



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

"We Care"

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

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Director of Operations

Cynthia Tarola

Director of Accounting

Lance Wilson

Director of Engineering

Business Hours:

Monday - Thursday

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

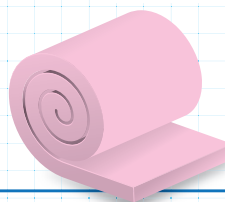
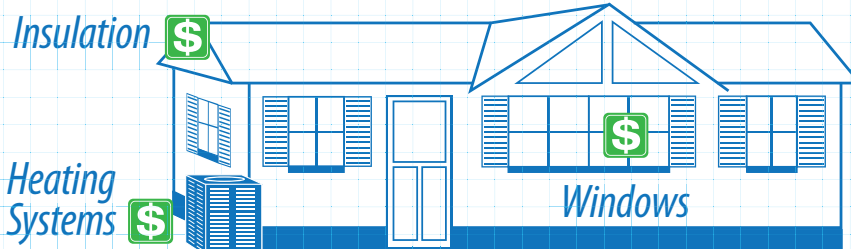
Closed Fridays

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ID-1

Energy Rebate Program

Incentives to Invest in a More Efficient Home

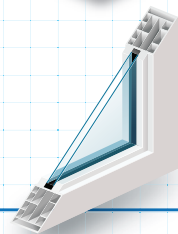


INSULATION

30¢ - 80¢/sq. ft.

Attics, Floors & Walls

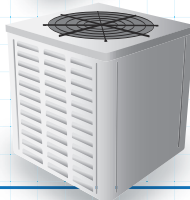
Call for details. Dependent on existing R-value, heating type, classification of home, requires pre/post inspection & materials receipt. New construction not eligible. *Home must use electric heat.*



WINDOWS

\$3/sq. ft.

Call for details. Replacement windows must meet a U Factor of .30 or better. Must be replacement of single-pane or metal frame windows. Requires pre/post inspection & materials receipt. New construction not eligible. *Home must use electric heat.*



HEAT PUMP

\$300 - \$3000

Call for details. Ground source, air-source or ductless units. Must be PTCS or Certified DHP installer. Most rebates are only for existing homes which use permanently-installed electric heat. All rebate claims must be approved by Clearwater Power & Bonneville Power Administration measures.

All rebate offers must meet BPA guidelines and are subject to change at any time. Call 1-888-743-1501 for details before making any purchasing decisions.



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

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

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Lori Anderson, Condon

Todd Lindsay, Sand Hollow

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Manager

Thomas Wolff, Heppner

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

OR-2

CBEC's 75th Anniversary Celebration!

Please attend your co-op's annual meeting in Heppner

Hello Members:

Your Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative will be celebrating 75 years of service to our members this October 31st during our Annual Meeting to be held at St. Patrick's Parish Hall in Heppner. The affair will be a luncheon meal, followed by annual meeting business. Lots of door prizes will be awarded!



Of special note: At this year's meeting, we will distribute to each attending household a copy of our 75th Anniversary History book, especially commissioned for our 75th Anniversary celebration. This new book chronicles the formation and development of your electric cooperative, and documents the major events and milestones in its 75 years of progress. Many, many pictures and anecdotal comments from our early and current members are included and illustrated. It is indeed a fine representation of the founding, development and current accomplishments of your member owned-and-governed electric co-op.

Please do attend this historic 75th Annual Meeting of your co-op, as it will be extra special this year! A complimentary history book, larger goodie bags and more door prizes will be available. It is also CBEC's intention to relate to our members all of the changes and upgrades that have occurred within the Service Territory this past year.

Best Regards,

Tommy Wolff
CEO/General Manager



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

Board of Directors

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

Manager

Roger Kline

Board Meetings

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

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values and Beliefs

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

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

We believe in:

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

OR-3

Manager's Report



Public Power: The Community-owned Advantage

Northern Wasco County People's Utility District (PUD) is one of more than 2,000 public power utilities that help power the lives of more than 48 million people across the country.

There are many reasons why you, our customers, continue to own and operate your own electric utility. Since our founding in 1939, and delivering our first electron of service in 1949, Northern Wasco County People's Utility District has served the community with reliable electricity at low rates, excellent customer service and an ethic of serving the community's needs. Our strong commitment to our community includes supporting economic development, providing carbon-free, environmentally responsible electric power, and doing all of this as safely as possible for everyone involved.

As a not-for-profit public power utility, our loyalty is to you, our customer—not stockholders. We take great pride in our governance structure, with an elected governing board of five local members, that has open meetings the first Tuesday of every month here at the PUD offices at 2345 River Road. The meetings start at 6 p.m. and all are welcome to attend!

Northern Wasco will continue to provide cost-effective, reliable electricity that adds value to the local economy and be a benefit to you, our customer owners and to our community.

Best to all and thank you for your continued support as we work diligently on your behalf.

Roger Kline

General Manager



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

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

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Ron Heath
District 7, Disautel

Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

October Is National Co-op Month

You have a unique story to tell about yourself because you are part of an electric cooperative community. But if you're like a lot of co-op members, you might not feel you know enough to tell that story well. Here's some help.

About one in 10 Americans receives their power from an electric cooperative, which belongs to the people it serves. That is you and your neighbors.

Electric co-ops were developed in the 1930s because city utilities—owned by investors wanting to make a profit—ignored rural America. They didn't think there was enough money to be earned there. So people in rural communities met with each other and formed local electric co-ops.

October is National Co-op Month—the time of year when cooperatives across the country celebrate the many ways co-ops are unique and, more importantly, the members they serve.

This year, the focus is on our ties to the local community. Your co-op was built by the community, for the community.

What that means for you, as members of a cooperative, is:

- Your co-op is here to stay. Since it belongs to the members it serves with safe, reliable, affordable energy, your cooperative is not going to move out of the country, or even across the state. It's staying right where it is.
- Your co-op knows you. Across the country, there are more than 900 electric cooperatives. No two are alike. Because each belongs to the people who live there, the co-op listens to the community it is a part of. Whether it's working with the latest energy-efficiency technologies or keeping the electric grid safe and secure, your electric cooperative can offer solutions that make the most sense locally.
- Your co-op cares about your community. Its top priority is to power the community. It is not owned by far-away, or even nearby, investors looking only for a good return on their money. Your co-op partners with local organizations on community events, fundraisers, youth programs and more. It is run by your friends and neighbors. By investing in the community, your electric co-op supports economic development and prosperity for all, right here at home.

These are just a few ways you and your electric co-op are one of a kind.



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

MAILING ADDRESS

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

LOCAL OFFICES

**6990 West Hills Road
Philomath, OR 97370**

**1900 W Oak St.
Lebanon, OR 97355**

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CHAIRMAN

Eric Horning
VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Plagmann
SECRETARY

Kevin Christopher
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Roman Gillen
PRESIDENT/CEO

Scott Muller
TREASURER/CFO

www.cpi.coop

**Happy
Halloween**

OR-6

President's Report

Last month, CPI held its 80th annual meeting at its Philomath headquarters. It was a wonderful event, and it was great to see so many members enjoying themselves. Thanks to all of you who were able to join us. For those unable to make it, below is an update on power costs, rates and safety that we shared at the meeting.

Costs and Rates

Several factors made it necessary for us to raise the price of electricity this year by about \$8.45 a month on average for residential members. Thankfully, wholesale power costs were much less of a factor than usual. The Bonneville Power Administration kept its power rate in check, although a 1.5% surcharge for building financial reserves is nearly certain starting at the end of the year.

Our network transmission rates will increase by an average of 2.5% starting next month. The expected combined impact to CPI for the coming year is an increase of about 1%. Our other operating and capital costs have been steadily on the rise, however. The combined effect of import tariffs and inflation—although mild by historical standards—has been reflected in the prices we pay for the poles, wire and equipment we use to maintain and improve our 3,100-mile electric system providing service to our 23,000 members.

By way of example, in the past two years we have needed to rebuild or outright replace five of the 22 substation transformers we own due

to age, deterioration or growing loads.

We also must maintain our capital rotation—return capital paid by members in past years while bringing in new capital to help fund current projects. Capital rotation falls under one of the Seven Cooperative Principles, Members' Economic Participation, under which all cooperatives operate. We are justifiably proud of our record in this important area, having returned more than \$20 million of patronage to our members to date.

You can find additional information regarding costs and rates in the News section of our website.

Safety is No. 1

We are pleased to report to you that CPI employees have once again achieved another year of working safely. Our last lost-time accident occurred more than five years ago—a remarkable accomplishment given the risks inherent in our industry. We are occasionally reminded of this fact when it is necessary for us to review reports of narrowly averted accidents—and we had a couple of close calls this past year. As great as this five-year mark is, our most important safety achievement is to go home to our families at the end of each day. By disciplining ourselves to continually study and observe safe working practices, we will do just that.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO



Benton REA

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

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

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

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

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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 **October 16 and October 30 at 6 p.m. in the Prosser Office unless otherwise indicated on our website.**

The board agenda for the upcoming meeting is available to members upon request no earlier than six days prior to the board meeting. Minutes of prior board meetings are available to members upon request. To request board agendas or minutes, visit a Benton REA office, email priorityrequests@bentonrea.org or call 509-786-8260.

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

Be An Informed Voter

Dear Members,

While the next presidential election isn't until 2020, there are many state and local elections between now and then that have a major impact on life in our local communities. That's why I encourage you to vote on or before November 3 in the general elections for your county, city, port, judicial district and school district.

Voter turnout in rural areas was declining just five years ago. But in 2016, it increased nationwide by more than half a million Americans. Together, we grew our political influence and encouraged lawmakers to pay more attention to the issues affecting us. Let's keep reminding them what we care about.

Throughout the year, Benton REA actively communicates with our elected officials at the local, state and federal levels. Benton REA employees and trustees travel to Olympia and Washington, D.C., to help ensure rural issues remain part of the national discussion and are supported by our local elected officials.

Decision-makers across the political spectrum trust us because of the work the electric cooperative family has put into political engagement efforts for the benefit of our local communities. When we all get involved, we can make things happen politically and locally.

But it all starts with one vote—your vote. If you're not registered to vote, visit voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx to learn how to register, and be sure to review your voter's guide and see who represents you from your school district to the president of the United States.

Energy-related issues seem to be moving to the top of the list of national and local issues, so please take the time to get involved, learn about the issues, and be an informed voter when election day arrives!

Cooperatively,

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



Offices

Hermiston Office

750 W. Elm Ave.
541 567-6414

Boardman Office

400 N.E. Eldridge Drive
541 481-2220

Hours

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

Toll-Free

1-800-452-2273

Report An Outage

888-465-5701 day or night

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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

OR-8

Manager's Message

By the numbers, UEC compares well when measured against the 800 other rural electric cooperatives in the U.S.

Our average residential rate is 8.2 cents per kilowatt-hour, compared to the median of 12.3 cents among the nation's cooperatives. Our current residential rates are among the lowest 2 percent in the nation.

Our total cost of electrical service is 4.55 cents per kilowatt-hour, across all classes of service, residential, industrial, commercial and irrigation. When compared to a national median of 10.9 cents, UEC has the lowest overall cost of service among U.S. electric cooperatives.

However, there are challenges ahead.

In providing you with outstanding service, our largest single expense is the cost of wholesale power we buy.

You may have read that Bonneville Power Administration's average wholesale power rate for Northwest consumer-owned utilities will remain flat for the next two years, while its transmission rates will increase. BPA also may find it necessary to trigger a financial reserves surcharge this fall that could increase the effective power rate as much as 1.5 percent over the rate period.

We were successful in absorbing our last wholesale rate increase. I can't say with certainty we can absorb it again, but our employees are working hard to minimize any impact.

This summer, we have been studying controlling costs and looking at ways to continue providing you with affordable and reliable service, while keeping our finances sound. I will be reporting the results to you in a com-

ing edition of *Ruralite*.

One benefit of UEC is our refund (retirement) of Capital Credits. When we can't find those who benefit, we advertise a list of members with Unclaimed Capital Credits. This fall, we are trying to find current and former members whose checks from the years 1997 and 2014 remain unclaimed. These checks have been returned by the postal services as undeliverable or have otherwise been unclaimed.

Notices have appeared in the *East Oregonian*, *Ruralite* and our Facebook page. The reminders will continue through the end of December. Please check names that are published under "My Account" on UmatillaElectric.com, and visit or call us if you are on the list.

In honor of National Cooperative Month, follow @UmatillaElectric on Facebook for a chance to win one of four \$100 bill credits during the month.

You also are invited to visit our Hermiston or Boardman offices Oct. 7-10 for a week of special treats and giveaways during our Member Appreciation Week.

On Thursday, Oct. 10, stop by our Hermiston office for a hot dog, cookie and drink served by our employees anytime from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (weather permitting and while supplies last). That gives us a chance to thank you face-to-face for your membership in UEC.



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

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Robert Durham Director
Robert Hammel Director
Jim McNamee Director
DeOra Patton Director

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Keenan Webber Customer Service Rep.
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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."*

OR-9

Manager's Message

Director Elections

The Wasco Electric Cooperative nominating committee, consisting of members from each director district, met September 5 to nominate candidates for election at this year's annual meeting.

This year's candidates for election to three-year terms as director are:

District 1: Bob Durham, incumbent.

District 2: Jim McNamee, incumbent; and Steve Kaseberg.

District 3: Jerry Duling, incumbent; and Pat Davis.

These candidates are up for election at the 80th Annual Meeting of Wasco Electric Cooperative on Saturday, November 23. I invite each of you to attend.

If you are unable to attend, absentee ballots and the annual meeting booklet will be mailed in early November. I encourage each member to vote on the leadership of your cooperative.

October is National Cooperative Month

As we celebrate, I want to reflect on what co-ops bring to Americans.

More than 29,000 co-ops with about 27 million members operate in the U.S. More than 900 electric co-ops maintain nearly half of the electric distribution lines in the U.S. These lines cover three-quarters of the U.S. land mass and provide electricity to more than 42 million Americans.

Like all other co-ops, Wasco Electric operates under the Seven Cooperative Principles:

Voluntary and Open Membership.

Co-ops are open to all who are able to use their services and willing to accept

the responsibilities of membership.

Democratic Member Control.

Co-ops are controlled by their members, who set the policies and make decisions. Elected representatives are accountable to the members, who have equal voting rights: one member, one vote.

Member Economic Participation.

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. They allocate surpluses to develop the co-op, and benefit in proportion to their transactions with the co-op.

Autonomy and Independence.

Cooperatives are self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members.

Education, Training and

Information. Co-ops provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute to the development of their co-ops. They inform the public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives.

Cooperatives serve their members by working together locally, nationally, regionally and internationally.

Concern for Community. While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

As always, if you have any questions regarding any aspect of your cooperative, please stop by or give us a call.

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

rtwhwmnety

OR-10

Not-For-Profit Status In Jeopardy

Dear Member,

When it comes to politics as they relate to you and your electric cooperative, we try to provide useful information that helps you, the member, make an informed decision. We also try to not bury you with information on a consistent basis. The issue you have heard me talking about recently is extremely important, no matter which side of the aisle you're on. I'm again referring to the unintended consequences of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that Congress passed in 2017.



To explain, co-ops must receive at least 85% of their income from its members to remain tax-exempt under federal law.

With the legislation passed in 2017, federal, state and local government grants to co-ops count as non-member income. Previously, these types of grants had been defined as capital, not income. If we receive FEMA funding, which of course are federal dollars, it will be counted as income, and our non-profit status will be jeopardized. Other electric co-ops across the nation, including those recovering from Hurricane Dorian, are experiencing the same dilemma.

Last April, a bipartisan group of lawmakers from rural areas introduced the RURAL Act which would allow co-ops to accept these grants, but the bill has not yet been scheduled for a vote in the House or Senate. We are encouraging all members, your board members and staff to voice your support. The easiest way is to visit www.oreca.org and sign up to be a Grassroot Advocate and send our legislators a message. If you would like more information, please call us or come into the office.

As I also mentioned last month, your board has approved a small rate increase. Our rates will still be among the lowest compared to our neighboring utilities and the country. The increase is explained in detail on page 8.

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

By the Community, for the Community

By Anne Prince

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage come to mind. But October is notable for another reason: It's National Co-op Month! This is when cooperatives across the country, including Columbia Power Co-op, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

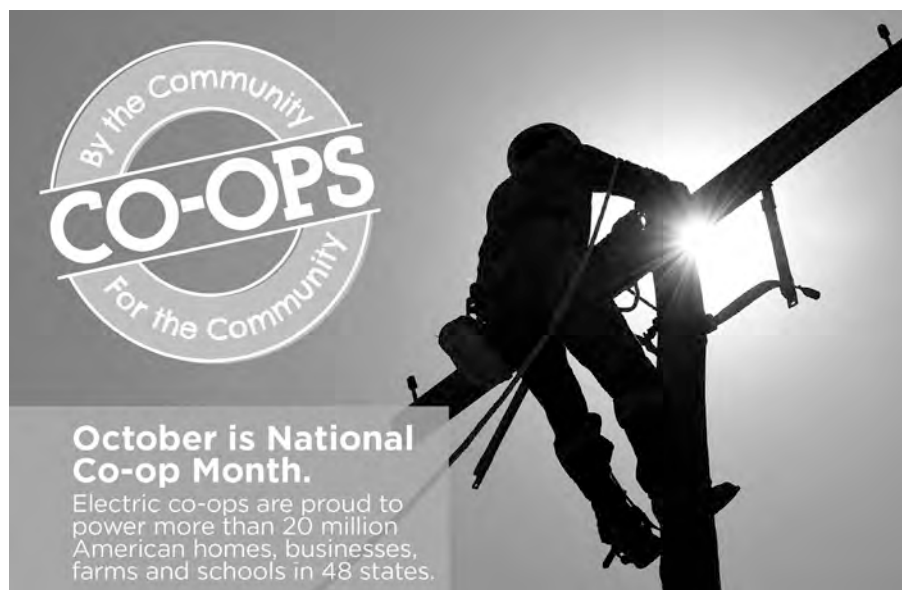
Similar to how Columbia Power was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Columbia Power's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members have a valuable perspective. That's why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

We hope you think of us as not only an energy provider, but as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so we can better serve you. We were built by the community, for the community.



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

OR-12

CEC Member Satisfaction Survey Still Open

Win a \$500 credit off your February 2020 electric bill

Time is running out, and we want to hear from you!

Central Electric Cooperative places a high value on delivering you, our members, with safe, reliable, low-cost electricity with excellent customer service. One way to measure our performance is to give you the opportunity to take a member satisfaction survey.

The questionnaire—generally conducted every two years—allows co-op members to grade our performance in key areas, including service reliability, rates, quality of customer care and communications. This survey also includes questions to gauge your interest in deploying energy-efficiency products in your home to help reduce energy use and adopting new technologies to manage your account.

Collectively, your responses not only provide critical input to our future planning and decision-making, but informs us how we are performing in real time. Your feedback can affirm we are on the right track or, if needed, identify areas where we can improve.

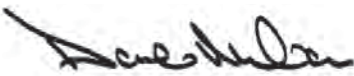
This survey went live September 15 and will remain open through October 15.

Available online to ensure greater participation, you can access the survey by clicking on www.cecsurvey2019.com. You will need to enter your account number to participate. If you don't know it, please call 541-548-2144 and a customer service representative will assist you. You can access a link to the survey on CEC's landing page at www.cec.coop. The survey should take five to seven minutes to complete. DHM Research of Portland conducts the survey. All responses will remain anonymous.

For your efforts, completion of the survey will automatically enroll you for a drawing to win a credit on your February electric bill: first place is \$500, second place is \$250 and third place is \$100. If the award amount exceeds your bill, you may roll over the net credit to the following month's electric bill. The drawing will be in early November, and we will notify the winners then. We will publish the names of the winners in January's Ruralite.

Though participation is voluntary, your input plays a vitally important role in our efforts to provide you with quality service.

If you have already taken the survey, thank you for your time and participation. Your feedback is much appreciated.



Dave Markham, President and CEO





Board of Directors

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Georgia A. Cockerham, Brookings/Harbor

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Cheryl L. McMahan, Southern At-Large

Jim Kolen, Gold Beach

Peter C. Radabaugh, Bandon/Coquille

Daniel Loshbaugh, Northern At-Large

Attorney—Tyler Pepple

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Brent Bischoff

Corporate Services/CFO

Frank Corrales

Engineering Manager

Matt Mjelde

Marketing and Member

Services Manager

Jacob Knudsen

Operations Manager

Randy McDonald

Local numbers

Coquille..... 541-396-3118

Port Orford..... 541-332-3931

Gold Beach..... 541-247-6638

Brookings..... 541-469-2103

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

Monday through Thursday.

Closed Friday.

After-Hours Outage Number

866-352-9044

Call Before You Dig

811

www.ccec.coop

OR-13

The Perpetual Balance

Some people, me included, consider our modern electric power system to be the most complicated machine in the world. If you understand one basic principle of power grid operation, you can better understand some of the system complexities. I'll call this principle the perpetual balance. Let me explain.

Start by thinking of the power grid as the bicycle you are riding on a trip that is always uphill or into a headwind—no downhill coasting allowed on this trip. Next, you have to go at a constant speed. It doesn't matter if you are on level ground or going uphill, you must maintain the same speed. Here's the key to the analogy:

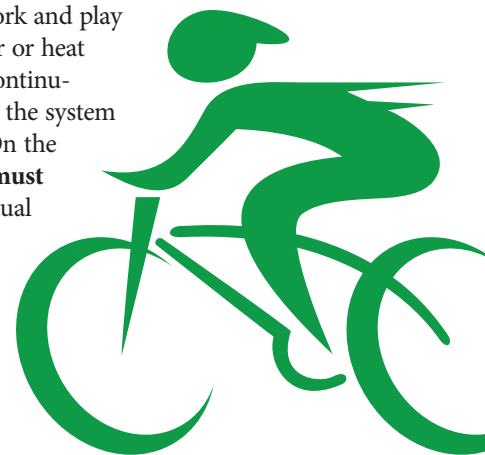
- Your body coupled to the bike pedals and front sprocket is like the electric generator.
- The bike chain is like the electric transmission and distribution lines.
- The wind, hills and friction coupled to the bike rear wheel and sprocket is like the load on the electric system. Electric loads are your lights, toaster, water heater, electric motors, etc.
- The constant speed of your bike is like the frequency that the alternating current power system maintains: 60 Hertz in the United States.

For this bike ride, let's say our target speed is a constant 10 mph. You are on the level with no headwind. Now you come to a hill (load increases); you have to pedal harder (add generation) to maintain 10 mph (60 Hz). Throughout the day you encounter different hills and headwinds. You match how hard you pedal with the energy it takes to go up the hills and through the headwinds, staying at 10 mph. You can't adjust the hills and winds; you can only adjust how hard you pedal. Your brain continuously uses the speedometer to adjust your pedaling effort, keeping your speed at 10 mph as you encounter the wind and hills.

The electric power system operates much the same. Every day, year-round, people use electric energy at home, work and play to meet their needs day and night in cold of winter or heat of summer (load). Power system operators must continuously adjust the amount of electric energy put into the system (generation) to keep it running at exactly 60 Hz. On the electric power system, **the sum of all generation must match the sum of all load all the time:** the perpetual balance.

Keep this analogy in mind for next month when we explore how variable wind and solar generation can influence the perpetual balance.

Brent Bischoff
General Manager and CEO





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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

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

OR-14

By the Community, for the Community

By Anne Prince

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and fall foliage come to mind. But October is notable for another reason: It's National Co-op Month! This is when cooperatives across the country, including West Oregon Electric Cooperative, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how WOEC was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. WOEC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members have a valuable perspective. That's why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

We hope you think of WOEC as not only an energy provider, but as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so we can better serve you. WOEC was built by the community, for the community.





Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

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

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

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

www.surprisevalleyelectric.org

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

After hours and outages:
Call office numbers above

STAFF

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

"Owned by those we serve"

This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer

CA-15

October Is National Co-op Month

You have a unique story to tell about yourself because you are part of an electric cooperative community. But if you're like a lot of co-op members, you might not feel you know enough to tell that story well. Here's some help.

About one in 10 Americans receives their power from an electric cooperative, which belongs to the people it serves. That is you and your neighbors.

Electric co-ops were developed in the 1930s because city utilities—owned by investors wanting to make a profit—ignored rural America. They didn't think there was enough money to be earned there. So people in rural communities met with each other and formed local electric co-ops.

October is National Co-op Month—the time of year when cooperatives across the country celebrate the many ways co-ops are unique and, more importantly, the members they serve.

This year, the focus is on our ties to the local community. Your co-op was built by the community, for the community.

What that means for you, as members of a cooperative, is:

- Your co-op is here to stay. Since it belongs to the members it serves with safe, reliable, affordable energy, your cooperative is not going to move out of the country, or even across the state. It's staying right where it is.
- Your co-op knows you. Across the country, there are more than 900 electric cooperatives. No two are alike. Because each belongs to the people who live there, the co-op listens to the community it is a part of. Whether it's working with the latest energy-efficiency technologies or keeping the electric grid safe and secure, your electric cooperative can offer solutions that make the most sense locally.
- Your co-op cares about your community. Its top priority is to power the community. It is not owned by far-away, or even nearby, investors looking only for a good return on their money. Your co-op partners with local organizations on community events, fundraisers, youth programs and more. It is run by your friends and neighbors. By investing in the community, your electric co-op supports economic development and prosperity for all, right here at home.

These are just a few ways you and your electric co-op are one of a kind.

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)

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OR-16

Celebrate Public Power and Cooperatives!

Dear Co-op Community Members:

October is a month to be celebrated! October is National Co-op Month. Cooperatives are unique local organizations. This year's theme, "By the Community, For the Community," is a great motto that we strive for as your cooperative.

Lane Electric was founded by a group of McKenzie River community members 80 years ago. We were started by the community and today we are still here for the community, providing electricity to nearly 13,000 members.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Rural Electrification Act was passed, providing loans designed to help electrify the United States. At the time, and still today, it is not profitable to serve low-populated, hard-to-reach areas of our country. Even with loans provided, the big investor-owned utilities were not interested in extending lines to these hard-to-reach places. Still needing electricity, local rural residents—just like those Lane Electric pioneers—traveled door to door to seek support for electric cooperatives. It took a lot of time and energy, but by 1948, 40,000 consumers a month were being connected to co-op lines. Today, many years later, 99% of our rural communities receive electricity.

We are privileged to be part of such a prestigious group of organizations that care about their local communities. Some of these organizations include farmers, credit unions, housing co-ops, food co-ops and electric co-ops. Currently, more than 40,000 cooperatives in the United

States serve more than 350 million members. Many people belong to more than one. We are proud to be a part of the 18 electric cooperatives in Oregon and more than 900 electric cooperatives across 47 states. Electric cooperatives account for more than one-third of the nation's electric utility industry, serving 42 million Americans.

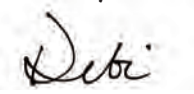
Lane Electric Cooperative is proud to:

- Be owned by our members, so we can serve you and not a group of shareholders.
- Be governed by a board of directors elected by you.
- Be a nonprofit organization, helping us provide you at-cost electricity.
- Provide jobs in our community.
- Be part of the community, keeping money local and providing help in our communities.

Each day, we are proud to serve you. We appreciate that group of community members who had a vision to serve and electrify the rural communities in Lane County back in 1939. So this month, we ask you to celebrate public power, cooperatives and your very own Lane Electric.

Happy National Co-op Month!

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,

For a while now, we have been receiving feedback that our office hours make it hard for working folks to conduct business with the cooperative. Many of our rural consumers work in town with long commutes, creating a situation where they must either skip lunch or take time off work to make a payment or other arrangements before our 4:30 p.m. closing.

With that in mind, we began to research ways to solve the problem by looking at some of our co-op peers in Oregon and around the Northwest. Many have switched to longer workdays, typically closing the office on Fridays. Our outside crews have been working this schedule for several years, and now the office staff will, too. Many of our peers realize cost savings by not rolling trucks or heating or cooling the office one day a week. We have identified some potential cost savings. However, for us, making a change is more about convenience for our members.

On another note, we hope you will join us at the office Thursday, October 17, for our annual consumer-member appreciation day. Throughout the day we'll have refreshments and, as always, we will have a lot of gifts and prizes for those who attend. People most like the drawing for a \$100 credit on their electric bill. Please stop by, meet our friendly front office employees and drop your name in the hat.

It's our pleasure to serve the good people of western Lane County. We thank you for your patronage to your electric cooperative.

Greg Gardner
General Manager



New Office Hours Starting October 1

Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Closed Friday

Member Appreciation Day

Thursday, October 17
8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



Board of Commissioners

Dan G. Gunkel
President

Douglas B. Miller
Vice President

Randy L. Knowles
Secretary

.....
Jim Smith
General Manager

Kevin Ricks
Renewable Energy Asset Manager

Gwyn Miller
H.R. & Business Services Director

Mike DeMott
Power Manager

Mark Pritchard
Operations Manager

Ron Schultz
Engineering Manager

Brandy Myers
Customer Service Supervisor

.....
www.klickitatpud.com

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

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



WA-18

KPUD's RNG Facility Up and Running

Thank you to all who were able to join the commissioners and staff of Klickitat PUD in dedicating the H.W. Hill Renewable Natural Gas Facility. We had a great turnout and beautiful weather to celebrate the occasion. We would also like to thank Gov. Jay Inslee and Sen. Curtis King for being part of this dedication.



Gov. Jay Inslee speaks during the dedication of the H.W. Hill Renewable Natural Gas Facility on September 18 in Roosevelt. He congratulated Klickitat PUD on what he referred to as a "visionary accomplishment."



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866-665-4837

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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

Celebration of National Co-op Month

October is the month to celebrate the benefits cooperatives bring to our communities. Whether the cooperative's focus is food, child care, insurance, electricity or some other service, we all exist to help serve a need in the communities we live in.

Cooperatives are unique because we are not-for-profits, democratically controlled and member owned. The cooperative business model is about meeting the needs of the people, not about maximizing profits. In the United States, more than 800 electric co-ops serve an estimated 42 million people. At Northern Lights Inc., we have more than 18,000 members and 2,800 miles of distribution lines that serve members in northern Idaho, eastern Washington and western Montana.

NLI is overseen by a seven-member board of directors, each elected by the members of the district they represent. NLI delivers power to each of its members' homes and businesses. Our power comes from the Bonneville Power Administration and our own dam on a tributary of the Kootenai River.

One way NLI serves its community is through Operation Roundup, where members can choose to round up their monthly energy bill to the nearest dollar to help families in need of assistance. Members can also choose to donate to the Helping Hand program, which is specifically designed to help struggling members with their power bills. If you would like to participate in either of these programs, please contact us at 208-263-5141 to sign up.

As summer comes to an end, the leaves are changing and autumn is upon us. Before we know it, those princesses, super heroes, ghosts and goblins will be knocking on our doors hoping for a treat!

Happy Halloween!

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

Upcoming Annual Meeting

Dear Members,

I hope you plan to join us for your 81st annual meeting.

As you saw from the official notice on the front page of this Ruralite, our meeting is Thursday, November 7, at the Grangeville Elks Lodge. Your board members, staff and I look forward to meeting with you.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. We will call the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m.

Following an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, we will have an excellent meal provided to us by Stephanie Duclos and A Taste of Art.

We will begin our business meeting at 12:55 p.m. At this time, you will hear updates on your cooperative and its propane subsidiary, and vote for directors in Districts 3 and 4. Both Cliff Tacke from District 3 and Kim Dahler from District 4 have announced their retirements and will not be running again. Members from either district who are interested in serving should read my article on pages 4 and 5 of this issue about qualifications and requirements for serving as a director.

At this annual meeting, you will be voting on amendments to the bylaws. Your board of directors, co-op attorney and I have gone through the bylaws and propose these amendments to clean up some of the language and bring us up to date with changes at the state level.

In addition, please take time to review the financial pages in this edition, and the bylaws regarding nominations for director and proxy voting. If you have any questions, please call us at the office.

During your annual meeting, we will have plenty of prize drawings for gifts donated by our suppliers. We will have two grand prizes: a propane barbecue donated by Propane Equipment & Supply and ICP Inc., and a \$500 bill credit provided by your cooperative, Idaho County Light & Power.

Please mark the date on your calendar, and plan to visit with friends, neighbors and fellow members as well as some new faces to ICL&P. We would all like to see you there.

Thank you,

Max Beach

General Manager



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

ColumbiaREA.coop

Board of Directors

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

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

Staff

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

WA-22

October is National Co-op month!

You have a unique story to tell because you are part of an electric cooperative. But like a lot of co-op members, you might not feel you know enough to tell that story. Here's some help.

About one in 10 Americans receive their power from an electric cooperative, which belongs to the people it serves. That is you and your neighbors in Umatilla, Walla Walla and Columbia Counties. Electric co-ops began forming in the 1930s, because city utilities were ignoring rural America...there were just not enough users per mile of line for the service to be profitable. So people in rural communities met with each other and formed local electric co-ops. On February 3, 1939, a group of local farmers met in Dayton to discuss the formation of what would become Columbia REA. Over the next 15 months, a Federal loan request of \$77,000 was granted, and 69 miles of line were constructed to serve 90 members. With each passing year that number grows.

October is National Co-op Month. Columbia REA will join co-ops across the country to celebrate the many ways co-ops are unique and, more importantly, the members they serve. This year, the focus is on our ties to the community.

What that means for you, as members of Columbia REA, is:

- We're here to stay. Columbia REA belongs to the members it serves. It is not owned by far-away, or even nearby, investors looking only for a good return on their money. We are not going to move out of the country, or even across the state.
- Columbia REA knows you. There are more than 900 electric co-ops across this nation. No two are alike because each belongs to the people who work, live and play in their service area. Columbia REA, like all electric cooperatives, listens to the community. In fact, you may receive a phone call in the next week or so as part of our voluntary annual member survey. We would love to hear your feedback on how we are doing, and how we can serve you better!
- Whether working with energy-efficient technologies or keeping the grid safe and secure, we can offer solutions that make the most sense locally.
- Columbia REA cares about community. We partner with many local organizations on events, fundraisers, youth programs and more. We just wrapped up our local Fair season, and Columbia REA was proud to participate in the Benton-Franklin Fair & Rodeo, The Columbia County Fair, and Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days. This month, we will once again sponsor the Walla Walla Balloon Stampede, October 16-20.

These are just a few ways you and Columbia REA are one of a kind.

Best,

Scott Peters
CEO





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:

October is National Co-op Month. Celebrate by entering Midstate Electric Cooperative's contest to win a \$100 credit on your electric bill. See page 8 for details.

Like all co-ops, MEC operates under the Seven Cooperative Principles:

Voluntary and Open Membership.

Co-ops are open to all who are able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

Democratic Member Control. Co-ops are controlled by their members, who set the policies and make decisions. Elected representatives are accountable to the members, who have equal voting rights: one member, one vote.

Member Economic Participation. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-op. They allocate surpluses to develop the co-op, and benefit in proportion to their transactions with the co-op.

Autonomy and Independence. Co-ops are self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members.

Education, Training and Information. Co-ops provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute to the development of their co-ops. They inform the public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives. Co-ops serve their members by working together locally, nationally, regionally and internationally.

Concern for Community. While focusing on member needs, co-ops work for the sustainable development of their communities.

No Change for MEC 2019 Rates

MEC buys all its wholesale power from the Bonneville Power Administration under an all-requirements contract. In July, BPA announced its record of decision to set rates for the two-year rate period of October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2021.

Although BPA announced the average wholesale power rate would remain flat, MEC will face a wholesale power rate increase of approximately 2.17%. Our transmission rates will also increase an average of 6.3%, as well as the likelihood of a surcharge for the two-year period to ensure BPA retains levels of financial reserves above the minimum required to remain solvent.

I am pleased to report that your board of directors approved a management recommendation to keep MEC's rates at current levels through 2019. While rates will not change October 1 when the BPA rate increase becomes effective, it may become necessary to increase rates in 2020 or 2021 to maintain the co-op's financial strength.

During the next few months, your board of directors and the management team will build the 2020 working budget and complete a cost-of-service study to make rate recommendations that will support the fiscal health of your cooperative. It is the ultimate goal of your board and management to provide safe, reliable power at the lowest possible cost.

General Manager Dave Schneider



www.rrelectric.com

DIRECTORS

President Gary Jones
Vice President Dennis Poulsen
Secretary-Treasurer Larry Henson
John Campbell
Lindsey Manning
Krin 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

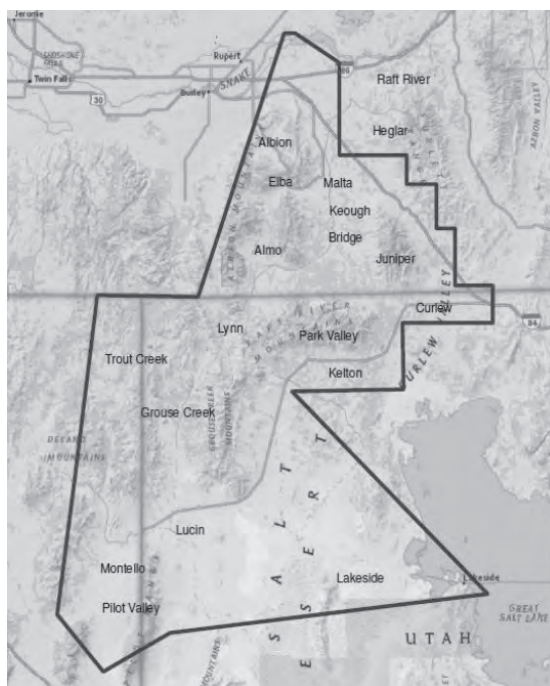
Power will be turned off October 29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in parts of Raft River's service territory

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

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



National Co-op Month

Every October, cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique: local democratic control, commitment to supporting the communities they serve and improving quality of life, providing special benefits and services, and returning margins back to members in the form of capital credits.

Cooperatives are special. We have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable and safe electricity, but we take that a step further. We also have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools and enhance our communities.

Big Bend Electric is proud to be part of America's cooperative network, which employs more than 850,000 people. Across the nation, 29,000 co-ops and credit unions generate \$74 billion in annual wages and nearly \$500 billion in revenue. ■

Cost-of-Service Analysis

It is customary and prudent for an electric utility to periodically conduct a cost-of-service analysis. Big Bend Electric Cooperative Inc. is working through this process. We have hired an independent firm to assist us.

A COSA is one of the most effective analytic tools a utility relies on for designing rates that fairly and equitably assign cost responsibility to each customer rate class, to the mutual benefit of both the utility and its consumers. The COSA assigns all costs incurred by the co-op to build, operate and maintain our system over the various member classes, such as residential, general service(s) and irrigation. The process then looks at revenue generated by each of these classes to determine whether they are paying their fair share of these costs.

Your board of trustees will review the results of this analysis early this fall to determine what changes, if any, are necessary. ■

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,

During the past few months, your board of directors has been evaluating our organizational structure. Although it may seem like Hood River Electric Cooperative provides both electric service and internet service, there are two separate, member-owned, not-for-profit cooperatives operating out of our office in Odell. Hood River Electric Cooperative provides electric service, and the Communications Access Cooperative Holding Enterprise provides internet service.

When we began providing internet service about 15 years ago, CACHE was established as a separate organization to avoid potential financial risks for HREC and its members. Over the years, however, CACHE has grown into a financially stable, well-respected internet service provider. This legal separation no longer seems necessary.

In September, the boards of HREC and CACHE passed resolutions calling for a merger plan to be presented to the memberships of each organization. The merger would align the structure of the two organizations with how most members already see them. It would also provide administrative efficiency, because the combined organization could have one annual audit, one monthly board meeting, and one annual member meeting instead of separate audits and meetings.

Members should not notice any merger-related changes. Day-to-day operations will continue as they are, and we will continue to maintain separate capital credit accounts for electric service and internet service.

We will hold special membership meetings for HREC and CACHE in November to vote on the proposed plan of merger. The date, time and location of the meetings will be announced in next month's Ruralite, and meeting notices will be mailed to each member.

Please visit our website, www.hrec.coop, to learn more about this proposal. We're keeping a list of questions and answers updated there. You also may call our office at 541-354-1233, email hrec@hrec.coop or stop by our office to talk with us.

We look forward to continuing to serve you for many years to come.

Libby Calnon
General Manager



Harney Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

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

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

www.harneyelectric.org

Find us on 

.....
Board of Directors

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

By the Community, for the Community

By Anne Prince

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage come to mind. But October is notable for another reason: It's National Co-op Month! This is when cooperatives across the country, including Harney Electric Cooperative, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how Harney Electric was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. HEC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members have a valuable perspective. That's why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

We hope you think of HEC as not only an energy provider, but as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so we can better serve you. HEC was built by the community, for the community.





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

Website: www.srec.org

ID-28

Small Modular Reactor Project Q & A

Q. What is meant by SREC's participation in the small modular reactor project?

A. SREC has signed a power sales agreement to buy 1 megawatt of electricity from the project. SREC could exercise any number of offramps to the agreement at critical decision points in the project, if the terms and conditions of the project don't meet our needs. Signing the agreement gives us options to participate in the project and become more educated about this new modular nuclear technology.

Q. Why would SREC consider buying nuclear power when we have cheap hydroelectric power available to purchase?

A. Cheap hydroelectric power is disappearing, and with dam removal being considered, it could become even scarcer. Firm baseload generation, or generation that is available 24/7, will be necessary to facilitate the use of renewable sources such as wind and solar.

Q. Doesn't it make more sense to use solar and wind as an alternative power source as opposed to nuclear?

A. Wind and solar are not available 24/7. The cost of these resources has come down, but when you compare their true cost—or their cost to provide 24/7 electricity—it is more than the levelized cost of electricity we are considering with the SMR project. Typically, you would have to pair solar or wind with batteries, natural gas, hydro or geothermal, which all have their challenges.

Q. Isn't nuclear power unsafe? Why would SREC be interested in it?

A. Many of us reflect on the Three Mile Island nuclear accident and the health risk fallouts as a result of the accident. This was the worst nuclear accident in U.S. history. We don't want it repeated. This accident resulted in many changes to nuclear power regulations to make nuclear power generation safer. Despite the release of radioactive gases from this accident, epidemiological studies analyzing the rate of cancer in and around the area since the accident determined there was a small, statistically nonsignificant increase in the rate. Thus, no causal connection linking the accident with these cancers has been substantiated.

Q. Nuclear power costs a lot more than hydroelectric and other renewables such as solar and wind, so why would SREC want to buy it?

A. We currently buy nuclear-powered electricity from BPA. One-seventh of BPA's electric power portfolio is nuclear power. The current nuclear fleet in the U.S. produces electric power at approximately 3 cents per kilowatt-hour. This is comparable to what we pay for hydroelectric power today. The reason some of the U. S. nuclear fleet is disappearing is the difficulty and cost in getting them relicensed. The new SMR technology is safer and less expensive to develop and operate than the existing nuclear fleet.

Q. Why would we want nuclear power to be produced in Idaho and then have the problem of nuclear waste to deal with?

A. Nuclear waste is an issue, but perhaps not as big an issue as we are made to believe. Work continues on how best to deal with nuclear waste, including how to reuse it for power production. I was recently told the amount of nuclear waste generated from the entire U.S. nuclear fleet from inception would fit in a Walmart building. Also, nuclear waste can be safely contained in water and within concrete barriers. The SMR will generate less nuclear waste than the existing nuclear fleet.



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

You may have seen in the news recently that the Idaho National Laboratory was chosen as the site to launch the new National Reactor Innovation Center. NRIC is authorized by the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act, which was spearheaded by Senators Jim Risch and Mike Crapo, and signed into law in 2018 by President Donald Trump.

The act is meant to eliminate some of the financial and technological barriers standing in the way of nuclear innovation. It directs the Department of Energy to facilitate the siting of advanced nuclear reactor research demonstration facilities through partnerships between DOE and private industry.

The NRIC initiative will assist with the development of advanced nuclear energy technologies by using the capabilities of the Idaho National Laboratory. NRIC will provide private sector companies the necessary support to test and demonstrate nuclear reactor concepts, and assess their performance, which will help the licensing and commercialization of these new nuclear energy systems. NRIC will enable the demonstration and deployment of advanced reactors that have the potential to define the future of nuclear energy.

Idaho National Laboratory is already working with Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems and NuScale Power to build a small modular nuclear reactor generating plant at the laboratory's desert site. According to Idaho National Laboratory Director Mark Peters, NuScale is, in a sense, NRIC's first partner.

UAMPS and project partner NuScale expect to site a small modular reactor power plant at the laboratory. The NuScale design for the small modular reactor is under review by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The power plant model consists of 12 individual modular reactor units each capable of generating 60 Megawatts. The combined generating capacity for 12 units is 720 Megawatts of carbon-free energy. Appropriately, UAMPS calls the project the Carbon Free Power Project.

UAMPS is a joint-action agency that provides wholesale electric energy to consumer-owned utilities throughout the Intermountain West. UAMPS has 47 members located in Utah, Idaho, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming. It formally launched the Carbon Free Power Project in 2015 as part of its long-term strategy to reduce carbon emissions and replace generation from aging coal-fired plants.

It wasn't by accident the announcement regarding NRIC came on the 70th anniversary of the Idaho National Laboratory. In a KIFI/KIDK article, Sen. Jim Risch said, "It's particularly fortuitous that today's announcement of the NRIC comes on the lab's 70th anniversary, and this new center will soon become part of the INL's extraordinary history. We're not at an end. Indeed, we're at the beginning of the next generation of nuclear reactors."



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



Meeting Information

Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc. 80th Annual Meeting of the Members

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Stake Center, Moore, Idaho

- **Registration:** 7 p.m.
- **Membership meeting:** 8 p.m.
- **Check your membership.** Be sure to check your voting status before the annual meeting. You must be an active member receiving service at the time of the meeting. We are happy to answer any of your questions. Contact the office at 208-588-3311.
- **Bylaws allow only one proxy.** At any meeting of the members, a member can vote for his/her membership and one proxy. If you know a member who will be unable to attend the annual meeting, ask him or her for their proxy. You will be able to vote for them and yourself. A nonmember cannot vote a member's proxy. A husband or wife can vote his or her spouse's membership without a proxy. Contact the office if you need another proxy form.
- **Bylaws provide for absentee voting.** Contact Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc. for information at 208-588-3311.
- **Credentials will be mailed to those who qualify.**
- **The grand prize is a \$500 electric energy credit.** To be eligible for a prize, the member must be present at the time of the drawing. Every member in attendance will receive a door prize.
- **We urge you to register early so the meeting can begin promptly at 8 p.m.** Again this year, we will have members whose last names begin with A through L register at one table and those whose names begin with M through Z at another table.

Nominees for the Lost River Electric Board of Directors

District 1: Chad H. Angell

District 2: Randy R. Purser

District 3: Dean L. Myler



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
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

Valdez District

(907) 835-4301
367 Fairbanks Dr.

After hours outage line

(866) 835-2832

Important Dates

October

National Co-op Month Activities

Ruralite Cover Photo Contest:

Submit photos October 1 - October 30, 2019

Co-op Month Food and Cold Weather

Goods Drive: Bring nonperishable food and cold weather items (blankets, coats, hats, and gloves) to the CVEA or CVT offices October 1 through October 30 and be entered to win a \$100 CVEA or CVT credit

Halloween Trick or Treat Spooktacular:

Stop by the CVEA office in your district for Halloween fun from 3-5 p.m., Thursday, October 31

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

November

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

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Thursday, November 28 for the Thanksgiving Holiday

AK-34



**Local,
Trusted,
Serving You!**

Help CVEA celebrate Co-op Month this October!!!
Join us for scheduled activities
& events throughout the month!

October 1-30 Ruralite Cover Photo Contest

- Winners will receive \$100 per winning photo, be announced to the local media, and be featured on the cover of Ruralite for one month in 2020. Submit your photos by 6 p.m., Wednesday, October 30
- Visit cvea.org/ruralitecoverphotocontest for details, rules, and application instructions

October 1-30 Food & Cold Weather Clothing and Blanket Drive

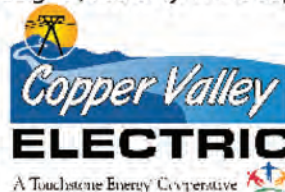
- Bring nonperishable food and cold weather (blankets, coats, hats, & gloves) items to CVEA or CVTelecom during normal business hours and be entered to win a \$100 CVEA Energy Credit or a \$100 CVTelecom Service Credit
- Food and cold weather clothing and blankets will help local organizations support members of our communities this winter
- The drawing will be held Thursday, October 31
- One ticket per item. Want more tickets? Bring more items!!
- Sorry, we cannot accept expired food or tattered/damaged cold weather items

Thursday, October 31, 3-5 p.m.

CVEA Halloween Spooktacular

Don't forget to bring your kiddos to the CVEA office as part of the annual downtown Halloween Spooktacular.

- Enjoy a trick or treat parade with five treat stops at CVEA
- Get your take home photo at a fun, themed photo booth
- Receive a special FREE gift (kids only-while supplies last)





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

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

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

Board of Directors

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

General Manager

Todd Simmons

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

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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



OR-35

Join Us for Public Power Week Celebrations

Dear Customers:

Ideas are some of the most powerful tools we have. Ideas can create opportunity and ignite innovation to solve problems and achieve goals. Ideas bring us together and help stimulate growth so we can continue to build a better and brighter future for everyone.

Public power began with an idea more than 100 years ago. Across the United States, rural communities just like ours were looking to tackle the arduous task of bringing electricity to their citizens. The people in these communities came together with their ideas, and the formation of public power utilities became key in reaching their goal. Tillamook PUD is one of these public utilities—a people's utility district.

Though established in 1933, Tillamook PUD was not able to connect customers until many years later in 1946. Several factors delaying the process included developing a power purchase agreement with the Bonneville Power Administration, buying property from Mountain States Power, funding for operations and obtaining materials to build infrastructure, which was particularly challenging during this era.

Though many public power utilities across the country have sold to larger interests over time, more than 2,000 of these utilities still remain today, including Tillamook PUD.

A people's utility district provides customers with a variety of benefits. Being governed by an elected, five-person board of directors means Tillamook PUD operations are controlled locally and in the interest of the people the PUD serves.

The board and TPUD staff work together to keep rates as low as possible. On average, homes powered by public power pay 13% less than those powered by private, investor-owned utility companies.

Customer-owned utilities are also invested and involved in the community. Tillamook PUD works closely with civic organizations, businesses and governmental agencies to make our community strong and resilient.

Another advantage of public power utilities is increased responsiveness and reliability. We work diligently to maintain our system and respond quickly when electrical emergencies occur.

Each October, we celebrate the many benefits of public power. I encourage you to stop by the Tillamook PUD office the week of October 7-11 to celebrate public power with us. We will have daily drawings for prizes, as well as Tillamook PUD giveaway items. Once again this year, we will have a "The Expert Is In" booth throughout the week. This is an opportunity for our customers and community members to talk with a variety of staff and ask questions about their work at the PUD. We are looking forward to a great Public Power Week and hope you can join us this year.

Sincerely,

General Manager Todd Simmons





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

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Roy M. Nageak Sr.

Secretary

Herman L. Ahsoak

Treasurer

Don A. Nungasak

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

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

October Is National Co-op Month

You have a unique story to tell about yourself because you are part of an electric cooperative community. But if you're like a lot of co-op members, you might not feel you know enough to tell that story well. Here's some help.

About one in 10 Americans receives their power from an electric cooperative, which belongs to the people it serves. That is you and your neighbors.

Electric co-ops were developed in the 1930s because city utilities—owned by investors wanting to make a profit—ignored rural America. They didn't think there was enough money to be earned there. So people in rural communities met with each other and formed local electric co-ops.

October is National Co-op Month—the time of year when cooperatives across the country celebrate the many ways co-ops are unique and, more importantly, the members they serve.

This year, the focus is on our ties to the local community. Your co-op was built by the community, for the community.

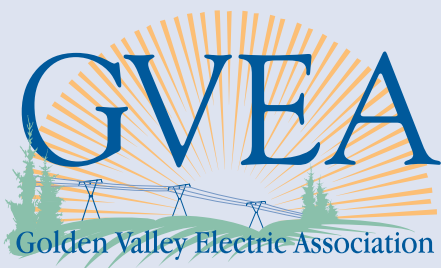
What that means for you, as members of a cooperative, is:

- Your co-op is here to stay. Since it belongs to the members it serves with safe, reliable, affordable energy, your cooperative is not going to move out of the country, or even across the state. It's staying right where it is.
- Your co-op knows you. Across the country, there are more than 900 electric cooperatives. No two are alike. Because each belongs to the people who live there, the co-op listens to the community it is a part of. Whether it's working with the latest energy-efficiency technologies or keeping the electric grid safe and secure, your electric cooperative can offer solutions that make the most sense locally.
- Your co-op cares about your community. Its top priority is to power the community. It is not owned by far-away, or even nearby, investors looking only for a good return on their money. Your co-op partners with local organizations on community events, fundraisers, youth programs and more. It is run by your friends and neighbors. By investing in the community, your electric co-op supports economic development and prosperity for all, right here at home.

These are just a few ways you and your electric co-op are one of a kind.

Sincerely,

Ben Frantz
General Manager



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

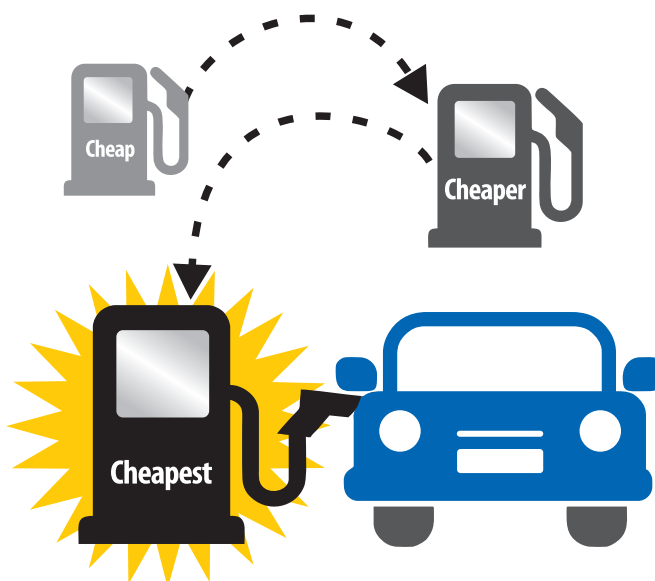
www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!



AK-37

DO YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO FIND THE CHEAPEST FUEL?



SO DOES YOUR ELECTRIC CO-OP

Golden Valley Electric Association can choose from 12 different sources to generate your power. Our computers check every four seconds to make sure we're using the cheapest mix of fuels. If a lower cost power source becomes available, we switch.

And when we save money on fuel, you save money on your electric bill.

Fuel & Purchased Power Charge Declines

The Fuel & Purchased Power (F&PP) rate on your electric bill reflects the cost of fuel to generate power and the cost to purchase power from other utilities. This rate may go up or down as the cost of fuel changes. GVEA makes no profit on this, and the charge is passed through to members dollar-for-dollar as allowed by regulators. The F&PP rate is recalculated on a quarterly basis and is billed based on kilowatt-hours used. Effective September 1, GVEA's F&PP was adjusted down nearly 5 percent. This rate will be in effect through November 30, 2019. GVEA's adjustment is subject to review by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. ■



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*
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Dave Roberti, *Sierra Valley*
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Tom Hammond, *Herlong*
thammond@psrec.coop

Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



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

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

CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

The 2019 PSREC Annual Member Meeting was a great event. Thanks to everyone who joined us for the evening. The Las Plumas 4-H Club served an excellent dinner of tri-tip sandwiches, pulled-pork sandwiches and veggie burgers, and one lucky member went home with a \$500 credit toward their electric bill.

During the event, Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications highlighted its plans for broadband expansion in the region. If you were unable to attend the meeting, you can get information on our broadband services by visiting www.pst.coop.

One exciting project discussed was the Sierraville build. We have completed the fiber optic line between the Marble Substation (on A-23) and the Sierraville Substation, and have also gained access to two additional distribution switches, allowing better control of our electric system.

The project includes fiber optic along our distribution line on Highway 89 north from Sierraville to Sattley and Holstrom's Mill. Businesses and homes along, or near, the line can sign up for broadband service.

There are other parts of the southern valley that can see our Sierraville Substation, where we are installing a new access point for our advanced wireless system to provide broadband services to members with a clear line-of-sight to the access point.

The fiber optic line will continue north to Calpine, hopefully by year's end.

We are expanding service in and around Chandler Road in the Quincy area, and will find out if we will be awarded grant funding in November to continue broadband expansion into the hardest-to-reach areas of our system.

Sonja Anderson of the Western Area Power Administration and Randy Howard of the

Northern California Power Agency provided updates on the electric industry during the business meeting. They discussed key issues facing your cooperative and the electric utility industry as a whole. A key takeaway from the meeting was the need for the cooperative to stay active politically to protect the interests of our member-owners.

We had a lively question-and-answer session, covering both broadband expansion and the cooperative's Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

The board of directors is the governing body for Plumas-Sierra REC and Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications. They set policy, strategic direction, rates, and budgets. They attend classes and work hard to understand the complexities of the electrical utility industry and the telecommunications business. We thank them all for their hard work and commitment to PSREC.

The membership reelected Dick Short to District 2 and David Hansen to District 5.

Please let me know if you have any questions. You can contact me at 800-555-2207 extension 6076, or email me at bmarshall@psrec.coop.

Sincerely,

Bob Marshall
General Manager

Wells Rural Electric Company

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website:

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24 hours a day

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

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Nevada 89883
(775) 664-2204

Wells office:

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

NV-41

You Made a Great Decision

What would you do if your electricity bill suddenly went up 2,831%? Fortunately, the decision you made to vote no on Question 3 last November ensured that this is only a rhetorical question, at least for you.



But that question is all too real for consumers in Texas. In mid August, several days of temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit pushed electricity demand to a new record of 74,531 megaWatts (MW), which left a razor-thin 3% power reserve. To make matters worse, weak breezes sidelined hundreds of wind turbines. Texas usually relies on wind generation for about one-fourth of its electricity supply. As a result, wholesale power market prices in Texas crushed a \$9,000 per MW regulatory price cap. To put such a whopping price in perspective, Wells Rural Electric Company (WREC) could purchase wholesale electricity from the open market in the Pacific Northwest during that same time period for \$31.80 per MW. Record electricity usage also forced the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) to declare an emergency. ERCOT pled with every available power plant to ramp-up and every consumer to conserve.

A long-time friend of mine says that his name, Doug, is actually an acronym. Doug stands for Dumb Old Utility Guy. During the battle over Question 3, the advocates often painted the opponents as dumb old utility guys. They claimed that utilities were stuck in the past and that there was a much cheaper way to buy electricity. Texas was often cited as a shining example of the success of deregulation. To be fair, some Texans have benefitted from energy choice over the past decade. This summer, however, was a horrific failure.

As we met with members throughout 2018, it was often difficult to warn of the potential dangers of Question 3 with little evidence to show that markets could go crazy. What the dumb old utility guys knew for certain was that no one had made any significant investment in base load generation or transmission in Texas since deregulation was implemented. We also knew that growth would eventually gobble up the available capacity and lead to higher prices and reduced reliability. We didn't know that available capacity would be consumed so quickly or that markets would shoot through the stratosphere.

These unprecedented prices and slim reserves illustrate how the early retirement of large conventional power plants is straining the ability of utilities across the nation to integrate unpredictable renewable resources like wind and solar. Fortunately, dumb old utility guys even older than me made the very wise decision to invest in clean, renewable, reliable, predictable hydro electricity.

Last month, this page featured a guest editorial from Jo Elg on the numerous issues affecting salmon and steelhead populations. It was written in response to a conference focused on removing dams on the Snake River. One of the justifications for removing the dams is that they are no longer necessary because the electricity they produce can easily be replaced by wind and solar generation. If there is a lesson to be learned from Texas, it is that the hydro-electric dams are absolutely essential if society wants to successfully integrate increasing amounts of wind and solar generation.

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer



NV-42

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Members Come First



This likely will be the last letter I will write to Valley Electric members. By the time the November issue of the Ruralite publishes, I should be back in Alaska, preparing for the winter.

Though my time in Southern Nevada was a little longer than I expected, together we have accomplished much.

My focus from Day One in early March has been to build stronger relationships among the membership, the Board of Directors and the staff. With that, every challenge is manageable. Co-ops lacking such bonds are in trouble or soon will be.

That is why I asked the Board to create the new committee structure. VEA needs its Board and member-owners working together on the pressing issues of the day – power supply, the annual budget, the bylaws, policies and procedures, renewables and finding new and better ways to serve our communities. We must face those issues together all while being true to our commitment to bring you reliable, affordable services.

All the committees – each one chaired by Board members – have met, some of them multiple times. I have been impressed with the diversity of experience and expertise that the new members bring to your Cooperative. Southern Nevada is unique in that it has so many members from different places with varied backgrounds. Their enthusiasm and commitment cannot be overestimated.

I know; I have served many over the years.

The Board and the staff will need to draw heavily on the committees, because there is so much work still to do. While the transition into broadband has strengthened our communities, it is a difficult business to operate. We have a long list of members who want to interconnect their new solar arrays with our electrical, which is very time consuming and expensive for the Co-op. The move toward renewable energy has disrupted generation in this country and introduced uncertainty into our cost structure. Our bylaws are out of date, and so are many of our policies.

None of these challenges should be viewed as or insurmountable, however. We are facing them head on. The new CEO will inherit a Board with a majority of new members, a staff that is skilled and a committed and a membership that is re-energized.

The future is bright, and I hope you look forward to it with great expectations. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

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.



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(775) 727-5312

Website: www.vea.coop

Email: wmc@vea.coop

Commissioners

Joe O'Leary

Paul Rogers

Shan Rowbotham

General Manager

Matt Boast

The Kittitas PUD Board of Commissioners meets the last Tuesday of each month in Building B. Please visit the PUD website to view all approved board minutes.

Need Help With Your Utility Bills?

The following organizations may be able to help.

- ▶ Fish, 509-925-5990, www.kvfish.org
- ▶ HopeSource, 509-925-1448, www.hopesource.us
- ▶ Kittitas County Veteran's Coalition
Kittitas: 509-933-2932
Cle Elum: 509-647-3872
- ▶ St. Andrews Catholic Church, Ellensburg, 509-962-9819, www.st-andrewsparish.org
- ▶ Small Tribes Organization of Western Washington, 800-567-6690, www.stoww.webs.com

OFFICE HOURS

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

WA-43

Focusing on Relationships

What is it that we do as public power companies? Why do we exist? I realize in a fundamental sense, we exist because, at some point in our history, people decided to provide a service that wasn't readily available. For many electric PUDs, including Klickitat PUD, that continues to be true. But is the sale of electricity all we do?

To many, our measure of success may appear to be found simply in the sale of energy, meeting our financial tests, and keeping the lights on. I believe our mission goes much deeper. Klickitat PUD exists to do more than provide the energy that gives us access to a better quality of life.

We are in the people business, and building relationships is vital to our long-term success. Relationships with you, the consumer, and your commissioners and employees. Relationships between the board and management, or management and employees. Relationships with legislators, regulatory agencies, even vendors that sell us products—all are keys to building an effective organization.

These relationships don't grow overnight. Like any partnership, it takes time to cultivate the trust and confidence of the other party. To do this, we must remember that our job is not in the numbers or policies. It is in the people we serve.

This is why our employees strive to do their best. It is why line crews push themselves past their physical limits during a major storm, just to get one more person back in service. It is why our office employees serve the angry consumer with the same level of professionalism as the nicest person. It's why employees participate in community events, or take up a collection to help someone in need. Nobody does it for personal recognition. We do it because we care, because it is the right thing to do.

Maintaining strong relationships is why we will always strive for the highest level of integrity and stewardship. In light of the recent national scandals in the electric industry, we must continue to set the example.

Be assured that we will always do our best to keep our eyes on what is important—you. We will do our best to recognize the importance of people and relationships, and keep the lights on at the lowest possible cost.





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.
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County
Greg Howard, Union County
Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, CEO

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

Increased Power Supply Costs Drive OTEC Rate Increase

As you may have read in this edition of Ruralite, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative's rates for residential members will increase by \$4 beginning with bills rendered on or after November 1, 2019. The increase will be shown in the delivery charge on your monthly bill.

Increasing member rates is a difficult decision for OTEC's board of directors and staff. However, the Bonneville Power Administration's cost to produce and deliver power has steadily increased since 2006. Unfortunately, these costs are beyond OTEC's control and are passed through to members' bills. Since 2006, BPA costs have increased by 37.3% while OTEC's costs have increased 10.7%. That said, BPA continues to deliver carbon-free and clean hydropower at a great value to the Pacific Northwest.

Earlier this year, BPA began signaling that there may be a rate increase coming. In July, BPA announced a rate change that would not affect some utilities. To OTEC's disappointment, our power supply costs increased. The cost of wholesale power makes up more than 50% of your monthly bill. Because BPA supplies 100% of the power OTEC buys and delivers to its members, a rate change to cover the rising cost of wholesale power is necessary.

BPA's rate increase, coupled with a recent cost-of-service study performed by an outside consultant, provided OTEC's board of directors with an objective projection of the revenues that would be needed from each class of service to ensure costs are recovered equitably across the membership. The overall rate impact of 2.71% varies depending upon the class of service provided.

As a not-for-profit business, OTEC does not raise rates for profit, but to cover operational and purchased power costs. Consequently, OTEC sets rates to only recover the cost of delivering reliable electric service to you—of which 52.3% is power supply-related—which is passed on directly from BPA. We work hard to minimize the impact of necessary increases. Our operating costs have averaged less than 1% per year increase for the past 11 years, well below cost of living increases of 1.8% each year.

Your board of directors considered several recommendations to minimize the impact of rate changes and landed on a fixed increase that won't vary from month to month for residential members. Although we know a rate increase is never easy, by avoiding an increase to the kilowatt-hour rate component of your bill, you can be assured that when you need to use more electricity, especially during the colder months when heating systems are working the hardest, we will not collect more than necessary to recover costs of delivering power.

Your cooperative will continue to focus our efforts on influencing power supply costs as we begin to negotiate our long-term power contract with BPA, which will renew in 2028.

If you would like more information about rate changes, please call our office or visit us online at www.otec.coop.



Les Penning
CEO



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General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

October Is National Co-op Month

You have a unique story to tell about yourself because you are part of an electric cooperative community. But if you're like a lot of co-op members, you might not feel you know enough to tell that story well. Here's some help.

About one in 10 Americans receives their power from an electric cooperative, which belongs to the people it serves. That is you and your neighbors.

Electric co-ops were developed in the 1930s because city utilities—owned by investors wanting to make a profit—ignored rural America. They didn't think there was enough money to be earned there. So people in rural communities met with each other and formed local electric co-ops.

October is National Co-op Month—the time of year when cooperatives across the country celebrate the many ways co-ops are unique and, more importantly, the members they serve.

This year, the focus is on our ties to the local community. Your co-op was built by the community, for the community.

What that means for you, as members of a cooperative, is:

- Your co-op is here to stay. Since it belongs to the members it serves with safe, reliable, affordable energy, your cooperative is not going to move out of the country, or even across the state. It's staying right where it is.
- Your co-op knows you. Across the country, there are more than 900 electric cooperatives. No two are alike. Because each belongs to the people who live there, the co-op listens to the community it is a part of. Whether it's working with the latest energy-efficiency technologies or keeping the electric grid safe and secure, your electric cooperative can offer solutions that make the most sense locally.
- Your co-op cares about your community. Its top priority is to power the community. It is not owned by far-away, or even nearby, investors looking only for a good return on their money. Your co-op partners with local organizations on community events, fundraisers, youth programs and more. It is run by your friends and neighbors. By investing in the community, your electric co-op supports economic development and prosperity for all, right here at home.

These are just a few ways you and your electric co-op are one of a kind.



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

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WA-50

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The country's oldest
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**To report an outage or utility
emergency, call the main office 24/7.**

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

WA-52

Heat Pump Rebates

Increase comfort and beat the cold this winter

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.

Effective October 1, 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.



495 E. Columbia River Highway
PO BOX 216

Clatskanie, Oregon 97016
(503) 728-2163 Office
www.clatskaniepud.com

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

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Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #10075000

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

Community Calendar

October 3: Clatskanie Chamber Meeting - noon at Colvins

October 7-10: CPUD Celebrates Public Power Week - Come into the office to receive a free LED bulb, enter a drawing to win great prizes, and enjoy a snack.

October 10: Rainier Chamber Meeting
Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

October 16: Clatskanie PUD Board Meeting - Workshop at 5:30 pm, followed by regular board meeting at 7 pm.

October 31: Halloween

Goodie bags for kids who come to the CPUD office between 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

OR-60

Clatskanie People's Utility District receives electricity from Bonneville Power Administration, and is one of more than 2,000 public power utilities that provide electricity to more than 49 million people across the country. Clatskanie PUD has operated alongside our customers in Clatskanie since 1943, and Rainier since 2001. Last year we celebrated our 75th year of providing power to the customers we serve from the Wauna Mill to Rainier.

Public power utilities are community-owned, which means the people are included in the decision-making process through their elected officials, the District Board of Directors.

Knowing our community and its needs helps us keep homes, businesses, and public places powered year-round. The benefit of local ownership allows us to make decisions on our energy portfolio that fit our unique system needs and tailor our rate structure in an equitable manner. Knowing our customers also allows us to offer energy efficiency programs that fit their needs and help to keep their costs down.

Another benefit you receive from Clatskanie People's Utility District is our not-for-profit business model that keeps our electricity rates lower than other utilities and enables us to continue to provide stable, competitive rates. We currently have the lowest residential rates in the state of Oregon, lowest commercial rates, third lowest industrial rates, and the lowest overall rates in the state. Again, this is due to having local control to make decisions based upon our system design, our customer's needs, our energy resource requirements, and our unique customer mix.

Clatskanie PUD not only works for the communities we serve, but we also work with the communities we serve. The District's strong commitment to our community can also be seen in places you may not expect. Over the past few years we've raised funds for HOPE, Turning Point, and United Way. We do community service projects, take active participation roles in local service groups and organizations, community organizations, and community events. We put up holiday decorations, banners and signs, provide poles and labor for community ball fields and special events, and many other community related services through our staff's participation.

As a not-for-profit public power utility, our loyalty is to our customers, not stockholders. We take pride in our governance structure with an elected policy board comprised of local members, that has open meetings the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the District Office. Clatskanie PUD will continue to provide cost-effective, reliable electricity.

We thank you for your support of public power, an American tradition that works. Join us in celebrating Public Power Week October 7th - 10th.

Marc Farmer
General Manager





KOTZEBUE
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

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907-442-3491
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General Manager/CEO

Martin Shroyer

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

AK-64

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These are just a few ways you and your electric co-op are one of a kind.

Sincerely,

Martin Shroyer

General Manager and CEO



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

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



AK-105

Notice of Vacancy on AVEC Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative recently received the resignation of a board member who was elected in April of 2018 to serve a three year term. Following the creation of a vacancy on the board, the remaining board members are required by the Bylaws to appoint a qualified replacement to fill the remainder of the term, which ends in April 2021.

The current Board Members are:

Fred Sagoonick, Shaktoolik—Chair
Robert Beans, Mt. Village—Vice Chair
Helena Jones, Ambler—Secretary
Peter Demoski, Nulato—Treasurer
Robert Hoffman, Bethel
Walter Sampson, Noorvik

Any AVEC member in good standing may apply to fill this vacancy. The individual may not be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative. In selecting a replacement director, The board will also consider the Bylaw requirement that no more than one director may come from a community and that directors must represent the “widest possible geographic distribution.”

Members wishing to be considered for this vacancy should submit a letter of interest addressed to the AVEC Board of Directors and mailed to 4831 Eagle Street, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503. Letters of interest may also be emailed to AMurphy@avec.org.

All expressions of interest must be received no later than Friday, October 25, 2019.

Meera Kohler
President and CEO





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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



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OR-400

Case in Point

The other day, I looked up from my computer at work and observed a group of deer right outside my window looking at me. It was surprising because the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association office isn't exactly in the woods. In fact, we are a block away from a Maserati dealership, which means our 35-mph speed zone often resembles Le Mans. But my experience was a gentle reminder to take the time to look up from my computer and observe things around me.

In the spirit of simple observation, here are a few things we're witnessing from ORECA's perspective:

- ORECA has learned the location of the village in Guatemala that we will electrify next year. Oregon electric cooperative linemen will travel to Aldea Nueva in April 2020 to connect 45 homes. They will build 5 kilometers of primary line and install four transformers. Our project manager will travel there in November to scout out the area. More to come on this exciting project!

- ORECA's annual meeting in Salem is a month earlier this year—November 5-6—and we will have experts speak on a range of issues, from the global energy picture to cap-and-trade legislation in Oregon. We also will have a little inspiration. Since it is the 75th anniversary of D-Day, we will hear from Alex Kershaw, author of "The First Wave," an account of the men who led the way to victory in World War II. We look forward to seeing you there.

- The electric cooperative network is making progress on the RURAL Act legislation (H.R. 2147, S. 1032) to protect the tax-exempt status of electric co-ops. The Oregon congressional delegation is playing a leadership role, with U.S. Reps Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio, Kurt Schrader and Greg Walden signing on as cosponsors. We thank them for their strong support. U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden—the ranking member of the Finance Committee—will be key to passing this vitally important legislation. Please encourage Sen. Wyden to join his colleagues in supporting this important legislation.

Thanks for your interest in ORECA. Be sure to occasionally look out your window. You may be surprised by what you see.



Ted Case
Executive Director



Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc.

www.MarlboroElectric.coop

676 Hwy. 9 East
P.O. Box 1057
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

Fall Festivals, Pleasant Memories

October is my favorite month for many reasons. Perhaps the most important reason is because I was born two days before Halloween and have always celebrated the two together.

As a kid, we were back to school after a great summer and probably wearing new clothes and shoes. I wasn't that fond of school, but it sure was a heck of a lot better than working in a hot tobacco field. The leaves begin falling and football is in full swing. My dad and all the other farmers were busy picking up cotton until dark as the weather allowed. We would ride the school bus home and immediately change our new clothes into old ones and head off to the cotton field so we could play in the trailers. Our play packed the cotton in the trailers, allowing more to be put into it. Cotton has a unique scent, and I can remember the many great times we had growing up just by that smell each October.

The last Friday night of October, our church always hosted a community Halloween carnival. Country folk think living out in the country has many advantages over living in town. The only disadvantage I can recall is we didn't have trick-or-treating like the town kids. We lived too far away from each other, and it just wasn't practical. We had a community Halloween carnival instead. It is one of the fondest memories of my childhood.

Our parents would buy us inexpensive plastic masks with a thin rubber band stapled to each side of it. Characters resembled Micky Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Bozo the Clown, Porky Pig and others. They did not fit well. I can still feel the rubber band twisting and tangling in the back of my hair and trying to breathe while wearing it. The masks were our entire costume—no comparison to what you might see children wearing today, but there was no less enthusiasm or excitement.

The children would play in the church graveyard while others arrived and food was prepared. While it was still light, one of our favorite things was to walk all the way around the cemetery block wall without falling off. After dark, playing hide and seek in a cemetery is about as good as it gets. We were never bored, and always had to be called to come eat when the food was finally ready.

A potluck meal in our church community house would beat any five-star restaurant in the world today. The Halloween carnival was no exception. It was all there: fried chicken, barbecue, chicken and dumplings, macaroni and cheese, fresh vegetables, homemade cakes and desserts, sweet tea and lemonade. Looking back, I realize it was a way of folks showcasing their best recipes to the community. Everyone had something special they were known for making, and you could expect it at gatherings such as this. I would give anything for just one more of those meals.

I sincerely hope October brings you and your families as many fond memories as it does mine.

SAM P. "BO" McINNIS

Chairman, Board of Trustees



Willie Wiredhand is the longtime mascot and spokesplug of electric cooperatives around the country. He was adopted in 1951 by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Here's your task: Willie is hidden somewhere in every issue of *Currents*. See if you can find this friendly face among the news and stories as you read!





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Members acknowledge that \$4.56, 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.

Manuscripts and photographs: Query first. Do not send unsolicited materials.

Reprint permission: Direct all requests to editor@floridacurrents.com.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

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611 S. Congress Ave. Suite 504
Austin, TX 78704-1714
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EREC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Message From the CEO

Co-ops Assert Proposed Reregulation Amendment is False and Misleading

Every 20 years, a Florida Constitution Revision Commission meets and can recommend amendments to the constitution without going through the legislative process of the House, the Senate and the governor signing it into law. This alternative process allows the amendment to be added to the ballot, with a brief description, and is decided upon by the voters.

A constitutional amendment to reregulate Florida's energy industry has been proposed and went before the Florida Supreme Court on August 28. It is the court's responsibility to determine if the amendment meets the legal requirements to appear on the November 2020 ballot for Florida voters. Justices convene behind closed doors to make their decision.

EREC has joined 14 other electric distribution cooperatives, two generation and transmission cooperatives, and the Florida Electric Cooperatives Association to oppose this initiative. One of the most serious concerns expressed by our statewide association during oral arguments before the Supreme Court was the misleading nature and false statements made in the ballot summary.

The language that would appear on the ballot if the Supreme Court approves the amendment states that cooperatives and their



Ryan C. Campbell, P.E.

member-owners will only be affected should they choose to "opt into competitive markets." The fact is this amendment will have immediate, substantial and inescapable consequences on EREC, our member-owners and other cooperative members throughout Florida.

Should the amendment appear on the ballot and receive the support of more than 60% of voters, it will:

- Eliminate many of the co-ops' power supply agreements, which can affect access to electricity at reasonable and predictable prices. This could impact EREC's ability to provide you, our members, with affordable electricity.
- Disrupt cooperatives' service areas. EREC's reliability to members could be compromised.
- Impact cooperatives' operations, given the complexity of Florida's electric grid. EREC's core processes of energy distribution could be negatively affected.

At EREC, we are proud of the safe, reliable and affordable service we provide to our member-owners. We put your interests and well-being above all else. That's why we chose to participate in this case before the Florida Supreme Court—to ensure our member-owners are informed of potential consequences and how they will affect you if the amendment passes.



Inside

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Preparing for Disaster 12

Monroe County Emergency Management implements new training program to facilitate expedited residents' reentry.

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FKEC NEWS

OCTOBER 2019

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Unless otherwise noted, "FKEC NEWS" writing, design & photography by:
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SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

Adapting Plans to Fit the Situation

In an industry impacted by situations outside of our control —like weather— and in a community with a unique island design, adapting to work within a given situation is critical.

In the case of storm preparation and post-storm restoration, our plans have to remain fluid. In our dealings with weather systems, big and small, we have to be willing and able to adjust plans as circumstances unfold.

When Irma threatened the entire state of Florida, we couldn't follow our pre-set plan to wait to assess the aftermath and then request nearby assistance. With all our neighboring utilities in the storm's path, we decided to secure outside help before the storm hit our service territory. This meant putting hundreds of outside crewpersons from as far away as Arkansas on the payroll with instructions to head south even before the storm hit our area. This decision proved invaluable as it allowed us to have everything we needed within days of Irma making landfall.

In other weather events, such as our brush with Hurricane Matthew in 2016, we also adjusted our restoration strategy to best address the situation. With Matthew only threatening our Upper Keys service



territory, we pre-positioned line and tree crews in Ocean Reef and North Key Largo. While Hurricane Matthew ended up only grazing us, we were prepared for quick and safe power restoration in the areas that could have been impacted.

In addition to weather, FKEC must work around other challenges. A recent example is the road closure on Snake Creek Bridge in Islamorada. When FDOT approved a full road lane closure on the bridge during certain hours on designated nights, we had to come up with a plan to overcome this road block (pun intended).

In this case, we combined our existing design of having crews stationed throughout the Upper and Middle Keys, with a secondary plan of using our boat to bypass the road closure if needed. The facing page describes this in more detail.

At FKEC, we strive to be as prepared as possible to address whatever may come our way. However, we know just as important as having a plan is the ability to adapt that plan when necessary. I appreciate our team for thinking on their feet enabling us to serve you, our members, to the best of our ability.

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The Board's next meeting will be at 9 a.m. October 31 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

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Chief Communications Officer
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FL-153

CEO's Message

Help Us Protect You

We need your help! The United States Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017. One of the provisions in that legislation treated government grants as income. The intention was for organizations such as Amazon to pay their fair share of taxes when states provided incentives or grants for them to locate in their state. As the law was written, all government grants became classified as income for all organizations, including not-for-profit rural electric cooperatives.

"Why does that matter to us?" you may ask. Well, as a 501(c)12 organization, Glades Electric Cooperative must receive 85% of its revenue from its members to remain an income tax-exempt business. That's you paying your energy bill. Of the many benefits 501(c)12 organizations enjoy besides exemption from income taxes—which keeps your energy bill lower—is eligibility for Federal Emergency Management Agency grants to assist with reimbursement of disaster recovery expenses.

Not long ago, we recovered from Hurricane Irma at a cost of more than \$8 million. We won't receive FEMA funds to cover 100% of that, but we may receive enough that the grant will exceed 15% of our revenue. If government grants remain classified as income, under current law we become a taxable entity and the income taxes we pay must be covered by you in your energy bill. This is totally counter to the help intended with FEMA grants.

And it's not only FEMA grants. We are eligible for other government grants from the Rural Utilities Service that assist with rural development. As the law is currently written, these grants also become income. That may negate any incentive to help with rural development because of the income-tax cost that would have to be paid by you, our cooperative member.

Legislation has been drafted that will exempt 501(c)12 organizations from this unintended and counterproductive aspect of the Tax Cuts and Job Act and still leave in place the legislation designed for the Amazons of the world. It is known as the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands (RURAL) Act. It is supported by both of our senators and many of our U.S. representatives.

Here's how you can help. We need each and every one of you to reach out to all our members of Congress and ask them to pass the RURAL Act now, in 2019. It is the right thing to do. Please visit action.coop/ruralact and take action on behalf of your rural electric cooperative.



Jeff Brewington



Gulf Coast
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

FL-154

GCEC President's Message

Hurricane Michael, a Year Later

I don't know about you, but it is hard for me to believe that a year has passed since Hurricane Michael forever changed our area. Maybe it is because you can't go anywhere without "the storm" still being the topic of daily conversation.

Some are still dealing with their insurance companies, trying to reach a fair settlement so they can piece their lives back together. Some are living in campers or are temporarily living in a rental home while they await repairs.

A year later, we are all still adjusting to this "new normal."

However, I don't want my column this month to be all doom and gloom. I don't want the focus to be the work that remains to be done. Instead, I choose to focus on how far we have come.

Prior to Hurricane Michael's arrival, we were prepared. Additional crews had been brought into the area, ready to begin work as soon as the storm passed. Equipment was ready to go. Logistical arrangements—such as feeding the lineworkers in the days following the storm—had been made. We had carefully reviewed our disaster plan and were as prepared as we could be.

Once the storm passed, we witnessed unprecedented damage to our service territory. The hotels the out-of-town crews were staying in were heavily damaged and uninhabitable. We needed to call in much more assistance and make arrangements to house and feed all of these workers. We needed to order more material. All communications were down. Our employees faced what many of you also faced: damaged homes.

I am proud to say our employees didn't miss a beat. They temporarily secured their homes with tarps and focused on the task at hand. A couple of employees had working cellphones they handed over to management. We called in more lineworkers. We assembled base camps and ordered materials. With our electronic mapping system down, we displayed large paper maps. Retired GCEC linemen returned to work to assist the out-of-town workers. Because landmarks and street signs were destroyed, the knowledge these retirees had was invaluable as they led crews to work sites.

In three weeks, all GCEC members who were capable of receiving power were restored. Additional service crews remained in the area as members completed repairs to their homes and were ready to accept electricity so they could connect services and repair streetlights. The rebuild and restoration effort included replacement of 349 miles of line, 3,500 poles and 2,095 transformers.

A year later, we continue to recover from this devastating storm. But the bright side is we can say how much progress we, as a community, have made.

I encourage you to read the article on page 8 of this issue. It is about October being National Co-op Month. This month especially, those of us at Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative will reflect on why we are here, and how we will continue to exemplify the cooperative spirit during this time of rebuild and always.



Doug Birmingham



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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BOARD MEETINGS

October 22, 2019

November 19, 2019

December 17, 2019

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

ONLINE E-ZINE

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Sign up through your online account or call us at **800-282-3824**.

FL-155

CEO Message

October Is National Co-op Month

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall colors come to mind. But October is also important because it's National Co-op Month! This month, cooperatives across the country, including PRECO, celebrate who we are and the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market fails to offer a product or service, or does so at a high price, co-ops step in to fill the need. Similar to how PRECO was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are agents for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Our board members, who set long-term priorities for the co-op, live on co-op lines. In addition, PRECO's leadership team and employees live here in the local community.

PRECO operates in accordance with a set of core principles and values known as the Seven Cooperative Principles (see page 4 for details).

One of the cooperative principles we want to highlight is Concern for Community. We partner with local organizations such as schools, civic organizations and youth sports teams. We participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, sending our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong trip to see democracy in action.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your support of these programs.

We hope you will think of PRECO as more than your energy provider, and instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so we can better serve you—because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.



Randy Shaw