district elections. As announced at the meeting, the bylaw amendments passed with 384 votes for the bylaw changes and 12 against. Now, future voting in district elections may be done in person as well as by mail or electronic means at the board's discretion.



Coral Shores students gave out hot dogs provided by FKEC.



FKEC's Robert Lovell demonstrates the dangers of trees in power lines using FKEC's Live Line Safety Demonstration.



After Dr. James Boilini announced he was stepping down as FKEC Board President the audience stood to applaud his five years of dedicated leadership.



Dr. Boilini accepts a gold hard hat and certificate of appreciation for his service as FKEC Board President.

Boilini Steps Down as Board President

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Boilini announced that he is stepping down as president of the board; however, he will continue to serve as a director for District 1, Key Largo. The board paid tribute to his five years as president with Director David Ritz noting the many accomplishments FKEC has achieved during the doctor's leadership. Boilini then accepted a gold hard hat with the moniker "Da Prez" written on it, and a certificate of appreciation. With sentiment in his voice and tears in his eyes, he thanked the audience for their standing ovation and finished by thanking his fellow board members and the co-op staff for their outstanding work and support during his presidency.

Immediately after the Annual Members Meeting, the board held their Organizational Meeting to elect board officers (see sidebar for more information).

Thank You

What makes our FKEC Annual Meeting — and our Cooperative — special is you, our members. Each year we look forward to showing you our appreciation and share a day of information, food, and fun. Thank you for attending and for your continued support of this cooperative and our community.

I also have to thank our employees for all the work and enthusiasm they put into making the day something everyone will enjoy. Without their loyalty to serving the communities in the Upper and Middle Keys, the co-op would not be able to achieve our goals to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

FKEC Board Elects New Officers

Immediately following the Annual Members Meeting, FKEC's Board held its Organizational Meeting to elect board officers. At this year's meeting, the officers voted former Vice President Karl Wagner to President, former Secretary Mike Puto to Vice President, and Gretchen Holland to Secretary. Cale Smith was elected to continue to serve as Board Treasurer.

FKEC's nine directors must be nominated and elected by the members in their district. Directors serve three-year terms.

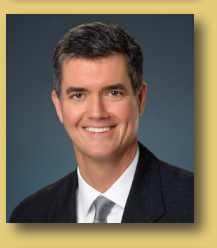
Learn about all of your FKEC directors online at www.FKEC.com/Cooperative/board.cfm



Karl Wagner, President
District 4 • Marathon



Mike Puto, Vice President
District 4 • Marathon



Cale Smith, Treasurer
District 3 • Islamorada



Gretchen Holland, Secretary
District 1 • Key Largo

GLADES
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www.gladeselectric.com

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

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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" Coxe, 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. May 30 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

CEO's Message

Reflections on Our 74th Annual Meeting

Dear Members,



Jeff Brewington

I thoroughly enjoyed spending my Saturday morning with you at our 74th Annual Meeting on March 23. Enjoy some of the highlights revealed within this issue of Florida Currents. In the president's report, John Coxe stated that because of cost-cutting measures in fleet, we may have given away our last truck as a grand prize. He asked the membership if they would attend the next Annual Meeting if such was the case. He also spoke of the expense of such an event, as we hold it now, and asked the membership to send ideas to make it better. I wonder, would a grand prize of a $2,500 billing credit entice you to attend? Would a different time, place or format make a difference? Send your thoughts and comments to Director of Communications Jennifer Koukos at jkoukos@gladeselectric.com.

Annual Meeting elections resulted with incumbents Donnie Lundy, John Huysman and Shannon Hall continuing to serve Districts 1, 3 and 4, respectively. At the annual reorganization meeting March 28, District 8 Trustee John Coxe was elected president, District 7 Trustee James Aul was elected vice president and District 4 Trustee Shannon Hall was elected secretary-treasurer. Rounding out other appointments, District 6 Trustee Lee Henderson was elected to represent Glades Electric Cooperative on the Florida Electric Cooperative Association board as voting delegate, and District 2 Trustee Barney Goodman was elected to serve as the alternate delegate. District 7 Trustee James Aul was elected voting delegate to the Seminole Electric Cooperative board and District 1 Trustee Donnie Lundy was elected alternate delegate. Seminole Electric Cooperative held its annual meeting March 15, at which James Aul was re-elected president of the board.

In other reorganization activity, John Coxe, Barney Goodman, Angela Hodges and John Huysman were elected to serve another year as directors on the board of Glades Electric Educational Foundation. Coxe was elected board vice president. For the Glades Electric Charitable Trust, Jack Wilson, Kelly Brantley and Dori Evans were elected as board directors for three-year terms.

All in all, March 28 was a day as busy of a day as the 74th Annual Meeting. You remain well represented.

Again, it was a joy visiting with you. It is a blessing to be a part of the GEC family.



Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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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.

GCEC President's Message

Rebounding From Destruction

The road to healing and rebuilding following Hurricane Michael is, and will continue to be, a long and difficult journey for our cooperative, our dedicated members and our communities. Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative is headquartered in Wewahitchka, with district offices in Southport and Parker. The cooperative's district office in Parker was severely damaged during the storm and is temporarily closed.

The cooperative provides electricity to parts of Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Jackson, Walton and Washington counties. Approximately 2,600 miles of line deliver power to 16,127 members and 19,978 meters in these six counties. Prior to the hurricane, GCEC had 16,517 members and 20,924 active meters.

The cooperative has approximately 75 employees. That number grew to approximately 1,600 when contract crews and mutual aid crews from electric cooperatives across the country rallied together in the nonstop power restoration effort in the weeks following Hurricane Michael.

The near-Category 5 hurricane's 155 mph winds left GCEC's electrical system in ruins. After the storm passed, not one meter was turning. The huge challenge of replacing 349 miles of line began. To put this in perspective, this is the distance from Wewahitchka to Chattanooga, Tennessee. Additionally, 3,500 poles and 2,095 transformers were replaced. Hurricane Michael caused more than $25 billion in damages. **To repeat, that's $25 billion!** GCEC's share equates to more than $80 million. So far, almost $80 million has been paid to contractors, vendors and mutual aid crews (crews from other electric cooperatives). Another $8,658,750 in invoices are going through the approval process of being paid. Expenses continue to mount as GCEC continues the recovery process. All in all, recovery costs are expected to total $90 million.

To cover these hurricane-related expenses, the cooperative had to acquire an emergency line of credit from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp. The current debt is $80 million, with an estimated $245,000 in monthly interest charges.

GCEC is a nonprofit cooperative. As such, we rely on the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Department of Emergency Management to reimburse us for large portions of our recovery costs and to reduce the impact of these costs that are passed on to our members. In the past few years, FDEM has often taken years to reimburse storm-related costs due to excessive and lengthy audit processes.

Since Hurricane Michael made landfall, our political leaders have changed some FDEM regulations to allow for our reimbursement to be paid much earlier than in the past. Faster reimbursement to your cooperative will reduce total interest charges we have to pay while we await FEMA and FDEM reimbursement.

Like other utilities impacted by significant storms, GCEC must find an appropriate solution for adjusting rates to cover these expenses. We are working diligently to determine the best way to recover the tremendous expenses associated with repairing the destruction Hurricane Michael caused to our distribution system. There is a careful balance between keeping the cooperative financially sound while at the same time impacting our members' power bills as little as possible. ■

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
SECRETARY/TREASURER

District 4
HOLLIS ALBRITTON

District 5
MAURICE HENDERSON

District 6
JOHN MARTIN
ASST SECRETARY/TREASURER

District 7
CHRIS PORTALE

District 8
ELLEN BACHMAN
VICE PRESIDENT

District 9
WILLIE DAWES
PRESIDENT

BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE

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

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

May 21, 2019
June 25, 2019
July 23, 2019

FL 155

Safety Starts with You

May is National Electrical Safety Month, so Peace River Electric Cooperative is encouraging you to check your home for potential safety hazards.

Every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. No device is designed to last forever, and failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters

GFCI outlets are designed for potentially damp locations such as kitchens, bathrooms and laundry rooms. GFCIs sense abnormal current flow and break the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from plugged-in devices.

Check GFCIs frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Have a licensed electrician replace any GFCI outlets which fail the test.

Loose or Damaged Outlets or Switches

Electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can be potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical arcing. If you see these warning signs, contact an electrician.

Extension Cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, consider having a licensed electrician add more outlets. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

If an extension cord is warm to the touch, it may be too small for the job. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And always make sure that extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.



According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than $1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is essential for modern living, and PRECO is committed to providing safe, reliable power to our members. Please keep these safety tips in mind and avoid electrical hazards before they occur.

Randy Shaw
PRECO CEO