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Cooperative 

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www.clearwaterpower.com

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*Manager of Member Services*

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Joe Stockard  
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Cynthia Tarola  
*Director of Accounting*

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*Director of Engineering*

**Business Hours:**

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


**Closed Fridays**


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ID-1

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

www.cbec.cc  
info@cbec.cc

**Board of Directors**  
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Gerry Arnson, Heppner

**Vice President**

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Lori Anderson, Condon

Todd Lindsay, Sand Hollow

Stacie Ekstrom, Lone

**Manager**

Thomas Wolff, Heppner

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

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## A Variety of Topics to Consider

### Members:



Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative's Fiber-to-the-Home Initiative is still alive and well, although the "rural" part is in a "holding pattern" awaiting the outcome of the large RUS Rural Fiber Re-Connect Grant we applied for in the Spring. Grant awards should be announced the first part of September. Our Mid-Mile fiber construction phase is fast being completed, with Hut facilities in Condon and Fossil well underway. This Mid-Mile fiber will provide the backbone of CBEC fiber, crossing 121 miles of our service territory, allowing for the Final-Mile builds to each individual rural home and barnyard.

Schools will soon be back in full swing. I urge all drivers to be extra cautious of the students in the streets. Be careful when backing out of driveways or when parked on a main street. Watch for students walking to a bus stop. Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street or playing or congregating near bus stops—especially in the early morning hours, when it may still be dark. Be alert! Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking. We preach this message to our crews and employees. You, too, please be careful.

Plans begin once again for our Annual Meeting held around the first of every November. This year, the meeting will be a luncheon affair in Heppner on Thursday, October 31 (Halloween day). Your Board of Directors has appointed a Nominating Committee to select qualified candidates for expiring Director Zone positions. Please see ads in the local newspapers for the details, or call Andy Fletcher in the Heppner office.

Best Regards,

**Tommy Wolff**  
CEO/General Manager



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

**Board of Directors**

Connie Karp, President  
Roger Howe, Vice President  
Howard Gonser, Treasurer  
Dan Williams, Director  
Vacant, 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

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# Manager’s Report



**infrastructure Renewal and Future-proofing**

We’re modernizing our systems to better serve you and our community. As a part of this effort, we are upgrading our electric meters to advanced or “smart” meters. NWCPUD has been studying this, planning for it, and communicating about it for over a decade, and much more in earnest since 2016.

These meters are a common form of technology that transmit energy usage to the utility through a secure wireless network, using a low-powered radio.

This project is a part of an overall 10-year, almost \$50 million infrastructure renewal and expansion program. The RiverTrail substation, thousands of new poles, miles of conductor (wire) and many other “future-proofing” updates are a part of this program as well.

Delivering safe, reliable, high-value and environmentally-responsible energy and products are our core business. We do this on your behalf and for a much lower cost per unit of energy than many across the region and nation.

We also recognize that not every decision we make pleases every member of our community. There are times we must trim a tree to safe standards that an individual may not agree with. There are times we must replace infrastructure, meters or otherwise, that an individual may not agree with. There are methods to address when individuals are dissatisfied so they can be heard. That doesn’t mean that decisions will change, but everyone deserves the right to be heard.

Come be a part of the public process if you so choose. Our elected Board of Director’s meetings are public and there is an opportunity to provide public testimony. They generally meet the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the PUD Board Room at 2345 River Road in The Dalles.

As always, this information and much more is available at [www.nwascopud.org](http://www.nwascopud.org)  
Happy September everyone, please stay safe.

**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](mailto:nvec@nvec.org)  
 website: [www.nvec.org](http://www.nvec.org)

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

.....

**Board of Trustees**

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Ralph Rise  
*District 2, Elmer City*

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Chuck Goldmark  
*District 9, Okanogan*

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Monte Joseph  
*District 5, Nespelem*  
 Cindy Corpe  
*District 1, Coulee Dam*

Brad Dudley  
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Patrick Morin Jr.  
*District 6, Nespelem*

Ron Heath  
*District 7, Disautel*

Albert Preugschat  
*District 8, Bridgeport*

Board meetings are the fourth  
 Tuesday of every month.

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# Annual Meeting Announcement

Dear Members,

Nespelem Valley Electric Cooperative Inc.'s 80th annual meeting is Friday, October 4, 2019. Registration is from 5 to 6:15 p.m. The business meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance at this meeting gives member-owners an opportunity to participate in cooperative business, enjoy a great meal and socialize with fellow members.

Trustees will be elected and there will be prize drawings throughout the meeting.

Inside this edition of Ruralite, you will find the agenda for the annual meeting. The list of nominees for the open trustee positions will be on our website, [www.nvec.org](http://www.nvec.org), as soon as the nominating committee meets.

Your registration card is also inside the magazine. Please bring the card with you to the annual meeting.

Your board of trustees looks forward to seeing you October 4.

Sincerely,

**Ralph Rise**  
**Board President**



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

**MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**LOCAL OFFICES**

6990 West Hills Road  
Philomath, OR 97370

1900 W Oak St.  
Lebanon, OR 97355

**Russ Sapp**  
CHAIRMAN

**Eric Horning**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**Terry Plagmann**  
SECRETARY

**Kevin Christopher**  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

**Roman Gillen**  
PRESIDENT/CEO

**Scott Muller**  
TREASURER/CFO

[www.cpi.coop](http://www.cpi.coop)

**CPI Annual Meeting, September 7**

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## President's Report

### Help CPI Reach Owners of Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

CPI is trying to find current and former cooperative members whose capital credit checks issued in 2014 and 2015 remain unclaimed. These checks are for members who received electric service from CPI in 1988. The checks have been returned by the U.S. Postal Service as “undeliverable” or have otherwise been unclaimed.

The last date to claim these funds is November 30, 2019, at 5 p.m. To claim a refund or submit questions about this notice or the list of missing members, please contact our capital credits department at 541-929-3124 or send an email to [capitalcredits@cpi.coop](mailto:capitalcredits@cpi.coop). You can search the list by name or address at [www.cpi.coop/category/news](http://www.cpi.coop/category/news).

### Slow Down: Back to School Means Sharing the Road

School days bring congestion. School buses are picking up their passengers, kids on bikes are hurrying to get to school before the bell rings and stressed parents are trying to drop off their kids before work. It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present— especially before and after school.

Here are a few tips to keep everyone safe this school year:

- Don't load or unload children across the street from the school.
- Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you. This could put them in the path of moving traffic.
- In a school zone, when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection.
- Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign.
- Take extra care to look out for children in

school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas.

- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- Always use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians wherever they may be, no matter who has the right-of-way.
- Never pass a bus from either direction if it is stopped to load or unload children on an undivided road.
- If the yellow or red lights on a bus are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop.
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children. Stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus.
- Be alert. Children often are unpredictable. They tend to ignore hazards and take risks.

### September 7 Annual Meeting

We would like to remind you that this year's annual meeting is Saturday, September 7. You have received, or will soon, your ballot and voting instructions for the director elections.

At the meeting, learn directly from our employees about the many services CPI provides that improve your electric use, keep monthly bills affordable and help you stay comfortable year-round. Also learn about the state of the cooperative and hear from this year's interesting guest speakers.

Doors open at 9 a.m. for registration. We look forward to seeing you there!

### In Memoriam

Longtime CPI board member Mary Jane Swink passed away July 28. Mary Jane was a strong voice for cooperatives and was loved by all of us at CPI. We join her family and the greater Lebanon community in celebrating her lifetime of service to others. We miss you, Mary Jane.

# Benton R E A Benton REA

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

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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1150  
Prosser, WA 99350

Report an Outage: 509-786-2913  
Toll Free: 800-221-6987  
[www.BentonREA.org](http://www.BentonREA.org)

## Board of Trustees

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

## Board Meetings, Agendas & Minutes

The board of trustees will meet **September 11 and September 18 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](mailto:priorityrequests@bentonrea.org) or call 509-786-8260.

## General Manager

Michael J. Bradshaw

## Management Staff

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

 @BentonREA

 @BentonREA

WA-7

## See You at RiverFest 2019



Dear Members,

Were you one of the 3,000-plus people who attended RiverFest in 2018? If so, we welcome you back in 2019. If not, you won't want to miss it this year.

RiverFest is a free, fun and educational family event. The exhibitors, vendors and entertainment will showcase all the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System, especially highlighting the four Lower Snake River dams.

RiverFest 2019 is Saturday, September 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the east end of Columbia Park in Kennewick.

If you go, stop by Benton REA's booth to check out our 100% electric Chevy Bolt, powered by clean hydro. We're proud of our carbon-free fleet vehicle. If you're curious about electric vehicles, stop by and check it out.

Our rivers power the electricity we use every day. Eighty-seven percent of our electricity comes from hydropower right here in the Northwest. But our rivers impact many more aspects of our lives that we most likely take for granted.

The Columbia River Basin's dams provide irrigation water to more than 7 million acres of farmland, producing \$8 billion annually in agricultural income. Nine million tons of cargo are transported on the Snake River annually. Hundreds of thousands of jobs are tied to a local economy that relies on low-cost hydropower to prosper. Flood control, water sports and tourism are also made possible by our dams.

The federal agencies that manage the FCRPS operate it in compliance with the NOAA fisheries Biological Opinion. According to the 2019 NOAA Fisheries report, the average abundance of Snake River spring-summer chinook salmon has increased. Salmon and dams can, and do, coexist.

Despite the significant value of the Lower Snake River dams, activist groups still seek to have them removed. Knowledge is power. I encourage you and your family to attend RiverFest to learn about our rivers, our way of life.

Cooperatively,

Michael J. Bradshaw, *General Manager*  
[mikeb@bentonrea.org](mailto:mikeb@bentonrea.org)

## Offices

### Hermiston Office

750 W. Elm Ave.  
541 567-6414

### Boardman Office

400 N.E. Eldridge Drive  
541 481-2220

### Hours

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

### Toll-Free

1-800-452-2273

### Report An Outage

888-465-5701 day or night

## Directors

### President

Bryan Wolfe

### Vice President

Jeff Wenholz

### Secretary-Treasurer

Steve Platt

Lee Docken

Phil Hamm

John Otis

Glenn Rohde

### General Manager

Robert Echenrode

## Mission

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

[umatillaelectric.com](http://umatillaelectric.com)

OR-8

## A System Linchpin Gets Its Makeover

Through the years, the substation that sits next to our Hermiston headquarters has been the workhorse of UEC's power system.

The Hermiston Butte Substation provides electricity to thousands of homes and businesses in the city and outlying areas. It provides power to more individual locations, by far, than any of the 40-plus substations on our system.

But age catches up to all things. The Hermiston Butte Substation has come to the end of its useful life after decades of reliable service.

We are rebuilding the substation, in place, over several years and in several stages.

Instrumental in this process is our most visible activity this summer, the construction of the McNary-to-Hermiston Butte transmission line north of Hermiston.

After planning for several years, construction began in July on this new source of power to support load growth and improve system redundancy and reliability in the Hermiston area.

The transmission line will begin at McNary near the intersection of Highways 730 and 395, run south along Lind Road and Geer Road, and end at the Hermiston Butte Substation.

Also instrumental in the rebuilding of Hermiston Butte Substation has been the

completion of our new substation on the edge of town, Hermiston East Substation, which was energized in late 2017.

That new substation allowed us to take load off the Hermiston Butte Substation in 2018, so we could rebuild a portion of it to receive the new transmission line power.

The new substation also will take load off the Hermiston Butte Substation later this year, so we may rebuild its distribution bay.

Hermiston Butte's distribution bay transforms the power voltage from high to low, so we can distribute it onto our grid to serve your homes and businesses.

I greatly appreciate the efforts by our staff and contractors to successfully orchestrate these improvements to our system.

Among other new projects underway this summer is the Juniper Canyon West Substation, which began construction in August to serve our irrigation sector. Video clips of its construction will be posted at [umatillaelectric.com](http://umatillaelectric.com) as the project progresses.

These projects to strengthen, update and expand our system would not be possible without your support. They will serve our system well for decades to come.



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**

**Office Hours:**

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

**Board of Directors**

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

**Staff**

- Jeff Davis ..... General Manager
- Shannon Bessette..... Finance Manager
- Traci Brock ..... Member Services Manager
- Jennifer Lindsey .. Executive Staff Assistant
- Kelsey Lepinski ..... Customer Service Rep.
- Keenan Webber..... Customer Service Rep.
- Mackenzie Wolfe.... Customer Service Rep.
- Casey McCleary..... Operations Manager
- Jim Green..... Engineering Technician
- Brewster Whitmire ..... E&O Assistant
- Robert Gridley ..... The Dalles Foreman
- BJ Ayres ..... The Dalles Lineman
- Andy Gardipee..... The Dalles Lineman
- Gabe Red Cloud ..... The Dalles Lineman
- Wesley Woods ..... Serviceman
- Dan Funkhouser ..... Grass Valley Foreman
- Frank Roeder ..... Maupin Foreman

*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.”*

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# Manager’s Message

**2019 Annual Meeting**

The 80th annual meeting of Wasco Electric Cooperative Inc., is Saturday, November 23, at the Fort Dalles Readiness Center in The Dalles.

During the meeting, members will vote on three director positions—one from each of the three districts—that will be expiring.

At the August board meeting, the board of directors appointed the nominating committee, whose members will select candidates to run for the three board member positions up for election this year.

The committee meets in early September. If you are a member willing to serve on the board of directors, please let us know. We will pass on your name to the nominating committee members.

**WECare Donations**

Each year, the cooperative reaches out to its members asking for support for those who struggle to make financial ends meet. Your contributions to our WECare program help many families each year. We are again asking for your support this month.

With your September power bill, you will find a donation card with which you can help support your friends and neighbors. Please see page 8 of this month’s issue for more information on the benefits of this program.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your cooperative, please 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**

### Officers

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

### General Manager

James K. Brooks

### Assistant General Manager

Phil Bigler

### Office Manager/CFO

David Western

### Superintendent

Todd Sherwood

### Member Services

Todd C. Munsey

### System Engineer

Jess Dory, PE

### Mission Statement

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

**DOUGLAS**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

rtwhwrnety

OR-10

## Board Continues To Examine Rate Adjustment

Dear Member,

In an effort to keep you informed, and give you ample opportunity to ask questions, I would like to share additional information about the rate increase options your board of directors is considering.

As you may or may not know, the rate you pay for electricity consists of two parts; the price for power and the cost to deliver it. We purchase power from the Bonneville Power Administration and it continues to be among the cheapest in the country. As a bonus, it makes our Power Resource Mix (See page 8.), eighty-eight percent renewable... about as “green” as it gets. It is by far, the least-cost renewable power available.




The cost of delivery includes wires, poles, transformers, linemen, support staff, trucks, equipment and everything else related to bringing power to your meter. Those costs are what we consider “fixed” costs. What happened here in February threw those “fixed” costs out the window, and that’s one of the reasons your board is looking at rates. We could potentially be looking at \$2.25 million that won’t be covered by FEMA. Efforts continue and we are optimistic that we will recover about \$6-7 million in storm damage reimbursement.

Another issue is a little more complex. The board is specifically looking at the challenge of dealing with our failing 70-year-old headquarters building. We continue to work out of the original structure built in 1949. I covered this in detail in last month’s issue, and I continue to extend a personal invitation to anyone who would like a tour of the facility.

As I also mentioned last month, any rate increase, while never a welcome sight, should not be dramatic. Our rates will still be among the lowest compared to our neighboring utilities and the country. We will let you know as soon as your board makes its determination.

As always, if you have questions about anything, contact me at 541-673-6616.

Best Regards,

  
James K. Brooks  
General Manager

# Columbia Power Co-op



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

## DIRECTORS

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

## MANAGER

Troy Cox

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

## POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

OR-11



Northwest rivers generate power as they flow through dams, and provide water for irrigation and recreation.

## Hydropower: More Than Energy

*Hydropower fuels the economy by creating affordable electricity and jobs*

The economic benefits of hydropower in the Northwest are seen in several ways—from the reasonable rates on electric bills of residents and businesses to the secondary benefits of job creation, new business development, recreation opportunities and increased agricultural production.

Hydroelectric dams in the Northwest produce more electricity than any other North American river system. Hydroelectric power is a domestic source of energy, allowing each state to produce its own energy without being reliant on international fuel sources.

Because hydropower costs less than most energy sources, states such as Oregon that get most of their electricity from hydropower have lower energy bills than the rest of the country.

### Did You Know?

The Northwest hydro system provides more than 100,000 jobs to the region.

**HYDRO  
POWER  
FLOWS HERE**

Courtesy of [www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov)

# Central Issues

## Central Electric Cooperative

### DIRECTORS:

Chairman Boyd Keeton, Tumalo  
Vice Chairman Kip Light, Madras  
Secretary/Treasurer Kenneth H.

Miltenberger, Alfalfa  
Beverly Clarno, Redmond  
William J. Rainey, Sisters  
Shirley McCullough, Prineville  
Kelly McFarlane, Powell Butte  
Dan Steelhammer, Bend  
Tom Strand, Terrebonne

Attorney, Thomas M. Grim  
Cable Huston LLP, Portland

### STAFF:

**President and CEO**  
Dave Markham

**Chief Financial Officer**  
Rawleigh White

**Director of Operations & Engineering**  
Brad Wilson

**Corporate Information Officer**  
Lisa Cutter

**Director of Member  
and Public Relations**  
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](http://www.cec.coop)

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## CEC Rate Increase Likely in January 2020

In July, the Bonneville Power Administration—the supplier of nearly all of Central Electric's wholesale electricity—announced its record of decision to set rates for the two-year rate period beginning October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2021.


While BPA's wholesale power rate will remain flat, transmission rates will increase, as well the likelihood of a financial reserves surcharge. BPA's decision, combined with our ongoing strategic investment initiative, will likely increase Central Electric members' retail rates beginning in January 2020.

As I have shared with you throughout the year, this development is not unexpected, but it could have been worse. In February, BPA announced the probability of a 2.9% wholesale power rate increase. By summer, after further analyses, BPA decided to forego the increase due to its efforts to hold down program costs and bring in additional market sales revenues. BPA's transmission rates will increase an average of 3.6% as planned, accompanied by a likely 1.5% surcharge for the two-year rate period to ensure BPA retains levels of financial reserves above the minimum required to remain solvent.

While BPA rate increases have become the norm every two years, CEC has bucked that trend. When BPA raised utilities' wholesale electricity rates 5.4% in 2017, CEC successfully avoided passing it on to members. This time may be different. Although the co-op continues to maximize the efficiency of its operations and electrical system, components of this electrical system are nearing the end of their lifespan, and technological advancements are required to meet the growing demand for electricity in Central Oregon. CEC's strategic investment initiative calls for the expenditures of approximately \$147 million from 2019 to 2028 to replace and upgrade electrical infrastructure to increase capacity and ensure the continued safety and reliability of the electricity we provide.

While member rates will not change October 1 when the BPA rate increase becomes effective, it is almost certain we will need to increase them in January 2020 to maintain the co-op's financial strength. The board of directors and management are analyzing the effects of BPA's transmission rate increase and the financial reserves surcharge.

Through the years, we have successfully kept CEC's rates low. The latest available statistics show CEC 33% below the national average and 19% below Oregon's average. I assure you before there is an increase to electric rates, we will take every step to manage costs within our control without compromising the safety and reliability of the electricity we deliver to you. I will inform you of the final decision in December's president's message.



Dave Markham, President and CEO



## Board of Directors

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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](http://www.ccec.coop)

OR-13

# Reducing Fire Risk is a Full-Time Job

Some modern conveniences that make life better come with real risk. Sometimes that risk is to our safety and well-being. The cars in our driveways are a good example. We risk serious accident and injury whenever we are on the road. At the same time, governments, organizations and individuals work hard to reduce those risks.



The electric power grid is another modern marvel that improves our lives in extraordinary ways but creates its own risks. One of those risks is fire. In the wake of last year's devastating wildfires, I would like to explain some work Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative does to reduce the likelihood for the electric grid to cause a fire in our service territory.

- We identify and replace old copper power lines that have worn and weakened over decades of use and are at risk of breaking and falling to the ground.
- We control vegetation in the power line rights-of-way, particularly on dry and fire-prone circuits.
- Several of our linemen are or have been certified wildland firefighters.
- During fire season, each crew carries fire-suppression equipment to the job site.
- During fire season, our vegetation management crews adapt their practices and work locations to reduce fire risk.
- We work with the Coos Forest Protective Association to train and operate within regulatory requirements.
- At times of extreme fire risk, we change protection settings on some circuits to reduce fire risk if dry vegetation contacts a power line.
- During extreme fire risk, we use electric and hydraulic-powered saws when we have to cut trees.

We know you enjoy the benefits of the electric power system. CCEC crews, staff and contractors work hard to ensure you can do so without worry that it will start a fire the next time a dry summer wind blows. We can't eliminate the risk, but rest assured, at CCEC, fire hazard mitigation is in the forefront of our minds and in our work practices when Smokey Bear puts the fire danger needle on "HIGH."

**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](http://www.westoregon.org)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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(Dist. 4 – Vernonia)

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

Sec./Treasurer Erika Paleck  
(Dist. 5 – Timber, Buxton)

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

Mark Kaminski  
(Dist. 2 – Mist, Apiary, Birkenfeld)

Rosemary Lohrke  
(Dist. 6 – Chapman, Scappoose)

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

#### GENERAL MANAGER

Bob Perry

Contact the board:  
[directors@westoregon.org](mailto:directors@westoregon.org)

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

OR-14



Northwest rivers generate power as they flow through dams, and provide water for irrigation and recreation.

## Hydropower: More Than Energy

*Hydropower fuels the economy by creating affordable electricity and jobs*

The economic benefits of hydropower in the Northwest are seen in several ways—from the reasonable rates on electric bills of residents and businesses to the secondary benefits of job creation, new business development, recreation opportunities and increased agricultural production.

Hydroelectric dams in the Northwest produce more electricity than any other North American river system. Hydroelectric power is a domestic source of energy, allowing each state to produce its own energy without being reliant on international fuel sources.

Because hydropower costs less than most energy sources, states such as Oregon that get most of their electricity from hydropower have lower energy bills than the rest of the country.

### Did You Know?

The Northwest hydro system provides more than 100,000 jobs to the region.

**HYDRO  
POWER  
FLOWS HERE**

Courtesy of [www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov)



# 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](http://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

Version: July 2019

2018 POWER CONTENT LABEL		
Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.		
<a href="http://surprisevalleyelectric.org">surprisevalleyelectric.org</a>		
ENERGY RESOURCES	Power Mix	2018 CA Power Mix**
<b>Eligible Renewable</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>31%</b>
Biomass & Biowaste	0%	2%
Geothermal	0%	5%
Eligible Hydroelectric	1%	2%
Solar	0%	11%
Wind	0%	11%
<b>Coal</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Large Hydroelectric</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Natural Gas</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Nuclear</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>
<b>Unspecified sources of power*</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
* "Unspecified sources of power" means electricity from transactions that are not traceable to specific generation sources.		
** Percentages are estimated annually by the California Energy Commission based on the electricity generated in California and net imports as reported to the Quarterly Fuel and Energy Report database and the Power Source Disclosure program.		
For specific information about this electricity product, contact:		<b>Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.</b> <b>530-233-3511</b>
For general information about the Power Content Label, please visit:		<a href="http://www.energy.ca.gov/pcl/">http://www.energy.ca.gov/pcl/</a>
For additional questions, please contact the California Energy Commission at:		Toll-free in California: 844-454-2906 Outside California: 916-653-0237

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

**GENERAL MANAGER**  
Debi Wilson

**MANAGEMENT STAFF**

Tony Toncray  
Engineering & Operations 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**

Get Ready for the Next Disaster	4
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**Be a Disaster Survivor, Not a Disaster Victim**

**Dear Co-op Community Members:**

While many are still enjoying the summer sun, the leaves are changing colors and fall is beginning to arrive. It is a beautiful time of year in our community.

During summer and fall, people don't think much about unplanned outages, and neither do we—although we do think about how to better prepare for outages and what our team can do to reduce the number of occurrences and duration during the winter.

Throughout summer, Lane Electric crews work hard to trim trees and make line repairs. This is work done year-round, but with more daylight and favorable weather, crews can make great progress during this time.

I am sure you have not forgotten about this past February—and we surely have not. We have continued cleanup from the damage this snowstorm left behind. We hope we can all learn from our February experiences and become better prepared. So, while we continue to prepare our system for storm season, we also hope you prepare as well.

During the past two months, we have included a shopping list to build your own emergency kit. These lists are on page 8 of your July and August editions of Ruralite, as well as a new list in this edition.

I encourage you to take time to read a great article about preparedness on pages 4 and 5, "Get Ready for the Next Disaster." This article not only encourages you to be prepared for an emergency, it sheds light on other types of outages

we have not yet experienced on our system, such as earthquakes and widespread wild-fires. Preparedness is key, as disasters not only impact your electricity, but the roads and communication infrastructures we are accustomed to.



In the unfortunate event of a disaster, do you know your first responders? When you make an emergency call, you are the first responder, as you are first on the scene. Many recognize police and firefighters as first responders, but the list includes any other organization or person that responds to emergencies, including you, our member. You can also count on your Lane Electric crew to respond, often making the area safe so others can do their jobs.

Should we have a natural disaster, are you prepared to respond?

Please read this month's article and shopping list. If you have misplaced your July and August copies of Ruralite, visit laneelectric.com to find previous shopping lists. If you want more information, www.ready.gov is another great resource.

At Lane Electric, we care about you and your families. We want our members to be disaster survivors, not disaster victims.

Are you prepared?

*Debi*  
Sincerely,  
Debi Wilson



**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, Chairman**  
541-359-9434  
shortc@blec.coop

District 3  
**Beverly Mattheisen**  
541-998-3704  
mattheisenb@blec.coop

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

District 5  
**Eric Imbler, Secretary/Treasurer**  
541-954-1949  
imblere@blec.coop

**General Manager**  
Greg Gardner  
gardnerg@blec.coop

OR-17

# Manager's Report

Dear Members,

Summer is winding down and school is back in session. Where did summer go?

Just like our students, it's the time of year when your board of directors and management team hit the books. Crews working on the electric distribution system are only part of the story. Managers and engineers are planning work for next year based on our 10-year capital plan, our strategic plan and member requests.



During the next few months, your board of directors and the management team will build a working budget, cost of service study and make rate recommendations for 2020 that will support the fiscal health of your cooperative.

It is the ultimate goal of your board and management to keep rates as low as possible while still meeting the regulatory and fiduciary requirements of running an electric utility. In August, we reviewed our performance compared to other co-ops in Oregon, the region and the U.S., known as key ratio trend analysis. The analysis shows that our fiscal performance is on par with utilities that share our number of consumers and plant size.

Blachly-Lane's challenge has always been to keep rates low. Economies of scale are challenging to achieve when serving only 2,848 consumers. Our rates are not the lowest in our area, which is evident when we compare ourselves with other Lane County electric utilities. More consumers to pay for the costs—and more consumers per line-mile result in lower costs. Blachly-Lane has the smallest number of consumers, and a small number of consumers per line-mile, as shown below.

Utility	Number of Consumers	Times Larger Than BLEC	Payers Per Line Mile
EWEB	93,415	33	85
Springfield Utility Board	31,267	11	96
EPUD	21,482	8.6	11
Lane	10,362	3.6	7
Blachly-Lane	2,848		7

Our ongoing planning, work management, performance review and evaluations keep us well-positioned to keep our competitive fiscal performance while maintaining a safe and reliable electric system. We continue to sharpen our pencils to keep Blachly-Lane the best little electric co-op in the area.

**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](http://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

# KLICKITAT PUD Renewable Natural Gas Plant Dedication & Facility Tour

*Klickitat PUD and Republic Services would like to invite the community to tour the utility's most comprehensive energy project to date. One of the largest and most efficient in the United States, this is a unique opportunity for you to see this state-of-the-art facility and learn about its positive impact to Klickitat County.*

## Formal Dedication & Facility Tour

*Klickitat PUD is pleased to welcome Governor Jay Inslee and Senator Curtis King as honored guests of the dedication*

**Friday, September 20, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

## Public Open House & Facility Tour

**Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

H.W. Hill Renewable Natural Gas Facility, Roosevelt Regional Landfill, Roosevelt, WA



You've probably heard of Renewable Energy sources like solar and wind, but you may not have heard of renewable natural gas (RNG). The waste material picked up at your curbside, dropped at the transfer station, or sent by rail to Republic Services' Roosevelt Regional Landfill becomes a feedstock for the biogas creation. This biogas is scrubbed and converted to renewable natural gas by Klickitat PUD for use as a transportation fuel.



[www.KlickitatPUD.com/rng-dedication](http://www.KlickitatPUD.com/rng-dedication)

I am excited to invite you all to attend the ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony at our H.W. Hill Renewable Natural Gas facility in Roosevelt. This project has taken five years from concept to operations. It has involved a great many people in the utility, legislators in Olympia, engineers and contractors, as well as many in our community.

I hope you take advantage of the opportunity to view the facility and talk with our staff about how it works and why it was built. I look forward to talking with you.

**Jim Smith, General Manager**



**NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.**

*The power of local service*

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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

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

**Outside Sandpoint:**  
800-326-9594

**Board President**  
Steve Elgar

**Board Vice President**  
Kennon McClintock

**Board Secretary/Treasurer**  
Judith Simonson

**General Manager**  
Annie Terracciano

**Board of Directors by District**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ID-19

## Reporting Your Outage

Happy Labor Day! I hope you all enjoyed your summer and are ready for some cooler weather and beautiful autumn colors.

Storms can occur any time of the year, even in the middle of our beautiful summers and early fall. When storms happen, our goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time possible.

While NLI's advancements in technology make identifying and predicting outages easier, it is still important to report your outage, if possible. When members report what is going on in their neighborhoods, it provides us with additional information to better respond to an outage. The more locations that call in experiencing an outage, the better we can pinpoint the location and extent of an issue. You can help your NLI dispatchers, and probably reduce the time of the outage, by adding specific details. For example, if you see a broken pole, broken wire or a tree on the line, let us know those details along with the specific location. All of NLI's poles and equipment are numbered. If you can safely make note of a number, please provide that, or information about nearby landmarks. The more detailed information we receive, the better we can dispatch the appropriate crews and materials, and the faster your power will be restored.



Outages can be reported by calling or texting our outage line at 866-665-4837. To text in your outage, you need to opt-in to the program first. To get started, simply text "NLI" to our outage line at 866-665-4837 at any time. The system will recognize your phone number and officially opt you into the texting program. When you experience an outage, just text "OUT" to that same number, and your outage will be logged. You can text "STATUS" at any time during an outage for an update. When your outage has been restored, our system will send you a text stating the power is back on. If you have additional details to provide us about an outage, please call. Texting only works to say the power is out.

For the outage texting system to work, your cellphone number must be on your account. If it is not, you will be prompted when trying to sign up to call our office to have it added. If you need to update your account information, please call 208-263-5141 during regular business hours.

During an outage, you can also view our outage map at [www.nli.coop](http://www.nli.coop) to get an idea of where the outages are and their size. We always appreciate your patience as our crews work around the clock in all weather conditions to get your power back on as quickly as possible.

Remember, if you do lose power, be sure to report it to the outage line at 866-665-4837.

—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 M. Smith  
Syringa

Ernie Robinson  
White Bird

**Attorney**  
J.A. Wright

**General Manager**  
Max Beach

c-21

## Smart budgets start with smart energy.

See your daily electric usage with Idaho County Light & Power's free SmartHub<sup>®</sup> app



SmartHub is ICLP's free online account management system. You can pay your electric bill and monitor your energy use from your computer or smartphone. SmartHub is available on the web or through the app.

To register as a new user, you will need the last name on your account, your account number and an email address.



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

## The Cooperative Spirit

Without the hard work and commitment of a relatively small but motivated group of individuals back in 1939, Columbia REA would not exist. That may sound a bit like a cliché, but it is very literally the truth when referring to a cooperative like ours. That is why giving back to our community however and whenever possible is in the very DNA of this organization, and always has been.



Columbia REA is very proud to have been able to offer a Community Grant Program again this year. We received 40 requests for funding, from all corners of our service area, and from every kind of organization imaginable, and all were very worthy applicants.

After a thorough review of all 40 applications, a volunteer selection committee made up of CREA staff members chose two organizations to share the \$10,000 in grant funds evenly:

- Columbia County Fire Protection District #3, for the purchase of new two-way radios to replace outdated, non-functioning units in emergency vehicles.
- Starbuck School District, for needed equipment and repairs to the school kitchen, which will allow the school district to resume its hot lunch program.


Sometimes supporting our membership isn't about dollars. Sometimes it is about lending an important voice to an issue vital to our way of life. Recently, the Columbia REA Board of Directors voted unanimously in favor of a resolution to support the continued operation of the four lower Snake River dams. The hydro-power generated from the Snake River and Columbia River not only provides Columbia REA with more than 87 percent of its energy supply, it is a critical cornerstone of support on which the rural lifestyle enjoyed by so many of our members, as well as our regional economy, are built.

In the true cooperative spirit, we would like to thank all of our members for providing us with the support that allows Columbia REA to give back to our communities in a way that we believe serves all of us in the long run.

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:

*Ted Case is executive director of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Ted spent 20 years in Washington, D.C., including stints as staff director of the House Water and Power Subcommittee. He has provided the following summary of the 2019 legislative session.*

### Capping Off a Wild Session

Cap-and-trade legislation (HB 2020) failed to pass in the state legislature, but the debate is far from over. Few bills received more attention during the last legislative session than HB 2020, which established a cap-and-trade program designed to put the state of Oregon on a glide path to reduce its carbon emissions.

As the session began, leaders of both the House and Senate—along with Gov. Kate Brown—made it clear that passing HB 2020 was a priority. The state sought to replicate a similar program to the one California put in place several years ago.

The cap on emissions is a firm limit that gets stricter over time. The trade part is a market for companies—such as utilities and manufacturers—to buy and sell allowances that let them emit only a certain amount as supply and demand set the price. It's a complicated program, and for Oregon's electric cooperatives, the issues are exceedingly complex.

The good news for Oregon electric cooperatives is our carbon emissions are relatively small because of our reliance on the emission-free hydropower from the Federal Columbia River Power System.

But there are other issues to consider.

What would a cap-and-trade program mean for family-wage manufacturing jobs that are so important to providing

economic opportunity in rural Oregon?

There is also the price at the pump. Emissions from the transportation sector account for approximately 40% of the state's emissions. Under a cap-and-trade program, gasoline could increase immediately by an estimated 16 cents a gallon. This could harm rural Oregonians who often drive long distances for basic services such as health care.

Ultimately, concerns about how HB 2020 impacted electric utility rates, transportation costs and jobs in rural Oregon led to the bill's failure to pass the Oregon Senate. However, the debate over carbon policy continues. We will work with the Oregon Legislature and Gov. Brown on legislation that helps reduce carbon without economic dislocation.

### Protect Electric Co-op Tax Status

There is legislation in the U.S. Congress, the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands Act (RURAL Act, H.R. 2147 and S. 1032) that will correct an unintended consequence brought about by recent changes in the Internal Revenue Code that could jeopardize the tax-exempt status of your electric co-op.

If the law is not changed, electric cooperatives may have to choose between maintaining tax-exempt status or accepting Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance when recovering from a major storm or disaster.

Sen. Ron Wyden is well-positioned to help pass this legislation. Please visit our grassroots web page, [www.ORECA-Action.org](http://www.ORECA-Action.org), and take action today to ask Sen. Wyden to support the RURAL Act and Oregon cooperatives.

**General Manager Dave Schneider**



[www.rrelectric.com](http://www.rrelectric.com)

**DIRECTORS**

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

**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

# Planned Power Outages

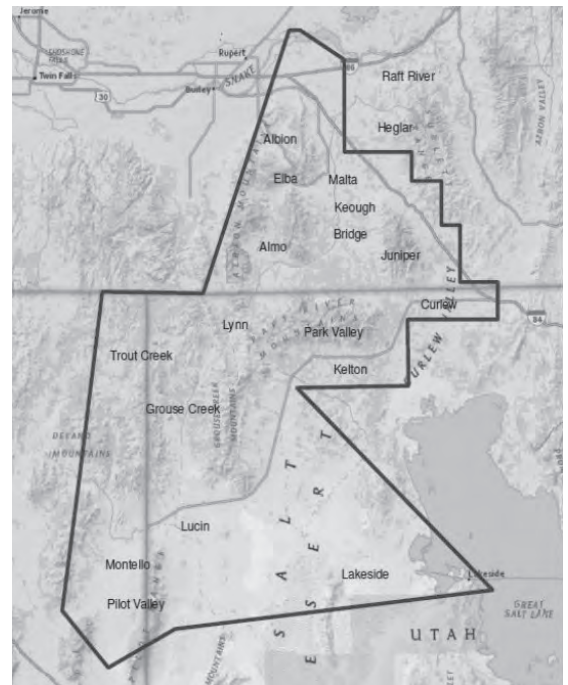
**Power will be turned off September 17 and October 29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in parts of Raft River's service territory**

**Why a power outage?**

The Bonneville Power Administration and the Bureau of Reclamation are making necessary repairs to the transmission system at Minidoka Dam.

During the outage, Raft River Electric will work on our transmission and distribution lines. Power will be shut off in the affected areas so crews can work safely and efficiently.

We understand being without power is inconvenient. We are committed to keeping you and all employees safe. We'll turn the lights back on as soon as we can.



**What can you do?**

- If you rely on medical equipment dependent on electricity, have a plan to maintain use of your equipment during the outage.
- Charge cellphones.
- Unplug computers, TVs and other sensitive electronics.
- Know how to manually operate garage doors and electric gates.
- Minimize opening refrigerator and freezer doors during the outage.
- If you have a generator, make sure it was properly installed.
- Mark the outage dates on your calendar.

For more information or to see if your power will be affected, please call our office at 208-645-2211 or 800-342-7732.

Thanks for your patience.



## BIG BEND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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

Ritzville office 659-1700

Toll free 866-844-2363

Pay by phone 844-255-3682

**For after-hours emergencies**

866-844-2363

[www.bbec.org](http://www.bbec.org)

### TRUSTEES

President Dan Hille

Vice President Ken Story

Secretary John Harder

Treasurer Lyle Holt

Robert Clinesmith

Curtis Dahl

Stacy Kniveton

Lanny Hayes

Dennis Swinger Sr.

### GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Yvette Armstrong

### LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf

WA-25



## Saturday, Sept 7, 2019

Columbia Park, Lampson Pits | Kennewick, WA | 10am-4pm

CELEBRATE OUR RIVERS · LEARN WHY DAMS ARE IMPORTANT  
EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS · HEAR FROM YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS  
HANDS ON LEARNING EXPERIENCES · ENTERTAINMENT  
LOCAL RETAIL & FOOD VENDORS  
**FUN & FREE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**



Pasco Chamber of Commerce  
509.547.9755 | [info@pascochamber.org](mailto:info@pascochamber.org) | [pascochamber.org](http://pascochamber.org)

Aerial vineyard photo by Kim Fetrow  
All other photos courtesy of Visit Tri-Cities

# Hood River Electric Cooperative



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

541-354-1233  
www.hrec.coop

www.facebook.com/  
HRECCoop/

.....

#### DIRECTORS

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

#### GENERAL MANAGER

Libby Calnon

.....

Serving rural  
Hood River County  
since 1945

OR-26

## Manager's Message

Dear Members,

In providing you with electric service, our largest expense is the cost of the wholesale power we buy from the Bonneville Power Administration. Purchased power and transmission services accounted for 68% of our total operating expenses last year. Even small changes in wholesale power costs can have a big impact on the co-op's financial position.

BPA recently announced the rates we will pay during BPA's next two-year rate period, which begins this October. Thankfully, our wholesale rates for purchased power will remain flat. Our rates for transmission services will increase by about 5%, but these charges are a smaller portion of our total BPA bill.

Our goal is to provide you with affordable, reliable service, and to charge rates that are based on the cost of serving each class of members: homes, small commercial operations, large commercial operations, farms and irrigation service. During the next few months, we will review our rates with this goal in mind. We don't anticipate needing to raise rates in 2020, but we may make minor adjustments to how our rates are structured to ensure each class of member is charged based on the cost to serve them.

One final note: As harvest kicks into high gear and kids return to school, our line crews are still out and about working hard to maintain the distribution system that serves you. They are trimming and removing trees growing near our lines so winter snow and ice are less of a problem. As you travel around our beautiful valley, please drive slowly and keep an eye out for farm trucks, utility workers, and school kids heading back into the classrooms. Thank you for driving carefully through our work zones, and for obeying our flaggers and traffic signs.

We wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous fall season.

**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](http://www.harneyelectric.org)

Find us on 

.....  
**Board of Directors**

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

**General Manager**

Fred Flippence

**Operations Manager**

Jason Hill

**Line Superintendent**

Jason Radinovich

**Electrical Engineer**

Shane Sweet

**Office Manager**

Stephanie Bowen

**Attorney**

Raymond S. Kindley

OR-27



Northwest rivers generate power as they flow through dams, and provide water for irrigation and recreation.

## Hydropower: More Than Energy

*Hydropower fuels the economy by creating affordable electricity and jobs*

The economic benefits of hydropower in the Northwest are seen in several ways—from the reasonable rates on electric bills of residents and businesses to the secondary benefits of job creation, new business development, recreation opportunities and increased agricultural production.

Hydroelectric dams in the Northwest produce more electricity than any other North American river system. Hydroelectric power is a domestic source of energy, allowing each state to produce its own energy without being reliant on international fuel sources.

Because hydropower costs less than most energy sources, states such as Oregon that get most of their electricity from hydropower have lower energy bills than the rest of the country.

### Did You Know?

The Northwest hydro system provides more than 100,000 jobs to the region.

**HYDRO  
POWER  
FLOWS HERE**

*Courtesy of [www.bpa.gov](http://www.bpa.gov)*



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

Manager Ken Dizes

#### **Board meets the fourth Wednesday of each month**

**Email:** [energy@srec.org](mailto:energy@srec.org)

**Website:** [www.srec.org](http://www.srec.org)

ID-28

## **SREC Retail Rate Update**

At the annual meeting this year, I announced that electric rates were slated to increase by about 10% in January 2020.

The main driver of that announcement was that the Bonneville Power Administration had given us initial notice that SREC's wholesale electric rates were slated to go up about 7%. The additional 3% was to cover our nonpower expenses that have increased through the years.

Nonpower expenses tend to increase near the rate of inflation. We have mitigated these inflationary increases by trimming costs at SREC and because of the profitability of SREC's wholly-owned propane company. We have exhausted most cost-saving measures that make sense at the cooperative.

Without growing electricity sales, we likely will need more frequent retail electric rate increases to cover inflationary increases and anticipated wholesale power rate increases.

BPA recently announced there would be no increase in wholesale power rates on average. Having run the new BPA rates through the Rate Impact Model for SREC, the new BPA rates for SREC are increasing 5%, not the 0% average increase BPA announced.

I am estimating right now that retail electric rates are going to need to increase from 5% to 7% to meet SREC revenue requirements beginning in January 2020. Our goal is for those rates be sufficient for the two-year BPA rate period—2020 through 2021. This increase is larger than what we prefer. An option we will consider is whether we can phase in regular and smaller increases near the rate of inflation over time. This probably is the fairest way to generate our revenue requirements, as it better aligns cost causation with revenues.

SREC chose to forgo a rate increase in 2018 when BPA raised its wholesale rates for electric power. The thought at the time was to operate on leaner margins and keep the members' money in their pockets. To ensure rates are fair for all customers in the future, we are considering more frequent and smaller rate increases.

We are working on our 2020-21 budget now. We hope to have that pretty well determined by October. In the meantime, I will prepare various rate scenarios for the board to consider. Something the board always wrestles with is the percentage of increase to put on the energy charge and what to put on the access charge. In light of the evolving electric utility landscape, the board has been moving the cooperative in the direction of recovering more of its fixed costs in the access charge and variable costs in the energy charge.

**Ken Dizes**  
**General Manager**



**Ken Dizes**



**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**

Governance is a critical part of an electric cooperative's operations. The eight-member board of directors at United Electric is the governing body.

As an electric consumer member, you elected the board of directors. Through that action, you placed trust in the board as a group and in each individual director.

According to the National Council of Nonprofits, a board of directors of a nonprofit organization such as United Electric has three primary legal duties: duty of care, duty of loyalty and duty of obedience. Whew! That sounds like quite a responsibility—and it is.

Duty of care ensures the prudent use of all assets, including facility, people and good will. Duty of loyalty ensures activities and transactions advance the mission and that decisions are made in the best interest of United Electric and not in the best interest of the individual board director—or any other individual or entity. Duty of obedience requires the board to follow the bylaws and ensure applicable laws and regulations are obeyed in accordance with the stated corporate purposes/mission.

You will be happy to know the United Electric Board of Directors recognizes its responsibilities. As part of its good governance due diligence, the board is reviewing good governance practices. As a result, the board proposes several good governance practices be included in United Electric bylaws.

As a cooperative, bylaws are approved by the entire membership of United Electric. Each March, United Electric holds its annual meeting of the membership, at which time director elections and additional business requiring action by the membership occurs. Besides the election of two board directors, there also will be a bylaw amendment for your consideration. As in the past, you will be able to vote by mail or in person at the annual meeting.

Details of the amendment are on page 25 of this issue of Ruralite and on the United Electric website at [www.uec.coop](http://www.uec.coop). More information will follow each month in Ruralite or in your monthly bill.

The bylaws may be a cooperative's single most important document. Please reach out to employees and board members if you would like to discuss the proposed bylaw amendment.

**Jo Elg**

**General Manager**





# Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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

## **Directors**

Randy R. Purser  
President

Susan M. Harris  
Vice President

Bret L. Zollinger  
Secretary/Treasurer

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

## **Manager/CEO**

Brad J. Gamett

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

ID-30

## **Carbon-Free Power Generation**

As the electric generation industry continues to meet increasing demand for electrical power in the United States, some key trends are worth considering. Several of these trends are driven by concerns about the environmental effects relative to fuel sources involved in generation.

The phrase “coal is king”—which was applicable in the electrical power industry for decades—no longer rings true. According to the United States Energy Information Administration, natural gas-based generation has recently supplanted coal as the largest source of electric generation nationally. This trend is due in large part to long-term concerns with emissions from coal-fired generation facilities. Indeed, natural gas does burn cleaner than coal. However, concern involving the environmental impact of carbon-based fuels altogether is driving another concurrent trend.

For the first time in the history of electrical power generation, in April 2019, the EIA reported that combined carbon-free renewable energy sources—including hydroelectric, solar and wind generation—outpaced coal and nuclear as the second-largest sector of U.S. power generation. Though this occurrence was only temporary, due to seasonality, the EIA forecasts that continued installation of wind and solar generation will bolster market share for carbon-free renewable generation in the future.

Lost River Electric Cooperative is fortunate that carbon-free power has been the staple of our wholesale power supplied through the Bonneville Power Administration regionally for decades. The LREC Board of Directors and staff recognize the need for future carbon-free power production to supply our needs going forward. Facilities such as the Carbon-Free Power Project planned for installation at the Idaho National Laboratory will meet our power supply needs as well as reduce the environmental footprint of electrical power production globally.

**Brad Gamett**  
**Manager**



### Board of Directors

Paul Kildal, President  
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

#### September

**CVEA Offices Closed:** The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, September 2, 2019, for Labor Day

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The September meeting of the Board of Directors is cancelled

#### October

##### Ruralite Cover Photo Contest:

Submit photos October 1 - October 30, 2019

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The October meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, October 17, 2019, in Glennallen

**National Co-op Month:** Stay tuned for Co-op Month activity announcements

AK-34

## 2019 Ruralite Cover Photo Contest

Would you like to see your photo on the cover of *Ruralite Magazine*; CVEA's primary member communication tool? Over 2500 copies of Ruralite are distributed each month to members in the Copper Basin and Valdez. That means excellent exposure for local photographers!

### Details

- Winners will be chosen by CVEA employees
- Final decision will be announced by Monday, November 25, 2019
- Winning photos will be featured on the cover of Ruralite for one issue in 2020 and on cvea.org
- Winners will receive \$100 per winning photo and will be announced to the local media
- CVEA will retain rights to utilize all photos submitted in various communication tools including print and web
- Future photo usage in Ruralite or on cvea.org will include photo credit

### Contest Rules

- Photographers must reside in a dwelling that receives service from CVEA
- Photos must be from within CVEA's service area (Valdez to Sourdough, out to Kenny Lake, and over to Sheep Mountain)
- Content can include scenery, community events, and community residents enjoying local activities; photos from all seasons should be considered, **at least two winter photos will be chosen**
- Only vertical photos will be eligible to win cover contest; horizontal photos may be submitted for use in other print or web based applications
- Maximum six photos submitted per contestant
- Each photo submission must include a digital and printed copy at 8X10 inches; digital files must have a resolution of 300 dpi at 8X10 inches
- Each photo submission must include photographer's name, location of photo, and photo title
- Photos must be submitted between October 1-30, 2019
- Photos can be dropped off at the CVEA offices in each district or sent directly to Sharon Scheidt: scheidt@cvea.org or P.O. Box 927, Valdez, AK 99686
- Photographer submissions must include permission form; visit cvea.org or email crisp@cvea.org for blank form
- Contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email scheidt@cvea.org, with questions

**Submission Dates: October 1 - October 30, 2019**



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

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday through Friday.

For EMERGENCY service after  
business hours, call 800-842-2122.

#### Board of Directors

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

#### General Manager

Todd Simmons

Board meetings are in the PUD office  
at 6 p.m. the first Tuesday after the  
11th of the month.

#### Our Mission

Tillamook PUD provides safe, reliable and  
competitively priced power to our  
customers.

#### Our Vision

Tillamook PUD provides high value to  
our customers, staff and community,  
performing now and preparing for the  
future.



OR-35

## Build Your Solid Foundation of Preparedness

### Dear Customers:

September is National Emergency  
Preparedness Awareness month.

Disasters can occur anytime, any-  
where, and at any given moment. As  
frightening as this may be, it is a reality  
we must face so we can be prepared  
should disaster strike.

Being prepared for a natural disaster  
is considerably valuable. The preemptive  
measures taken when you prepare as  
an individual, family and community  
help significantly lessen the impact of a  
disaster, and can save lives and property.  
Preparedness promotes resiliency and  
often expedites the recovery process after  
a large event.

At Tillamook PUD, our preparedness  
efforts are continual. We focus not only  
on operational preparedness, but also  
on community, employee and family  
preparedness. Each of these areas helps  
build a solid foundation of preparedness.

Each staff member receives Incident  
Command Systems training at the 100  
level. Staff review the ICS process through  
annual drills and use it in everyday tasks  
to maintain their competence levels. Staff  
are issued an emergency go-bag and  
vehicle emergency kit.

We have improved our equipment  
and facilities to increase resilience during  
a seismic event. These improvements  
include upgrading substation transformers  
by installing flexible buss systems to  
withstand an earthquake and building our  
new Operations Center with foundational  
geopiers to provide structural stability.

We have plans in place for rebuilding  
and restoring electric service in our area  
in the event of a disaster. These include  
maintaining a robust inventory of vital

equipment and  
materials, and  
having mutual  
assistance  
for labor  
reinforcement  
through the  
Western  
Regional Mutual  
Assistance



Group. WRMAG consists of more than  
50 utilities throughout the western United  
States and Canada. Should Tillamook  
PUD need assistance in repairing and  
rebuilding our electric system, we have  
this vital resource available to call upon.

From a community preparedness  
perspective, Tillamook PUD participates  
in the newly formed Committee for  
Tillamook Agencies and Businesses group.  
The CTAB group has come together  
to understand and align our various  
organizational preparedness plans, refine  
communications amongst one another  
and devise a community plan together so  
we can function more effectively in the  
event of a disaster.

We also remain engaged with the  
citizen preparedness groups throughout  
the area and support their efforts.

I encourage you to assess your level  
of preparedness, talk about emergency  
preparedness with your family, explore  
resources available online and become  
involved in local preparedness groups.

Stop by the Tillamook PUD office  
this month to collect items for your  
emergency go-bag and gather helpful  
information.

Sincerely,

**General Manager Todd Simmons**



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

### Board of Directors

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#### Vice President

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#### Secretary

Herman L. Ahsoak

#### Treasurer

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Karl D. Ahgeak  
 Frederick F. Brower  
 Lewis F. Brower  
 Josiah B. Patkotak  
 Tina A. Wolgemuth

#### General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

## Lighting Labels and Lingo

These days, consumers have endless options when it comes to purchasing light bulbs, but the labels can be confusing! Use the information below as a helpful guide for browsing bulbs.

### Lighting Facts

Per Bulb

**Brightness** 655 lumens

**Estimated Yearly Energy Cost** \$1.08

Based on 3 hrs/day  
 11c/kWh Cost depends on rates and use



**Life** 22.8 years

Based on 3 hrs/day

**Light Appearance**



**Energy Used** 9 watts

### Read the Label

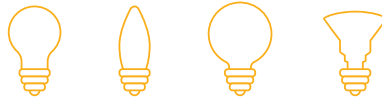
Under the Energy Labeling Rule, all light bulb manufacturers are required to give consumers key, easy-to-understand information on bulb efficiency. Take advantage of the Lighting Facts label, which gives you the information you need to buy the most energy-efficient bulb to meet your lighting needs. The label includes information on the bulb's **brightness, energy cost, life, light appearance** and **energy used** (wattage).

### Save Energy

Bulbs are available in **many shapes and sizes** to fit your home's needs. Choosing more efficient bulbs can help reduce energy consumption and save you money!

- LEDs use 25%-30% of the energy and last eight to 25 times longer than halogen incandescent bulbs.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR-rated bulbs to maximize energy efficiency.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



### Buy Lumens, not Watts

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

*Tip: To replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that produces about 1,600 lumens.*



Incandescent  
 100 watt  
 1,600 lumens



LED  
 14 - 20 watt  
 1,600 lumens



Golden Valley Electric Association

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### Owned By Those We Serve

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

#### Corporate Headquarters

758 Illinois Street  
 PO Box 71249  
 Fairbanks, AK 99707-1249  
 907-452-1151  
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)  
 Fax 907-458-6365

#### Delta Junction Office

1681 Richardson Hwy.  
 907-452-1151  
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)  
 Fax 907-895-5472

#### Nenana Office

7259 Parks Hwy.  
 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](http://gvea.com/resources/outages)

[www.gvea.com](http://www.gvea.com)

**Safety:** You Have The Power!



AK-37

# Welcome to GVEA's Bill Payment Kiosk!

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

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

Cash, checks, credit and debit cards accepted.



Conveniently located just inside the front door of the Fairbanks office

**Kiosk Hours:**  
**7am – 6pm**  
**Monday – Friday**

*excluding holiday closures*

## It's fast, safe and convenient!

**Give it a try & win!**

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



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

73233 State Route 70  
Portola, CA 96122

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**President**

Fred Nelson, *Clio*  
fnelson@psrec.coop

**Vice President**

Dick Short, *Graeagle*  
dshort@psrec.coop

**Secretary/Treasurer**

David Hansen, *Doyle*  
dhansen@psrec.coop

Larry Price, *Quincy*  
lprice@psrec.coop

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

Tom Hammond, *Herlong*  
thammond@psrec.coop

Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*  
nmiller@psrec.coop

**Manager**

Robert (Bob) Marshall  
bmarshall@psrec.coop



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

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

CA-39

# Manager's Message

**Dear Members:**

The cooperative's 2019 annual meeting is Thursday, September 5. We hope you will join us for an informative evening at the Sierra Valley Grange. We will have the election for the board of directors for Districts 2 and 5. If you do not vote by mail, you can vote at the meeting.

The board of directors moved the meeting to a Thursday evening for the convenience of the members. We received a good deal of feedback that it was hard for people to give up a full Saturday. As some of you may remember, we used to have the meeting on Friday evenings, so this is a bit of a throwback.

This is a great opportunity to ask questions about your electric cooperative and its telecommunications business. There will be great prizes, including \$500 off one lucky member's electric bill.

**Telecommunications Expansion**

Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications is currently focused in American Valley. We are scheduling Bellamy Track (behind Plumas District Hospital), and are replacing the old coaxial system in west Quincy with fiber optics. We are also adding customers in parts of Chandler Road, though some areas will take more time to get to. We will discuss our plans for additional areas at the annual meeting.

We are also working with various communities on hard-to-reach areas, and have applied for grant funding from the California Advanced Services Fund. We will know in November if we are awarded grant funds to continue broadband expansion in these hard-to-reach areas.

For more information about our telecommunications products, including coverage maps, please visit [www.pst.coop](http://www.pst.coop).

**Joint Electric/Telecommunications Project Underway**

We have received quite a few inquiries about the progress of our joint electric/telecommunications project to building a fiber optic line to Sierraville and then Sattley and Calpine. The project is underway, with rapid progress made from the Marble Substation to the Sierraville Substation. The first leg of the project will go to the end of Sierraville on Highway 89.

We will also build an advanced wireless broadcast point at the Sierraville Substation, allowing good coverage. From there, fiber optic service will extend back to Sattley and north to Calpine.

PSREC will greatly benefit from control of key switches and our substation. This will allow faster restoration of power and better control of our system with winter storms and fire risks. Our telecommunications subsidiary, PST, will rent data capacity from PSREC, making the whole project cost effective.

Now is the time to sign up for this project. Let us know about your interest by calling 800-221-3474 or visiting [www.pst.coop](http://www.pst.coop).

**WRAP Program**

We are again offering a discounted rate for qualifying members through our Winter Rate Assistance Program. The discounted rate is available for November through April electricity use to income-qualified members.

For more information and an application, visit [www.psrec.coop](http://www.psrec.coop), or call 530-832-4261.

**Youth Opportunities**

As part of our commitment to the communities we serve, PSREC and its subsidiary offer life-changing opportunities to local youth,

*Continues on page 28*



# MT. WHEELER POWER

1600 Great Basin Blvd.  
Ely, NV 89301

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

## Emergency Contacts

Ely Office  
775-289-8981

Eureka Office  
775-237-5693

Outside Ely / Eureka Area  
800-97-POWER

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NV-40

# Important Dates



**Closed for  
Labor Day**



**Bills Due**



**Board Meeting**



**First Day of Fall**

**For more important dates, visit**  
[mwpower.net/content/community-calendar](http://mwpower.net/content/community-calendar)



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(800) 566-6696  
24 hours a day

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

#### Wendover office:

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

#### Wells office:

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

NV-41

## From Our Friends at United Electric

*Jo Elg, General Manager of United Electric Co-op, Inc., in Heyburn, Idaho, penned this excellent commentary about salmon that I would like to share with you this month.*

### Clay R. Fitch Chief Executive Officer

There has been much in the media on salmon survival and the four lower Snake River dams following the Andrus Center Environmental Conference “Energy, Salmon, Agriculture and Community: Can We Come Together?” Congressman Mike Simpson was the keynote speaker, and the intent of the conference was to bring together policymakers, experts, stakeholders and concerned citizens to discuss the interconnected topics. It appears the only media takeaway from the discussion is that the four lower Snake River dams must be removed.

A slightly different takeaway is that there is much misinformation regarding wild salmon. Overfishing began in the late 1800s, and mining, logging, agriculture, unfavorable ocean conditions and dams have led to the decline in fish populations. Information from the University of Washington libraries paints an interesting history of the early fishing industry in Washington state.

The first fish cannery was established on the Columbia River in 1866. It packed 272,000 pounds of salmon. By 1881, there were approximately 30 canneries in the Northwest. Competition was stiff. Fishermen added more layers to their gillnets and introduced traps, pound nets and fishwheels. In 1883 and 1884, the catch totaled more than 42 million pounds each year.

The concern of overfishing and salmon declines garnered enough attention for Congress to direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to investigate the causes of declining salmon runs in 1887. About the same time, Washington and Oregon enacted harvest restrictions, but they were weak and poorly enforced. The takeaway here: Salmon populations were declining before you and I were born.

Humans aren't the only ones who enjoy eating salmon. Marine mammals, including both California and Steller sea lions and harbor seals, prey on adult fish as they enter the Columbia River from the ocean to spawn upstream. Many sea lions have become permanent residents of the Columbia River and follow the salmon more than 140 miles to Bonneville Dam to continue the feed. The number of sea lions in the lower Columbia River increases every year.

Juvenile salmon and steelhead also face predation from birds and fish. Caspian terns, double-breasted cormorants and California gulls eat juvenile fish as they migrate downriver to the ocean each spring. Scientists estimate that fish-eating birds consume 35% of juvenile spring Chinook. Northern pikeminnow also prey on juvenile salmon and steelhead.

The most obvious takeaway: A combination of factors has contributed to the decline in salmon populations the past 150 years. Only a comprehensive approach to salmon recovery that addresses all factors affecting salmon—including habitat degradation, hatchery impacts, overharvest of returning adults, and assessing the impact of ocean conditions and climate change—can put salmon on the path to recovery. Recovery of salmon will not be achieved with a shortsighted goal of dam removal.



NV-42



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Email: [wmc@vea.coop](mailto:wmc@vea.coop)

LETTER FROM THE CEO

*PCA Charge*



There is a line on your monthly Valley Electric Association electricity statement that you probably don't pay much attention to. It is called the "PCA Charge," and it refers to "power cost adjustment." It is tucked in with the "Energy Charge" and "Basic Service Charge."

The line has been listed on VEA statements since 2001. Every other itemized charge or fee in the list contains a dollar amount. The PCA Charge, however, does not. It has remained at \$0.00 since about 2010.

Nearly two decades ago, the VEA Board included the PCA Charge on the statement to cover the fluctuating cost of power when the Co-op had to go out onto the market to buy more power as demand in the service area exceeded what the association had contracted for.

The PCA Charge is a tool to capture the true cost of power. Since power costs are variable, so was the PCA charge when it was needed.

As the price of power increases or decreases, so would the PCA Charge

More than half of all VEA expenses revolve around power – which includes the wholesale cost of power, the cost to transmit power from the generation source to the VEA grid and costs associated with VEA's affiliation with the California Independent Service Operators (CAISO), which balances the electricity load among its members.

A utility has very limited control over the price it pays for power and other factors that affect the price.

About 10 years ago, the VEA entered a period of energy pricing that was stable, so the Board quit levying the charge and instead rolled all the estimated costs associated with power purchases into the base rate to members. That is why you have not seen a PCA Charge since then.

Sometime in the future, however, it is possible that a CEO will ask the Board to again consider using the PCA Charge. It won't happen this year, and it is possible that it won't occur until after my term as Interim CEO is over.

I feel good about the efforts we have made to drive out costs from the operation. Some take longer than others like contracted services. Long-term commitments make trimming those expenses more difficult.

Before I could recommend a PCA Charge to the Board, I would have to be convinced that we have a firm grip on all our expenses.

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](http://www.kvfish.org)
- ▶ HopeSource, 509-925-1448, [www.hopesource.us](http://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](http://www.st-andrewsparish.org)
- ▶ Small Tribes Organization of Western Washington, 800-567-6690, [www.stoww.webs.com](http://www.stoww.webs.com)

### OFFICE HOURS

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



WA-43



# Watch for Back-to-School Kids

## Drivers should take precautions around schoolchildren.

On average, 26 children in the United States are killed every year while getting on or off a school bus, or while waiting at the bus stop. To avoid such tragedies, drivers are reminded to:

- Carefully back out of driveways. Watch for children walking to the bus stop.
- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street and playing or congregating near bus stops—especially in the early morning hours, when it may still be dark.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking.
- Obey the law. Yellow flashing lights on a bus mean motorists should slow down and prepare to stop. Red flashing lights mean motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn and the bus starts moving again. Unless there is a median, oncoming traffic also must stop.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**District Offices**

4005 23rd Street  
P.O. Box 226  
Baker City, OR 97814  
541-523-3616


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

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

2408 Cove Ave.  
La Grande, OR 97850  
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Les Penning, CEO

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

## Manager's Message

Otec buys all its wholesale power from the Bonneville Power Administration under an all-requirements contract. For that reason, we continually monitor what may be happening politically or financially to BPA and the cost of power.

Public and consumer-owned utilities across the Northwest frequently come together through associations to better understand the challenges and threats facing BPA's hydropower systems, and what we can do to protect and support the efficient use of this valuable resource.

One of the latest issues under discussion was clearing up confusion about a recent announcement from BPA stating the cost of wholesale power would not increase for 2019-2020. That may hold true for some utilities, but unfortunately in Otec's case, we will experience a rate increase from BPA. The approximate increase is projected at 3.97%.

It's not surprising BPA had difficulty clearly communicating the effect of several substantial changes since 2018 and how these changes would impact utility rates for customers such as Otec.

To clarify, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered BPA to spill more water over the dams, which meant a loss of water-fuel that would have otherwise produced electricity and generated revenue. BPA's sales from secondary markets that typically provide additional revenues to offset costs have plummeted in this same time period, which triggered BPA's financial reserve policy to increase reserve requirements, resulting in an additional surcharge to its rates. This, coupled with higher than anticipated expenses for the transmission system, means wholesale power rates had to increase.

In anticipation of these rate changes that will affect members' bills, Otec began working with consultants to complete a cost-of-service study. The study offers Otec a comprehensive review of all costs in each rate class to determine if changes are needed to ensure rates are equitable and fair.

Despite some uncertainty at this point as to the actual rate impact on our members, the BPA hydropower system continues to offer our communities a long-term source of competitively priced, safe, clean and secure energy. We know how important it is to keep our members informed of the current and future challenges BPA faces, because power supply is close to 50% of our total cost of doing business. Once the rate study is completed and the board has reviewed the impacts, we will communicate updated information for you through our normal channels and at otec.coop.



**Les Penning**  
CEO



Member-owned since 1921

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Power problems: 253-847-4363  
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Email: [office@ohop.coop](mailto:office@ohop.coop)  
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Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

## Protect Your Electric Equipment

Dear Members,

Don't be caught unprepared when the thunder rumbles, lightning strikes or wind knocks a branch onto a power line and the power cuts out for a moment, then returns.

Electrical surges can overload and short out home electronics and other items plugged into an outlet. Ensure your property is protected.

Most homes use electrical power in the form of 120-volt, single-phase, alternating current. With alternating current, the voltage oscillates from 0 to a peak of 169 volts. Generally, appliances and other electronics used in the United States are designed to handle this form of electricity.

Unfortunately, during a power surge, voltage can spike and exceed the peak voltage. Even smaller intermittent surges and spikes can be harmful to your equipment.

Surges can enter your home in multiple ways: cable television, satellite, telephone or electric service lines.

### How can you protect your equipment?

Point-of-use surge protectors and whole-house surge devices can help.

Right now, Ohop is offering a FREE advanced surge protection power strip—one per household—and four LED lightbulbs.

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

Stop by our office to pick up your power strip. If you cannot make it to the office, complete and sign the form online at [www.ohop.coop](http://www.ohop.coop) or by email at [office@ohop.coop](mailto:office@ohop.coop) and one of our employees will drop off the surge protector at your home.

Don't miss out on your free advanced power strip—a \$50 value. Supplies are limited.

Remember, this program, in combination with our other conservation efforts and renewable energy purchases, helps us meet our goals regarding energy, economics and environment.

**Kenneth Klotz**  
General Manager



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

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

WA-50

**OPEN  
HOUSE**



## TEC's New Office Open for Business

After years of planning and more than a year of construction, Tanner Electric Cooperative's new administration building is open. The address is 45715 SE 140th Street, North Bend, 98045.

TEC hosts an open house September 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. We will have hot dogs, chips and soda for members to enjoy. Your family and friends are welcome.

We hope to see you there!



## Parkland Light & Water Company

Owned By  
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Susan Cutrell

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

WA-52

## 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 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 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](mailto:mike.porter@evergreen-efficiency.com).

### PL&W Water System Plan Update Public Meeting

Parkland Light and Water has prepared a draft update to its Water System Plan. A presentation on the plan update will be given Wednesday, September 25, at 3 p.m. at 12918 Park Ave. in Tacoma. The presentation will include information on projected water system demands, anticipated capital improvements, utility finances and updated water-use efficiency goals.

The public is invited to attend and provide input on the Water System Plan and water-use efficiency goals. A draft of the plan including water-use efficiency goals is available for review at the Parkland Light and Water office. For more information, or if special accommodations are needed, contact General Manager Susan Cutrell at 253-531-5666 during regular business hours.



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#### CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #6106000

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

## Community Calendar

### September 2: Labor Day

Clatskanie PUD Closed

### September 18: Clatskanie PUD Board

**Meeting** - Workshop at 5:30 pm, followed by regular board meeting at 7 pm. A Public Rate Hearing for Clatskanie PUD Customers will be held Wednesday, September 18 at the workshop starting at 5:30 pm with a presentation of the staff recommendation for updated rate schedules that may include a pass through of the BPA rate increase on power cost. The meeting will be open for public comment.

**September 28: Clatskanie Health & Safety Fair** -10 am to 2 pm (see pg 8)

OR-60

Every two years we receive a rate increase from Bonneville Power Administration, and this is one of those years. The first public rate hearing was held at the August Board Workshop for staff to present the effects of BPA's rate increase on our wholesale power and transmission costs. In July, BPA announced their rate increases effective October 1st of this year. Included with the increases for power and transmission is also a 1.5% surcharge to replenish BPA's reserve accounts. Staff completed an analysis of the cost increases and made a recommendation to the Board of Directors how to best adjust our own rates to be able to maintain our financial stability and excellent reliability.



Due to the diligence of cost reduction methods by staff for non-power expenses and favorable financial results in 2018 & 2019, the rate change proposal is for a very minimal increase in the kWh usage charge. The proposal breaks the increase into two steps; the first would increase the kWh charge to 5.43 cents from the current 5.39. Next year it would increase to 5.47 cents, for a total increase of eight one hundredths of a cent. Keeping our kWh rate under 5 1/2 cents, and the lowest in the State.

Staff will also make a recommendation for the Board to consider implementing the rate increase in May of 2020 and May of 2021 when usage is lower, instead of implementing on October 1st when we are going into colder winter months and usage is higher. The second public rate hearing will be held at the September 18th Board workshop meeting at 5:30 pm, and the proposal will be voted on during the regular Board Meeting following the workshop.

As a reminder, the debt and rate strategies adopted in September of 2017 included a four year rate strategy to increase the base charge to provide fixed revenue to help cover fixed expenses of the District. Part of that previously approved rate increase is the \$4 increase that was implemented this May. One of the reasons that the new rate strategy was necessary is the substantial loss of revenue due to the expiration of our WGA co-gen contract, which has produced millions of dollars in dividends to the District since its inception in 1994. The dividends from the co-gen plant at Wauna Mill have subsidized our rates for over 20 years, but are set to expire in 2021.

The Board approved a debt reduction strategy to ensure we can remain financially stable when the dividends expire, and we experience a substantial loss of revenue. By staying with this proactive strategy, instead of a 24% rate increase in 2021 we reduced the total impact to our customers to only 10%. The base charge is a fixed cost that can be budgeted for, whereas the energy charge is not and can fluctuate considerably due to weather for heating or cooling. No matter how much energy is used, the system costs remain the same to maintain the physical assets to provide electrical service. That is why it is important to have the base charge cover those expenses, and the kWh charge set at an appropriate amount to cover the power purchases.

Marc Farmer, General Manager



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ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

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Martin Shroyer

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

AK-64

# **PCE is Fully Funded for Fiscal Year 2020!**



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Kaltag	Shageluk
Kasigluk	Shaktoolik
Kiana	Shishmaref
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### Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



AK-105

## PCE is funded for FY2020

When the Alaska Legislature passed the operating budget with full funding for PCE on June 9, there was no inkling of the way things would unfold a few weeks later. In early July we learned that the administration had decided that the PCE endowment fund was one of many funds that was not protected from the “automatic sweep” that occurs at the end of the fiscal year.

What is the automatic sweep? Accounts in the state treasury that contain funds that have not been committed or spent and that are available for appropriation by the legislature are automatically swept into the Constitutional Budget Reserve (CBR) at the end of the fiscal year to repay funds that have been borrowed in the past.

A little known action that occurs when the capital budget is passed and funded with money from the CBR, is concurrent passage of language that reverses those sweeps and restores the swept funds into the various accounts that they were swept from on July 1. This is called the reverse sweep language.

Spending money from the CBR requires a super majority - 75% of both bodies must approve the appropriation. The senate passed the capital budget appropriations with the required super majority but the house did not. This meant that the reverse sweep language did not pass and the administration determined that the PCE endowment fund was, in effect, zeroed out. Three and a half decades of work to protect PCE by creating an endowment fund, and nurturing it to a balance of almost a billion dollars, disappeared overnight.

As I informed you in last month's Ruralite magazine, we did not have funding to pay PCE for the electricity used in July - quite literally until almost the last day of July! On July 29, the Alaska House of Representatives achieved the required minimum 30 vote threshold necessary to fund the capital budget, SB 2002, and reverse the sweeps of numerous program funds that were sent to the CBR at the end of the previous fiscal year. The vote to pass the bill was 32-6, and 31-7 to fund it from the CBR and reverse the sweeps.

The bills issued on August 2 included full PCE credits and, on August 9, the governor signed the capital budget and did not veto the reverse sweeps. The PCE endowment fund remains intact and we have learned of this ever present threat of the reverse sweep in future years. Be assured that we will be very vigilant to continue protection of this critical program for rural Alaska.

Until next time,

Meera Kohler  
President and CEO





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

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**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

## **Facility Charge Increase**

Lassen Municipal Utility District customers will see an increase in the monthly facility charge beginning with the August bill.

The board of directors held a public hearing July 23 to receive comments and discuss the possible increase. After hearing comments, the board voted unanimously to increase the charge. Residential customers will see a \$5 increase, bringing the charge to \$25 a month. Commercial customers will go from \$35 a month to \$44, and industrial customers will go from \$240 a month to \$300 a month.

In the January General Manager's message, LMUD General Manager Doug Smith explained the need to set fair rates.

"Except for the energy we purchase to resell, the costs that LMUD incurs to bring electricity into your homes and businesses doesn't change with how much energy you use. Historically, electric utilities have included these fixed charges in the cost-per-kilowatt-hour rate. As customers have changed the way they use energy, this practice has resulted in some customers paying more than their fair share and others paying less. LMUD, like many other utilities, has shifted a portion of its rates into fixed charges. For LMUD customers, this fixed charge is called the facility charge. It covers things like metering and billing, system maintenance, system improvements and administration."

If you have questions regarding the facility charge increase or any other LMUD related issue, please contact Public Relations Manager Theresa Phillips at 530-257-4174.



## Lincoln County Power District No. 1

201 Bullionville Road  
Panaca, Nevada 89042

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

Email: [lcpd@lcpd1.com](mailto:lcpd@lcpd1.com)

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### GENERAL MANAGER

David Luttrell

Board meets the second Tuesday  
of each month



### MISSION STATEMENT

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

NV-107

## Are You One of Us?

By one of us, I mean, are you a member of Lincoln County Power District No. 1? While you may be a longtime customer and think that makes you a member, many of our customers actually are not members. Because of our unique history, the driving forces that created the power district in 1937 were the mines and mills in and around Pioche. Consequently, the district's boundary originally only encompassed the areas around Pioche, Caselton and parts of Dry Valley.

Today, our service area includes all of Lincoln County and part of Clark County. While we can provide retail and wholesale electric service to our customers in the district's designated service area, only those customers who are in the boundary of the power district are actually members.

As individual property owners have requested to become members over the years, that boundary has changed. Individuals in Panaca, Meadow Valley, Eagle Valley, Coyote Springs, Rachel and Mt. Wilson areas are now also included in the boundary.

The only difference between being a customer and a member is local democracy. Members of the power district get to vote for and serve as members of the board of trustees. The power district is a not-for-profit, community-based electric utility. Its board of trustees sets high-level policy, provides a fiduciary responsibility and directs the district's general manager.

Participation in the democratic process is important. Anyone can come to meetings of the board of trustees and offer comments and suggestions, but to be able to vote and run for office is what defines true democracy.

I believe all our customers should become members. Doing so only requires the owner of a parcel of land to submit a petition to the board of trustees to have their property included. Call the office, and we will provide you with the necessary form.

I have heard some customers say they don't want to be members because it could expose their property to a tax liability. In a theoretical sense, the law does allow certain types of general improvement districts to assess a tax. But in reality, including your property in the district's boundary will not result in a tax liability because taxing authority is delegated to government entities, and the power district gets its income from electric energy sales, not taxes. We have never taxed, and we never will.

I encourage customers who are not members to give me a call or talk with someone who is a member. Call our office, and we can put you in contact with someone in your area who is a member, such as Richard Katschke or Dylan Frehner in Panaca, who can tell you why they chose to become members.

Over the past eight years as general manager, I have worked hard on many issues, such as rehabilitating the electric system infrastructure in Lincoln County. As I enter my final three years before retirement, I hope to convince all of our customers to become members. Please help me achieve that goal.



**David Luttrell, General Manager**



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

OR-400

## Case in Point

I am not what you would call a daredevil. Sure, I like adventure as much as the next guy, but it's more along the lines of a rigorous hike than free-soloing rock walls in a national park. So this summer, when my 14-year-old daughter suggested we go zip lining during our vacation in Moab, Utah, I was reluctant. Yet soon I was flying off a cliff, trusting my equipment and trying not to think about how certain death was below.

It was a thrilling experience, but I am officially retired from zip lining. I see the benefit, however, of occasionally stepping outside my comfort zone, pushing the limits of my imagination and stepping into the breach.

This is something I think about quite often in a rapidly evolving electric utility industry. Many believe the breach is upon us. Distributed generation, battery technology, new market entrants and evolving consumer attitudes are only some of the ways our industry is fundamentally changing.

Electric cooperatives need to be prepared for the disruption that hits every industry at one time or another. Meeting consumer needs—such as the solar incentive at Salem Electric highlighted in our feature story this month—is one example of how we listen to our members.

Oregon's electric cooperatives are already at the vanguard of our clean energy economy, and many have taken leadership roles in deploying broadband to keep rural and frontier communities in our state from vanishing from the map. These new programs are often leaps of faith for normally risk-averse boards of directors, but they too recognize this is not their grandparents' electric utility industry. I am reminded almost daily of what disruption looks like.

Near my office is the shuttered former national headquarters of Hollywood Video. When the video market was upended by new entrants, the company was not prepared and ultimately fell into the abyss. I believe electric cooperatives are poised to soar in this new daunting energy landscape if we're prepared to take the leap. It's going to be a heck of a ride. Just don't look down.



**Ted Case**  
Executive Director

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**GENERAL MANAGER**

Kevin Short

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- ▶ September 2—Labor Day, office closed.
- ▶ November 28—Thanksgiving, office closed.
- ▶ November 29—day after Thanksgiving, office closed.

**EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES**

**September and October  
Congratulations!**

- ▶ Paula Crawley ..... 9 years
- ▶ Scott Davies ..... 15 years
- ▶ Celena Downey ..... 4 years
- ▶ Michael Gervais ..... 7 years
- ▶ Yuri Gudino ..... 4 years
- ▶ Laura Snider-Manseau . 7 years
- ▶ Sherri Stafford ..... 4 years

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**A Message from the Manager  
From the Heart**

It takes a special person to give selflessly to others. Putting the needs of another first—even for a moment—can be challenging. Purposefully donating one’s time and resources, simply for the reason of helping someone else who needs that help, is a marvelous and humbling thing. I recently was honored to witness a truly giving event that made me aware of the many special people in our community who put the needs of others front and center, giving of themselves to the children of our community.

From the Heart Ministries has held its backpack giveaway for 15 years, donating hundreds of backpacks filled with school supplies, shoes, socks and free haircuts to area children. All are welcome; there are no requirements or qualifications to participate. This year’s giveaway was an incredible success. Organizer Christi James said the group had more volunteers than ever before, making the preparations for the crowd of children and their families easy work.

I asked Christi if the employees from our cooperative could participate, and she graciously and enthusiastically welcomed our team. About a dozen of our employees and their families attended and helped out. We witnessed a tremendous outpouring of community caring as children of all ages moved through the well-organized tables, collecting their backpacks and shoes.

The seventh cooperative principle is “Concern for Community.” I’m proud that our employees take this principle to heart and readily give of their own time to participate in events such as this. When we partner with those we serve in the community, we develop the strongest human bond possible through shared commitment and caring.

There are many worthwhile events held year-round in our community, sponsored by the caring and quality local organizations that we are all fortunate to call our own. I hope you will follow the lead of From the Heart Ministries and consider donating your time and resources to more than a few of these events. Mutual assistance helps everyone. We all need a hand now and then.

Thank you all for being the best community I could ever hope to be a part of.



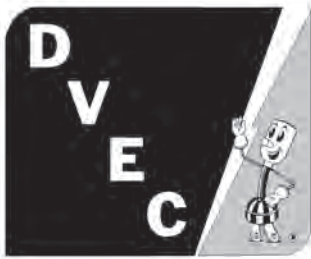
**Kevin Short**

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## Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative Inc.

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Fax: 928-359-2370  
www.dvec.org

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Steven Lunt  
*CEO*

### BOARD MEETINGS

September 16  
October 14  
November 18

*Generally the third Monday of the month*

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



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### CEO's Message

# Join Us at the Fair

*Well there's a full moon in the western sky,  
And there's magic in the air.  
Ain't nothin' I know of, can make you fall in love,  
Like a night at the county fair.  
- Chris LeDoux*

There won't be a full moon, and I can't promise you will fall in love at the Greenlee County Fair, but I can assure you there will be plenty to see and do.

Like many of you, I often wax nostalgic in the fall with fond memories of the start of a new school year, football, and the county fair. My earliest memories of the fair are that despite my anticipation of getting to the midway with my friends and enjoying the rides, there was work to be done. Our family would find the best of our animals, produce, crops, canning and sewing and would spend the first day filling out exhibit tags. My father often volunteered to supervise some of the livestock exhibits, usually hogs since we were hog farmers. Saturday, before I was allowed to play, my father made sure I was assigned to assist the judges in fetching exhibits and reading off the exhibit cards for the recording of

prizes. I especially enjoyed the year I got to help out in the baked goods exhibits. The superintendent or judge would slip me a cookie from each exhibit as it was being judged.

This year marks the 100th year of the Greenlee County Fair. A friend of mine recently told me about the Arizona Memory Project (<http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov>) and the section with historical newspapers caught my attention. The October 31, 1919 edition of the Copper Era reported that the first Greenlee County Fair was "A big success."

First place winners from a sampling of exhibits shows the following: Cow Pony, Clarence Martin; Red Sow, E.C. Payne; Sheep, Ben A. Moffett; Rhode Island Red Cock, Vernon McGrath; Ten Ears Eureka Red Cob Corn, A.L. Stewart; Best Bale Horse Hay, Geo W. Stinson; Peaches, W.T. Sanders; Cantaloupes, R.D Williams; Largest Watermelon, Second Francesc; Cut Flowers, Mrs. Jesse B. Simms; Best Glass of Jelly, Mrs. Emma Mortensen;



**Steven Lunt**

Best Pound Butter, Mrs. E.M. Chrisman; Best Loaf Bread, Mrs. Maud M. Smith.

Some things have changed since 1919, but the idea of community members

showcasing their best efforts

is a tradition worthy of our support. Because so many of our members are deeply involved in the county fair, Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative continues to be a proud sponsor. We financially support fair projects every year, such as the beautification project, the ranch rodeo, and donating to the youth livestock show and auction.

The fair is Thursday, September 19 through Sunday, September 22. I would like to invite you to our Ice Cream Social on Thursday afternoon from 4 to 5:30 p.m. What could be better than a free cold sundae on a hot Thursday afternoon? Please join us at the fair for some good old fashioned fun.

Take it from this old pig farmer and Corb Lund, "Everything is better with some cows around."



## Electrical District No. 2

P.O. Box 548  
Coolidge, AZ 85128

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

To report an emergency or a power outage after hours or weekends, call: 800-668-8079

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

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

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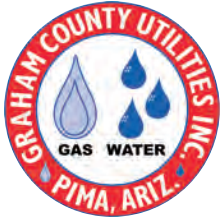
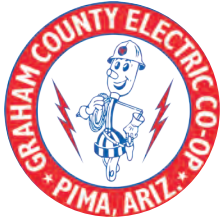
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Kirk Gray



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**Manager's Message**

# Changing Our Energy Future

As I have shared with you before, the electric energy industry is in a period of transformational change. Electric utility industry leaders, retail consumers and energy regulators are all trying to define what our energy future should look like. Deploying new energy technologies and the associated regulatory framework are at the center of the change.

There are no fewer than five major regulatory actions being contemplated by the Arizona Corporation Commission. The commission's constitutional charge is to protect the consumer from unfair rates and be an advocate for the consumer. In performing its duty to protect the consumer, the commission has taken it upon itself to set Arizona energy policy. The problem is that the contemplated energy policies only apply to public service corporations that are regulated by the commission, such as Graham County Electric Cooperative. It does not apply to municipal or quasi-governmental utility providers.

Renewable energy portfolio standards, retail electric competition, and electrification of the transportation sector are a few of the major policies being considered.

GCEC—through our statewide cooperative



association, Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association—is making sure cooperative utility concerns are heard by regulators. Each one of these initiatives have costs associated with them, and we the ratepayers must pay for those costs. As demonstrated by the defeat of the Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona ballot initiative last November, Arizonans are not willing to pay for change that is not economically feasible.

GCEC and the other Arizona cooperatives have done a credible job telling the co-op story. As I have stated many times, GCEC is opposed

to any energy policy that places an undue burden on rural Arizona ratepayers. GCEC directors and staff continually look for innovative and environmentally sound ways to provide electric energy at the lowest cost possible, and we will continue to do so on your behalf.

Please stay informed concerning your energy future and energy policies that affect you, our member/owners, by visiting [www.gce.coop](http://www.gce.coop) and by following us on Facebook and Instagram.

—Kirk Gray



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Members acknowledge that \$3.96, plus actual postage, is the cost to publish 12 issues a year of **Florida Currents** (USPS-8300). Published by Pioneer Utility Resources, 5625 NE Elam Young Pkwy, Suite 400, Hillsboro, OR 97124—a not-for-profit Oregon cooperative corporation—the magazine serves the communications needs of consumer-owned electric utilities in Florida. Preferred Periodicals postage paid at Hillsboro, OR 97123 and at additional mailing offices.

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

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**Subscription services:** Nonmember subscriptions \$15 (U.S.) per year; \$25 (foreign) per year. Prepayment required. Identify local edition desired.

**Extra copies:** \$3 each, prepayment required. Supply is limited. Identify edition, month and year.

**Delivery issues:** Utility members should contact the utility office listed on the back cover. Nonmembers contact Pioneer Utility Resources.

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**Message From the CEO**

## Black Friday

An article in Rural Electrification magazine caught my eye the other day. It referenced “Black Friday,” which was a dark day for electric cooperatives. On December 29, 1972, President Richard Nixon terminated the loan program established in 1936 under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Rural Electrification Administration. This program provided the funds for electric co-ops to build power systems and bring electricity to members like you.

This was devastating news. According to an analysis by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 91% of the approximately 1,000 electric cooperatives would no longer qualify for funding. NRECA General Manager Bob Partridge called it the “most critical challenge” ever faced by cooperatives.

In true co-op fashion, rural America came alive and prepared to fight for its existence. In January 1973, more than 1,400 of the country’s cooperative managers and trustees rallied to restore the REA loan program with a protest at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., and a march on Capitol Hill.

Their voices were heard. Members on both sides of Congress backed the electric cooperatives. The grassroots group continued its efforts another 131 days until legislation was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate to preserve the REA and its programs.

Sen. Hubert Humphrey sponsored the bill that established the Rural Electrification and



Ryan C. Campbell, P.E.

Telephone Revolving Fund in the U.S. Treasury, which eliminated the need for Congress to appropriate funds each year. This provided protection from presidential circumvention of those funds by executive order. It is one of the greatest legislative victories in the history of electric cooperatives.

Two important takeaways of Black Friday are alive and well today. First, although the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 integrated REA into the Rural Utilities Service, electric cooperatives continue to use this vital program to provide funding for infrastructure in electric cooperative utility systems. Second, the collective power of rural electric co-ops remains a powerful force today.

Cooperatives continue to face challenges that threaten our mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our member-owners. Through our national and state cooperative associations, electric co-ops have legislative watchdogs looking out for our membership’s best interests.

When the need arises, we rally together to preserve the integrity of our electric cooperative heritage and, most importantly, to protect the energy future of our co-op members. We count on you, our members, to help spread the word and get the support our electric cooperative needs to continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our members. ■



## Inside

September 2019  
Vol. 8, No. 11

### Eradicating Lionfish 12

Organizations throughout the state promote programs to remove the invasive species that threatens reefs and marine life.

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# FKEC NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2019

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Unless otherwise noted, "FKEC NEWS" writing, design & photography by:  
**Nikki Dunn Cullen, [news@fkec.com](mailto:news@fkec.com)**

## SCOTT NEWBERRY

*Chief Executive Officer*

# Improving our Marathon Office

As part of constant efforts to improve our ability to serve our members, we will be building an addition on to our office building in Marathon. Not only will the project improve the facility's facade, but more importantly, it will increase our abilities to house and feed crews following a major storm.

In 2009, FKEC opened our storm-hardened Tavernier Operations Center. Among the many features included in that category 5 storm rated facility are a commercial kitchen and large dining/training room built to feed and house crews following a significant storm.

These amenities proved invaluable in the immediate days after Hurricane Irma. Prior to



outside storm services arriving, FKEC employees were able to prepare food to feed over 250 storm restoration workers during those first days. In Marathon, we were limited to one stove and propane grills to cook for crews. With the new construction, we will have the same food preparation capabilities in Marathon as we currently have in Tavernier.

With Marathon taking the brunt of Hurricane Irma, we were pleased with how the existing building held up. However, some weaknesses were revealed and will be addressed in the new construction.

The facility you see in Marathon today was completed in 2005. Since then, materials and construction have improved, and we look forward to incorporating those advantages into the addition.

As with all our construction projects, we are considering sustainable materials and taking energy-saving measures where possible.

Our permit application has been submitted to the City of Marathon, and we look forward to breaking ground in a few months.



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Moore Haven, FL 33471

214 SR 70 West  
Lake Placid, FL 33852

*Mondays and Wednesdays (closed 1 to 2 p.m.)*  
808 N. Parrott Ave.  
Okeechobee, FL 34972

**POWER INTERRUPTION NUMBER**

Moore Haven ..... 863-946-6200

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

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

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

**EXECUTIVE STAFF**

- CEO Jeff Brewington
- CFO Jennifer Manning
- Chief Operating Officer Travis Turner
- Chief Communications Officer  
Jennifer Koukos
- Dir. of Employee Services Yvonne Bradley
- Dir. of Safety Pedro Navarro

FL-153

**CEO’s Message**

# Moore Haven Supports Revitalization Effort



**Jeff Brewington**

Rural electric cooperatives are driven by seven core principles, one of which is high on my priority list. That principle is “Concern for Community.” I have embarked on a focused implementation of that in our longtime headquarters home of Moore Haven.

Across the national cooperative world, a new program—“placemaking”—has been put in play. Placemaking lays out constructive plans for revitalizing rural communities as its citizens see fit. It is by no means a plan to turn over our unique and quaint hometowns to big-time developers. We remain in the driver’s seat. It is a community-focused approach with local people working together to create vibrant downtowns through entrepreneurship and cultural opportunities, based on each community’s individual characteristics and assets. The goal of placemaking is to rejuvenate small-town communities by creating a variety of vital places for residents to gather and commune to build a stronger sense of community while retaining residents to raise families.

A cross section of Moore Haven residents participated in the initial presentation of the program by McClure Engineering—a company working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and specializing in creative placemaking projects. Moore Haven stakeholders who attended included residents representing small businesses, education, banking, agriculture and economic development. Overwhelmingly, the group voted to move forward with McClure to develop a plan. The plan is not free, so fundraising was started to get support from across the community. The support has been phenomenal! We have significant financial commitments from the city of Moore Haven, Glades County, Glades County School Board, United States Sugar Corp., Lykes Brothers, Duda and, of course, Glades Electric Cooperative.

We are close to the finish line as I write. By mid-August, I expected to sign the contract to move forward on our placemaking projects, which may include a riverside restaurant, cultural opportunities, a hotel, affordable housing and maybe even a microbrewery. Zachary Mannheimer, principal community placemaker with McClure, was impressed with both the natural and historic assets of Moore Haven, and shares the vision of the great potential Moore Haven has to offer.

Next steps of developing the plan will include rounds with additional citizen focus groups and interviews with local employers. Should you receive an invitation, please consider participating. We want the perspective of all citizens heard. To see more about the placemaking program, visit McClure’s website at [www.mcclureplacemaking.com](http://www.mcclureplacemaking.com).

Stay tuned for more!





# Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## TO REPORT POWER OUTAGE

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

## CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

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

## MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

14505 Arbor Green Trail  
 Lakewood Ranch, 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.

## BOARD MEETING DATES

September 24, 2019  
 October 22, 2019  
 November 19, 2019

## ONLINE E-ZINE

Prefer to receive Florida Currents as an online e-zine? Sign up through your online account or call us at **800-282-3824**.

FL 155

# The Power of Small Change Changes Lives



**Almost 80 years ago, local residents—recognizing a need for electric service in the community—banded together to form Peace River Electric Cooperative and became its first member-owners. Today, PRECO members are still banding together to meet local needs by supporting the co-op's charitable foundation: Operation Round Up.**

## Last year, Operation Round Up granted:

Caring People Ministries	Shelter	\$ 15,000
Cutting Edge Ministries	Food	\$ 5,000
Habitat for Humanity-Sarasota	Shelter	\$ 5,000
Meals on Wheels Plus-Manatee	Food	\$ 10,000
2 families	Food	\$ 310
5 families	Shelter	\$ 16,284
12 students	Scholarships	\$ 72,000
<b>Total for 2018</b>		<b>\$123,594</b>

In 2005, PRECO created Operation Round Up as a means of assisting local families in crisis and community service organizations in need of support. An all-volunteer board of directors oversees this program which grants thousands of dollars of assistance each year in six areas of need: food, shelter, medical, clothing, education and the environment.

How is Operation Round Up funded, you may ask? By PRECO members who permit us to “round up” their electric bill to the next dollar each month. It’s just like dropping your spare change in a jar at home. Little by little, those coins add up.

As an example, let’s say your electric bill is \$100.75. Your bill would be rounded up to \$101, with 25 cents going to Operation Round Up. Your

small change is added to the small change of other PRECO members. That’s why we say that “Operation Round Up is small change that changes the lives of others.”

The average contribution to Operation Round Up is \$6 a year. That’s less than one combo meal at your favorite fast food place.

If you’re already contributing to Operation Round Up, thank you. If you would like to become an Operation Round Up monthly donor, simply enroll on our website at [www.preco.coop](http://www.preco.coop) or call us at **800-282-3824**. Please consider becoming a change-maker in your community.

*Randy Shaw*  
PRECO CEO



## Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc.

[www.MarlboroElectric.coop](http://www.MarlboroElectric.coop)

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

### GENERAL INFORMATION

843-479-3855  
800-922-9174

### OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Monday–Friday

### PRESIDENT/CEO

William L. Fleming Jr.

### CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Sam P. “Bo” McInnis Jr.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Eddie Gordon, *District 1*  
Jamie Grant, *District 2*  
Charles R. “Ricky” Smith, *District 3*  
Melvin Carabo, *District 4*  
John M. Alford, *District 5*  
*Vice Chairman*  
Sam P. “Bo” McInnis Jr., *District 6*  
*Chairman*  
Jeff Quick, *District 7*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
W. Ronald Quick, *District 8*  
Janelle Sauls, *District 9*

### ATTORNEYS

Doug Jennings  
Paul Conway

### CO-OP NEWS EDITOR

Matt Haynie  
email: [mhaynie@marlboro.coop](mailto: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.

## Educators Have Lasting Impact

It’s funny how unexpected memories can pop up at the most random times. A few weeks ago, I was traveling down Highway 38 when a school bus slowed down to pick up some children. As I stopped, my mind drifted back to when I was young.



At the time, the only thing that separated our house from the old Brightsville school was about half a mile of field and a large ditch. There was even a board laid across the ditch so we didn’t have to jump it. Our morning commute wasn’t bad.

I remember being 7 or 8 years old, running across a field with my sister toward the school. It was my very first day of my first year of formal schooling. I was excited and a little nervous.

By this time, I was well versed in farming. My father was a farmer, and I had just spent a summer plowing fields behind a mule. No, this isn’t the “walk to school in the snow uphill both ways” kind of story you tell your kids when you want them to know how good they have it. This is the truth. I could barely see over the handles, but I would work sunup to sundown guiding that mule and plow through my father’s tobacco field. Needless to say, I was excited about the idea of spending my days behind a desk and not a mule.

The old Brightsville school had three classrooms for six grade levels. If math isn’t your thing, that means that each room had two grades of children. The first graders shared a room and a teacher with the second graders, and so on. The classrooms were split right down the middle. When the teacher had taught and assigned work to one grade, she walked over a few steps and began teaching the other. The bathrooms were outside.

I had the distinct privilege of having Mrs. Janie Liles as a teacher for my first two years of education at Brightsville. She was a nice, sweet lady who let me get away with a lot more than she should have. Boy, did she have me spoiled. I quickly figured out how spoiled when I graduated to Mrs. Myrtle Hurley’s third grade class.

While Mrs. Hurley was a great lady and one heck of a teacher, she was quite the disciplinarian. She kept this special paddle in her room that looked more like a small boat oar than a device made for behavior correction. One day, I was doing something I shouldn’t have been—probably talking during class—and she marched right over to me, snatched me out of my chair and introduced me to her paddle right there in front of the whole class. I learned quickly not to cross Mrs. Hurley.

Clearly, our teachers make a lasting impact on us all. To all the educators out there, I extend gratitude and wish you a great year. To the parents of school-age children, here’s hoping your students make friends and enjoy academic success this school year. Whether they walk, bike or ride to the campus, I hope for their sake it’s not behind a mule!

### RONNIE QUICK

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!

