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Cooperative

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Business Hours:

Monday - Thursday

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

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ID-1

PHARMACY DISCOUNTS

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If you already have prescription insurance, try using both cards, you're entitled to the lowest price either way.

- 1) www.clearwaterpower.com/discounts
- 2) Pharmacy Discount Calculator
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Pharmacy discounts are not insurance, and are not intended as a substitute for insurance. The discount is only available at participating pharmacies and cannot be combined with other discounts.

Some restrictions may apply. Call 1-888-743-1501 for program details.



171 Linden Way
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www.cbec.cc
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Manager

Thomas Wolff, Heppner

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

OR-2

ORECA-Action Grassroots Program

Members:

Your electric cooperative staff has been following the Oregon Legislature's activities for the past three months. Your directors and I have traveled to Salem on numerous occasions to advocate against increased mandates and taxation of your co-op and its members. We have been moderately successful.

The proposed carbon cap-and-trade bill is going to pass in some form. It will cause our expenses to go up, in the form of increased fuel and freight costs. Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative and our peers were successful in carving out most of the public utilities in Oregon from direct taxation under this new funding source.

We were marginally successful in carving out public utilities from the new corporate sales tax just passed by the legislature and signed by Gov. Kate Brown. However, many of the businesses and larger ranches in our service territory will be placed under this additional financial burden.

Our work in defending against ever-escalating costs due to new mandates and taxation by the state and federal legislatures is never accomplished—just an ongoing work in process. We can always use your help!

I am again asking you to make sure Oregon's lawmakers hear the cooperative message loud and clear by joining Columbia Basin's grassroots energy campaign: ORECA-Action. Please

consider joining the thousands of other electric co-op members who are already part of this important program.

When legislation is introduced that could impact our ability to deliver affordable, reliable electricity to you, our members, we'll make contact through emails with details on the issues and provide you information for your legislators. You then decide whether to send a provided notice—created by CBEC—to your elected officials concerning the issue at hand. Elected officials need to know what you, their constituents, have to say about mandated requirements and ever-increasing restrictions and taxes that cost you, the consumer, money in the form of higher electric bills.

Joining is easy. Simply log onto ORECA-Action.org. Click on the "Join Us" button and follow the basic instructions. Be sure to enter your physical address and not your P.O. Box. This allows us to link you to the appropriate elected officials. We'll notify you when your voice needs to be heard.

We are not powerless. By joining together with a collective voice, we can impact the legislative process.

Best Regards,

Tommy Wolff
CEO/General Manager





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

Board of Directors

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

Manager

Roger Kline

Board Meetings

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

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values and Beliefs

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

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

We believe in:

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

OR-3

Manager's Report



Call 8-1-1 to play it safe when you dig

This is a great time of year to be outdoors enjoying the beautiful weather in the Columbia River Gorge, whether you are out on the river, hiking in the mountains, or just taking care of those projects around the yard that you've planned over the winter.

It's also the time of year when you hear in the news about broken water or sewer pipes because someone forgot to call for an underground facilities locate. Most utility line strikes take place in the summer months when more yard work is being done.

Nationwide, about a quarter of those happen due to insufficient notice to the 8-1-1 service.

Whether you are planting new trees, building a deck, or any other kind of outdoor improvement, if you plan to dig more than a foot below the surface, be sure to call 8-1-1 at least two full business days before you start work.

A call to 8-1-1 connects homeowners and contractors to the Oregon Utility Notification Center, the one-call center, which notifies utility companies of the intent to dig. Locators are then sent to the digging site to mark underground lines with color-coded spray paint or flags.

Locates are free and help avoid the risk of injury, disruption of utility service, and potential liability for repair costs.

Learn more about 8-1-1 service at digsafelyoregon.com.

At your Northern Wasco County PUD, we'd also like to remind you to look up as well as down while doing yard improvements. Make sure you stay a safe distance away from overhead power lines to avoid risk of injury, and leave tree trimming around power lines to the professionals at Trees, Inc., who work on behalf of the PUD and are specially trained to work around power lines.

Roger Kline

General Manager



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

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

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District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

What Is a Substation?

Why would you want to know about substations? Because they are an important part of the system that brings you safe and reliable electricity each time you flip a light switch or turn on an appliance.

The substation's function is to support the system, providing points of delivery in the transmission system.

They meter distribution equipment and power lines, step down voltage for distribution to homes, and maintain voltage at a constant level.

This constant level of voltage is important. To travel long distances over wires, electric power must be much higher voltage than the level at which it is actually produced by a power plant. For example, electricity leaves a power plant at about 22,000 volts, then is increased to as much as 765,000 volts. The higher the voltage, the lower the line loss and voltage drop—and the greater the system's efficiency. As the power gets closer to its destination, voltage is gradually decreased to a level safe for consumers.

Transmission substations give the power its first step-down, and distribution substations step it down further, so it may be sent on to the consumer.

The lines leaving a distribution substation are owned and maintained by the local utility. They carry power to homes, businesses, schools and industries.

Substations contain transformers, insulators, circuit breakers, lightning arrestors and more.

A transformer performs the main function of a substation, which is to reduce the voltage to an acceptable level for distribution. The voltage regulator maintains a constant outgoing voltage.

A switching station is different than a substation. Also known as breaker stations, switching stations exist for the protection and reliability of the system. They allow faults in the system to be "sectionalized" so outages are limited to fewer customers.

The "garbage can" near the top of a pole is the transformer. It increases voltage for long-distance transmission, and lowers voltage for use by customers.

The next time you drive by a fenced conglomeration of power lines and equipment, remember it is an important part of your power system. It helps ensure you receive electricity safely and reliably.



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

MAILING ADDRESS

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

LOCAL OFFICES

6990 West Hills Road
Philomath, OR 97370

1900 W Oak St.
Lebanon, OR 97355

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CHAIRMAN

Eric Horning
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SECRETARY

Kevin Christopher
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Roman Gillen
PRESIDENT/CEO

Scott Muller
TREASURER/CFO

www.cpi.coop

OR-6

President's Report

Last month, CPI joined electric cooperative representatives from Oregon and throughout the nation in Washington, D.C., to discuss issues important to us with our federal legislators. These annual face-to-face visits with our legislators are an important part of our efforts to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable service.

We had a lot to talk about this year. We asked for help implementing legislation passed last year regarding maintaining our rights-of-way across federal lands to ensure rules are coordinated with all of the affected federal agencies. We asked legislators to correct an unintended consequence of tax reform legislation passed last year that treats federal disaster relief payments as nonmember income that may endanger our federal tax exempt status. We also thanked our legislators for firmly rejecting President Donald Trump's budget proposal to sell the transmission assets of the Bonneville Power Administration.

Maintaining relationships with our legislators is a vital piece of keeping rates affordable and maintaining local control of our operations.

Rates Update

In April's edition of Ruralite, we reviewed many of the cost pressures facing the electric utility industry in the Pacific Northwest, in general, and CPI, specifically.

During the past 10 years, the Bonneville Power Administration increased its rates five times. In October, BPA will enact its sixth rate increase. During that same period, CPI's rates have increased less than 2% annually, essentially following inflation.

While we are still carefully analyzing our rising business costs and margin requirements, we expect we will need to increase our retail rates this year. It will apply to July billing statements for electric use in June.

More information about the expected rate

increase will appear in the July edition of Ruralite and on the CPI website.

April Showers

A series of April storms brought more water than usual to many parts of the Columbia Basin, improving the April through September water supply outlook significantly in the Willamette, Rogue and Snake rivers.

Water levels at The Dalles Dam went from 87% of normal on April 3 to 94% of normal on May 1. The lower Snake River saw even more impressive gains, going from 98% to 115% of normal. The Willamette and the Rogue took the cake, however, going from 99% to 125% and 121% to 145% of normal, respectively.

This is good news for adequate hydropower resources moving into the summer.

Charitable Trust Gives to Communities

CPI's Charitable Trust Committee had its first meeting of the year in April to review applications and decide funding levels for nonprofit organizations in our service territory.

The Charitable Trust receives its funding through voluntary contributions from members who round up their bill to the next full dollar amount. The committee gave a total of \$5,000 to the following organizations:

- South Benton County Gleaners for food and operating expenses.
- Alsea Valley Gleaners for food and operating expenses.
- Logsdon Community Club for emergency shelter facility upgrades to comply with ADA requirements.
- Art in the Park (Monroe) to buy materials and supplies to support a free art and activities summer recreation program for youth.
- Lebanon Association for Theater Arts to support a summer kids camp and to help buy costumes for a performance of "The Little Mermaid." ■



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

Mailing Address:

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

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 June 26 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

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WA-7

Why Do We Host an Annual Meeting?

Dear Members,

If you've read through this issue of Ruralite, you may be wondering, "Why does Benton REA host an annual meeting?" The answer lies within our core foundation: the Seven Cooperative Principles.

Because Benton REA is a member-owned cooperative, you have a say in how your co-op is run. This is the second cooperative principle: Democratic Member Control. Co-ops are democratic organizations whose members actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Your board of trustees is made up of members like you. Members in Districts 1, 2 and 3 can vote for their representatives at or before this year's annual meeting.

The fifth cooperative principle is Education, Training and Information. At your Benton REA annual meeting on July 13, you can learn more about the services Benton REA provides for you. We'll also have electrical safety demonstrations and information about internet technology, how to use energy efficiently, hydropower issues and lessons for being safe around power lines. During the business meeting, you will hear updates on Benton REA's financial condition, board elections and current Benton REA projects.

Concern for Community is the seventh cooperative principle. We hope our annual meeting brings value by providing a family-oriented event that gives back to the community. Family activities and lunch will be provided. Weather permitting, members can take a short, tethered ride in the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon! Wherever the balloon travels, Touchstone Energy donates to a local charity.

We hope you take advantage of your co-op membership and join us at Benton REA's 82nd Annual Meeting of Members on July 13 at Leona Libby Middle School in West Richland. I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting!

Cooperatively,

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



Offices

Hermiston Office

750 W. Elm Ave.
541 567-6414

Boardman Office

400 N.E. Eldridge Drive
541 481-2220

Hours

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

Toll-Free

1-800-452-2273

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888-465-5701 day or night

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Lee Docken

Phil Hamm

John Otis

Glenn Rohde

General Manager

Robert Echenrode

Mission

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

umatillaelectric.com

OR-8

What Has Been the Price of Growth?

One of the most common questions we receive at UEC (and at our annual meeting) is how is our growth is affecting our membership as a whole.

During the past eight years, since our power sales began to spike, we have averaged an annual growth rate exceeding 20 percent.

At UEC in the past eight years:

- We have nearly doubled the value of our infrastructure, exceeding \$200 million which will benefit our communities for decades to come.
- We have spent tens of millions more in goods and services in our local economy in support of our communities' own growth.
- We have added a dozen new jobs at UEC that have allowed us to better serve you and boost our economy.
- We have updated technologies throughout all areas of the cooperative – adding online services and improving efficiency.



What has been the price of this growth? Even with the impact of rising energy costs during the past eight years, a residential member pays about 18 cents more per day for electricity than eight years ago. Over the course of a month, that adds up to the cost of a cup of Starbucks coffee. And a cookie.

You, our members; and your Board of Directors, have guided UEC's employees to grow in the right way, at the right pace, and we will continue to rely on your knowledge and experience.

As a reflection of our growing cooperative, and based on encouragement from the

membership, the UEC Board of Directors has raised the amount we will award annually for general academic scholarships.

Beginning this year, we will award 14 scholarships of \$3,000 each, up from 12 scholarships at \$2,500 each.

The scholarships come from the proceeds of a UEC fund managed on our behalf by the Oregon Community Foundation. Our Scholarship Committee, with representatives from our Board and the community, selects the winners in mid-May. We publish the results in a summer edition of Ruralite.

To all the 2019 graduates from high schools in Morrow and Umatilla counties, we offer our congratulations and best wishes.

Congratulations, too, to Don Slupsky, who has retired after 20 years at UEC.

Don, a senior meter and equipment control technician, was raised in Sunnyside, Wash. He worked at Montana Power and then 15 years at Portland General Electric's Boardman coal-fired plant as a maintenance electrician before coming to UEC.

"This job was a great fit," Don says. "They created a position that was new, and was going to be a challenge" as UEC planned a switch from our legacy mechanical meters to an automated meter infrastructure, or AMI system.

Installation of automated meters began in January 2009, which touched off a series of technology initiatives at UEC that continues today. Don played an important role in helping implement these improvements.

We will miss Don, and wish him the best in retirement!

Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

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Robert Hammel Director
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Andy Gardipee The Dalles Lineman
Gabe Red Cloud The Dalles Lineman
Wesley Woods Serviceman
Dan Funkhouser Grass Valley Foreman
Frank Roeder Maupin Foreman

*Board meetings are generally held
the fourth Thursday of the month at
the co-op office.*

Mission Statement

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

OR-9

Manager's Message

Director Recognition

At the 79th annual meeting of the Northwest Public Power Association last month, Wasco Electric board member Ron Holmes took the reins as president of the board of trustees.

In addition to Ron's 11 years of service on the Wasco Electric board, he has served on the NWPPA board since 2012 and was elected to the executive committee in 2017. NWPPA is an international association representing and serving consumer-owned utilities in the Western U.S. and Canada.

Congratulations, Ron. We, along with the other NWPPA member utilities from across the region, look forward to your leadership during the coming year.

High School Graduates

The board of directors and employees of Wasco Electric Cooperative offer our congratulations to the 2019 graduates from area high schools.

One way the co-op supports local youth is through our contribution to the high school's graduating class drug- and alcohol-free graduation parties.

The high schools we support in this manner are The Dalles, Dufur, Sherman County, South Wasco County and Madras.

Again, congratulations and good luck in your future, wherever it may take you.

Summer Safety

With the arrival of summer comes an increase in outdoor activities. Whether you are out and about for work or pleasure, be aware of where overhead power lines are located in relation to your activities.

If you come across a downed power line, stay away from it, protect the area and call the power company immediately.

In addition to increased outdoor activities, summer also brings fire season. In the event of a fire that may potentially threaten the cooperative's distribution or transmission lines, please call the office immediately.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer! As always, if you have any questions about your cooperative, please feel free to call or stop by the office.

Jeff Davis
General Manager



Owned By Those We Serve

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

• For Power Outages Call •
888-420-8826

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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

OR-10

Defensible Space

Dear Member,

As you read this, there's a pretty good chance that restricted burning season has already been declared in Douglas County. The amount of debris brought down by our February storm, coupled with sunny and warm days last month has created a very hazardous situation with regard to wildfire potential. Our friends at Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA), have a tremendous amount of helpful information to share. (Some of which you will find on page 25 of this issue.)



Most of us experienced, first-hand, the devastation of the storm. Visitors driving Hwy. 38 from I-5 to Reedsport are stopping at area businesses and asking, "What on earth happened here?" It's hard to believe that there has ever been as much brush and timber laying on the ground as there is now. And it's getting dryer by the day. Hence, the need to prepare for what may be next.



Preparing your home means more than just making your surroundings "lean, clean and green". If your gutters are full of dry leaves and other material, they pose an ignition threat from flying embers. Ornamental Junipers, while green, are extremely flammable. Fires burn hotter and move faster uphill. Pruning and thinning vegetation will slow the fire and keep it on the ground. Just as importantly, communicate with your neighbors to help reduce everyone's risk.



The DFPA is located at 1758 NE Airport Road in Roseburg or you can visit them at www.dfpa.net. They are happy to share information that will help protect you and your property from damaging wildfires this summer.

This winter storm of 2019 bit us once. Let's all do what we can to keep it from biting us again this summer.

Best Regards,

James K. Brooks
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



Kyla Emerson



Faythe Schafer



Alea Douglas



Maria Vargas

2019 Scholarship Awards

Four students from the Columbia Power Co-op service area are recipients of the 2019 scholarship awards.

After much deliberation, the judges felt the group was fantastic and all were winners. Each applicant will receive \$500. The applicants were: Kyla Emerson and Faythe Schafer from Monument, Alea Douglas from Ukiah and Maria Vargas from Mitchell.

We want to thank Pat Holliday, Tracie Unterwegner and Bob Armstrong for taking time from their busy schedules to undertake the difficult task of judging the applicants for us this year. They did a great job. We appreciate their help.

**Troy Cox
General Manager**

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

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Brent ten Pas

**Director of Customer
and Energy Services**
Karen Lewis

24-HOUR PHONE NUMBERS:

In Redmond, call 541-548-2144
or toll free at 800-924-8736

Mission Statement

The aim of Central Electric Co-op is to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.

Board meets the third Thursday of each month at the CEC office, 2098 NW 6th Street, Redmond, OR.

www.cec.coop

OR-12

Selling BPA's Assets Ill-Advised; Keep BPA Rates Competitive

This spring, I joined Oregon electric co-op leaders and others throughout the country for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. This annual trip presents an opportunity to visit Capitol Hill to advocate for our members.

Despite Congress previously rejecting it, the administration once again rolled out an ill-advised proposal in its FY2020 budget to privatize the transmission assets of the Bonneville Power Administration and other power marketing administrations and impose market-based rates on PMA power sales. Last year, the Northwest congressional delegation demonstrated bipartisan opposition and helped prevent it from getting any traction. After our round of visits with Oregon U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and our House delegation, I am pleased to report they will again stand united in opposition of this proposal. Our lawmakers recognize that if the federal government sold BPA's transmission assets to the highest bidder, co-op members would face a significant spike in electric rates and lose millions of dollars of equity they have invested in BPA's assets through the years.

Selling BPA and other PMA assets is a recycled and tired idea. These proposals date back to Presidents Reagan and Clinton as administrations seek ways to raise revenue to feed ever-growing budgets. Electric co-ops have successfully warded off all attempts, and I am optimistic we will do so again.

Rather than expending energy to defeat the privatization of PMAs, Congress' time would be better spent keeping power rates of PMA competitive. Unfortunately, we continue to see BPA rates climb. This raises concerns about the long-term economic viability of this resource. As I shared with you last month, BPA has scheduled a wholesale rate increase for October 1, 2019, with an estimated average increase of 2.9% for electricity and 3.6% for transmission services. That will likely result in a need to increase CEC's rates in January.

A recent sliver of good news from BPA: they will absorb spill costs this year. BPA spilled water past Columbia River hydroelectric dams last year to help salmon migration downstream. Bypassing turbines means less power generation and requires BPA to buy replacement power in the regional market. To recover costs, BPA imposed a spill-related surcharge on Northwest utility consumers; CEC's costs were \$150,684.

Defeating the administration's proposal and avoiding a spill surcharge this year are examples of the various fronts we must work to deliver this carbon-free renewable resource to you in a cost-effective manner.



Dave Markham
President and CEO



Board of Directors

President

John G. Herzog, Brookings/Harbor

Vice President

Georgia A. Cockerham, Brookings/Harbor

Secretary/ Treasurer

Daryl C. Robison, Port Orford/Langlois

Cheryl L. McMahan, Southern At-Large

Jim Kolen, Gold Beach

Peter C. Radabaugh, Bandon/Coquille

Daniel Loshbaugh, Northern At-Large

Attorney—Tyler Pepple

Staff

General Manager/CEO

Brent Bischoff

Corporate Services/CFO

Frank Corrales

Engineering Manager

Matt Mjelde

Marketing and Member

Services Manager

Jacob Knudsen

Operations Manager

Randy McDonald

Local numbers

Coquille 541-396-3118

Port Orford 541-332-3931

Gold Beach 541-247-6638

Brookings 541-469-2103

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

Monday through Thursday.

Closed Friday.

After-Hours Outage Number

866-352-9044

Call Before You Dig

811

www.ccec.coop

OR-13

Your Membership Matters

Director elections and 81st Annual Meeting of the Members

Each June, we offer our members an exciting opportunity that is the best example of how electric cooperatives are different than other utility companies. With the enclosed ballot, each member can participate in the selection of three board members who will represent them on the Coos-Curry Electric Board of Directors. Democratic member control—one member, one vote—is perhaps the most defining element of a not-for-profit electric cooperative.

This year, directors will be elected from Districts 1 & 2 (Brookings/Harbor areas); District 5 (Bandon and Coquille areas); and Northern Districts At-Large 3, 4 & 5 (Gold Beach, Port Orford and Coquille areas). As a member of Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, the most important action you can take is to vote for your board of representatives.

Ballots must be received at the address on the ballot return envelope by 5:30 p.m. June 25, 2019. Ballots received after the deadline or in an unsigned envelope will not be counted.

We will announce election results and provide updated financial and operational information at this year's annual business meeting June 27 at 8:30 a.m. at the Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative headquarters in Port Orford.

Brent Bischoff

General Manager and CEO





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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Brett Costley
(Dist. 4 – Vernonia)

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

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

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

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

Nick Galaday
(Dist. 5 – Timber, Buxton)

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Bob Perry

Contact the board:
directors@westoregon.org

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

OR-14

Manager's Message

In this month's Ruralite, we feature the last of a three-part series written by Scott Laird. Scott has done a great job researching the archives looking for interesting segments of West Oregon Electric Cooperative's 75-year history.

Rural health care has been an active topic this past year across the nation and in Ruralite. In this month's magazine, we highlight the Vernonia Health Center's partnership with Adventist Health. Having access to health care is critical for any rural community to survive. As a patron of Vernonia Health Care, I thank those who cared enough to bring together this wonderful asset for our community.

I also want to highlight the winners of the WOEC Sam Hearing Scholarship and the upcoming district nominating meetings.

The Sam Hearing Scholarship has been awarded to two students who live in the WOEC service territory. Per the scholarship committee vote, one award goes to Vernonia High School student Tyler Wolf. The other goes to Seaside High School student Alyssa Goin. Both of these students show a high level of commitment and community involvement.

The 2019 district nominating meetings have been scheduled. The District No. 5 nominating meeting is Wednesday, June 19, at 7 p.m. at WOEC headquarters. The District No. 2 nominating meeting is Thursday, June 20, at 7 p.m. at the Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District Main Station. Notices for these meetings were mailed to district members May 31. Nominees are required to be a member in the district they wish to represent. If you are unsure of which district you are a member, please call the office and ask.

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

STAFF

Bradley Kresge, General Manager
John Minto, Engineer
Dennis Reed, Line Superintendent
DJ Northrup, Member Service Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Flynn, President
Valley Falls
Scott Warner, Vice President
Lakeview
Raymond Cloud, Secretary/Treasurer
New Pine Creek
Wesley Cook
Cedarville
Craig Joiner
Lookout
John Erquiaga
Lake City
Kyle Weber
Alturas

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

"Owned by those we serve"

This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer

CA-15



Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.'s 81st annual membership meeting is Saturday, September 7.

Nominating Committee Meeting Notice

The Nominating Committee will meet Thursday, June 27, at 1 p.m. at the Surprise Valley Electrification Corp. office to nominate candidates for Districts 1, 5 and 6. Directors up for reelection are: Craig Joiner, District 1; Ray Cloud, District 5; and Scott Warner, District 6.

Members appointed to and voluntarily serving on the nominations committee are: Belva Landes, Dan Bouse, John Derner, Ben Gooch, Dannette DePaul, Davis Wellman, Herb Jasper, Ben Britten, Ace Felder and Don Robinson.

The SVE Board of Directors is elected from the membership. The cooperative is divided into seven districts roughly equal in population. One director is elected from each district for a three-year term. It is the directors' duty to plan and guide the development of your cooperative. They are expected to keep themselves informed on all matters that affect the cooperative.

Directors serve without salary, but are paid a fee and reimbursed expenses for attending board and other designated meetings.

Section 4.06 of your SVE's bylaws sets forth the methods of nomination to the board of directors. You may be nominated to run for election by the nominating committee, or nomination can come from a petition signed by not fewer than 30 members. Petitions must be filed not fewer than 45 days prior to the annual meeting. For more information on eligibility and nomination to the board of directors, please review your bylaws or come by the office.

Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.'s 81st annual membership meeting is Saturday, September 7, at the Cedarville Fairgrounds. Member registration begins at 10 a.m., followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. The business meeting begins at 1 p.m.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Knudsen Obermeyer, President,
Oakridge District
J. Ingrid Kessler, Vice President, Central District
Kathy Keable, Secretary, McKenzie District
Hugh Buermann, Treasurer, Row River District
Jack Billings, Central District
Jerry Shorey, Oakridge District
Chris Seubert, Central District

GENERAL MANAGER

Debi Wilson

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Tony Toncray
Engineering & Operations Manager
Lindsey K. McCarthy
Marketing & Public Relations Manager

BOARD MEETINGS

Fourth Monday of each month
Lane Electric's office, 787 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene
Meetings begin at 9 a.m.
(Unless otherwise noted on LEC website)

In This Issue

Where Do Power Poles Come From?	4
Wildfire Risk Reduction	8
District Meeting Report	25

OR-16

District Meetings Recap: Underground, Broadband and BPA

Dear Co-op Community Members:

Mother Nature has certainly shown us what she's made of this year. Snow, flooding and fire already? Because of this, a theme of last month's district meetings was disaster preparedness. Lane County Emergency Manager Patence Winningham, a Lane Electric member, emphasized the importance of being prepared to be on your own when disaster strikes because there are many more citizens than first responders and it takes time for them to get to you.

Also at our district meetings, I reported on the snowstorm, our broadband feasibility study and Bonneville Power Administration rates. Here is a summary of my report. Details of the snowstorm and our restoration efforts were covered in great detail in our April issue, so I'll leave those out.

While we did everything we could to get your power restored as quickly and safely as possible, we recognize that every minute you are without power is one minute too long. We improved our processes after the 2016 ice storm and are committed to improving them further after this year's event. We are incorporating your feedback into planning and protocols for the next major outage.

As I traveled around the service area and saw all the damage, I began to wonder how often these disasters are happening. I discovered that since 2012, they're happening about every two years and have been growing in intensity.

I'm sure the biggest question on everyone's mind is why we don't underground all of our lines. The short answer is that

it is not feasible to underground our entire system due to cost and other factors. You can read more about those details on page 25.

If undergrounding all the lines isn't feasible, what can we do? We can continue to:

- Identify and budget projects that are feasible to underground.
- Identify and budget other projects where we can relocate lines out of the trees to places where they're more easily accessed for faster power restoration.
- We will apply for FEMA mitigation grants as they become available so we can do more of these resiliency projects.

As you can imagine, completing these projects will take many years. In the meantime, it's important that we all prepare for the next disaster, even an earthquake. Remember, you play an important role in disaster preparedness in your community. While you do your best to take care of yourself, your family and your neighbors, we are laser-focused on restoring your power.

To read the rest of my report, please turn to page 25. Our financial, legal and distribution system reports are also on pages 28-29, and wildfire safety tips are on page 8.

Sincerely,



Debi Wilson, General Manager





Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative

Mail to: PO Box 70,
Junction City, OR 97448
Visit us at: 90680 Hwy 99 N,
Eugene, OR
541-688-8711
800-446-8418
blec@blec.coop
www.blachlylane.coop

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

Board of Directors

District 1
Ernie Jacksch
541-927-3466
jacksche@blec.coop

District 2
Curtis Short, Vice Chairman
541-359-9434
shortc@blec.coop

District 3
Bev Mattheison
541-998-3704
mattheisenb@blec.coop

District 4
Marlene Northrup, Chairwoman
541-998-1216
northrupm@blec.coop

District 5
Eric Imbler
541-954-1949
imblere@blec.coop

General Manager
Greg Gardner
gardnerg@blec.coop

OR-17

Welcome to New Board Members

Dear Members,

Thank you to all who attended our annual meeting and to all consumer-members who took the time to vote for your directors and bylaw amendments. The amendments passed unanimously. You also voted in two new board directors: Bev Mattheison in District 3 and Eric Imbler in District 5. We welcome them and I look forward to working with them and the entire board to professionally and efficiently manage the co-op.

The adopted theme for public power this year is the hashtag #MorePowerfulTogether. At the annual meeting, I discussed the importance of reliability and resiliency—two required characteristics needed to serve our members well. It is critically important for everyone in our community to come together when faced with a major storm or other disaster. You can expect me to continue to write and talk about how we incorporate resiliency into our planning and in our actions.

As an organization, we not only overcame the damage of the snow storm early this spring, we also responded and prevailed in two separate law suits brought against your co-op. You will remember that Blachly-Lane was sued by Laura D. Cooper, the guest of members Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Lemler, when she could not access our second-floor board room in 2015.

We are pleased to let you know that in late April 2019, the Oregon State Court of Appeals affirmed the lower court's decision to find Blachly-Lane had not violated applicable laws in this case. It was never the intention of your co-op to keep members from accessing board meetings, and we have since built a fully American's With Disabilities compliant board and meeting room to be as inclusive as possible.

In a separate case brought against us in small claims court, we were able to settle in mediation to the satisfaction of both parties.

In both cases, members of your co-op brought forth their concerns. We always prefer to address matters in ways that bring the lowest financial impact to the membership, and the board and management are committed to those conversations.

With these cases behind us, your board of directors and I look forward to focusing on delivering safe, reliable electric services for our consumer-members as efficiently as possible. We appreciate your patronage and support as we serve you in the professional way you deserve.

Greg Gardner
General Manager





Board of Commissioners

Dan G. Gunkel

President

Douglas B. Miller

Vice President

Randy L. Knowles

Secretary

.....

Jim Smith

General Manager

Kevin Ricks

Renewable Energy Asset Manager

Gwyn Miller

H.R. & Business Services Director

Mike DeMott

Power Manager

Mark Pritchard

Operations Manager

Ron Schultz

Engineering Manager

Brandy Myers

Customer Service Supervisor

.....
www.klickitatpud.com

Goldendale Office

1313 S. Columbus Ave.
Goldendale, WA 98620
509-773-5891
800-548-8357

White Salmon Office

110 NE Estes Ave.
P.O. Box 187
White Salmon, WA 98672
509-493-2255
800-548-8358

WA-18

Outdoor Electrical Safety

According to a study by the University of Alabama's Center for Injury Sciences, June through September are the months when most electrical accidents happen. That is not surprising, given that nice weather lures people outside, and summer construction and home improvement projects are underway. These activities lead to potential interaction with power lines, both overhead and underground.

Some schools and workplaces participate in electrical and power line safety programs. This is a great opportunity to learn what to do and not to do when working and playing where electricity may be present. Unfortunately, when school is out and the weather is right for projects, this knowledge sometimes goes by the wayside.

Think about electrical safety when planning your projects and enjoying time outside.

A shovel through an underground cable, a tall piece of machinery, a television antenna, a metal ladder, an irrigation pipe, a wooden pole or a human body part that touches both the wire and ground can complete the circuit and conduct electricity. It is crucial that you look before you lift and call before you dig.

Never go near a downed line, even if you think it is not energized. Never place a ladder or antenna where it can fall into a power line. Carry equipment low enough to avoid coming near power lines. Never attach anything to a power pole. If you need to work in proximity to a power line, call us.

To prevent yourself or a loved one from becoming a victim of an electrical accident, follow these other electrical safety tips:

- Call 811 before you dig. Someone will mark underground utilities to make sure you don't come in contact with power lines, gas lines or any other utilities. One wrong move can result in death or injury from electric shock or an explosion.
- Don't plant tall-growing trees under power lines. If a tree has lines running through it, don't climb it or build anything in it.
- Stay away from downed power lines. If someone comes in contact with a power line, do not touch them. Call Klickitat PUD immediately so the power can be turned off.
- Never fly kites, toy airplanes or metallic balloons near power lines or in stormy weather. Avoid using metal or wire on kites. If your kite, balloon or aerial toy gets snagged on overhead lines, don't try to untangle it. Call Klickitat PUD at 800-548-8357.

Have a safe, enjoyable summer everyone!

Jim Smith

General Manager



NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.

The power of local service

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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

Outside Sandpoint:
800-326-9594

Board President
Steve Elgar

Board Vice President
Kennon McClintock

Board Secretary/Treasurer
Judith Simonson

General Manager
Annie Terracciano

Board of Directors by District

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ID-19

Annual Meeting Recap

The Northern Lights 84th annual meeting on May 11 consisted of entertainment, refreshments, giveaways and the business meeting. Check out the pictures on pages 4 and 5 of this Ruralite issue. Thanks to all the members who made the effort to attend. We missed those of you not able to be there. Let me highlight what was discussed at the meeting.

NLI board directors in Districts 1, 5 and 7 were up for election this year. Running unopposed were Mike Dolan, District 1; Kennon McClintock, District 5; and Jim Woodward, District 7. Congratulations to Mike, Kennon and Jim, who were reelected!

You will find a summary of your cooperative's 2018 financial statements on pages 28 and 29. NLI continues to be in a healthy financial position. Member ownership in the cooperative grew by approximately \$2,935,000 in 2018. In addition, in December 2018, \$1.4 million was retired as capital credits for the remainder of 1988, all of 1989 and a portion of 1990.

We are eight years into our long-term power supply contract with the Bonneville Power Administration. Northern Lights buys 90% of its power from BPA. We generate the other 10% at our Lake Creek Hydroelectric Dam in Troy, Montana. In 2018, the dam produced 22 million kilowatt-hours of energy. The dam provides our lowest cost of power, which helps to keep your rates low.

Northern Lights started a Solar for Schools program that allows children from elementary through high school age to visit our Community Solar Project at our Sagle headquarters. Students explore our community solar array, build solar cars to race and learn how solar power is generated.

Maintaining the cooperative's facilities is a high priority for the NLI Board of Directors. In 2018, we replaced 270 poles, 54,000 feet of old underground cable and trimmed 200 miles of tree line.

As we enter June, I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather, have your gardens planted and are looking forward to a great summer. To all the dads out there, Happy Father's Day!



Annie Terracciano
General Manager



Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative

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

Directors

President Cliff Tacke
Greencreek

Vice President Kim Dahler
Kooskia

Secretary-Treasurer Jim Poxleitner
Cottonwood

Frank McIntire
Kamiah

Gerald Frei
Grangeville

Greg Smith
Syringa

Ernie Robinson
White Bird

Attorney

J.A. Wright

General Manager

Max Beach

c-21

Capital Credits

Thank you for being a member of Idaho County Light & Power. One of the many benefits of being a member of your locally run cooperative is capital credits.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, when we collect more money than we spend, we return these funds to members through capital credits. This year, we are returning credits for members who bought electricity in 1984, 1985 and 1986. This totals a little more than \$221,000. If you were a member during these years, please take a look at the ICL&P bill you received this month for your credit. Members who are no longer on the system will receive a check.

Stay Back and Stay Safe

Working with electricity is a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, USA Today lists line repairers and installers among some of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

That's why for ICL&P, safety is the No. 1 priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance and your help.

Distractions Can Be Deadly

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their job when possible. Even routine work can be dangerous. It takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews—and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You may recognize ICL&P employees by their uniforms, hard hats and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community and you know them personally.

Slow Down and Move Over

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.

Max Beach

General Manager



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

ColumbiaREA.coop

Board of Directors

Greg Knowles, President
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.

Staff

Chief Executive Officer, Scott Peters
Executive Assistant/HR,
Jennifer Aichele
Manager of Marketing & Member
Services, Doug Case
Manager of Operations, Dave Reller
Manager of Engineering, Grant Glaus
Chief Financial Officer, Jim Cooper
Manager of Communications & IT,
Bob Greene
Manager of Safety Services, Jeff Myers

WA-22

Back Story

I've been using this column to share information about our electric cooperative and why I believe it is so special. This month I'd like to talk about a topic that might sound boring, but is vitally important – our Board of Directors & Governance.



Columbia REA belongs to the communities we serve and is led by members like you. Your nine board members are required to be members of the cooperative residing in the area, so you are likely to see them at the grocery store or a local sporting event. Our longest serving member, Vic Parks, joined the board in 2001 and our two newest members, Doug Logan and Glen Shipley were both elected in 2018. Our bylaws require contested elections so there are often new faces and ideas at the board table for important discussions regarding rates, future energy purchases or strategic planning. Our board members bring a wealth of different experiences: farmer, teacher, small business owner, electrician, and wine maker to PhD, attorney, and CPA. They represent all areas of our service territory: Starbuck, Columbia County, College Place, Burbank and Walla Walla. Some live in towns, others in rural areas. Most have received their Certified Cooperative Director Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the rest are continuing their education and working toward it. They all devote many hours each month as part of our community-focused cooperative working on what is best for you, our member. Our Board is responsible for providing high-level policy direction, approving our budget and rates, and taking on so many other issues in our rapidly evolving energy industry.

A complete list of our board members is in the blue column to the left, as well as on page 29 of this issue. When you see them out and about in the community please take a moment to thank them for their contributions to the cooperative, or ask a question and share a comment. They are always happy to hear from a member.

Please remember, my door is always open for you to stop in and talk, or feel free to contact me by phone at 509-526-4041, or email at speters@columbiarea.coop if you have questions or comments.

Best,

Scott Peters
CEO



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

Departments

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

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Vice President

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Secretary/Treasurer

Vic Russell, Fall River

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Robert Reed, La Pine

Leland Smith, Sunriver

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

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:

Midstate Electric Cooperative's 67th Annual Meeting of the Members, held May 11 at La Pine High School, was well attended with more than 1,000 on hand. Before the business meeting, attendees enjoyed a barbecue, health fair, safety demonstrations and bucket truck rides.

Board President Leland Smith welcomed members to the meeting. He spoke about changes taking place in the electric utility industry and of the co-op's involvement in legislative issues. Representatives from the MEC Board of Directors and management recently visited Salem and Washington, D.C., to voice concerns.

On the state side, cap and trade is a priority for Gov. Kate Brown and will likely pass in some form. Working with the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association, we were successful in having amendments added to the bill to protect public power utilities against sudden rate increases.

On the federal side, Oregon's electric cooperatives' tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code could be in jeopardy due to an unintended consequence of recent changes to the code. There is important legislation in the U.S. Congress to solve this problem called the RURAL Act. We met with senators and congressional delegates to ask them for support.

Derek Moody of Blodgett, Mickelsen and Adamson gave the auditor's report. He reported MEC has net assets of more than \$64 million, margins of more than \$2.09 million and equity of 47%.

I provided highlights that focused on our mission statement, "Midstate Electric Cooperative delivers safe, reliable and

cost-effective energy services while providing outstanding service to our members and communities."

Safety is MEC's No. 1 priority. I am proud of our safety record as one of the best in the industry. Our goal is to continue to stand out in this area. Safety does not stop with our employees. It extends into our communities. We regularly provide electrical safety messages in various mediums and offer high-voltage electrical safety demonstrations.

Our second objective is reliability. By stepping up our tree-trimming program, we have seen a steady decline in outage time. In 2018, our outage time per member was only 67 minutes, which is the lowest we have seen in the past five years.

Our third goal is cost-effective energy. MEC has some of the lowest electric rates in the state and the nation. Even though the Bonneville Power Administration will increase rates October 1, 2019, we have prepared a budget that will not pass the increase on to our members. We also offer cost-effective services such as free energy audits, energy-conservation rebates and electric usage monitoring.

Our mission statement concludes with "providing outstanding service to our members and communities." MEC and its employees take great pride in community service activities. Besides contributing time, we donated more than \$50,000 last year to the communities we serve through MEC and Operation Round Up.

In other business, members reelected board of director incumbents to additional three-year terms: Gordon DeArmond, District 3; Ron Sommerfeldt, District 4; and Bud Kendall, District 6.

General Manager Dave Schneider



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)



ID-24

We Commit to Zero Contacts

At Raft River Electric, safety is and always will be our No. 1 priority. Every person in the cooperative has a vital role to play in sustaining the culture of safety.

In November 2018, the Raft River Electric Board of Directors and general manager made a formal pledge of support for the Commitment to Zero Contacts Initiative. The nationwide initiative was introduced by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. It was designed to help cooperatives eliminate serious injuries and fatalities due to electrical contacts.

In January 2019, Raft River Electric rolled out the initiative to all of its employees, who brought it to life by signing their own pledge of commitment. Each employee was given a safety coin to carry with them at all times to remind them of their commitment not only to safety, but to the ones they love.

Raft River Electric took the initiative one step further, adding a personal element—the “I Will” safety promises. The promises encourage personal accountability and help ensure everyone goes home safe at the end of the day.



I WILL

- Be accountable for myself and others.
- Ensure all equipment is safe and ready for use.
- Consider family before I engage risk.
- Engage myself in job discussions.
- Enlighten and educate myself and others.
- Have absolute focus on the task at hand.
- Protect myself and others on the highway.
- Take the time to do everything safely.



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.bb.ec.org

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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

Saying Farewell to Kurt

Big Bend Electric Cooperative's longest-serving employee hangs up his hard hat for the last time on June 13. Kurt Staley began his career with Big Bend Electric on April 18, 1988. For the past 12 years, he has been the substation wireman.

His duties included maintaining and repairing 15 substations and all line regulators and reclosers stretched across a service territory of 2,409 miles of line. Prior to that, he was a BBEC lineman for 19 years, putting in countless hours, weekends and holidays to make sure power was always available to our members.

Big Bend Electric has had a profound effect on Kurt's life, even as a young man. He was born and raised in Walla Walla, where his dad was a retired firefighter who enjoyed doing electrical work for various businesses. Kurt's father wanted to start his own electrical business and considered moving the family to Anacortes when he got a call from Ralph Gillis—Kurt's uncle's father-in-law—who was on the BBEC board. Ralph asked him if he would consider moving to Ritzville to start his business.

The family checked out the little town of Ritzville. Unfortunately, they visited during the middle of a dust storm.

"Who would ever live in this Godforsaken country?" Kurt's mom asked.

In 1975, the family nonetheless moved to Ritzville. Kurt graduated from Ritzville High School in 1976.

He studied HVAC and refrigeration at Spokane Community College, earning an associate degree. After working for an HVAC company in Spokane and later for his dad's electrical business in Ritzville, Cascade Electrical, Kurt received his electrician license in 1983. He later took over as owner of Cascade Electrical.

In 1988, as fate would have it, then-BBEC General Manager Byron Wagner happened to walk across the alley to his neighbor, Kurt, and asked him if he had ever considered working for Big Bend Electric. Shortly after that conversation, Kurt was hired at Big Bend as an apprentice lineman and was sent to the Jack Stewart Training Center in Spokane for lineman school.

Thirty-one years later, Kurt is saying goodbye to his Big Bend Electric family. He will move on to fun retirement activities such as gardening, biking and traveling.

"I really have my dream job here," Kurt says. "I will miss my co-workers."

All of us at BBEC will miss Kurt's positive attitude and willingness to help. We wish him luck in his retirement years.



Hood River Electric Cooperative



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

**541-354-1233
www.hrec.coop**

**www.facebook.com/
HRECCoop/**

DIRECTORS

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Libby Calnon

Serving rural
Hood River County
since 1945

OR-26

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our 2019 member survey. We received 724 responses.

During the next few months, we will evaluate these results and consider what changes may be needed. We will report our progress in this column.

Here are some of survey highlights:

Members are generally very satisfied with the services we provide. On a scale of 1 (low) to 4 (high), our average rating for overall member satisfaction was 3.89. For electric service reliability, our average score was 3.89. For internet service reliability, our average score was 3.66.

We asked participants what aspects of cooperative service are important to them. On a scale of 1 (not important) to 4 (very important), we received the following average ratings:

- Being responsive to members and providing good service: 3.96.
- Rates that are 25% lower than average electric rates in Oregon: 3.91.
- Local control/membership representation: 3.81.
- Not-for-profit, member-owned co-op: 3.75.
- Rebates for energy-efficiency upgrades: 3.56.
- Receiving capital credits: 3.52.

Among members who receive internet service, 77% support raising internet prices to fund build-out of fiber-optic lines within the service area.

On the question of buying local hydropower:

- 58% of members would buy local

energy if it were available for the same price.

- 17% would pay up to 10% more for local energy.

• 15% want to continue to buy all energy from the Bonneville Power Administration.

- 5% would pay up to 25% more for local energy.

• 4% are willing to pay whatever is needed to buy local energy.

- 1% are willing to pay up to 50% more for local energy.

On the question of offering a community solar project, 49% want more information, 38% would consider participating and 13% would not consider participating.

63% of members have no preference for what hours our office is open. 21% prefer the office be open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 16% prefer our existing office hours of Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Congratulations to the winners of the \$100 bill credits: Ralph and Marilyn Gens, Mike Bosse, Frieda Christopher, Steven Nash, and Lizeth Avila and Jose Hernandez.

On behalf of everyone at HREC, thank you again for your feedback and the opportunity to serve you.

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

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.....
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Frank Albisu
Rod Hoagland
Hank Dufurrena
Zach Sword

General Manager

Fred Flippence

Operations Manager

Jason Hill

Line Superintendent

Jason Radinovich

Electrical Engineer

Shane Sweet

Office Manager

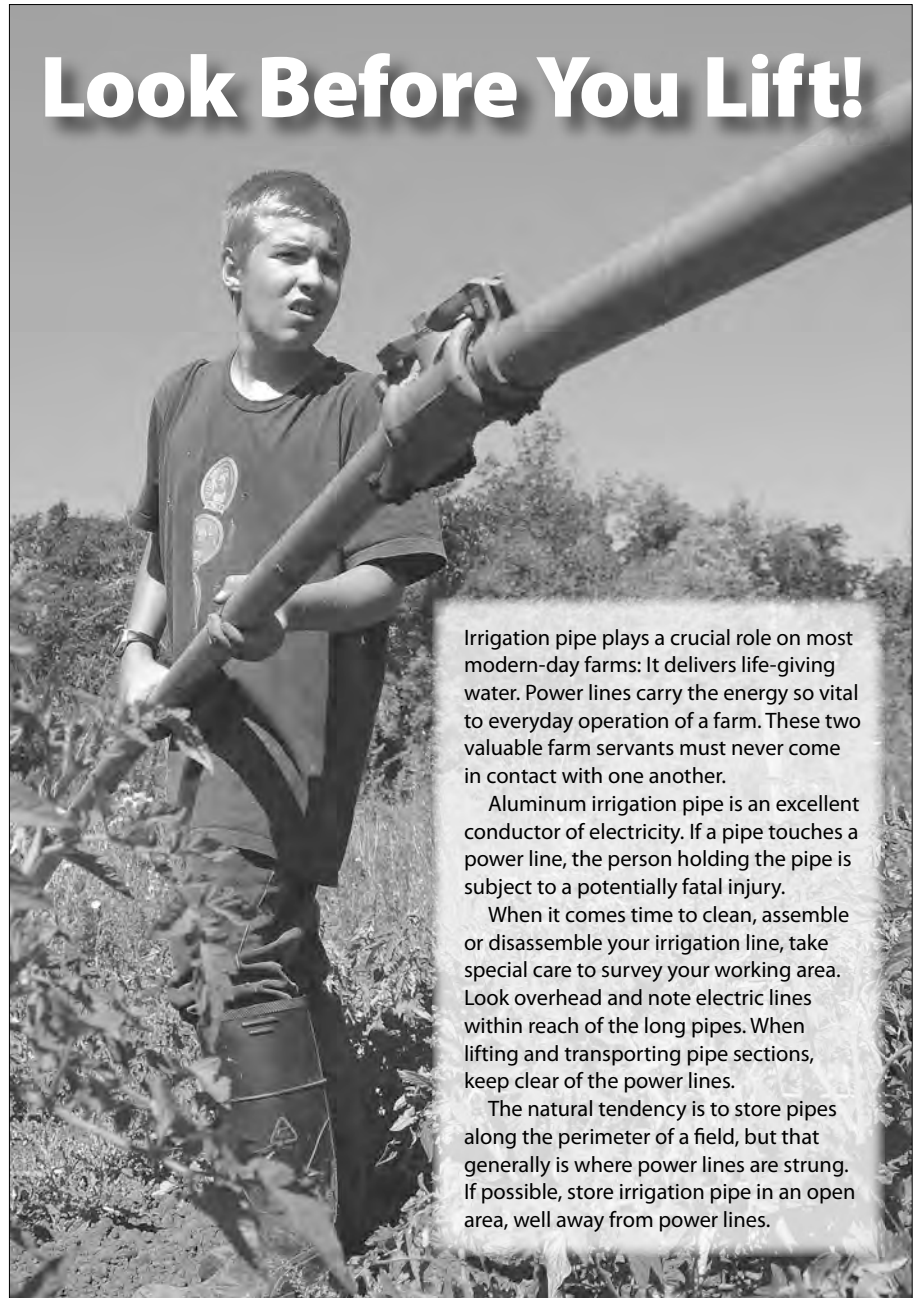
Stephanie Bowen

Attorney

Raymond S. Kindley

OR-27

Look Before You Lift!



Irrigation pipe plays a crucial role on most modern-day farms: It delivers life-giving water. Power lines carry the energy so vital to everyday operation of a farm. These two valuable farm servants must never come in contact with one another.

Aluminum irrigation pipe is an excellent conductor of electricity. If a pipe touches a power line, the person holding the pipe is subject to a potentially fatal injury.

When it comes time to clean, assemble or disassemble your irrigation line, take special care to survey your working area. Look overhead and note electric lines within reach of the long pipes. When lifting and transporting pipe sections, keep clear of the power lines.

The natural tendency is to store pipes along the perimeter of a field, but that generally is where power lines are strung. If possible, store irrigation pipe in an open area, well away from power lines.



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

ID-28

Power Supply: A Complicated Process

The Bonneville Power Administration seems to be a growing topic in national, regional, state and even local discussions. A good portion of the discussion centers on BPA's competitiveness. A host of issues are being discussed because they impact BPA's competitiveness directly and indirectly. I will limit my remarks specifically to BPA's competitiveness—at least from your cooperative's point of view—without delving into the many controversial issues that impact BPA.

BPA is competitive in its wholesale power rates today, especially when you consider all the essential electric power products included in BPA's wholesale power offering. The essential electric power products BPA offers Salmon River Electric Cooperative are scheduling of electric power deliveries, electric power delivery, load following and reserves. Electric power deliveries over the grid must be scheduled and coordinated. This ensures there is available capacity on the transmission lines and adequate electric power generator capacity. The delivery of electric power requires transmission lines and rights to transmission lines.

BPA owns an extensive transmission system and has contractual rights to transmission systems it doesn't own. BPA, in turn, has provided SREC with contractual transmission rights to these systems and is contractually obligated to make federal power deliveries to SREC.

Load following consists of ramping up or down generation resources or scheduling market purchases to match utility load. BPA has reserve generation or resources to fill in when loads exceed forecasts or generation becomes unavailable due to outages.

This is an oversimplification of the often-unseen and unmeasured benefits BPA provides its customers. If SREC had access to cheaper electric power from sources other than BPA—the electric power market, for example—and we had to pay for all of these other benefits BPA provides, BPA would still be the best deal around.

It is true that BPA's wholesale rates have been increasing at a concerning rate. BPA customers want the agency to bend this cost curve downward while still providing low-cost, reliable and environmentally safe electric power. BPA is responding to our requests and we hope that will continue.

Your cooperative believes we need to influence decision-making to keep BPA viable. As a power marketing agency, BPA markets the power from the federal hydro system. The federal hydro system is valuable for integrating new renewable resources such as wind and solar. You have made significant investments through the power bills you pay in BPA's fish and wildlife programs, many of which have had great success. There is more work to do. We believe investments in fish and wildlife must continually be evaluated so expenditures are made only on tested and proven measures based on science.



Ken Dizes

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

On the Wire at United Electric

The 2019 Idaho Legislature was in session for 95 days. It was the longest since 2009 and 15 days longer than 2018. It was a busy session for the Legislature. It tackled topics such as setting budgets, Medicaid expansion, teacher salaries, campaign finance laws, urban renewal laws and recognition of hydropower as a great renewable resource.

Rep. Barbara Ehardt was one of six representatives who co-sponsored House Concurrent Resolution No. 9: "A concurrent resolution stating findings of the Legislature and recognizing hydropower as the state's greatest renewable resource and further recognizing the immense benefit hydropower provides to our state as a carbon-free, inexpensive electrical power source and as an economic driver for tourism, recreation and agriculture in Idaho."

As a consumer of United Electric, 85% to 90% of the energy you use is generated with hydropower. Hydropower is the original renewable resource and 100% carbon-free. The resolution mentions many of the positive aspects of hydropower. A few excerpts are listed here:

Statement of Purpose: "Idaho has a tremendous resource in its many rivers, lakes and dams. These greatly contribute to the power produced in Idaho. The purpose of this resolution is to recognize that Idaho's hydropower is clean, reliable and renewable and is key to our energy portfolio moving forward."

"Whereas, river water's potential energy from a dammed river or reservoir and its kinetic energy from the flow of the river can be converted to electricity without emission of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases and can therefore be considered a carbon-free energy source;

"Whereas, river water's potential energy from a dammed reservoir can be adjusted in real time to provide flexibility to a grid that includes variable sources of carbon-free wind and solar power;

"Whereas, Idaho's 22 rural electric cooperatives and municipal power companies provide electric power to over 137,000 consumers across the state, purchasing 96% of the power they distribute from the Bonneville Power Administration, which produces 8,935 average megawatts of federal hydro generation annually under average streamflow conditions;

"Whereas, Idaho's hydroelectric power is abundant, renewable, low-cost, carbon-free, and responsibly maintained.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved by the members of the First Regular Session of the 65th Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that we recognize hydropower as our state's greatest renewable resource and further recognize the immense benefit hydropower provides to our state as a carbon-free, inexpensive electrical power source and as an economic driver for tourism, recreation, and agriculture in Idaho."

Kudos to the 2019 legislators! United Electric board of directors, management and employees couldn't agree with you more.



Jo Elg
General Manager



Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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

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Bret L. Zollinger
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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

What Is a Substation?

Why would you want to know about substations? Because they are an important part of the system that brings you safe and reliable electricity each time you flip a light switch or turn on an appliance.

The substation's function is to support the system, providing points of delivery in the transmission system.

They meter distribution equipment and power lines, step down voltage for distribution to homes, and maintain voltage at a constant level.

This constant level of voltage is important. To travel long distances over wires, electric power must be much higher voltage than the level at which it is actually produced by a power plant. For example, electricity leaves a power plant at about 22,000 volts, then is increased to as much as 765,000 volts. The higher the voltage, the lower the line loss and voltage drop—and the greater the system's efficiency. As the power gets closer to its destination, voltage is gradually decreased to a level safe for consumers.

Transmission substations give the power its first step-down, and distribution substations step it down further, so it may be sent on to the consumer.

The lines leaving a distribution substation are owned and maintained by the local utility. They carry power to homes, businesses, schools and industries.

Substations contain transformers, insulators, circuit breakers, lightning arrestors and more.

A transformer performs the main function of a substation, which is to reduce the voltage to an acceptable level for distribution. The voltage regulator maintains a constant outgoing voltage.

A switching station is different than a substation. Also known as breaker stations, switching stations exist for the protection and reliability of the system. They allow faults in the system to be "sectionalized" so outages are limited to fewer customers.

The "garbage can" near the top of a pole is the transformer. It increases voltage for long-distance transmission, and lowers voltage for use by customers.

The next time you drive by a fenced conglomeration of power lines and equipment, remember it is an important part of your power system. It helps ensure you receive electricity safely and reliably.



Board of Directors

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 Will Stark, Vice President
 Dan Stowe, Secretary
 Yvette Delaquito, Treasurer
 Lon Rake, Director
 Jeff Saxe, Director
 Mark Shorten, 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

June

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

July

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Thursday, July 4, 2019, for Independence Day

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

AK-34

Copper Valley Electric Association 2019 Election Results

At the 2019 Annual Meeting of Members, Board of Director election results were announced. The Copper Basin District elected Yvette Delaquito and re-elected Fred Williams, and the Valdez District re-elected Dan Stowe, each to a three-year term.



The Credentials and Election Committees in both districts reported voting results for the director election as follows:

<u>Copper Basin</u>		<u>Valdez</u>	
Ballots Received	316	Ballots Received	232
Ballots Counted	305	Ballots Counted	214
Yvette Delaquito	229	Dan Stowe	214
George Gillman	168		
Fred Williams	181		

CVEA welcomes new and returning directors and appreciates the participation of everyone involved in the election.

Winners of the 2019 ballot drawing for a \$50 energy credit were: Nora and Mark Peifer in the Copper Basin, and Daryl Box, in Valdez. Thanks to all who submitted valid ballots.



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.



OR-35

PUD Projects Update

Dear Customers:

June marks the halfway point of our year. I would like to review the status of a couple of Tillamook PUD projects and provide a look at where we are heading in the remaining year.

We began 2019 with a systemwide electric service meter replacement project. This task was implemented to update our aging equipment so we could increase reliability and operating efficiency. Contract meter installers from Electrical Utility Services have completed more than 90% of the replacement work. The project will be complete at the end of this month.

If you have been by the Tillamook PUD headquarters recently, you may have noticed construction work taking place toward the south end of the property. This work entails building an operations center addition and remodeling the west section of the warehouse.

The operations center addition will help us fulfill imperative operational needs. Crews and operations office staff currently work in several sections of the warehouse and office, which creates challenges when trying to complete daily work or extra-duty storm work. Providing a functional workspace and the necessary technical equipment will help staff complete work more efficiently.

The operations center will be used primarily as an everyday workspace for crews and staff. However, it is also intended to function as an emergency operations center. The operations center addition is seismically designed with Geopier foundation reinforcements. When building this addition, we kept in mind the importance of having a cross-functional space that could be used in case of a natural disaster or emergency by not only our team, but also by government agencies and community entities.

The warehouse remodel is also a significant aspect of this project. When completed, our metering department will have an area for diagnostic work and equipment storage, and purchasing will have additional capacity for supplies and equipment inventory.

The operations center/warehouse remodel project is slated for completion in early fall.

As we shift into summer, we have system improvement projects planned. Projects ahead include a system rebuild from Rockaway Beach to Wheeler; underground system work in the Second Street area of downtown Tillamook; and rebuilding work on East Third Street, from Tillamook Bay Community College to the Trask River Road intersection.

If you are curious about current, upcoming or past projects, visit www.tpud.org, stop by one of our quarterly town hall events or attend one of our monthly board meetings.

Sincerely,

Todd Simmons, General Manager





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

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Richard Ungarook Sr.
Tina Wolgemuth

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

Be Safe This Summer

As you and your family spend more time outdoors, please join us in taking stock of your home summertime safety practices.

Pay attention to where you place metal ladders. Before you start any project, always look up and avoid overhead power lines. Keep a minimum of 10 feet between you and overhead lines.

Keep power tools away from wet surfaces, and do not overload outlets.

Always assume a wire is live. Fly kites and remote-controlled airplanes in large open areas safely away from overhead power lines. If a power line is down, dangling or on the ground under any circumstances, keep a 30-foot distance. This goes for adults and kids. Those wires are likely to be energized, so please call us and let us take it from there.

Electrical devices, such as stereos, should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources. Outdoor electrical outlets should always be covered.

These are just a few tips to remember when you are spending time outdoors this summer with your family. Have some fun out there, and always keep safety in mind.

Happy summer,

Ben Frantz

General Manager

Owned By Those We Serve

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John Sloan, Secretary (District 6)
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Corporate Headquarters

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

Delta Junction Office

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

Nenana Office

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

Report Outages:

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

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!



AK-37



Utility poles are not bulletin boards

Think before you post that sign!

Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs and fliers create dangerous obstacles for electric lineworkers.

Their jobs are dangerous enough—help us keep them safe!

Photo by Parisphotographics

GVEA Lineman Troy Birdsell



Manager's Message

Continued from page 32

a battery-powered radio with extra batteries; easily accessible emergency phone numbers for your utility, doctor, fire and police; a telephone connected directly to the phone jack (cordless phones need electricity to operate); a one-week supply of drinking water and nonperishable food and a cooler for storing frequently used foods. Food spoils more quickly if the refrigerator door is opened. Keep these items on hand to make an outage more tolerable: a manual can opener; an alternative cooking source; and a deck of cards, board games and a book.

If someone in your home depends on electric-powered, life-sustaining equipment, make a plan for backup power.

If you are going to install a generator and connect to your homes electrical system, please make sure that it is done to code using an automated system like a Generac switch, or a manual double-pull double-throw switch that separates your house from the grid. Failure to do so could cause injury or fire, leading to potentially massive liability on your part and disconnection from the grid if discovered. For more information on a double-pull double-throw switch, please talk to a licensed electrician.

Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane or charcoal-burning device inside a home or garage. Locate the unit away from doors, windows and vents to prevent exposure to carbon monoxide.

Please install surge protectors on any sensitive electronics and appliances. Be sure to buy surge protectors that have a warranty for your connected load.

June is National Safety Month

Safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. Because we live and work in the communities we serve, we care about our neighbors. Plumas-Sierra conducts electrical safety demonstrations in schools and for community events.

According to the Electrical Safety

Foundation International, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical do-it-yourself projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers that look amiss.

For more electrical safety information, please visit www.psrec.coop. If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or community event, please contact us at 800-555-2207.

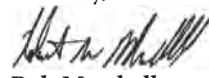
Telecommunications

PST has submitted applications to the California Public Utilities Commission's California Advanced Services Fund for grants to fund expansion of broadband in many of the hardest to reach areas of our service territory. We will find out about funding for that in November. We are continuing the expansion of our system in easier to reach areas in real time.

PST's coax and wireless broadband services offer download speeds of up to 20 Mbps. Our fiber optic services can go up to 1 gigabyte per second, with even faster speeds available, if needed. With these speeds, you can stream videos on multiple devices at the same time without slowing down. You could even eliminate your cable bill with streaming services. For more information and to sign up for service, call us at 800-221-3474 or visit www.pst.coop.

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

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.
For more information, visit www.tourdemanure.org.

June 18-21

Susanville Bluegrass Music Camp. Lassen County Fairgrounds, 195 Russell Ave. A great and affordable opportunity to improve your instrument-playing capabilities and vocal skills. Cost is \$175 per person.
For more information, call 530-251-8900.

June 21

Solstice Garden Stroll; Beer and Wine Tasting. Three Gardens, downtown Quincy. 4:30 to 8 p.m. Enjoy the summer solstice by strolling between three Quincy gardens to taste beer or wine and enjoy tasty themed appetizers.
For more information, call 530-927-9901.

June 21-23

Blue Grass Festival. Lassen County Fairgrounds, 195 Russell Ave., Susanville.
For more information, call 530-251-8900.

June 22

Paws on Parade. Downtown Graeagle. Family and dog-friendly fun at the park. Proceeds benefit High Sierra Animal Rescue.
For more information, call 530-832-4727.

June 30

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

July 4-7

High Sierra Music Festival. Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds, 204 Fairground Road, Quincy.
For more information, email highsierramusic@highsierramusic.com.

Loyalton Fourth of July Celebration. Smithneck Park, Loyalton. 11 a.m. Parade, barbecue and auction.

For more information, visit www.eastsierravalleychamber.com.

July 5-7

Graeagle Independence Day Celebration. Events include family-friendly dancing, an aerial fireworks display over the Graeagle Mill Pond, and parade/day-in-the-park events.
For more information, email gidc@graeagle.com.



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CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

Thank you for participating in the meetings last month to provide your input on the proposed rate increase and PSREC's Wildfire Mitigation Plan. We received a lot of good input and suggestions from members.

The board of directors has approved the rate increase, which will affect the facilities charge and be implemented in two parts. The first increase takes effect July 1, and will be an additional \$4.32 per month for residential members; \$8.05 per month for single-phase commercial members; and \$11.20 per month for three-phase commercial members.

The second increase takes effect January 1, 2020, and will be an additional \$2.67 per month for residential members; \$4.95 per month for single-phase commercial members; and \$6.85 per month for three-phase commercial members.

Our other rate classes have been notified directly of the structure of their increase.

It has been five years since the last increase of 3.7 percent. 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 legislation and wildfire impacts.

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 rate increase was to the facilities charge so we can collect more of our fixed costs through the fixed fees.

PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs

To reduce the risk of incidents such as the Camp Fire, PG&E will turn off portions of its grid during extreme fire danger, high wind events and other critical situations. PG&E has notified us it intends to disconnect lines in medium- to high-risk areas in the Sierras, affecting our primary power supply that comes through the Feather River Canyon.

We will provide as much notice as possible to members when PG&E notifies us it intends to shut off our transmission feed. PSREC will post information on www.psrec.coop, Facebook and Twitter, and via text message. To sign up for text messages, text "PSREC" to 95577.

We will switch to our backup transmission feed from NV Energy, but there is a limit to how much energy we can bring through that line, so members need to be prepared for outages and rolling blackouts. During a power outage, please disconnect all nonessential electrical loads. Every light and appliance turned off will help PSREC re-energize more of our system. If our power transmission system is constrained, conservation helps keep our electrical system stable and enables us to serve both you and your neighbors.

Preparing for power outages can help make the best of a bad situation. Equip your home with a power outage kit that includes a flashlight, battery-powered lamp or lantern, and extra batteries; candles and matches;

Continues on page 25

Museum Preserves White Pine History

By Christina Sawyer

Visiting your local museum, you'd expect to make amazing discoveries. But imagine how the volunteers at the White Pine Public Museum felt when they discovered a treasure hiding right under their noses.

"Every day at the museum, there is something new to see" says Janet VanCamp, chairwoman for the White Pine Public Museum board. "But our most recent discovery is

really something special."

While cleaning out a museum storage area earlier this year, volunteers uncovered a horse-drawn hearse. In the 17th century, the term hearse referred to the horse-drawn carriages that carried caskets to the place of burial during a funeral procession.

Volunteers have unofficially dated their discovery to 1850. Their research also provided information linking the acquisition to a trade with a local man for an ore car in 1889. Desperately needing repairs, the treasure was tucked away in storage where it lay for the past 30 years. Museum volunteer Mary Thomas says the estimated cost of repairing the hearse is about \$10,000.

Many items donated to the museum need repair, and while the White Pine County Tourism & Recreation Board provides some support to the museum, volunteers rely on grants, memberships, admission fees and donations to bring the diverse stories and history of the community back to life.

The museum was spearheaded by the Ely Business and Professional Women's Club in August 1959. More than 100 citizens joined together to develop a collection, and the museum was incorporated as the White Pine Public Museum in June 1960, opening with exhibits loaned and donated by citizens of White Pine County.

Museum Manager Julie



The White Pine Public Museum in Ely opened in 1960.

Wallace and her assistant, Joy Ragali, comprise the museum's small staff. They host several educational tours and provide a personal touch to anyone's museum experience.

Recently, a group of third graders from Las Vegas participated in an impromptu scavenger hunt, allowing for an interactive experience with the exhibits.

Mary says the staff and volunteers strive to accommodate all visitors. They are working to translate the

self-guided tour pamphlet into Spanish, for example.

"There is always something new, even though it's old," Janet jokes. "Imagine what these dolls have seen," she adds, referring to a collection of antique dolls volunteers recently worked on.

Visitors find riches like a player piano from 1860—paper roll still intact. According to museum records, the piano was brought over the Plains by the Hayes family.



On the museum's eastern facade, a mural of the short-faced cave bear gives viewers an idea of how tall 'Lilly' would have stood on her hind legs. Muralist John Steinauer painted it in May 2015 in cooperation with Boy Scout Troop 289.



Mt. Wheeler Power lineman and local artist Jason McNutt painted the above mural in the museum's Natural History and Mining Room. It provides the backdrop for the 12,000-year-old short-faced cave bear fossil known locally as 'Lilly.' She was found in White Pine County in 1992 by local cavers.

Photos courtesy of White Pine Public Museum

The museum's collection of antique instruments and music players is extensive. It includes a Victrola—an early type of record player that was patented in 1906—and original band instruments from the White Pine High School music department, including a sousaphone used in the marching band, a saxophone from 1914 and a Rosewood marimba.

Visitors can also sit down at a 1921 Concord piano that was originally brought out from Chicago and used in the Masonic Hall for Ely Lodge No. 29.

The museum's medical room features a cabinet that still holds a variety of equipment, instruments and medicine bottles once used by Dr.

Noah Smirnoff and Dr. J.K. Jones, who practiced medicine in the county for many years.

There's also a wooden cauterizing machine used for tonsillectomies at Steptoe Hospital, a wooden wheelchair with a caned back and a dental chair from the clinic in McGill, Nevada.

Outdoor displays include the Gilbert Cabin, which was built in the 1880s and is one of the earliest cabins in Ely. Those intrigued by ghost stories can visit and inquire about which Gilbert family member is thought to haunt the cabin.

Visitors can pack a picnic lunch and have a rest on the west lawn while checking out the old jail cell, where they can take in details of the

Fourth of July Celebration Mural on the west outdoor wall.

The first mural commissioned by Renaissance Society muralist Colin Williams tells the story of the significance of the Fourth of July for White Pine County as a holiday for all ethnic groups celebrated together.

While there are hundreds of amazing discoveries at the museum, there are countless donated items patiently

waiting restoration. So while a visit to the museum will uncover the rich history of this community, it will also help support the museum. ■

The White Pine Public Museum is not-for-profit and relies on fundraising, donations, admission fees and memberships, which allow staff to renew and preserve important pieces of the community's rich history. Staff are always looking for volunteers to help bring displays to life and provide every visitor an inspiring experience. To make a donation or volunteer with the museum, call 775-289-4710.

Museum Fundraiser

There will be a 1920's-themed beer and bacon tasting June 22, 4 to 7 p.m. at the White Pine Public Museum: 2000 Great Basin Blvd. Costumes are encouraged. The fundraiser will feature locally brewed beers and a silent art auction. Tickets are \$25 if purchased in advance, or \$30 at the door.

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(775) 752-3328

NV-41

Nominations for Board of Directors to Open

Nominations for four (4) seats on Wells Rural Electric Company's (WREC) Board of Directors open Monday, June 10, 2019. Director seats subject to election are currently held by incumbents Jon Dahl, Scott Egbert, Fred Montes De Oca and Jim Whited.



Nominations must only be made on the 2019 Board of Directors Election Nomination Form available at all WREC offices and on www.wrec.coop. All mandatory questions must be answered in order for the nomination to be valid. Completed nomination forms must be received by Gary E. DiGrazia, General Counsel, by 5:00 P. M. Pacific Time Zone on Monday, June 24, 2019. Mail the completed form to Gary E. DiGrazia, 530 Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801 or P. O. Box 1358, Elko, Nevada 89803; e-mail gdi grazia@frontiernet.net; or Fax to (775) 738-4220. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure receipt of the nomination. Late nominations will not be placed on the ballot.

Any member in good standing for a minimum of one (1) year as of June 24, 2019, may nominate another eligible member, himself or herself, ("the nominee") for Director using the approved form. The nomination form must be signed and dated by both the nominee and the person making the nomination, if other than the nominee. Nominees must verify their membership by providing their name and contact information.

To be eligible for election to the Board of Directors, non-incumbent nominees must attend a mandatory informational workshop on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 1:00 P. M. Pacific Time Zone at the WREC Headquarters, 1451 Humboldt Avenue, Wells, Nevada 89835.

Nominees must not have any felony convictions within seven (7) years prior to June 10, 2019.

The nominee must be of legal voting age prior to June 10, 2019.

The nominee must be a member or spouse of a member, or a local officer, director, partner, official or manager of an entity that is a member. An entity is a partnership, corporation, limited liability company, firm, association, business trust, personal trust, body politic or subdivision thereof, or other multiple ownership-type business structure. No more than one (1) person may serve on the Board based upon any one (1) membership.

The nominee, or his/her entity, must not have an unpaid account with WREC that is outstanding for more than ninety (90) days. The nominee, or his/her entity, must not have an account written-off as a bad debt by WREC within seven (7) years prior to June 10, 2019.

The nominee must not be a current employee of WREC or a former employee of WREC within five years prior to June 24, 2019.

The nominee, or his/her entity, must not have been the subject of a *Ruralite* Feature Story article since February 21, 2019.

Additional voluntary information, including years of WREC membership, occupation and years on WREC Board may be included. Education and training credentials—not more than three hundred (300) characters and spaces—may also be included. WREC reserves the right to edit.

The nomination should be accompanied by a photograph of the nominee suitable for use in preparing the ballot package.

General Counsel shall determine the eligibility of each nominee.

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer



NV-42



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LETTER FROM THE CEO

Onward

The past few weeks have been challenging for everyone at Valley Electric. Especially disconcerting are the allegations of illegal activities revolving around your Cooperative before my arriving. I have personally reviewed Cooperative records. The Co-op hired an independent investigator look into the allegation of embezzlement. Our most recent audit was performed after the allegations were leveled.

Nothing has been uncovered to support the allegations.

That does not mean mistakes were not made, however. In fact, many errors were made in attempting to keep utility rates stable until 2024. I would like to ask you: What other services have you received over the past decade that did not increase in price?

I am excited about the changes coming about for the future at Valley Electric and for the membership.

Many changes already are in place. There is more transparency and more communications with members (see Page 30). We are encouraging a deeper level of member involvement. We are doing more to improve member services.

We have created an online request form in order to allow equal opportunity to all community, service and non-profit organizations to request financial or in-kind donations from VEA. This also makes it easier for organizations from all of our Districts to submit requests. The online form is accessible on mobile, tablet and computer, so members can submit from any electronic device.

Our new policy on committees (Page 28) and board engagement will better serve the membership. Soon, each of four new committees will be populated with six to 24 members from across the service territory. The committees are: Finance, Policy, Member Liaison and Foundation. Each committee will be assigned tasks, and members will be compensated for travel. I encourage you to contact your Board member about serving on one of these committees. Committee members

from the outlying districts will have the choice of traveling to Pahrump for a meeting or by utilizing video conferencing from their areas.

The VEA Board Committee Application is available online, accessible on all electronic device types, such as mobile, tablet and computers. We continue to work toward better communication with our members, and this provides equal opportunity for members in all districts to apply. It also ensures that standard information is requested and provided.

What else would you like to see online?

Our bylaws have been updated five times in the past decade, but they still need more work to bring clarity to the membership in today's active membership environment. I will ask the Member Liaison Committee to revise and update Valley's bylaws in 2019 and bring the recommendations to the membership at next year's Annual Meeting.

Tomorrow is already here for the Valley Electric Membership! In 2016, your Board established Valley Communications, a broadband company to bring wireless broadband and fiber to these valleys, investing more than \$42 million in broadband infrastructure. VCA is now starting to pay its own way and is on a clear path to sure financial footing with excellent service.

We pledge to learn from our past while keeping our eyes focused on the future as we bring you reliable, affordable services.

Until next month,

Dick Peck
Chief Executive

Chief Executive Dick Peck has spent 47 years in the public power industry, including 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.

WA-43

What Is a Substation?

Why would you want to know about substations? Because they are an important part of the system that brings you safe and reliable electricity each time you flip a light switch or turn on an appliance.

The substation's function is to support the system, providing points of delivery in the transmission system.

They meter distribution equipment and power lines, step down voltage for distribution to homes, and maintain voltage at a constant level.

This constant level of voltage is important. To travel long distances over wires, electric power must be much higher voltage than the level at which it is actually produced by a power plant. For example, electricity leaves a power plant at about 22,000 volts, then is increased to as much as 765,000 volts. The higher the voltage, the lower the line loss and voltage drop—and the greater the system's efficiency. As the power gets closer to its destination, voltage is gradually decreased to a level safe for consumers.

Transmission substations give the power its first step-down, and distribution substations step it down further, so it may be sent on to the consumer.

The lines leaving a distribution substation are owned and maintained by the local utility. They carry power to homes, businesses, schools and industries.

Substations contain transformers, insulators, circuit breakers, lightning arrestors and more.

A transformer performs the main function of a substation, which is to reduce the voltage to an acceptable level for distribution. The voltage regulator maintains a constant outgoing voltage.

A switching station is different than a substation. Also known as breaker stations, switching stations exist for the protection and reliability of the system. They allow faults in the system to be "sectionalized" so outages are limited to fewer customers.

The "garbage can" near the top of a pole is the transformer. It increases voltage for long-distance transmission, and lowers voltage for use by customers.

The next time you drive by a fenced conglomeration of power lines and equipment, remember it is an important part of your power system. It helps ensure you receive electricity safely and reliably.





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Les Penning, CEO

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

Looking Back, Moving Forward

OTEC's 31st Annual Meeting of the Membership was in John Day last month. The event provided members a great opportunity to look back over the past year at some of the cooperative's major areas of focus, to look forward and discuss the challenges before us.

Your cooperative's financial health remains strong. As part of the annual meeting, Board President Austin Bingaman highlighted the 2018 capital credit retirement, the largest in OTEC history. We returned just more than \$6 million to our member-owners while maintaining a solid equity position of 55%.

We also compared OTEC's rates to the market, concluding that your cooperative's rates remain highly competitive. The average residential rate is 9.38 cents per kilowatt-hour. The Oregon average is 10.61 cents and the national average is 12.7 cents. Almost half of OTEC's total costs relate to power supply, a cost that is outside OTEC's control. We are thankful to have hydropower so our members enjoy a carbon-free renewable resource to serve their electric needs.

In addition to other capital investments, \$1.2 million of capital improvement projects were completed, advancing strategies that support system performance, reliability and economic development. In 2018, your cooperative's total assets were \$133 million.

As part of our strategic focus and in response to member feedback, we completed several key initiatives in 2018. We dramatically improved aspects of our tariff and rules, including updating line extension policies, increased system capacity for key growth areas, advanced service levels that improved payment options, expanded education support and increased rebates to help our members with energy-efficiency projects.

From a community perspective, we found

great success partnering with the Rippey Family Foundation by leveraging unclaimed capital credit dollars with a dollar-for-dollar match to support child literacy through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program. After just 10 months, the program reaches more than 1,300 of our members' children from birth to age 5, with an age-appropriate book delivered directly to their home monthly.

Even though 2018 provided many positive outcomes for your cooperative, going forward we must keep a watchful eye on some dark clouds forming. The potential of a cap-and-trade bill passing this legislative session is high. It holds many uncertainties for Oregonians statewide and certainly for our member-owners, businesses and communities. Regardless of the ancillary benefit from our carbon-free hydropower, this bill places many burdens on our economy that will affect transportation costs and key business in our communities, and creates an unfavorable climate for businesses.

The compounding effect of the potential cap-and-trade legislation—coupled with ongoing challenges that the Bonneville Power Administration's hydro system faces, including court-ordered spills and the potential removal of dams—puts our member-owners at economic risk.

If you would like to learn more, visit oreca-action.org to sign up for our grassroots effort, or contact your legislative representative.



Les Penning
CEO



Member-owned since 1921

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WA-49

Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub

Life is fast and sometimes hectic, but everything doesn't have to be complicated. Paying your Ohop Mutual Light Co. bill shouldn't be a complex task. With our SmartHub web and mobile app, it won't be.

You may have heard about SmartHub, our innovative tool for account management. But what can it do for you? SmartHub can help you take control of your Ohop Mutual account like never before, giving you more time to focus on other responsibilities.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, your smartphone or tablet—Android or iOS—you can pay your bill, view your use, contact customer service and get the latest news.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment in just a couple of steps. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month or even the previous year if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, you can view your kilowatt-hour use, which will allow you to take steps to lower your bill.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment, you can securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

You'll also be able to see important Ohop Mutual notices with SmartHub. You can select how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and text messaging.

You can also contact Ohop Mutual for customer service requests or with any questions you may have. SmartHub's contact feature makes it quick and easy to let us know about the issue with a few taps.

Access SmartHub by visiting www.ohop.coop or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple's App Store or Google Play.

If you need assistance with any of our services, call our office at 253-847-4363. We are happy to help. Plenty of things in life are complicated. Manage your Ohop Mutual Light Co. account simply, quickly and easily with SmartHub.



Kenneth Klotz
General Manager



45710 SE North Bend Way
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WA-50

Smart Thermostat Incentive Program

*Smart thermostats can help lower your heating bill
and increase your comfort*

Tanner Electric Cooperative now has an incentive program to help lower your heating bill if you have an existing forced-air electric furnace, air-source heat pump or a ground-source heat pump as your primary system for your home.

We offer an incentive to buy smart thermostats from any retail store or have it installed by a contractor. Incentives range from \$100 to \$125, depending on whether the homeowner or a contractor installs it.

Buy a qualified smart thermostat from a retail store or contractor, install it, program it—or have a contractor install it and program it—complete the Tanner Electric smart thermostat application, and send the application to Tanner Electric with a copy of your receipt that lists the make and model number. It must be one of three qualified smart thermostats. You will receive the incentive in the mail in about four weeks.

For more information about Tanner Electric's smart thermostat program, contact Mike Porter, program manager, by phone at 503-730-3122 or email at mike.porter@evergreen-efficiency.com.





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The country's oldest
mutual cooperative*

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

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

WA-52



Ductless heat pumps provide year-round heating and cooling, and can be used to control different zones.

Heat Pump Rebates

Beat the heat and prepare for summer cooling season

Parkland Light & Water Co.'s ductless heat pump program can help reduce your electric utility bills and mitigate seasonal heat changes. Heat pumps provide higher comfort levels year-round because the units provide both heating and air conditioning.

PL&WCo. offers the following incentives:

- Site-built or manufactured homes with electric baseboard, wall heaters or ceiling cable can receive up to \$800.
- Site-built or manufactured homes with forced-air electric furnaces can receive up to \$1,000.

Many manufacturers offer additional incentives to reduce installation costs.

A ducted heat pump conversion program is available for consumers with an existing forced-air furnace with ductwork and who want lower heating and cooling bills.

PL&WCo. offers the following incentives:

- Air-source heat pump conversions for site-built or manufactured homes with ducted electric furnaces can qualify for up to \$800.
- Variable-speed air-source heat pump conversions for site-built or manufactured homes with ducted electric forced-air furnaces can qualify for up to \$1,000.

For more information, call Mike Porter from Evergreen Consulting at 503-730-3122 or email mike.porter@evergreen-efficiency.com. ■



495 E. Columbia River Highway
PO BOX 216

Clatskanie, Oregon 97016
(503) 728-2163 Office
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GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #8050500

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

Community Calendar

June 6: Clatskanie Chamber Meeting

Noon at Colvins

June 13: Rainier Chamber Meeting

Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

June 15: Columbia Century Challenge

Start and Finish in Clatskanie City Park
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Music in the Park by
the band Phoenix

June 19: Clatskanie PUD Board

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

June 29: Heritage Days Begins

Clatskanie Cruisers Car Show - PEO
Pie in the Park - Prince & Princess in
Training - Quincy Grange Breakfast

See page 25 for Heritage Days Info

OR-60

Continuing our Mythbuster series from last month:

Myth #5: The PUD can control our meters and make them go faster or slower.

I can assure you that we have absolutely no control over the speed of any meters, whether they are the old mechanical meters or the new solid state digital meters. A meter does one thing, and that is to simply measure the flow of electricity as it passes through the meter. The users of the electricity are the only ones who can control how much energy passes through the meter. Electronic devices, major appliances, lights on, heat turned up, loads of laundry, washing dishes, and the amount of hot water used are all examples of usage that increases the flow of electricity through the meter.

Outside temperatures have a great deal of impact on how much energy is used to heat a home, but also affects how much energy it takes to keep a refrigerator, freezer, or water heater at its desired temperature. For example, the colder the water coming into a water heater during cold winter months, the more energy it takes to heat the water to the set temperature. The converse is true in the hot summer months. There is definitely a cause and effect relationship between the weather and the amount of energy that is used in a home or business.

Last year the District conducted a utility wide audit of our system. We learned that over 60% of our current mechanical meters have been in place well over their life expectancy. Old meters wear out and slow down thus providing lower readings than the actual usage which results in lost revenue to operate the PUD. This lost revenue then has to be recalculated into the rates to be paid for by all customers to make up the difference.

In order to rectify the problem, the District will be embarking on a three year project to replace all of our old mechanical meters with new digital solid state meters which are highly accurate. There will be no more spinning wheel which is difficult for customers to decipher and read. Instead we will have a digital readout on the meter which constantly shows the usage of the meter in real time. As with the old mechanical meters, the new solid state digital meters will simply measure the real time flow of electricity through the meter.

Marc Farmer
General Manager





KOTZEBUE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

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

AK-64



Kotzebue members gather at Kotzebue Middle High School for the annual meeting in May. The annual meeting is a great time to catch up with friends and learn about your co-op.



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Ambler	Nightmute
Andreafsky	Noatak
Anvik	Noorvik
Bethel	Nulato
Brevig Mission	Nunapitchuk
Chevak	Old Harbor
Eek	Oscarville
Ekwok	Pilot Station
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Gambell	Russian Mission
Goodnews Bay	St. Mary's
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Holy Cross	Savoonga
Hooper Bay	Scammon Bay
Huslia	Selawik
Kaltag	Shageluk
Kasigluk	Shaktoolik
Kiana	Shishmaref
Kivalina	Shungnak
Kobuk	Stebbins
Kotlik	Teller
Koyuk	Togiak
Lower Kalskag	Toksook Bay
Marshall	Tununak
Mekoryuk	Upper Kalskag
Minto	Yakutat
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Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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907-561-1818
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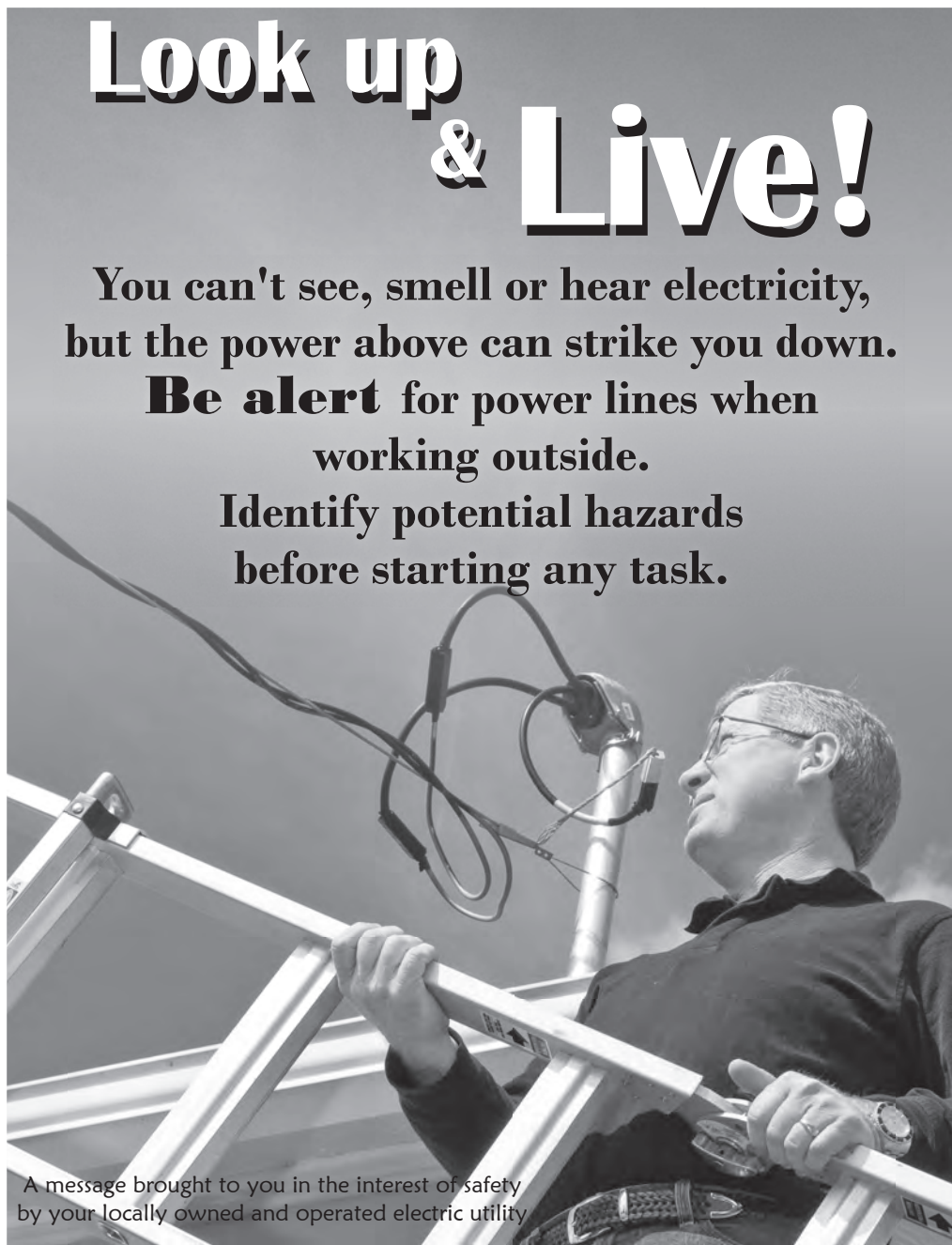
AK-105

Look up & Live!

You can't see, smell or hear electricity,
but the power above can strike you down.

Be alert for power lines when
working outside.

Identify potential hazards
before starting any task.



A message brought to you in the interest of safety
by your locally owned and operated electric utility



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

Keep The Poles Clear

We all enjoy yard sales, concerts and other activities we find advertised on posters nailed or stapled to our power poles. But a left-behind nail can cause a line-man's climbing hooks to cut out of a pole so he falls. A staple can snag a lineman's protective gloves, which could result in electrocution.

Please help keep our linemen safe:
Don't post signs on power poles.



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

OR-400

Case in Point

Recently, I drove 3½ hours to attend an annual meeting of one of my electric cooperative members. It was a long day for me, but that distance is no big deal for rural Oregonians—usually just another trip to the regional hospital or even an outing to shop for common household goods.

Life is hard for many rural Oregonians. They have few of the amenities their urban counterparts enjoy and make far less money. But the sense of community at a co-op annual meeting is something to behold, which is one of the reasons I attend. I also inevitably learn something about the co-ops I represent.

At this particular meeting, I relearned a valuable lesson in, of all places, the buffet line, where I struck up a conversation with a co-op member. He was an older gentleman with leathery skin and a broad, inviting smile. I asked him if he was a regular at the co-op annual meeting.

"I never miss it," he said. "I like everything about it."

By that I think he meant the chance to see some old friends and, of course, to enjoy an excellent meal. Then he tugged on my sleeve to make another point.

"I've won twice," he said with pride, looking around sheepishly as though he was boasting too much.

I knew what he meant. Through the years, he had won prizes at the co-op annual meeting raffle. He didn't tell me what he'd taken home, but I know what is usually at stake. A power drill, a credit on their power bill or perhaps a \$50 gift card to The Home Depot. It's not as if he had won the lottery, but when you're like most rural Oregonians and working relentlessly just to get by, seeing your number come up on a red ticket in the raffle is a big deal.

It's an important lesson for any policymaker who wants to impose new costs and regulations on those who can least afford it.

I encourage our elected leaders to come visit a co-op annual meeting. You'll see what it means to be a part of a rural community: the camaraderie and the chance for some of the hardest-working people you will ever meet to get a well-deserved break. You'll also see the joy of watching those who have had the odds stacked against them their whole lives have their number pulled out of a hat.

Sometimes twice.

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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Matt Haynie
email: mhaynie@marlboro.coop

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.

Going Viral Is a Good Thing?

Up until a few weeks ago, if someone had asked me what "viral" meant, my response would have been that it probably had something to do with an illness. Likewise, I assumed that if someone was "going viral," they were probably coming down with a case of something I wanted to stay away from, unless I liked hanging out at the local urgent care. That notion soon changed.

It was a Friday morning, and I had just finished breakfast. The TV was on, more for background noise than for entertainment, and "Fox and Friends" was just starting. One of the hosts mentioned South Carolina linemen and all of a sudden, they had my attention. It's not every day you hear about anything from South Carolina on national news. However, there on the screen, broadcasted to millions of viewers around the world, was a clip of our Marlboro Electric linemen passing an American flag up a power pole. The video's caption read, "Linemen's Patriotic Moment Goes Viral." Did that really happen? Did I just see men I know closely and respect dearly on a nationwide morning show?

I immediately called MEC's president and CEO to make sure he saw this moment too. To say I was proud is an understatement. I was bursting at the seams with excitement that MEC had just made national news! But how did this video, shown for the first time at our annual meeting less than a week before, end up on Fox News?

That's when I learned that in today's world, "viral" has a different meaning. It was something to be celebrated. Viral refers to something online that gets extremely popular in a short time. Our video was liked and shared on social media so much that it spread from our headquarters in Bennettsville to places like Utah, Texas, Maryland and even India.

After it was shown at our annual meeting, the video of our linemen raising the American flag while the patriotic song "God Bless the U.S.A." by Lee Greenwood played in the background was uploaded to Marlboro Electric's Facebook page. By the time it was shown on "Fox and Friends," the video had been seen by more than 500,000 people and, in the days that followed, it gained 1 million more views.

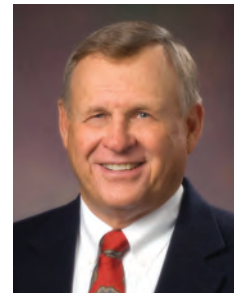
I hope you were able to attend our annual meeting to see our video. If not, take a look on MEC's Facebook page and see the clip broadcasted on national news.

This whole experience has been an eye opener for me. Not only did I learn the word viral could have a positive meaning, but more importantly I got to see our local co-op, which I appreciate and respect, receive national recognition for the work they do, the country they serve and the God they worship. I was yet again reminded of how important linemen are to not only those of us in Marlboro and Dillon counties, but all across the nation.

God bless America, and God bless our linemen!

EDDIE GORDON

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!



FLORIDA Currents

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

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EREC
A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

Manager's Message

A Bittersweet Letter to You

Dear friends,

Writing this manager's message is bittersweet. After working at Escambia River Electric Cooperative for 28 years, I will retire at the end of this month.

I look forward to spending more time with family and friends, traveling to new places and revisiting some old favorites, and just having time to do things around the house I've put off because I never found the time. However, it is going to be a big adjustment for me not to be at EREC every day doing the work I have loved for many years.

After working at a Mississippi electric system, I was thankful to have the opportunity to come home to the area where I grew up. When I accepted the position as general manager of the co-op, I knew there would be challenges and probably some difficulties from time to time. But I also knew I would enjoy working at EREC and serving such a wonderful community.

What I didn't realize was how rewarding my career would be. I didn't know the people I work with and so many of the people I serve would become a second family to me. I didn't understand how this cooperative would become such an important and integral part of my life. The good times at the co-op—and the challenges as well—have given me many memories I will always treasure.



Clay R. Campbell

The best experiences I have known at EREC are when our group has worked together to accomplish a common goal. Whether it was raising funds for a charitable event or a good cause, helping a fellow cooperative in need, or coordinating a special project or event that required a team effort, it has been especially meaningful to see the incredible bond created by working together at our cooperative.

One of the biggest challenges of my career has been hurricanes we have faced, particularly Ivan. When Hurricane Ivan hit in 2004, we had experienced storms before, but nothing like that. To see our co-op family and community pull together to help and encourage each other through such adversity was truly special. Even though that was a difficult time for all of us, those memories are especially valuable to me.

EREC has been such a big part of my life for so many years. I know it is not going to stop now. I have no doubt the cooperative will continue to thrive and prosper in the capable hands of our board and employees.

As I reflect on my years at EREC, I want to thank my work family for making my job as manager so enjoyable. Most of all, I want to thank you, our member-owners, for the opportunity to serve you through our electric cooperative. It has truly been a pleasure and one of the highlights of my life.



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June 2019
Vol. 8, No. 8

A Positive Voice From Home 10

'Sean of the South' highlights everyday people who make small towns special.

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FKEC NEWS

JUNE 2019

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MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

To learn more about the FKEC Team visit www.FKEC.com/Cooperative/whoswho.cfm. The link for job openings can also be found at the bottom of any page at www.FKEC.com.

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

SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

Employee Teamwork = Success

To be a well-oiled electricity-providing machine requires the willingness of all employees to work as a team — and our FKEC employees do just that. While a good group of employees in the moment will ensure our success today, our veteran employees passing down their knowledge to eager new faces guarantees our success now and in the future.

I greatly appreciate seeing our experienced employees embrace and train new team members. It shows the pride they take in their job and the desire to see our company succeed for decades to come. With over 30 employees with 20 or more years of experience at FKEC, there is a lot of knowledge and skill to be passed down.

The fresh perspective and energy our new employees bring are also vital to our success. Whether they

are new to the industry or have previous experience, outside input always sparks growth — And growth is what keeps us at the forefront of our industry.



**Average Years of FKEC
Employee Service.**



While our Apprentice Lineman Program, discussed on the facing page, is an example of the formal exchange of knowledge between long-standing and new employees, cultivating the next generation happens in every FKEC department. All our supervisors and department leaders provide thorough training to new employees, and the company is proud to offer opportunities for all team members — new or long-standing — to expand their skills and advance their careers.

At FKEC, it is not just job skills and work experience that are passed down. It is also the hometown cooperative spirit. Since our inception in 1940, the importance of concern for community has transcended generations. Not only are our 114 employees dedicated to doing their jobs to the best of their abilities, but they are also committed to giving back to our Upper and Middle Keys Communities.

As stated in the FKEC vision, Florida Keys Electric Cooperative will be a progressive employer and influential community partner that sets the benchmark in providing high quality, environmentally sensitive and safe electrical power. Thanks to the dedication of our employees and staff we are able to do just that.



"Neighbors Working for Neighbors"

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

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844-201-7203 (24-hour phone payments)
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808 N. Parrott Ave.
Okeechobee, FL 34972

POWER INTERRUPTION NUMBER

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

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The Board's next meeting will be at 9 a.m. June 27 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

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CFO Jennifer Manning
Chief of Engineering Travis Turner
Dir. of Business Development Paul McGehee
Dir. of Communications Jennifer Koukos
Dir. of Employee Services Yvonne Bradley
Dir. of Safety Pedro Navarro

FL-153

CEO's Message

Help Us Help You

A couple thousand of us from 900 electric cooperatives across the nation headed to Washington, D.C., the last days of April for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual Legislative Conference. We were trying to persuade senators and representatives to pass two major pieces of legislation.

The first is the Setting Every Community Up For Retirement Enhancement Act. It includes a provision recognizing the NRECA Retirement Security Plan as low risk. More than 880 electric cooperatives provide this defined pension benefit to their employees. It is a drawing point for employee recruitment and retention. With passage of this legislation, our RS plan would pay \$30 million to \$40 million less each year in insurance premiums to the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. That would help us keep our rates affordable. We have been working on this legislation since 2014. It was scheduled for a vote on the House floor in May, so I am hopeful it has passed by the time you are reading this.

The second is the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands Act. A recent amendment to the Internal Revenue Code classified government grants as income to its recipients. That means money we receive from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for disaster recovery is income. If it makes up more than 15% of our revenue, we become a taxable organization. FEMA only reimburses 75% of our disaster costs as is. If those funds become taxable, that will drop to below 50%, leading to rate increases. GEC is receiving FEMA reimbursements for the \$8 million in damages incurred by Hurricane Irma. Without a change in law, we could become a taxable cooperative in 2019, and would have to stop seeking other grants that support our communities because the tax burden would be too much and lead to higher rates for you.

This is where the power of our cooperative grassroots advocacy efforts come into play. We need you to contact our senators and representatives and ask them to co-sponsor the RURAL Act. The Senate bill is S. 1032 and the House bill is H.R. 2147. Your cooperative needs this vital legislation passed in 2019. Anything later could be detrimental. To quickly contact your representatives, visit our Cooperative Action Network site at <https://action.coop/actionalerts>. To join grassroots advocacy for our co-op, go to www.gladesec.com/community/grassroots-advocacy. Thanks for your help.



Jeff Brewington

- **Sen. Marco Rubio**, 202-224-3041
www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
284 Russell SOB, Washington, D.C. 20510
- **Sen. Rick Scott**, 202-224-5274
www.rickscott.senate.gov/contact_rick
716 Hart SOB, Washington, D.C. 20510
- **Rep. Greg Steube**, District 17, 202-225-5792
<https://steube.house.gov/contact/email-me>
521 Cannon HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515
- **Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart**, District 25, 202-225-4211
<https://mariodiazbalart.house.gov/contact-mario>
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Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICES

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

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

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John Bartley

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Gary Cox
Kinneth Daniels
Carl Goodson
Eddie Jones

Trustees normally meet the third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. Central. The board meets at the Wewahitchka office in even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October and December) and the Southport office in odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September and November).

The mission of GCEC: Fulfilling the changing needs of our membership and communities by providing cost effective, reliable and safe utility services through a dedicated and responsive workforce.

FL-154

GCEC President's Message

Annual Meeting Reflections

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative hosted its 71st annual Members' Meeting on April 27 at its headquarters in Wewahitchka.

Mail-in and online balloting was used again for this year's meeting. This helps put the power of the cooperative into the hands of all members.

The meeting began with a flag-raising. Six linemen—Frankie Bailey, Charlie Little, Baylen Price, Issac Madrid, Steven Ward and Brett Satterfield—climbed a pole at the cooperative's Wewahitchka headquarters, which was the site of the annual meeting. Matt Salvo handed an American flag to Brett, and the flag was passed up the pole and placed in a holder at the top. Frankie and Matt are veterans. It was a very moving ceremony.

For entertainment, GCEC provided a bounce house for children. The Gann Family provided music. Booths were open for the duration of the meeting, offering information about GCEC programs. The cooperative also debuted the live line electrical safety demonstration trailer.

GCEC provided a lunch of barbecue sandwiches, hot dogs, potato chips and Pepsi products.

Each member who returned a mail-in ballot received a \$5 electric bill credit. Registered members were entered in a drawing to win one of 10 \$100 electric bill credits. Forty members also were selected for \$25 gift cards. Members who attended the meeting and brought the blue prize ticket enclosed in their registration packet were entered to win an array of other prizes. Members who contributed to Project Helping Hand were registered to win a \$100 Home Depot gift card.

If you have not attended our annual meeting, I encourage you to do so in the future. Each member has a voice in the operation of GCEC, and those voices need to be heard. For those who attended, I thank you for your participation and hope to see you again next year.



Doug Birmingham



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Fax: 866-201-1814

MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

14505 Arbor Green Trail
Lakewood Ranch, FL 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 Board Meeting. Due to building security requirements and for us to facilitate attendance, members wishing to attend a Board Meeting should contact the Cooperative in a timely manner for logistical information regarding the meeting.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

June 25, 2019
July 23, 2019
August 27, 2019

FL 155

How PRECO Restores Power after a Hurricane

June 1st marks the beginning of hurricane season. A strong hurricane can knock out power to millions of Floridians, such as Irma did in September 2017. Even summer thunderstorms can cause large power outages.

So how does PRECO decide where to start restoring power during large outages? Our workers assess the damage, focus on fixing the biggest problems first and prioritize repairs according to how quickly and safely they can restore power to the most homes.

Step 1: Clearing the Path

Electricity flows like water in a garden hose. It begins at a generation plant, then flows to transmission lines, then substations, then distribution feeder lines until it reaches you.

First, transmission lines and local substations must be inspected for damage and repaired. After all, if the substation that provides power to your neighborhood is damaged, even if lineworkers repair the lines to your home—you'll still be in the dark.

Step 2: Prioritizing Repairs

After substations are restored, we focus on bringing power to the

greatest number of members. Line repairs are prioritized to maximize the number of members who benefit. For example, a repair that will restore power to 500 members is prioritized over a repair that will restore power to 100 members.

Step 3: One-by-One

After completing repairs that restore power to large blocks of members, the focus shifts to repairs that will restore power to individual homes and businesses. This is the final stage of power restoration.

Be Prepared

It is impossible to know where a hurricane will hit hardest. Power could be out for hours, days or even weeks. In most instances, the best course of action is to evacuate before the storm. If you can't evacuate, create an emergency kit with basic items such as water, canned food and batteries. For more emergency kit ideas visit www.Ready.gov.

If a hurricane strikes, PRECO will work every day to get your lights back on as quickly and safely as possible.

Randy Shaw

PRECO CEO