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Douglas Pfaff

*Manager of Engineering and Operations*

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*Manager of Member Services*

Reed Allen

*Director of Member Services*

Edwin Ausman

*Director of Purchasing and Warehousing*

Travis Bailey

*Director of Information Systems*

Joe Stockard

*Director of Operations*

Cynthia Tarola

*Director of Accounting*

Lance Wilson

*Director of Engineering*

#### **Business Hours:**

Monday - Thursday

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

Closed Fridays

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ID-1



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[www.cbec.cc](http://www.cbec.cc)  
[info@cbec.cc](mailto:info@cbec.cc)

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John Qualls, Heppner

##### Secretary

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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

## Remembering our Cooperative Roots

### Learn more about your cooperative business model

#### Members:

As a follow-up to our recent Cooperative Annual Meeting, I thought it important to remember our Cooperative Roots and to review just what the Cooperative Business Model means.



Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op was incorporated on November 2, 1940, having been formed by a collection of local farmers wanting to take advantage of the federal government's Rural Electrification Administration's (REA) program to bring electric services to rural America. Our first Annual Membership Meeting was held in 1944, with the first service energized at the Potter Farm outside Condon on October 14, 1949. System construction had been delayed due to materials and labor being diverted to fight World War II.

All electric cooperative organizations licensed under the IRS operate on seven guiding principles:

- Voluntary and Open Membership.
- Democratic Member Control.
- Member's Economic Participation.
- Autonomy and Independence.
- Education, Training and Information.
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives.
- Concern for Community.

By operating under and within these Seven Cooperative Principles, a viable business structure endures and thrives.

CBEC offers and welcomes your participation in the governance of the co-op through a democratically elected Board of Directors. As a locally owned and controlled utility, CBEC is in a better position to understand the needs of its members and can be quicker to react to help ensure the membership receives the best service possible at the most affordable rates. Unlike large investor-owned utilities, often with millions of customers, you can be assured your needs, concerns and ideas are heard by a real person in real time. CBEC strives to ensure your membership has value to you, not just through the service of electricity, but by being an active part of our communities.

Best Regards,

**Tommy Wolff**  
CEO/General Manager

# NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PUD

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

### **Continued Excellence**

One year ago, your board of directors accepted my recommendation to adopt a new strategic plan for Northern Wasco County PUD. The plan retargeted our efforts for the next 10 years, and allowed the district to continue to position itself and our community for a successful energy future. Progress is being made on the plan's objectives. We continue to show excellent results in our areas of focus as measured by key performance indicators. The strategic plan, the quarterly organizational performance dashboards and many other items are available at [www.nwascopud.org](http://www.nwascopud.org) under "About Us" or "Meetings & Agendas."

The electric service and utility industry is ever-changing, as are the types of services you, our customer-owners, desire. From smart home devices, weatherization and energy conservation to electric vehicles and low-income programs, we are here for everyone. We want everyone to be satisfied, and for the electricity to be there when you need and want it.

By the time this arrives in your mailboxes, we will have substantially completed our advanced meter installation project. The ability to provide you with more granular energy-consumption data will be helpful for both the utility and you, the customer.

If you haven't heard yet, you can now directly interact with us via an app. Search for NWCPUD in whichever app platform you use. The information offered via this platform will expand, as will the customer web portal. Bill pay, outage information and energy consumption, as well as direct interaction with us, will continue to evolve and improve. We are excited to finally offer this channel and tools. Thank you for your patience as we modernize technology and infrastructure. It's all connected!

Please visit us at NWCPUD's next monthly public board of directors meeting to learn more about what we are doing. Meetings are at the NWCPUD offices the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m.

Best to all. Stay safe and stay warm!

**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

## What Is the RURAL Act?

Due to an unintended consequence of current federal tax law, many electric co-ops find themselves in a precarious position.

Imagine working hard to secure funding for an important local project only to turn around and give a large chunk of that money back in taxes.

That's the situation many cooperatives, including Nespelem Valley Electric, may face because of recent tax law changes. It could jeopardize the not-for-profit tax status of cooperatives that receive federal or state government funding of any kind, including disaster relief aid, energy-efficiency grants, economic development support and rural broadband development grants.

To maintain tax-exempt status, an electric cooperative must receive at least 85% of all revenue from its members. However, an unintended consequence of a 2017 change to federal tax law modified the calculation for some contributions by government entities or civic groups. Now, grants and other contributions may be considered nonmember revenue and could threaten a co-op's tax-exempt status.

This would have a profound impact on co-ops and their members.

Government grants are now considered income rather than a contribution to capital. These grants assist Nespelem Valley Electric Cooperative with rural development, restoration of our electric system after major storms, and to deploy much-needed rural broadband.

If government grants count toward NVEC's nonmember income, it threatens our tax-exempt status and hampers the co-op's ability to use the full value of

the grants to benefit the communities we serve. Some cooperatives are either turning down grants or using member revenue to pay federal taxes. NVEC could be forced to choose between maintaining its tax-exempt status and accepting Federal Emergency Management Agency help when recovering from a major storm or other disaster.

Consider if NVEC were impacted like Oregon co-op Douglas Electric Cooperative, which was hit hard with record-setting storms earlier this year, causing systemwide power outages.

With more than \$10 million in storm damage, Douglas has applied for about \$7 million in grants from FEMA. If the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands Act is not passed by Congress, it will put Douglas Electric over the 15% limit on nonmember income, threatening its tax-exempt status.

Encouraging Congress to fix the tax code to exempt government grants from being defined as member revenue is one of the highest priorities of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization representing America's electric co-ops.

The RURAL Act legislation has been introduced in both the House and the Senate, attracting large groups of bipartisan cosponsors. However, getting it enacted into law will be a heavy lift, given the political sensitivity of tax issues on Capitol Hill.

Congress must act now to correct this unintended consequence and protect the tax status of electric co-ops. In doing so, Congress will preserve the full value of government grants that deliver societal benefits to our communities.



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

**MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**LOCAL OFFICES**

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

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

**Russ Sapp**  
CHAIRMAN

**Eric Horning**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**Terry Plagmann**  
SECRETARY

**Kevin Christopher**  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

**Roman Gillen**  
PRESIDENT/CEO

**Scott Muller**  
TREASURER/CFO

**www.cpi.coop**

**Happy  
Thanksgiving**

OR-6

## Winter is Coming!

After a beautiful spring, summer and fall, winter is fast approaching. While the official forecast is for a wet but mild winter, it is always prudent to prepare for the worst.

Despite our best efforts to keep your power on, Mother Nature sometimes has the last word. Fallen tree branches, swirling winds, freezing rain and heavy snow can wreak havoc on the power system, toppling poles, bringing down power lines and leaving customers without electricity. To better cope in the cold and darkness, make sure your home is equipped with a power outage kit that includes:

- A flashlight, oil, or battery-powered lamp or lantern with extra batteries or oil.
- Candles and matches. Although you should not carry them around in the dark, candles are safe when set on a flat, stable non-flammable surface. Be sure to keep them away from drapes and other flammable fabrics, and do not leave them unattended.
- A battery-powered radio. If the outage is lengthy or associated with another emergency, local radio reports will provide regular updates.
- Emergency phone numbers. Keep numbers for your utility, doctor, fire department and police easily accessible.
- A telephone connected directly to the phone jack. Cordless phones and phones with answering machines require electricity to operate. If you have advanced warning of a storm, be sure to charge your cellphone battery.

- A first-aid kit and prescription medications. Make sure you have an ample supply of all medicines you regularly use. During a storm, travel may not be possible for several days.

- Extra blankets, sleeping bags and warm clothes. If you are without heat for an extended period, close off one room to live in, and wear extra layers of clothes.

- Clean drinking water. Fresh water is not always available when the power goes out—particularly if you rely on a well. Have at least 1 gallon for each person per day.

- A manual can opener and nonperishable food. Canned or instant food and freeze-dried meals are good to have on hand, but often require hot water or a source of heat to prepare. A camp stove and fuel may be handy, but be sure to use it outdoors. Breakfast bars, crackers, peanut butter and canned or dried fruit require no preparation. Remember paper plates.

- A cooler for storing frequently used foods. Food will keep several hours in a closed refrigerator, and up to two days in the freezer. It will spoil more quickly if the door is opened, or the refrigerator or freezer is not full.

- Firewood and kindling. If you have a fireplace or wood stove, make sure you have an adequate supply of wood and plenty of matches.

Please make sure we have your most recent contact information in our system. When you call in an outage, we use your phone number to identify your account, which enables us to restore power as efficiently as possible. See page 8 for more details.

All of us at CPI wish all of you a happy, safe Thanksgiving!

**Roman Gillen**  
President and CEO



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

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

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

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

### Board of Trustees

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**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 **November 6**  
and **November 20** at 6 p.m. in the Prosser Office  
unless otherwise indicated on our website.

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

### General Manager

**Michael J. Bradshaw**

### Management Staff

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

@BentonREA

@BentonREA

WA-7

## Member Feedback is Welcome and Needed

Dear Members,

You pay your electricity bill every month, and more than likely, you think, "That's done." But the truth is, we're more than just a utility provider. Everyone at Benton REA is committed to building even stronger connections with you and the local communities we serve. But we can't do this without your feedback.

We want to provide you with reliable and useful information, resources and services. Electric cooperatives are organized around a strong commitment to make a difference and provide excellent service to our members.

For the past few years, we've conducted a survey to obtain an American Customer Satisfaction Index score. We've scored higher than most electric cooperatives in the nation for the past three years. You gave Benton REA an 89 out of 100, which means you're extremely satisfied.

However, there's always room for improvement. I need to know how we can improve so we not only meet, but exceed, your expectations in the areas of customer service, reliable electric service and dependable internet and computer networking services.

Our surveys help us discover more about you and how we can improve. For example, survey scores show we're trending downward with regard to members' satisfaction of our energy-efficiency programs, so we're going to host a webinar this fall for anyone who wishes to learn how to save energy in their home. This will be available to all members, even if you weren't able to attend our classes in the past. We're also adding an employee training program to improve our on-the-phone and in-person customer service.

What else can we improve at Benton REA to provide better service to you? Surveys are great, but we always appreciate additional feedback from you, our members. We want to know how we can better serve you. You can contact us by phone at 800-221-6987, by email at [info@bentonrea.org](mailto:info@bentonrea.org) or you can send your comments with your next Benton REA payment. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cooperatively,

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



## Offices

### Hermiston Office

750 W. Elm Ave.  
541 567-6414

### Boardman Office

400 N.E. Eldridge Drive  
541 481-2220

### Hours

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

### Toll-Free

1-800-452-2273

### Report An Outage

888-465-5701 day or night

## Directors

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### Vice President

Jeff Wenholz

### Secretary-Treasurer

Steve Platt

Lee Docken  
Phil Hamm  
John Otis  
Glenn Rohde

### General Manager

Robert Echenrode

## Mission

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

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

OR-8

## In the Holiday Season, a Time of Need

Helping support our community food banks is a priority at UEC as the holiday season arrives each fall.

Cash donations are made on behalf of the UEC membership to help hungry families. They are given in appreciation of the employees, volunteers and donors who sustain these agencies year after year.

The need is deep and growing.

In September alone, the Outreach Food Pantry at Pendleton prepared 385 boxes of food that helped feed several thousand individuals. Over the past year, the number of people served by each food box has grown substantially, said pantry director Marilyn Johnson.

There is a demand for food beyond what can be provided by regional and state agencies. A need can arise between scheduled food deliveries, and that's where individual donors and companies such as UEC play a role, Johnson said.

"A woman this morning dropped off baby food, something we need and we hardly ever have, and another dropped off a ton of potato chips," she said. "Your money goes to buy food beyond what we receive through CAPECO and the Oregon Food Bank. We depend on those who give us the checks to fill the need."

Beyond our local food banks, UEC helps support the Salem-based Farmers Ending Hunger, which has its roots in the Columbia Basin but serves families throughout the state.



Executive director John Burt, a retired Oregon State University extension agent, uses his agricultural connections around Oregon to inspire farmers to donate a portion of their crops to help insure everyone has a full plate at the table.

In its most recent Facebook entries, Farmers Ending Hunger reports that Threemile Canyon Farms at Boardman donated 7,000 pounds of ground beef, Orchard View Cherries at The Dalles sent 200,000 pounds of fresh cherries, Herb Stahl of Stanfield provided 30,000 pounds of wheat to help produce pancake mix, and multiple companies and individuals donated thousands of dollars during the Pendleton Round-Up.

This level of generosity is impressive and inspiring, and we are thankful we can help.

CAPECO, the regional food bank, serves Northeast Oregon counties with emergency food support at 16 partnering meal sites and pantries around the region, providing more than a million pounds of food each year. A list of sites and pantries is available at [www.capeco-works.org](http://www.capeco-works.org).

As a member-owned cooperative, our contributions to community food banks are your contributions. We are grateful for your support of this important part of our mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Echenrode".

Robert Echenrode  
General Manager & CEO



**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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Stacy Eakin ..... Director  
Robert Durham ..... Director  
Robert Hammel ..... Director  
Jim McNamee ..... Director  
DeOra Patton ..... Director

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

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

#### Mission Statement

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

OR-9

## Manager's Message

### Join Us for Our 80th Annual Meeting

I would like to invite each member to attend this year's annual meeting Saturday, November 23, at the Fort Dalles Readiness Center, 402 W. Scenic Drive in The Dalles. Doors open for registration at 11 a.m. A catered buffet lunch is served at noon.

We will have musical entertainment; a guest speaker; reports from the board, manager, attorney and auditor; and the election of three board members for three-year terms. There will be prize drawings throughout the meeting.

The information booklets—including resumes of the candidates for election, the program of the day, financial reports and absentee ballots for the director election—were mailed to each member November 4. The photos and resumes of this year's candidates are on pages 4 and 5 of this issue.

We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting. If you are unable to attend, please vote and mail your absentee ballot to Secretary, c/o Wasco Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 1700, The Dalles, OR, or drop it by the office no later than Friday, November 22.



**Jeff Davis**



**WEC's annual meeting is at the Fort Dalles Readiness Center on Saturday, November 23. Doors open at 11 a.m.**

## Owned By Those We Serve

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

• For Power Outages Call •  
**888.420.8826**

### Officers

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

**General Manager**  
James K. Brooks

**Office Manager/CFO**  
David Western

**Superintendent**  
Todd Sherwood

**Member Services**  
Todd C. Munsey

**System Engineer**  
Jess Dory, PE

### Mission Statement

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

**DOUGLAS**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OR-10

## Survey Coming - Tell Us How We're Doing

Dear Member,

There continues to be no higher priority for me than serving the membership of this cooperative, and serving you well. As you might expect, we get a little feedback once in a while, but it's not necessarily the positive kind. Rather than assume the rest of you think we're doing a great job, we would prefer to ask you. Around 500 of you will soon be receiving a brief survey. This survey represents an opportunity for you to tell us how we're doing, and for us to address issues that your responses may expose.



Some members received a similar survey last year at this time. Since then, we have had a number of mostly very positive things happen in and around the cooperative. I needn't remind everyone of our little February event. This effort is to ensure that we are keeping our finger on the pulse of your company. Things are happening both politically and industry-wide that could have a tremendous impact on you, the member.

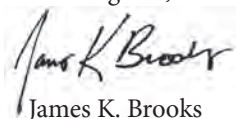


The emphasis of this particular survey will again be customer service. What are we doing right, and what can we do better? It will help us identify any deviation from our baseline score, and establish additional targets for improvement. I believe strongly in member engagement. It's the reason we are here and what sets us apart from electric utilities that are not member-owned. It's important for me to know how well we are meeting your needs.

If you don't receive a survey but would still like the opportunity to complete one, feel free to come into the office and pick one up. We have included a little incentive to help the response rate and hope it will encourage you to participate.

If you have any questions about the survey, the survey process or the reasons behind it, please don't hesitate to give me a call. Thank you in advance for those of you who receive one and take the time to complete it!

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

## New Tax Laws Threaten Co-op's Status

By Dan Riedinger

Due to an unintended consequence of current federal tax law, many electric co-ops find themselves in a precarious spot.

Imagine working hard to secure funding for an important local project only to turn around and give a large chunk of that money back in taxes.

That's the situation many cooperatives, including Columbia Power Co-op, may face because of recent tax law changes. It could jeopardize the not-for-profit tax status of cooperatives that receive federal or state government funding of any kind, including disaster relief aid, energy-efficiency grants, economic development support and rural broadband development grants.

To maintain tax-exempt status, an electric co-op must receive at least 85% of all revenue from its members. However, an unintended consequence of a 2017 change to federal tax law modified the calculation for some contributions by government entities or civic groups. Now, grants and other contributions may be considered nonmember revenue and could threaten a co-op's tax-exempt status.

This would have a profound impact on co-ops and their members.

Government grants are now considered income rather than a contribution to capital. These grants assist Columbia Power Co-op with rural development, restoration of our electric system after major storms, and to deploy much-needed rural broadband.

If government grants count toward CPC's nonmember income, it threatens our tax-exempt status and hampers the co-op's ability to use the full value of the grants to benefit the communities

we serve. Some cooperatives are either turning down grants or using member revenue to pay federal taxes. CPC could be forced to choose between maintaining its tax-exempt status and accepting Federal Emergency Management Agency help when recovering from a major storm or other disaster.

Consider if CPC were impacted like our neighboring co-op, Douglas Electric Cooperative, which was hit hard with record-setting storms earlier this year, causing systemwide power outages.

With more than \$10 million in storm damage, Douglas Electric has applied for about \$7 million in grants from FEMA. If the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands Act is not passed by Congress, it will put DEC over the 15% limit on nonmember income, threatening its tax-exempt status.

Encouraging Congress to fix the tax code to exempt government grants from being defined as member revenue is one of the highest priorities of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization representing America's electric co-ops.

The RURAL Act legislation has been introduced in both the House and the Senate, attracting large groups of bipartisan cosponsors. However, getting it enacted into law will be a heavy lift, given the political sensitivity of tax issues on Capitol Hill.

Congress must act now to correct this unintended consequence and protect the tax status of electric co-ops. In doing so, Congress will preserve the full value of government grants that deliver societal benefits to our communities.

For more information, go to [www.electric.coop](http://www.electric.coop).

# 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

## Members Show Giving Spirit

This month, most of us will pause from our busy lives to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends. While the holiday reminds us to reflect and express gratitude, it also should serve as a reminder of less fortunate co-op members who, due to causes outside of their control, enter into the holiday season in various levels of need.

One thing I appreciate about electric cooperatives are their set of core principles and values. Of particular importance is the seventh principle, "Concern for Community." Throughout the year, CEC looks for opportunities to abide by this principle. The holiday season only heightens that sense of responsibility.

Central Electric's Project Helping Hand plays a vital role in carrying out this mission. The program provides bill payment assistance to members who demonstrate need. Donations are raised by fellow co-op members who agree to round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar. These donations, albeit small, substantially accumulate through the collective effort and, ultimately, make a significant impact in helping needy members pay their electric bills.

Consider these numbers. Since 2010, on average, 1,800 members' donations enabled CEC to distribute nearly \$179,000 in assistance to more than 800 members who needed help with their electric bills. The program keeps going strong. Last year, through the donations of 1,862 CEC members, Project Helping Hand distributed \$15,540 in assistance.

But we could do more! If you would like to join those 1,800 members who already contribute, please sign up today. There are three ways to participate. You may elect to have your bill rounded up to the next dollar, add a fixed amount to your monthly bill or make a one-time additional donation. To sign up, go online at [www.cec.coop](http://www.cec.coop) under the community tab and enroll, or call our customer service representatives at 541-548-2144. You may leave the program at any time. All gifts are tax deductible. CEC will provide you with a summary statement of your donations on your January bill.

Thanksgiving kicks off the holiday season accompanied by shorter days, colder temperatures and higher electric bills. For some members, it will be a season of their greatest need. Working together, we can help make their lives a little brighter.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dave Markham".

Dave Markham, President and CEO



## Board of Directors

### President

John G. Herzog, Brookings/Harbor

### Vice President

Georgia A. Cockerham, Brookings/Harbor

### Secretary/ Treasurer

Daryl C. Robison, Port Orford/Langlois

Cheryl L. McMahan, Southern At-Large

Jim Kolen, Gold Beach

Peter C. Radabaugh, Bandon/Coquille

Daniel Loshbaugh, Northern At-Large

Attorney—Tyler Pepple

## Staff

### General Manager/CEO

Brent Bischoff

### Corporate Services/CFO

Frank Corrales

### Engineering Manager

Matt Mjelde

### Marketing and Member

#### Services Manager

Jacob Knudsen

### Operations Manager

Randy McDonald

## Local numbers

Coquille ..... 541-396-3118

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

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

Brookings ..... 541-469-2103

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

Monday through Thursday.

Closed Friday.

### After-Hours Outage Number

866-352-9044

### Call Before You Dig

811

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

OR-13

# Renewable Is Great, Variable Is Hard

Remember last month? I introduced the concept I called the perpetual balance: The sum of all generation on the electric system must match the sum of all load at all times. The balance ensures the electric system operates at the required speed of 60 hertz. If you missed the article, you can view it at [www.ccec.coop/content/renewables-and-grid-part-1](http://www.ccec.coop/content/renewables-and-grid-part-1). Now, let's explore how variable wind and solar generation affects the perpetual balance.

Electric system load is determined by you, the end user. You don't use the same amount of electricity throughout the day or from summer to winter. So load is variable with some predictability based on human behavior, weather and season. When you add up all load on the electric system, it ramps up and down to daily and seasonal maximums and minimums.

Electric generation must ramp up and down to match the load, maintaining the perpetual balance. Adjustments to generation are made at electric system control centers by complicated computer programs called automatic generation control. AGC monitors system frequency (speed) and sends signals to generation plants to increase or decrease generation. This is like you adjusting speed in your car by pushing on or letting off the gas pedal. AGC is like your cruise control. Some generation—such as coal and nuclear plants—is difficult to throttle up and down. Other generation—such as hydroelectric and natural gas plants—can be easily throttled up and down. Other generation—such as wind and solar—cannot be controlled. They ramp up and down as the sun shines and the wind blows.

Wind and solar generation are highly valued by society today for their renewable and clean qualities. Yet when we connect wind and solar generation to the electric system, we can't control how much they generate. Solar generation produces power only when the sun shines and varies with cloud cover and seasonal daylight hours. Wind generation is random. It ramps up or down with the wind. How do you control that—or even predict it? You can't. Do you see how wind and solar generation disrupt the perpetual balance? How would you keep a constant speed in your car if a random force was pushing the gas pedal next to your foot?

We love wind and solar power for their environmental qualities, but their variability and unpredictability limit how much and fast we can add them to the grid. More on this next month.



**Brent Bischoff**  
General Manager and CEO





652 Rose Ave.  
P.O. Box 69  
Vernonia, OR 97064  
503-429-3021  
Toll free 800-777-1276  
[www.westoregon.org](http://www.westoregon.org)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Brett Costley  
(Dist. 4 – Vernonia)

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

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

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

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

Rosemary Lohrke  
(Dist. 6 – Chapman, Scappoose)

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

#### GENERAL MANAGER

Bob Perry

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

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

District 5 Director Erika Paleck hosts a member meet-and-greet at the Timber Fire Station on Tuesday, November 12, at 7 p.m. All members are welcome to attend.

OR-14

## New Tax Laws Threaten WOEC's Status

By Dan Riedinger

Due to an unintended consequence of current federal tax law, many electric co-ops find themselves in a precarious spot.

Imagine working hard to secure funding for an important local project only to turn around and give a large chunk of that money back in taxes.

That's the situation many cooperatives, including West Oregon Electric, may face because of recent tax law changes. It could jeopardize the not-for-profit tax status of cooperatives that receive federal or state government funding of any kind, including disaster relief aid, energy-efficiency grants, economic development support and rural broadband development grants.

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For more information, go to [www.electric.coop](http://www.electric.coop).



# Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

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

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

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

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

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

After hours and outages:  
Call office numbers above

## STAFF

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Flynn, President  
*Valley Falls*

Scott Warner, Vice President  
*Lakeview*

Raymond Cloud, Secretary/Treasurer  
*New Pine Creek*

Wesley Cook  
*Cedarville*

Craig Joiner  
*Lookout*

John Erquiaga  
*Lake City*

Kyle Weber  
*Alturas*

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

**"Owned by those we serve"**

This institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer

CA-15



## 2020 Calendar Photo Winners

Thanks to everyone who submitted photos for Surprise Valley Electric's 2020 calendar photo contest. Congratulations to all those whose images were selected.

Channon Jones captured the cover image overlooking Bald Mountain.

Diane Hagelthorn, January

Channon Jones, February

Wendy Bonham, March

Clark Hegler, April

Jean Bilodeaux, May

Timothy Horst, June

Channon Jones, July

Wendy Bonham, August

Channon Jones, September

DJ Northrup, October

Timothy Horst, November

Jean Bilodeaux, December

Keep an eye on Ruralite magazine to find out more about the 2021 SVE calendar photo contest.

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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## Honor and Reflection

### Dear Co-op Community Members:

It is hard to believe 2019 is nearly over and in two short months we will welcome a new year and new decade.

Before many of us begin to formulate resolutions and goals for the new year, November reminds us to pause and reflect on the things we are grateful for. November provides us with two significant opportunities to reflect: Thanksgiving and Veterans Day.

On November 28, Thanksgiving Day, many of us will pause and give thanks with loved ones. We will take time to enjoy food with family, friends and even strangers. Some of us will gather at homes and others will gather to give their time to serve others. Thanksgiving provides many opportunities to spend a day with one another in an intentional way.

Another opportunity each year to reflect and give thanks is November 11. Our country would not have the freedoms it does without the sacrifice of our veterans. My first priority is to pause and say thank you to each of our members who have given their time to serve and sacrifice for our country in the military. At Lane Electric, we appreciate your patriotism, love of country and the sacrifice you made, or make, for the common good.

We also appreciate the sacrifice of each family that has a loved one who has served, or is currently serving, in our armed forces. You also are making a huge sacrifice with the absence of your loved one. We know many will celebrate both of these holidays while service members

are away. So again, thank you for your service!

I am proud of our Lane Electric family that has provided service to our country and now chooses to give time serving their community. Please take the time to read more about their service to our country on pages 4-5 in this edition of Ruralite. I personally want to thank Blair, Jack, Hugh and Jerry for their service.

Our country and our veterans are important to us. That is why this year we will celebrate our third annual Veterans Day Luncheon. Please read more about this great idea from our employee, Julie, on page 4 and get all the details. We welcome any Lane Electric members in our service territory who have served in the armed forces. If we missed you, please call Julie at Lane Electric to be sure we get you on the list. We want to honor you.

In closing, while you take the time to think about the things you are thankful for, I want to thank you, our members who support public power. Thank you to those who have served, and thank you for allowing me to serve you. Enjoy the Thanksgiving season!



*Debi*

Sincerely,  
Debi Wilson



## Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative

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

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

### Board of Directors

District 1

#### Ernie Jacksch

541-927-3466  
jacksche@blec.coop

District 2

#### Curtis Short, Chairman

541-359-9434  
shortc@blec.coop

District 3

#### Beverly Mattheisen

541-998-3704  
mattheisenb@blec.coop

District 4

#### Marlene Northrup, Vice Chairwoman

541-998-1216  
northrupm@blec.coop

District 5

#### Eric Imbler, Secretary/Treasurer

541-954-1949  
imblere@blec.coop

### General Manager

Greg Gardner  
gardnerg@blec.coop

OR-17

## Manager's Report

### Dear Members,

Thank you. Two simple words that mean so much. They express appreciation, maybe for a gift, a favor, some act of kindness or a good deed.

Every week, we receive expressions of thanks from our members, written on their bill stubs and included with their payment. We read every one of them share them with our employees and your board of directors. We appreciate your kind words. We also receive some comments that express concerns or requests. We share those as well and respond to those members appropriately.

It seems only natural this time of year as we enjoy the harvest from our farming, ranching and timber-working members and prepare to sit down for a Thanksgiving dinner, that all of us at your electric cooperative give thanks to our members. Without you and your support, this cooperative would not exist.

It's also a timely reminder for those of us who can lend a helping hand to our less fortunate members struggling to put food on the table and pay their electric bills. By contributing to the Blachly-Lane Energy Share fund, you can help your fellow members stay warm this winter.

The BLES program is funded by donations of generous members and employees of Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative. If you would like to help support this program, you may give a one-time donation or have a recurring contribution amount added to your monthly bills. Contributions to the BLES program are tax deductible. The BLES fund is another way we can say we are more powerful together.

Income-eligible members can apply for BLES funds November through March as long as funds are available. BLES offers a one-time-per-year maximum of \$275 to be applied to a member's bill to help them get over the winter hump.

If you would like to contribute to BLES or request BLES assistance, call our member service representatives at 541-688-8711 for guidance.

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday because it is so simple—giving thanks for the bounty of the harvest and for our friends and family. The sharing of gratitude is a wonderful gift. To our members, I want to say thank you.



**Greg Gardner**  
General Manager



#### **Board of Commissioners**

**Dan G. Gunkel**  
*President*

**Douglas B. Miller**  
*Vice President*

**Randy L. Knowles**  
*Secretary*

.....  
**Jim Smith**  
*General Manager*

**Kevin Ricks**  
*Renewable Energy Asset Manager*

**Gwyn Miller**  
*H.R. & Business Services Director*

**Mike DeMott**  
*Power Manager*

**Mark Pritchard**  
*Operations Manager*

**Ron Schultz**  
*Engineering Manager*

**Brandy Myers**  
*Customer Service Supervisor*

.....  
**[www.klickitatpud.com](http://www.klickitatpud.com)**

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

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



WA-18

## **The Importance of Debt Management**

Klickitat PUD recently refinanced a portion of its debt. This refinancing will significantly lower our overall interest rate and near-term debt payments, resulting in substantial savings. It also allows KPUD to access roughly \$10 million currently held in restricted funds. These funds will be used to pay off the remaining debt associated with our share of both the McNary Hydro and White Creek Wind projects.

Another benefit of this refinance includes access to additional borrowing to fund a portion of future capital expenditures. KPUD has used bond or bank financing—typically every three to five years—to fund the purchase of assets, which will provide long-term value to our ratepayers. Some of these assets include system improvements and the labor required to complete the improvements. Other assets include the various generation projects owned by the district.

Using long-term debt financing to fund the capital needs of a utility is a common practice in the industry. This ensures the cost is spread over time to those who will benefit from the capital investment. The alternative is to fully fund annual capital needs with cash in the year they occur. This approach would require significant rate increases. For example, funding capital expenditures of \$6 million would require roughly a 20% rate increase in a single year.

Repayment of debt comes from a variety of sources. Debt related to the RNG facility is repaid through the fixed price portion of our agreement with BP North America. Debt related to our 230-kilovolt transmission system is repaid through agreements with other utilities and power businesses that hold transmission rights on our system. Repayment of remaining debt comes from the revenue of the utility, which includes revenue from ratepayers and excess revenue from other business lines.

In the coming years, the overall debt level of KPUD will continue to fall. During 2019, Klickitat PUD will repay roughly \$20.5 million of debt including debt related to our RNG facility and payoff of McNary and White Creek Wind. From 2020 to 2023, KPUD will repay, on average, \$11.5 million of debt principal annually. The RNG facility will be fully paid off in 2023.

As mentioned previously, it is common practice to borrow funds at regular intervals to fund a portion of capital purchases. This will result in Klickitat PUD always having some level of debt with repayment spread over time. Overall debt levels are governed by the financial policies of the district, which are set by the board. This sets a target that no more than 60% of the value of capital assets held by the district will be funded by debt. An example of how this could work outside of the district would be your personal property. If your home was worth \$100,000, under this policy you would seek to never owe more than \$60,000 on your home.

We would be happy to speak with you regarding the recent debt refinancing should you have any questions.

**Mike DeMott**  
**Power Manager**



**NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.**

*The power of local service*

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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

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

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

**Board President**  
Steve Elgar

**Board Vice President**  
Kennon McClintock

**Board Secretary/Treasurer**  
Judith Simonson

**General Manager**  
Annie Terracciano

**Board of Directors by District**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ID-19

## Reasons to Be Thankful

At my family's Thanksgiving dinner each year, we all take turns saying something we are grateful for. My list is usually the same: good health, loving family and friends, and a job serving the great people in our community.

I'm so thankful to be part of Northern Lights Inc. Our employees are some of the hardest working people I know. Our mission is to provide affordable, reliable, safe electricity, but we also aim to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. It is a mission we all take seriously.

I'm thankful for NLI because it allows employees to live alongside those we serve. The beauty of a cooperative is that it is locally owned and operated—there are no distant shareholders pulling the strings behind the scenes. Members elect members to serve on the board of directors and govern the cooperative. We are your neighbors, your friends and your family.

I'm thankful for our co-op because it serves a vibrant force in the local economy. NLI is invested in the future of its communities. In 2019, NLI sponsored several programs that support youth, education and those who need financial assistance in our service territory. We participated in many local community events, such as the Fourth of July parade, numerous blood drives and food drives. From giving scholarships to college-bound young adults to reaching out to members with information that will help them save energy and money, we care about the people and towns we serve.

Finally, I'm thankful for you, our members and faithful readers, because without you there would be no NLI.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us here at Northern Lights!

**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

## Your 2019 Annual Meeting

Your 2019 annual meeting is November 7 at the Elks Lodge in Grangeville. Registration begins at 11 a.m., and the business meeting starts at 12:55 p.m.

This November Ruralite magazine should get to you just before the annual meeting. That spoils my plan of being able to hit the high notes of the annual meeting in this Ruralite article for members who were unable to attend, but it gives you an additional reminder about the meeting if it isn't already on your calendar. Rather than wait until December, I will fill you in on a few things Idaho County Light and Power has been working on and possibly spoil a small bit of information for those of you who will attend the meeting.

ICL&P will not be raising rates this year. Even though our costs are going up, through efficiencies and hard work, your board of directors and cooperative employees have worked to not pass these costs on to you, our member-consumers.

In addition, ICL&P member-consumers will receive a \$25 bill credit on their statements that go out December 2 for power used in November. This credit is in addition to the credit members will receive if they have opted into the Early Discount Capital Credit program. The credit is per member, not per meter. The cooperative's board of directors decided that since the cooperative is having a better year than anticipated, ICL&P would return some of the members' money back to them. To make this happen, our entire team pitched in. That's the beauty of the co-op model: twof we do well, all our member-consumers do well.

We have contained rates in recent years by continuing to make good investments in infrastructure, managing debt effectively and streamlining processes, even as power costs continue to rise. On October 1, the Bonneville Power Administration raised our power rates by 3.7%, which amounts to about \$80,000 annually. Overall, we anticipate our expenses to increase by about \$200,000 over the next 2 years.

Further, Idaho County Propane has done well and continues to grow, which helps all of ICL&P's electric members because ICP is a wholly owned subsidiary of ICL&P.

Two new board members will be elected at the annual meeting. Cliff Tacke and Kim Dahler are not seeking reelection. After successful tenures, they have decided it is time to pass the torch. They have been great to work with and for, and have advanced your cooperative significantly. We are in great debt to them and those who came before them. Your directors spend a significant amount of time working on cooperative business, not just at local board meetings, but at additional meetings involving state and federal issues, power supply issues, fish and wildlife meetings and so on. They care about this cooperative and the communities in which we live.

Please join us at your annual meeting. If you can't, I hope this provides you with some of the high points.

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

## Focusing on Relationships

What is it that we do as an electric cooperative? Why do we exist? I realize that we exist because, at some point in our history, people decided to provide a service that wasn't readily available. But is providing electricity all that we do?

To many, our measure of success may appear to be simply the sale of energy, meeting our financial tests, and keeping the lights on. I believe our mission goes much deeper.

We are in the people business, and building relationships is vital to our long-term success. Relationships with you, the member, 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.

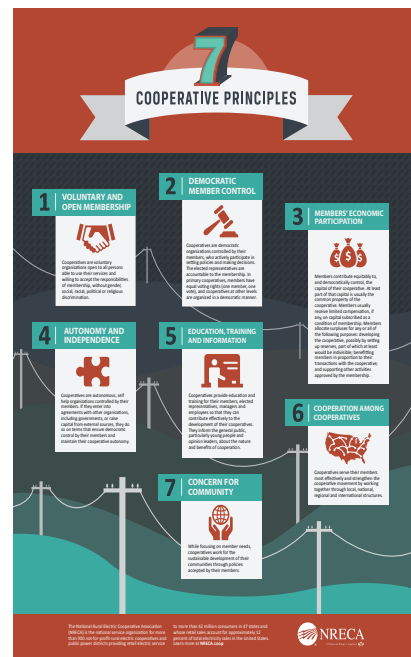
These relationships don't grow overnight. It takes time to cultivate trust and confidence. To do this, we must remember that our job is not in the numbers or policies. It is in the people we serve.

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 unhappy consumer with the same level of professionalism as the happiest person. It's why employees participate in community events, or take up a collection to help someone in need. We do it because we care, because it's the right thing to do.

Maintaining strong relationships is why we will always strive for the highest level of integrity and stewardship. 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.

Best,

Scott Peters  
CEO



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

#### Departments

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

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

#### OFFICE HOURS

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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

##### Vice President

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Vic Russell, Fall River

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Robert Reed, La Pine

Leland Smith, Sunriver

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

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

#### STAFF

##### General Manager

Dave Schneider

##### Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

##### Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

##### CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Bartunek

##### Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

##### Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

## Manager's Message

### Dear Member:

It is amazing how fast time goes by. Fall is upon us again, and winter is just around the corner. Midstate Electric Cooperative would like to remind you of the hazards of downed power lines. Following are a few tips to keep you safe.

- If you see a downed power line, immediately call 911 and MEC at 800-752-5935.
- If someone makes contact with a downed power line, do not try to rescue them. Call 911.
- Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized and dangerous. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Even lines that are deenergized may become energized at any time.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from downed wires. Electricity can travel through the ground, so a live wire touching the ground can harm you even if you do not touch the wire.
- Electricity can travel through tree limbs. Never remove tree limbs or other items that are touching or near a downed wire. Never use any object to move a downed wire. Rubber boots or gloves will not protect you from electric shock.
- Do not put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.
- Do not drive over downed lines.
- If you are in your vehicle and it is in contact with a downed line, stay in your vehicle. Warn others not to touch the vehicle, and have them call for help.
- If you must leave your car because it is on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with the live car and the ground at the same time. This helps you avoid being the path

of electricity from the car to the earth. Shuffle away from the car.

### Honoring Veterans Day

In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, World War I came to an end. More than 9 million soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice, and 23 million were wounded. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed November 11 Veterans Day. Every year on this day, Americans salute the service and remember the sacrifice of the men and women who have kept and continue to keep us free. During more than 100 years of conflict, the courage of our military men and women has never faltered. Through every fight and battle, in every war, they have remained dedicated to the strength and existence of our nation and protection of our people.

These days, the war we are engaged in is unlike those from the past. Even though the enemy is different, the reasons we fight are the same: Protect the American people, and preserve our freedom for ourselves and our children.

This year, honor those who have died, remember the missing, celebrate the living, and recognize all who fight to defend our country and our freedom.

### Happy Thanksgiving!

Our office is closed Thursday, November 28, to observe the holiday. In case of an outage, call our after-hours outage line at 800-752-5935. The line is open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

**General Manager Dave Schneider**

**Your 2020 member calendar is  
included in this issue of Ruralite.**



**www.rrelectric.com**

#### DIRECTORS

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

#### GENERAL MANAGER

Chad Black

#### OPERATIONS MANAGER

Heath Higley

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



**Make your voice count**

Take the pledge to vote this election year.

**Visit [vote.coop](http://vote.coop) to take the pledge.**

Co-ops across the nation are dedicated to making our voices heard at the polls.  
Collectively we can make a difference.



## 2020 Annual Business Meeting and Board of Directors Election

We invite you to consider running for election to serve on the Raft River Electric Board of Directors in District 3, District 5 or the At-Large seat. Directors serve three-year terms and attend monthly meetings to guide policy and budget decisions for Raft River Electric.

District 3 includes all areas in Utah and the Nevada area around Montello. District 5 includes all areas contained in the Duck Valley Reservation. The At-Large seat includes all areas of Raft River Electric's service territory.

The 2020 Annual Business Meeting and election will be Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at Raft River High School in Malta. The goal is to conduct the business of the organization, elect board members and engage with members.

If you are interested in standing for election in District 3, District 5 or the At-Large seat, meet the requirements set forth in the Raft River Electric bylaws and would like to be nominated for the board of directors election, stop by the office for an application or download one from [www.rrelectric.com](http://www.rrelectric.com). The application deadline is January 17, 2020.

*A copy of the bylaws is available upon request or online.*





## BIG BEND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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

Ritzville office 659-1700

Toll free 866-844-2363

Pay by phone 844-255-3682

**For after-hours emergencies**

866-844-2363

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

### TRUSTEES

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

### GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Yvette Armstrong

### LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf

WA-25

## Simple Steps To Lower Heating Costs And Keep You Warm

Cold temperatures mean higher heating bills. Don't forget some easy steps to make your home more energy and cost-effective this winter.

Costs associated with heating and cooling account for approximately 44% of utility bills. Lowering the thermostat is the easiest way to save energy. Adjust the temperature 5 to 8 degrees when you are away from home or sleeping, and keep it to the lowest comfortable level when at home. Consider installing a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature day and night.

### Use these tips to help cut costs and improve heating efficiency and safety:

- Replace your furnace filter every month to save energy and improve heat circulation. Consider having a professional check and service your furnace system to ensure peak efficiency and safety.
- Use sunlight's natural heat to your advantage. Open curtains and blinds on sunny days to let the sunlight warm your home, and close them on gloomy days and at night to keep the heat inside.
- Close your fireplace damper when you are not using the fireplace to prevent heat from escaping and cold from entering through your chimney.
- As long as there is a cold air return, you can close the vent and door for rooms you do not use. Experts say without a cold air return, closing off a room can build pressure, causing the furnace to work harder.
- If you have older or leaky windows, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.
- Stop drafts from coming in and heat from leaking out of your home through drafty doors and windows. You could save up to 10% of your heating costs by eliminating those leaks. Weather-stripping is relatively easy and available at your local home improvement store.
- Use caulk to seal gaps in the walls of your home or apartment. Wherever different building materials meet, or wiring comes out of a wall, there are gaps that may contribute to the loss of heat in your home.
- Invest in a water heater insulation blanket. If the top of the electric water heater is warm to the touch, you are wasting energy. This means the heater has to work even harder to heat the water in your home, which uses more energy.
- Use a microwave to cook meals. It uses much less energy than a conventional oven.

Learn more at [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org)

# Hood River Electric Cooperative



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

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

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

## **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

## **Special Member Meeting Information**

Dear Members,

The boards of directors for Hood River Electric Cooperative and the Communications Access Cooperative Holding Enterprise have called for special member meetings on Wednesday, November 20, 2019, at the Hood River County Fairgrounds Community Building to consider merging the two companies.

The meeting for CACHE members begins at 6 p.m. If you buy internet service from us, you are a CACHE member.

The meeting for HREC members begins at 7 p.m. If you buy electric service from us, you are an HREC member.

Dessert will be served at the conclusion of the HREC meeting.

A meeting notice will be mailed to all HREC and CACHE members in early November, along with the proposed plan of merger. Questions and answers about the merger can be found on pages 28 and 29 in this edition of Ruralite. Copies of the proposed bylaws and articles of association for the combined organization are available on our website, [www.hrec.coop](http://www.hrec.coop), or at our office.

If you have questions or would like us to mail you a copy of the proposed article and bylaws, please contact us. Call the HREC office at 541-354-1233, email [hrec@hrec.coop](mailto:hrec@hrec.coop) or stop by during our office hours Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We hope to see you at these meetings. As member-owners, it is your voice that decides the direction of the cooperative. We appreciate your support and participation as we work to serve you affordably and effectively.

Sincerely,

**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

## You Made a Great Decision

*Thank you to Clay Fitch for sharing his thoughts. I could not have said this better myself.*  
—General Manager Fred Flippence, Harney Electric Cooperative

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 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 F pushed electricity demand to a new record of 74,531 megawatts, 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, my cooperative, Wells Rural Electric Co., could buy wholesale electricity from the open market in the Pacific Northwest during that same time period for \$31.80 per MW. Record electricity use also forced the Electric Reliability Council of Texas to declare an emergency. ERCOT pled with every available power plant to ramp up and every consumer to conserve.

A longtime 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, advocates often painted opponents as dumb old utility guys. They claimed utilities were stuck in the past and 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 benefited from energy choice during 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 markets could go crazy. What the dumb old utility guys knew for certain was no one had made any significant investment in baseload generation or transmission in Texas since deregulation was implemented. We also knew growth would eventually gobble up the available capacity and lead to higher prices and reduced reliability. We didn't know 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 such as wind and solar. Fortunately, dumb old utility guys even older than me made the very wise decision to invest in clean, renewable, reliable and predictable hydroelectricity.

Jo Elg, general manager of United Electric Cooperative, wrote a commentary on the numerous issues affecting salmon and steelhead populations. It was penned in response to a conference focused on removing dams on the Snake River. One of the justifications for removing the dams is 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 dams are absolutely essential if society wants to successfully integrate increasing amounts of wind and solar generation.

—WREC CEO Clay R. Fitch, vice president of Nevada Rural Electric Association



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

#### **Board of Directors**

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

Manager Ken Dizes

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

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

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

ID-28

## **The Seven Cooperative Principles**

October was National Cooperative Month. I suppose that doesn't mean a lot to many, but it does cause me to at least reflect on what I believe is the success of a remarkable organization. This month I will center my remarks on why the cooperative model continues to be relevant.

There are seven key values or principles that shape cooperatives. **Member Economic Participation** is the principle whereby the member-owners contribute capital to the cooperative. You do this through rates you pay the cooperative for electric service. You also participate economically through retained margins that the cooperative credits to individual member capital credit accounts, which are returned to the member at a later date.

**Concern for Community** identifies how your cooperative participates in the communities it serves. This is in the form of our employees participating in the community and your cooperative financially contributing, including charitable donations.

**Autonomy and Independence** recognizes that no two cooperatives are identical, and they are governed and operated to best serve the needs of their members.

One of the greatest advantages cooperatives enjoy is **Cooperation Among Cooperatives**. Cooperatives share leading practices and innovation, and benefit from advances within their network. Also, it is not uncommon for cooperatives to come to the aid of other cooperatives in times of need. This is especially seen in storm recovery efforts.

A commitment to **Education, Training and Information** comes in the form of ensuring we have well trained and educated employees. It also is about a commitment to open and honest communication with our members. This helps unite us in our mission to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity.

**Open and Voluntary Membership** is probably questioned since your electric cooperative is basically the only option for electric service. This is changing as our members have alternatives, such as solar, within their reach.

Perhaps the keystone of cooperatives is **Democratic Member Control**. It is through this principle that we came into existence, and It is through this principle that we can remain relevant and serve the needs of our members.

I encourage you to participate in your cooperative by hearing and responding to our communications, attending meetings and participating in director elections.



**Ken Dizes**



## United Electric

CO-OP INC.

### Directors

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

### General Manager

Jo Elg

### Engineering and Operations

Trevor Parke

### Line Superintendent

Kay Hill

### Executive Assistant/Billing Specialist

Trisha Moultrie

### Member Services Manager

Chris Seibold

### Mailing address:

1330 21st St.  
Heyburn, ID 83336

**Phone:** 208-679-2222

**Fax:** 208-679-3333

**Email:** [uec@uec.coop](mailto:uec@uec.coop)

**Website:** [www.uec.coop](http://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

As a consumer and member of United Electric, is good governance important to you? If the answer is yes, please vote on the proposed bylaw amendment.

Good governance is important to the United Electric Board of Directors, too. This past summer, the board reviewed good governance practices. As a result, the board proposes that United Electric bylaws be updated to reflect the good governance practices discussed below.

The proposed amendment has two parts. Part one recommends that individuals who desire to be candidates for the board of directors must meet minimum requirements. Part two proposes that individuals may not become an employee if they served on the board of directors in the previous five-year period.



### Part 1

#### Article III Section 3. Number, Election and Qualification of Directors

The amendment proposes that “minimum requirements” for individual candidates desiring to run or remain a director be added to the bylaws. The minimum requirements include:

- Individual is not eligible if they have been convicted of a felony.
- Individual is not eligible if they have pled guilty to a felony.
- Individual is not eligible if they are on felony probation.
- Employees or officers/owners of competing corporations are not eligible.
- Employees of United Electric are not eligible for a period of five years after last their day of employment.

### Part 2

#### Article IV Section 11. Employment Limitation

The amendment proposes adding a section that limits a current director's eligibility to become an employee for a period of five years.

- No individual shall be eligible to become an employee of United Electric if they served as a United Electric board director during the previous five years before application for employment.

As a cooperative, bylaws are approved by the entire membership of United Electric. Each March, United Electric holds its Annual Meeting of the Membership, at which time director elections and additional business requiring action by the membership occurs. Besides the election of two board directors, this bylaw amendment also will be presented for your consideration.

You may vote by mail—a ballot is mailed to every United Electric member—or at the annual meeting March 17, 2020.

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

Jo Elg

General Manager



# Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

Phone: 208-588-3311  
Fax: 208-588-3038  
Email: [office@lrecoop.com](mailto:office@lrecoop.com)  
[www.lostriverelectriccoopinc.com](http://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

## What Is the RURAL Act?

Due to an unintended consequence of current federal tax law, many electric co-ops find themselves in a precarious position.

Imagine working hard to secure funding for an important local project only to turn around and give a large chunk of that money back in taxes.

That's the situation many cooperatives, including Lost River Electric Cooperative, may face because of recent tax law changes. It could jeopardize the not-for-profit tax status of cooperatives that receive federal or state government funding of any kind, including disaster relief aid, energy-efficiency grants, economic development support and rural broadband development grants.

To maintain tax-exempt status, an electric cooperative must receive at least 85% of all revenue from its members. However, an unintended consequence of a 2017 change to federal tax law modified the calculation for some contributions by government entities or civic groups. Now, grants and other contributions may be considered nonmember revenue and could threaten a co-op's tax-exempt status.

This would have a profound impact on co-ops and their members.

Government grants are now considered income rather than a contribution to capital. These grants assist Lost River Electric Cooperative with rural development, restoration of our electric system after major storms, and to deploy much-needed rural broadband.

If government grants count toward LREC's nonmember income, it threatens our tax-exempt status and hampers the co-op's ability to use the full value of the

grants to benefit the communities we serve. Some cooperatives are either turning down grants or using member revenue to pay federal taxes. LREC could be forced to choose between maintaining its tax-exempt status and accepting Federal Emergency Management Agency help when recovering from a major storm or other disaster.

Consider if LREC were impacted like Oregon co-op Douglas Electric Cooperative, which was hit hard with record-setting storms earlier this year, causing systemwide power outages.

With more than \$10 million in storm damage, Douglas has applied for about \$7 million in grants from FEMA. If the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands Act is not passed by Congress, it will put Douglas Electric over the 15% limit on nonmember income, threatening its tax-exempt status.

Encouraging Congress to fix the tax code to exempt government grants from being defined as member revenue is one of the highest priorities of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization representing America's electric co-ops.

The RURAL Act legislation has been introduced in both the House and the Senate, attracting large groups of bipartisan cosponsors. However, getting it enacted into law will be a heavy lift, given the political sensitivity of tax issues on Capitol Hill.

Congress must act now to correct this unintended consequence and protect the tax status of electric co-ops. In doing so, Congress will preserve the full value of government grants that deliver societal benefits to our communities.



#### 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](http://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

##### 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

##### December

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The December meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, December 19, 2019, in Glennallen

##### **CVEA Offices Closed:**

The CVEA offices will be closed Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25, 2019, for the Christmas Holiday, and Tuesday, December 31, 2019, for New Year's Eve

AK-34



## Round Up for Your Community

The holiday season is a time for giving thanks. Copper Valley Electric would like to thank everyone who rounded up or donated to the CVEA Community Foundation in 2019, and encourage all members to begin rounding up their electric bill next year.

Consider rounding up your electric bill to the nearest dollar amount each month. It's easy and painless. Participants who round up their bill contribute between \$.01 and \$.99 monthly, an average of just \$6 a year, to the Foundation.

Individually this is not a large number, but combined with other Co-op members, it will make a difference. If half of all CVEA members round up their bills each month, the Foundation will bring in an amazing \$10,000 each year.

Money raised is used to provide scholarships for students and to help local educational, scientific, and charitable organizations in our communities start new programs and expand existing ones. In 2019, the Foundation awarded \$8,000 in scholarships and made over \$16,000 in contributions to local nonprofit organizations. Stay tuned to see what programs received funding; an announcement will be included in the next issue.

Another really easy way for members to contribute is to add a specific amount to their electric bill each month. Members can also make a one-time donation or even donate their future capital credit disbursements.

If you'd like to help your Cooperative do more for the community by rounding up or adding an amount to your bill, you can do this anytime by simply filling out the donation form located on [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) (also available at CVEA offices) and bringing it to the CVEA office in your district, sending it via email to [scheidt@cvea.org](mailto:scheidt@cvea.org), or mailing it to P.O. Box 45, Glennallen, AK 99588.

For additional information on the Community Foundation or if you have questions about making a donation, contact Sharon Scheidt, Director of Communications, at (907) 822-5506, (907) 835-7005, or email [scheidt@cvea.org](mailto:scheidt@cvea.org).



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

## Head Into the Holidays With Safety in Mind

### Dear Customers:

I cannot believe 2019 is almost over. Just as quickly as the year began, it is now ending. Here we are, back into the holidays and winter.

This time of year can get rather hectic for many of us. With so many things to accomplish and places to be, it can be a challenge to fit everything into an already full schedule.

Although we may be quickly going from one thing to the next, it is important to think about safety in our seasonal activities and plan ahead for the unexpected.

For those of you planning to travel, check weather forecasts and road conditions before you head out on your journey. Plan for unanticipated delays by allowing extra travel time in your schedule. Pack additional supplies needed for the trip, which could include vehicle traction devices, a roadside emergency kit, and food for yourself and travel companions.

If you intend to decorate, make sure you have the proper tools and equipment for indoor and outdoor jobs. When hanging lights outdoors, use extension cords and light strands rated for outdoor use. Be sure to use outlets with ground-fault circuit interrupter protection. If you need a ladder, avoid using one made of aluminum. Steer clear of any power lines.

As you are preparing for the holidays, it is also a good time to prepare for winter weather and unexpected power outages. Be sure to have a supply of water and nonperishable food items on hand. If you require vital medical equipment powered by electricity, have a plan in place for backup generation. It is also a good practice to keep Tillamook PUD contact information with your other emergency contacts should you need to report a power outage or check the status of an outage.

Though our crews respond quickly, each situation is unique. Restoration times can vary depending on the extent of damage and repairs required. If you have not already, consider signing up for Nixle, like and follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and check out our website. We provide updates as frequently as possible through these channels.

From all of us at Tillamook PUD, have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

General Manager Todd Simmons





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

## Board of Directors

### President

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### Vice President

Roy M. Nageak Sr.

### Secretary

Herman L. Ahsoak

### Treasurer

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

## General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

## We Are Thankful for Your Membership

*"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."*

—William Arthur Ward

In the spirit of this quote, I would like to express my gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative Inc., we are able to make our community a better place. During this season of giving thanks, I think it's important to let you and other members of BUECI know just what an impact you have on our co-op and the greater community—likely in ways you may not realize.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is Concern for Community. While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable utilities, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits because of you. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs, such as awarding college scholarships, youth programs and travel, and assisting community members when a loved one passes with grave-digging services.

We are thankful our co-op board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment in time results in better informed advisers who serve the co-op's interests in a way our consumer-members expect and deserve.

BUECI was established to bring utilities to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue to make our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you.

For that, we're thankful for your membership.

Sincerely,

**Ben Frantz**

**General Manager**



## Owned By Those We Serve

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

### Corporate Headquarters

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

### Delta Junction Office

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

### Nenana Office

7259 Parks Hwy.  
(907) 452-1151  
1-800-770-GVEA (4832)  
Fax (907) 832-5438

### Report Outages:

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

### View Outage Map:

[gvea.com/resources/outages](http://gvea.com/resources/outages)

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

**Safety:** You Have The Power!



AK-37

## It Pays to be a Member

# GVEA Board Approves \$3.5 Million in Capital Credits Refunds

At the October 2019 GVEA Board meeting, the decision was made to retire all capital credits from 1994 (and earlier), which totals \$3.5 million. All refunds will be distributed by the end of November 2019.

An advantage of being a member of a cooperative is having service provided to its member-owners at cost. Because GVEA is a not-for-profit cooperative, any revenue left over at the end of each year (known as margins) is allocated to members based on the amount of power purchased throughout that year. This is what is known as capital credits.

### How will these funds be distributed?

- Active members whose refunds will be greater than \$100 will be issued a check.
- Active members with refunds of less than \$100 were issued a credit adjustment on their November bill.
- Former members will be issued checks if the refund exceeded \$25 (or was under \$25 and held for five years).

While capital credits allocation happens each year, the co-op typically retains this money for a period of 25 years. During this period, capital credits are reinvested in the system for projects and maintenance, such as building substations or replacing power poles or lines.

GVEA's Board of Directors specifically authorizes each retirement only after careful consideration of the financial impact to the co-op. When capital credits are retired, GVEA issues a refund.

If you leave GVEA's system, it's very important that your current mailing address is on file, so future capital credit refunds reach you.

For more information about capital credits and a list of frequently asked questions, please visit GVEA's website at: <http://gvea.com/resources/capitalcredits>. ■





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

73233 State Route 70  
Portola, CA 96122

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

##### President

Fred Nelson, *Clio*  
[fnelson@psrec.coop](mailto:fnelson@psrec.coop)

##### Vice President

Dick Short, *Graeagle*  
[dshort@psrec.coop](mailto:dshort@psrec.coop)

##### Secretary/Treasurer

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[dhansen@psrec.coop](mailto:dhansen@psrec.coop)

Larry Price, *Quincy*  
[lprice@psrec.coop](mailto:lprice@psrec.coop)

Dave Roberti, *Sierra Valley*  
[droberti@psrec.coop](mailto:droberti@psrec.coop)

Tom Hammond, *Herlong*  
[thammond@psrec.coop](mailto:thammond@psrec.coop)

Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*  
[nmiller@psrec.coop](mailto:nmiller@psrec.coop)

##### Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall  
[bmarshall@psrec.coop](mailto:bmarshall@psrec.coop)



Our subsidiary,  
**Plumas-Sierra  
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800-221-3474.

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

CA-39

## Manager's Message

### Dear Members:

In the middle of October, we received many calls and questions about PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoffs that affected a great deal of the state of California. The two primary questions revolved around why we weren't affected by the PSPS events and the "real" reasons for the shutoffs.

Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative buys its power from the federal government through the Western Area Power Administration, through jointly owned power projects with the Northern California Power Agency, through its own projects on the system, and through its connection with the Nevada grid.

Our connection to the west is through 60,000-volt sub-transmission lines that come to us through the Feather River Canyon from the Caribou powerhouses run by PG&E. We don't buy from PG&E, but our normal supply is wheeled to us through their system.

If the Caribou powerhouse is cut off from the main PG&E system, PG&E can carry part of our load as well as their Quincy load.

If the lines from Caribou to Quincy go down, we have the ability to carry most, if not all, of the cooperative's members by using our own generators, switching our feed to the Nevada grid, and with the cooperation of the three prisons on our system using their generators.

That's why our members generally enjoy more reliable service than PG&E's customers to the west of us.

Which brings us to the PSPS. The major utilities in California have all been involved with major fires started in connection with their power grids. Sometimes it has been their fault, and sometimes not.

Due to a court case some time ago, the

state's constitution was interpreted so that all electric utilities are held to a strict liability standard. That means the utility is to blame even if the incident isn't directly the utility's fault. For example, if someone cuts a tree that falls into our lines because they didn't look up first, we can still be held liable.

Sometimes it is the utility's fault. PG&E has admitted liability for the Camp Fire, but there are other fires associated with the utility grid that have nothing to do with how the utility behaved.

As a response to these fires, the California Public Utilities Commission and the state legislature have passed rules and laws that require utilities to set conditions on when they should de-energize their system to prevent catastrophes like the state experienced in recent years. Some utilities are taking a broad stroke on this.

Which brings us to the Plumas-Sierra system. Plumas-Sierra has been on a 25-year all-out campaign to improve our right-of-way maintenance, removing thousands of overcrowded trees that were threatening our lines. It has not been cheap, but it has paid off in better reliability, better relationships with the U.S. Forest Service and other federal agencies, and reduced risk of fires.

It's been a sustained campaign by our operations staff, backed by your board of directors. We have even successfully worked to get state law changed so we have the right to access private property when trees on private land threaten our system.

When the management and board of PSREC analyzed when we should turn off our system due to weather conditions, we made the decision to only disconnect our system during extreme weather events.

*Continues on page 25*

## Manager's Message

*Continued from page 32*

This draft decision was shared with the membership at the annual meeting, and received strong support.

This has been the subject of a great deal of discussion inside the utility business. You normally don't have to worry about the inner workings of the business because you have the cooperative for that, but in this case it's good to share how we got here.

PSREC has been in discussions with the other utilities around us, including Truckee Donner PUD, Liberty Utilities, NV Energy and others. We all serve the mountains, and due to the snow we receive, we have all built our systems to a heavy-duty standard.

NV Energy adopted a PSPS standard that includes the potential for power shut-offs, but its power shutoffs would be rare.

Given that we've built our system to the same standard, and we've been grooming our rights-of-way for decades to a high standard, we have set a similar shutoff threshold. This seems like the prudent course of action.

Most fires are not caused by power, and it's tough to fight a fire—especially at the initial small stage of a fire—without water. In our region, the vast majority of our water comes from wells.

The last puzzle piece is the availability of linemen to patrol our lines after a PSPS. PG&E and other utilities will not turn power back on to a region until they can inspect each pole.

In the case of our connection to Nevada, it is relatively quick and easy to patrol the NV lines from Marble Hot Springs to Loyalton and then to Truckee (the route of the lines). NV, Liberty and PSREC cooperate on inspecting lines in the hopefully rare case that a PSPS is implemented. That would make the difference between a PSPS being a few hours of outage on our electric grid, and it being several days of outage for the larger utilities.

PSREC's crews work year-round to prevent outages and prepare for winter

storms. Being prepared for an emergency and knowing what to do during an outage are vital for personal safety and quick restoration of power. Equip your home with a power outage kit. If someone in your home depends on electric-powered, life-sustaining equipment, make a plan for backup power. Please install surge protectors on sensitive electronics and appliances. Buy surge protectors that have a warranty for your connected load.

Once we get to winter and the storms hit, if your lights start to flicker, turn off and unplug sensitive electronic equipment immediately, and reduce any unnecessary load. For more information on outage preparedness and safety, visit [www.psrec.coop](http://www.psrec.coop). To receive updates on major, systemwide outages via text message, text "PSREC" to 800-555-2207.

### Winter Rate Assistance Program

We are accepting applications for the Winter Rate Assistance Program, which offers a discounted rate for November through April use to income-qualified members.

WRAP provides information to help members conserve energy and offers a discounted electric rate during the heating season.

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

### Youth Opportunities

Plumas-Sierra and its subsidiary offer many life-changing opportunities to local young people, including scholarships and the Washington Youth Tour.

These programs provide enriching experiences to help young people discover themselves and their roles as citizens. They also introduce them to the cooperative way, teaching the value of involvement and commitment to their communities.

Application deadlines are fast approaching. Don't let your children miss out on these opportunities. Please see page 4 for more information about the

Washington Youth Tour.

Applications and information on our youth programs are available on our website at

[www.psrec.coop](http://www.psrec.coop), or by calling the member services department at 530-832-4261.

### Telecommunications

PST is replacing the coax system in west Quincy with fiber optics, and is scheduling customer installations in some areas.

If you have not already contacted us to be placed on our interest list to be contacted when we get to your area, please call us at 800-221-3474 or visit [www.pst.coop](http://www.pst.coop). We are also working on expanding service into Chandler Road.

PST submitted five grant applications to the California Advanced Services Fund to expand broadband coverage to the hardest-to-reach parts of our service area. We will find out this month if we have been awarded funding.

If you have any questions, please call me at 800-555-2207 ext. 6076, or email me at [bmarshall@psrec.coop](mailto:bmarshall@psrec.coop).

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season!



**Bob Marshall**  
General Manager



## MT. WHEELER POWER

1600 Great Basin Blvd.  
Ely, NV 89301

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

### Emergency Contacts

Ely Office  
775-289-8981

Eureka Office  
775-237-5693

Outside Ely / Eureka Area  
800-97-POWER

### Board of Directors

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

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

*Mt. Wheeler Power's office hours change  
to our winter schedule November 11. The  
Ely office will be open Monday through  
Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Eureka  
office's hours remain 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Monday through Thursday.*

### "Powering Your Future"

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
*The power of human connections*

NV-40

## Important Dates



**Bills due**



**Office now  
open Fridays**



**Board meeting**



**Closed for  
Thanksgiving  
holiday**

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

# Wells Rural Electric Company

## Board of Directors

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Vice President

M Jonathan Dahl  
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Orlin Kidner  
Ouida Madison  
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Bob Wilcox

## Director Emeritus

D. Vernon Dalton

## website:

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

## Outage Hotline:

800-566-6696  
24 hours a day

## Carlin office:

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

## Wendover office:

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

## Wells office:

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

NV-41

## Making a Difference

No cold milk or hot coffee. No lights. Scrubbing clothes by hand in water heated over a fire. No Internet. No TV. It's hard to imagine our lives without the convenience of electricity, but according to the International Energy Agency, that's reality for 1.1 billion people worldwide.

Life without electricity was reality for much of rural America before the rural electric cooperative movement began in the 1940s. It was reality for much of Northeastern Nevada and Northwestern Utah until 1958 when Wells Rural Electric Company (WREC) began providing electricity.

That rural/urban divide persists today. About 84% of people who live without electricity live in rural areas with 95% of those people living in sub-Saharan Africa and developing Asia.

One powerful option for bringing electricity to developing countries is forming new rural electric cooperatives. Since 1962, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Program has brought electricity to more than 160 million people in 45 developing countries. The International Program designs and implements successful, sustainable, scalable rural electrification programs that improve education, health care, safety and economic opportunity.

The NRECA International Program is supported by charitable donations of time, money and materials from more than 300 American electric cooperatives as well as private organizations and individuals. WREC is proud to be one of the electric cooperatives providing financial assistance to bring electricity to families in developing nations. There are also hundreds of electric cooperative directors,



linemen, engineers, managers and other employees who have volunteered to bring first-time access to electricity. Volunteers train staff at new cooperatives to build, maintain and operate sustainable utilities to improve the quality of life in their own communities.

Closer to home, WREC members are improving their own quality of life through the Next Dollar Foundation. Since its creation in 1995, the Next Dollar Foundation has helped local organizations, communities and schools make badly needed improvements to sports fields, playgrounds, community buildings, senior centers, libraries, clinics, museums and a host of other facilities. The Next Dollar Foundation has also helped many students continue their education beyond high school.

While these efforts have made a lasting impact on every community we serve, pressing needs remain. As you look around your community, I suspect you have ideas for projects but don't see a way to secure funding. With your support and collaboration with a local organization, the Next Dollar Foundation could help your idea become a reality.

You might also see a need for services in your community but people with the needed skills aren't available. You may even be thinking about going back to school to build your own skills. An education grant from the Next Dollar Foundation might help fill those needs.

Additional information about changes to the Next Dollar Foundation appears on pages 28 and 29 inside. To learn more about projects the Next Dollar Foundation has funded in your community, submit your own project funding request, or apply for an education grant, please visit <https://www.wrec.coop/community/next-dollar-foundation>.

**Clay R. Fitch**  
Chief Executive Officer



NV-42

## LETTER FROM THE CEO

### *It Takes Everyone*



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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>DISTRICT 1</b><br>Michelle Caird   | <b>DISTRICT 2</b><br>Open           |
| <b>DISTRICT 3</b><br>Rob Shirley      | <b>DISTRICT 4</b><br>Kathleen Keyes |
| <b>DISTRICT 5</b><br>Terrie D'Antonio | <b>DISTRICT 6</b><br>David Dawson   |

#### OFFICE PHONE

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

#### AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

We are here 24 hours a day,  
seven days a week for your  
emergency needs.  
(775) 727-5312  
Website: [www.vea.coop](http://www.vea.coop)  
Email: [wmc@vea.coop](mailto:wmc@vea.coop)

I thought I retired two years ago as CEO of a Las Vegas-based agency. I was wrong. However, nothing feels better – coming out of retirement – than to have the opportunity to work with such a professional executive team and a dedicated and skilled staff.

I was appointed to the board on June 27, 2019 after our District 5 board member resigned before his term was complete. The spot needed to be filled, so correspondence was sent to all members of Valley Electric to ask interested parties to submit a resume and answer questions posed by the current board. I was selected to serve the remainder of the term and will be up for election in March of 2020.

I've known several of our District 5 members prior to my appointment and have been fortunate to meet many more members from our other districts while working with some of you on our newly formed committees and also in town meetings and through word of mouth.

These committees were the brainchild of our interim CEO, Dick Peck. Through these committees we are revamping and improving our bylaws, policies and procedures. Each district has member representation filling those committees. I'm also grateful to be joined by our other board directors who are all chairs and/or co-chairs on the committees we've formed.

Dick's contract with us ended at

the end of October. The board of directors will select our new CEO by Thanksgiving with a plan to have that person onboard no later than the second week in January. You will all have an opportunity to meet our new CEO at your annual district meeting in March.

With my prior experience, the board and executive staff asked me to fill the position between Dick's departure and the arrival of our new CEO. I will only be able to do this because of the expertise available through our current board of directors and our executive team. Also, I will not be compensated for the time I serve as CEO, other than my usual board stipend.

We are a Co-op, which means that it takes all of us (members, staff and directors) working together to continue to build VEA into a member owned company we can be proud of. I feel honored to play a small part in the future of our company.

Until next month,

**Terrie D'Antonio**  
Chief Executive

*Terrie D'Antonio is serving as Chief Executive until a new CEO is named in November. For 13 years, Terrie was President and CEO of HELP of Southern Nevada, which serves low-income residents, seniors and the homeless. A resident of Sandy Valley (District 5), Terrie was appointed to the VEA Board earlier this year. She chairs the Board's Charitable Foundation Committee.*

### Commissioners

Joe O'Leary  
Paul Rogers  
Shan Rowbotham

### General Manager

Matt Boast

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

### Need Help With Your Utility Bills?

The following organizations may be able to help.

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

### OFFICE HOURS

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



WA-43





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

#### District Offices

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

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

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

2408 Cove Ave.  
La Grande, OR 97850  
541-963-3155

[www.otec.coop](http://www.otec.coop)  
[communications@otecc.com](mailto:communications@otecc.com)

**Report Outages at**  
**866-430-4265**

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Follow us at [twitter.com/OTECoop](https://twitter.com/OTECoop)  
OTECoop (@OTECoop)

#### Officers/Directors:

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Baker County  
Vice President Wayne Overton,  
Baker County  
Secretary-Treasurer Aletha  
Bonebrake, Baker County

George "Austin" Bingham,  
Union County  
David Baum, Union County  
Robert Cargill, Harney County  
George Galloway, Union  
County  
Greg Howard, Union County  
Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, CEO

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

## Unintended Consequences

### OTEC Member-Owners,

As an electric cooperative, we are a not-for-profit business owned by our members. This means we serve our member-owners competitively because we do not require additional margins to go to outside investors. Unfortunately, the tax-exempt status for our electric cooperative and for all others around the nation has recently become vulnerable.

No matter what side of the political aisle you are on, this issue that cooperatives and millions of rural Americans are dealing with is extremely important. I'm referring to the unintended consequences of the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act that Congress passed in 2017, which you may have read about on page 8 in this issue.

Co-ops must receive at least 85% of their income from their members to remain tax-exempt under federal law. With the legislation that passed in 2017, federal, state and local government grants to co-ops count as non-member income. For OTEC to maintain its tax-exempt status, no more than 15% of the co-op's annual income can come from sources other than you, our member-owners.

If disaster struck Eastern Oregon, such as a devastating wildfire or storm, a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant to recover expenses could push OTEC over the 15% revenue threshold. This circumstance occurred in February to a neighboring Oregon cooperative due to a snowstorm that caused more than \$10 million in damage.

If the same thing happened in Eastern Oregon, the negative effects could be severe. If we denied federal emergency dollars, the cost would hit us directly and affect rates. If we accept the federal emergency dollars, pending the amount, all other income becomes taxable. That also would negatively affect our rates. It would be a lose-lose situation for our members.

Congressional action is the primary way to address this urgent issue.

The bipartisan Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands (RURAL) Act ensures co-ops do not jeopardize their tax-exempt status when they accept government grants.

This legislation has support from both parties. Oregon's congressional delegation plays a leadership role, with Congressmen 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 Senate Finance Committee—is key to passing this vitally important legislation.

Time is running out. Lawmakers must pass the RURAL Act this year, and there are only a handful of days left in the legislative calendar. Passage of the RURAL Act is essential for America and Oregon's rural communities. I urge you to encourage Sen. Wyden to join his colleagues in supporting this important piece of legislation.

If you want your voice to be heard, visit [oreca-action.org](http://oreca-action.org), or scan your phone or device here:



Once on the website, click the link "Take Action" and follow the steps to contact Sen. Wyden's office. Time is of the essence. Together we can make a difference.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call OTEC or stop by any of our offices.

**Les Penning**  
CEO



Member-owned since 1921

# Ohop Mutual Light Co.

34014 Mountain Highway E.  
Eatonville, WA 98328  
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Power problems: 253-847-4363  
Pay by phone: 888-477-8085  
Email: [office@ohop.coop](mailto:office@ohop.coop)  
[www.ohop.coop](http://www.ohop.coop)

## Board of Directors

President Mel Cox  
Vice President Isabella Deditch  
Sec./Treasurer Frank Hoffman  
Director Rob Collins  
Director Jerry Walter

## General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

## Get Your Jingle On

Celebrate the holidays with us Thursday, December 12, from 4 to 7:30 p.m.

Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, see reindeer, compete in the ugly Christmas sweater contest and join in the holiday raffle.

There's plenty for young guests, too. Kids create their own ornament and decorate holiday cookies.

Enjoy great food made by Santa's elves and wonderful desserts that would make Rudolph's nose light up!

Don't miss out. We would love to celebrate the season of peace, joy and sharing with you.



## Help Us Spot Hazards

### Dear Members,

It is amazing how time flies and the years go by. The holidays are already upon us and, very soon, the cold, wet days of winter will be here.

At Ohop Mutual, we work hard to keep our power lines clear of trees and other obstructions that interrupt power. As we routinely patrol our electric distribution facilities, we always look for potential danger areas that may cause problems in our system.

In addition to our own facilities maintenance program, we are working with Pierce County to renew the Region 5 All Hazard Mitigation Plan. Participation in this plan is a requirement from FEMA if Ohop Mutual wants to apply for grant money to mitigate—or eliminate—potential hazards such as damage to our electric system caused by natural disasters, including landslides, wind, ice or snow.

You can help us build a strong mitigation plan and decrease the possibility of damage to our facilities by calling our office if you see hazards that need to be addressed. By working together, we can improve the strength and reliability of our system.

**Kenneth Klotz**  
General Manager



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

### **Chief Executive Officer**

Steven Walter

### **Operations Manager**

Nick Himebauch

### **Executive Assistant**

Lisa Peabody

### **Board of Directors**

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

*An electric utility owned  
by those we serve in:*

North Bend  
Ames Lake  
Anderson Island

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

WA-50

## **Thanks to Our Sister Cooperatives**

When you think about Tanner Electric Cooperative, you probably associate us with the local community. You would be right. Our leadership team, board of directors and employees all live and work right here in the community we serve. But you may not know TEC is part of a much larger cooperative network that brings additional value, tools and knowledge that benefit you, the co-op members.

When severe weather is predicted for our region, we call on our sister co-ops in areas unaffected by the approaching storm. Through this system of mutual aid, we coordinate with them to bring additional trucks, equipment and manpower to our area. We work together and share resources to restore power to our community. TEC reciprocates by assisting other electric co-ops when they request help.

A defining characteristic of a cooperative is "Cooperation Among Cooperatives." This is a way co-ops work together to meet bigger challenges, such as power restoration after a severe weather event.

Another area in which TEC benefits from that cooperation is cybersecurity. Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program, we can access training, resources and tools to strengthen our efforts to combat cyberthreats.

TEC's ability to tap into the larger electric cooperative network and access tools, products, resources and leading practices from across the nation ultimately makes our co-op and our community stronger.

The Solar Utility Network Deployment Acceleration project is another area where TEC has benefitted from collaboration with other electric co-ops.

Through the SUNDA project, electric co-ops collected data and case studies that provide insight into challenges and solutions related to solar energy technologies. Now, electric cooperatives across the country, including TEC, have access to a set of knowledge and resources to more efficiently tailor our renewable energy mix to meet the needs of our local communities.

Communities across the globe have benefitted from the lessons learned and experience of co-ops in electrification of rural areas in the U.S.

NRECA International has provided access to reliable and affordable electricity to 120 million people in 43 countries. This effort is made possible through the support of electric co-ops in this state and across the country. Hundreds of lineworkers, engineers and other co-op employees have served as volunteers to bring first-time access to electricity and train local partners to help utilities be sustainable in their own communities.

November is a time of year for reflection and giving thanks. I am grateful for our sister co-ops who enable us to better serve you and our broader community. When electric co-ops collaborate, we strengthen each other and the communities we serve. That is something to be truly thankful for.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!



## Parkland Light & Water Co.

Owned By  
Those We Serve

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

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

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Gary Hauenstein - President  
Gary Grazzini - Vice President  
Janet Detering - Secretary  
Elaine Walter - Treasurer  
Mark Mulder - Public Relations

**GENERAL MANAGER**  
Susan Cutrell

*Incorporated in 1914—  
The country's oldest  
mutual cooperative*

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

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

WA-52

## What Is the RURAL Act?

Due to an unintended consequence of current federal tax law, many electric co-ops find themselves in a precarious position.

Imagine working hard to secure funding for an important local project only to turn around and give a large chunk of that money back in taxes.

That's the situation many cooperatives, including Parkland Light & Water Co., may face because of recent tax law changes. It could jeopardize the not-for-profit tax status of cooperatives that receive federal or state government funding of any kind, including disaster relief aid, energy-efficiency grants, economic development support and rural broadband development grants.

To maintain tax-exempt status, an electric cooperative must receive at least 85% of all revenue from its members. However, an unintended consequence of a 2017 change to federal tax law modified the calculation for some contributions by government entities or civic groups. Now, grants and other contributions may be considered nonmember revenue and could threaten a co-op's tax-exempt status.

This would have a profound impact on co-ops and their members.

Government grants are now considered income rather than a contribution to capital. These grants assist Parkland Light & Water Co. with rural development, restoration of our electric system after major storms, and to deploy much-needed rural broadband.

If government grants count toward PL&WCo.'s nonmember income, it threatens our tax-exempt status and hampers the co-op's ability to use the full

value of the grants to benefit the communities we serve. Some cooperatives are either turning down grants or using member revenue to pay federal taxes. PL&WCo. could be forced to choose between maintaining its tax-exempt status and accepting Federal Emergency Management Agency help when recovering from a major storm or other disaster.

Consider if PL&WCo. were impacted like Oregon co-op Douglas Electric Cooperative, which was hit hard with record-setting storms earlier this year, causing systemwide power outages.

With more than \$10 million in storm damage, Douglas has applied for about \$7 million in grants from FEMA. If the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands Act is not passed by Congress, it will put Douglas Electric over the 15% limit on nonmember income, threatening its tax-exempt status.

Encouraging Congress to fix the tax code to exempt government grants from being defined as member revenue is one of the highest priorities of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization representing America's electric co-ops.

The RURAL Act legislation has been introduced in both the House and the Senate, attracting large groups of bipartisan cosponsors. However, getting it enacted into law will be a heavy lift, given the political sensitivity of tax issues on Capitol Hill.

Congress must act now to correct this unintended consequence and protect the tax status of electric co-ops. In doing so, Congress will preserve the full value of government grants that deliver societal benefits to our communities.



495 E. Columbia River Highway  
PO BOX 216

Clatskanie, Oregon 97016  
(503) 728-2163 Office  
[www.clatskaniepud.com](http://www.clatskaniepud.com)

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

Please call to report outages  
(503) 728-2163

Automated Secure Payment Center  
1-844-262-2431

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

#### GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Farmer

#### CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #11047001

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

### Community Calendar

#### **November 7: Clatskanie Chamber**

**Meeting** - noon at Colvins

**November 11: Veterans Day** - check out  
local events to help honor our Veterans.  
CPUD office will be open

#### **November 14: Rainier Chamber**

**Meeting** Noon at the Rainier Methodist  
Church

#### **November 20: Clatskanie PUD Board**

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

#### **November 28: Happy Thanksgiving**

CPUD office closed

OR-60

Each of the six years I've served as the General Manager has given me more to be thankful for. At the top of my list has to be the incredible people I get to work with on a daily basis. They truly are a great group of people who work hard every day to provide service to our customers, the utility, and each other. The caring, the dedication, and the positive attitudes that they give makes it a joy to come to work with them each day. I enjoy their association and appreciate the high quality of work that they provide the District.

In the various meetings I attend I get to meet Board Directors from other electric utilities and am proud to say, we have a great Board who sincerely serve with the District's best interests at heart, are engaged and dedicated, and who support our staff. We work very well together to serve the customers of the District to the best of our ability.

This ability to work well together is why we have been so successful at keeping our rates low; in fact, the lowest rates in the State of Oregon. Another example of this combined effort is proven by the fact that even though we were handed a 1.5% surcharge in our wholesale power costs, only eight one hundredths of a cent was added to our rates as approved at our rate hearing in September. The rate increase is in two steps; May of 2020 the kWh charge increases to 5.43 cents from the current 5.39. Then in May of 2021 it will increase to 5.47 cents, still keeping our kWh rate under 5 1/2 cents.

The main reasons we were able to absorb the surcharge increase is because we've worked together to keep expenses below budget for the last few years and are continuing to do so this year. We've maintained our debt reduction strategy and stayed on track. Our combined efforts and ability to work together are benefiting our customers and the District in a financially impactful way.

We also have been working hard to provide FREE energy efficiency measures like our direct install LED bulb program, and additional measures for income qualified residential customers that include ductless heat pumps and heat pump water heaters. These additional measures can reduce bills each month, so please contact us to see if you qualify for this great program while the opportunity and funds remain.

For all of the turmoil that exists in the world today, I am grateful for all the good that is happening here at Clatskanie People's Utility District and that I get to be a part of it.

Marc Farmer  
General Manager





**KOTZEBUE**  
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

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

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### Vice President

Dominic Ivanoff

### Secretary

Charlie Gregg

### Treasurer

Allen Jessup Sr.

Wally Carter Sr.  
Dood Lincoln-Carr  
Pierre Lonewolf  
Chad Nordlum  
Harold Short

### 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

## We Are Thankful for Your Membership

*"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."*

—William Arthur Ward

In the spirit of this quote, I would like to express my gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to Kotzebue Electric Association, we are able to make our community a better place.

During this season of giving thanks, I think it's important to let you and other members of KEA know just what an impact you have on our co-op and the greater community—likely in ways you may not realize.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is Concern for Community. While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable utilities, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits because of you. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs, such as awarding college scholarships.

We are thankful our co-op board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment in time results in better informed advisers who serve the co-op's interests in a way our consumer-members expect and deserve.

KEA was established to bring energy to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue to make our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you.

For that, we're thankful for your membership.

Sincerely,

**Martin Shroyer**

**General Manager and CEO**



## Board of Directors

### Chairman

Fred Sagoonick, Shaktoolik

### Vice Chairman

Robert L. Beans Sr.,  
Mountain Village

### Secretary

Helena R. Jones, Ambler

### Treasurer

Peter Demoski, Nulato

### Directors

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

### Communities Served

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

### Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



AK-105

## Nominations Open for Two Board Seats

The AVEC Bylaws require that every AVEC member be given the opportunity to vote on candidates to serve on the AVEC board of directors.

In order to start the process of selecting candidates for those seats, the AVEC Board has appointed a nominating committee of seven individuals who have served as delegates from their communities. They are: Bryan Rookok of Savoonga (Chair), Clarence Dull of Toksook Bay, Joyce Elvehjem of Old Harbor, Paul Joe of Nightmute, James Karasti of Ekwok, Marlene Madros of Shageluk and Tommy Obruk of Shishmaref.

The nominating committee will meet telephonically during the next several weeks to develop a list of candidates for the two board seats that will be vacated in 2020. Those seats are now held by Robert Beans of Mt. Village and Robert (Bobby) Hoffman of Bethel.

The nominating committee is now seeking nominations for candidates. According to the bylaws, "No member shall be eligible to become or remain a Director ... who is not a bona fide member of the Cooperative or in good standing or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative. When a membership is held jointly, either one, but not both, may be elected as Director, provided, however, that neither shall be eligible to become or remain a Director...unless BOTH shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth."

If you are interested in running for the board of directors or wish to nominate another individual, please visit our website at [www.avec.org](http://www.avec.org) and download the Nomination Form you can find there under the "About Us/board of directors" tab. Send the nomination form addressed to the nominating committee by mail to our address in Anchorage or by email to [amurphy@avec.org](mailto:amurphy@avec.org). All nominations must be received by November 25, 2019.

The nominating committee is charged with the duty "to nominate candidates from the widest possible geographical distribution" and will prepare a slate of candidates for the board vacancies. Directors are elected at large, so the two candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected to the board unless more than one candidate comes from the same community. Since the bylaws also dictate that there shall not be more than one director from the same community, the candidate with the most votes from that community would be elected and the candidate with the highest votes from another community would be elected to the other seat.

We expect the nominating committee to complete its task by the end of this year, and ballots will be mailed to all members of record in early February 2020. Ballots must be returned before the annual meeting in April. The results will be announced at the annual meeting on April 8, 2020.

Meera Kohler  
President and CEO





65 S. Roop St.  
Susanville, CA 96130  
Phone 530-257-4174  
Fax 530-257-2558  
[www.lmud.org](http://www.lmud.org)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

H.W. "Bud" Bowden, President  
David Ernaga, Vice President  
Jess Urionaguena, Treasurer  
Daren Hagata  
Fred Nagel

#### STAFF

##### General Manager

Doug C. Smith

##### Assistant General Manager

Pat Holley

##### Administrative Services Manager

Karen Rollings

##### Electric Operations Manager

Cort Cortez

##### Public Relations Manager

Theresa Phillips

##### IT Manager

Nick Dominguez

##### Senior Accountant

Catherine Schroeder

##### Customer Service Supervisor

Christina M. Nystrom

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

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

CA-106

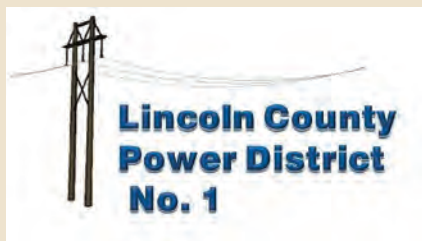
## Power Content Label

AB 162 (statute of 2009) and Senate Bill 1305 (statutes of 1997) require retail electricity suppliers to disclose information to California consumers about the energy resources used to generate the electricity they sell. This label provides you with reliable information about the energy resources used to generate electricity, enabling you to easily compare the power content of one electric service product with that of others.

You can think of the power content label as a "nutrition label" for electricity. The power content label provides information about the energy resources used to generate electricity that is put into the power grid. Just as a nutrition label provides information about the food you eat, the power content label provides information about your electricity sources.

To learn more about the power content label, visit the California Energy Commissions at [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov).

| 2018 POWER CONTENT LABEL                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                           |                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lassen Municipal Utility District                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                           |                     |
| <a href="http://www.lmud.org">www.lmud.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                           |                     |
| ENERGY RESOURCES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Power Mix                                                                 | 2018 CA Power Mix** |
| <b>Eligible Renewable</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>26%</b>                                                                | <b>31%</b>          |
| Biomass & Biowaste                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 7%                                                                        | 2%                  |
| Geothermal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 1%                                                                        | 5%                  |
| Eligible Hydroelectric                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 5%                                                                        | 2%                  |
| Solar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 0%                                                                        | 11%                 |
| Wind                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 13%                                                                       | 11%                 |
| <b>Coal</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                           | <b>3%</b>           |
| <b>Large Hydroelectric</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>13%</b>                                                                | <b>11%</b>          |
| <b>Natural Gas</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                           | <b>35%</b>          |
| <b>Nuclear</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                           | <b>9%</b>           |
| <b>Other</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                           | <b>&lt;1%</b>       |
| <b>Unspecified sources of power*</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>61%</b>                                                                | <b>11%</b>          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>100%</b>                                                               | <b>100%</b>         |
| * "Unspecified sources of power" means electricity from transactions that are not traceable to specific generation sources.                                                                                                                      |                                                                           |                     |
| ** Percentages are estimated annually by the California Energy Commission based on the electricity generated in California and net imports as reported to the Quarterly Fuel and Energy Report database and the Power Source Disclosure program. |                                                                           |                     |
| For specific information about this electricity product, contact:                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Lassen Municipal Utility District</b><br><b>530-257-4174</b>           |                     |
| For general information about the Power Content Label, please visit:                                                                                                                                                                             | <a href="http://www.energy.ca.gov/pcl/">http://www.energy.ca.gov/pcl/</a> |                     |
| For additional questions, please contact the California Energy Commission at:                                                                                                                                                                    | Toll-free in California: 844-454-2906<br>Outside California: 916-653-0237 |                     |



## Lincoln County Power District No. 1

201 Bullionville Road  
Panaca, Nevada 89042

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

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

### DIRECTORS

President Ed Wright  
Vice President Lee Mathews  
Ken Dixon  
Bob Rollins  
Richard Katschke  
Secretary David Luttrell

### GENERAL MANAGER

David Luttrell

Board meets the second Tuesday  
of each month



### MISSION STATEMENT

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

NV-107

## Electric Service in Pioche

You may have heard the town of Pioche decided September 19 to turn its electric system over to Lincoln County Power District No. 1. The town's board operates in an advisory capacity to the Lincoln County Commission, and the commissioners will vote in the coming weeks to either accept or reject this recommendation. As I write this, that vote has not occurred, but in anticipation of a favorable decision, I want to address a question I have heard from our existing customers and from our prospective customers in Pioche: How will this affect me?



The simple answer is that both groups should benefit. If the electric system is transferred to the power district, we will charge Pioche residents and businesses the same rates we charge all of our customers for electric service.

The additional revenues created from the transfer will help us complete necessary repairs and replacements in Pioche to improve the safety and reliability of the town's electric system. Existing customer rates will not be affected. Over time, these additional revenues may allow the power district to create additional, high-quality, long-term employment opportunities that benefit all of Lincoln County.

Prospective customers in Pioche can expect changes to who bills them, but most of them can expect their electric bill to go down. For those who use very little electric energy each month, such as those who only use their house in Pioche as a second home, they may see their bill increase slightly due to the differences in the power district's rate structure and the town board's rate structure.

More importantly, residents and businesses in Pioche will begin to see an improvement in the reliability of their service. The continued degradation of the electric system in Pioche is the primary reason the town board decided to recommend its transfer to the power district. They realized the town does not possess the manpower, equipment and expertise to complete rehabilitation of the system.

I think they made a wise decision. Operating an electric system requires a significant amount of specialized labor and equipment. It is cost-prohibitive to maintain the required labor force and equipment for a small system.

The problems associated with Pioche's electric system are extensive. Of the more than 700 wooden poles in the town's system, a significant number are severely deteriorated. There are also line-clearance issues, system capacity restraints and excessive voltage-drop problems. These problems will take years to correct. We have presented a plan to remedy these issues over an 11-year period. However, significant improvements in reliability should begin to occur within the first two years.

We are excited by the prospect of serving Pioche and improving their quality of service while not affecting the rates for electric service to our existing customers and the level of service they have grown to expect from us over the past decade.

**David Luttrell, General Manager**



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections®

8565 SW Salish Lane #130  
Wilsonville, OR 97070

503-585-9988  
www.oreca.org

#### OFFICERS

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Bob Durham, Vice President  
Fred Flippence, Secretary-Treasurer  
Alicia Bonesteele,  
Exec. Committee At-Large  
Shirley Cairns,  
Exec. Committee At-Large  
Chris Seubert,  
Immediate Past President

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ted Case

#### EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Maureen Kuhlman

#### LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

Rachel Kloor

#### OREGON ELECTRIC CO-OPS

Blachly-Lane Electric Co-op  
Central Electric Co-op  
Clearwater Power Co.  
Columbia Basin Electric Co-op  
Columbia Power Co-op  
Columbia Rural Electric Co-op  
Consumers Power Inc.  
Coos-Curry Electric Co-op  
Douglas Electric Co-op  
Harney Electric Co-op  
Hood River Electric Co-op  
Lane Electric Co-op  
Midstate Electric Co-op  
Oregon Trail Electric Co-op  
Salem Electric  
Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.  
Umatilla Electric Co-op  
Umpqua Indian Utility  
Wasco Electric Co-op  
West Oregon Electric Co-op

OR-400

## Case in Point

One of the most challenging things about planning an Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting is not what content to include in our brief time together. It's deciding what I have to leave *out* because of time constraints. The issues have proliferated since I got in this business nearly 25 years ago. We could meet all week and just scratch the surface of cybersecurity and a variety of other topics.

This year's meeting is Tuesday, November 5, and Wednesday, November 6. During our two days together, we will cover a range of topics: from cap and trade to power supply to utility preparedness for wildfires. We will honor outstanding achievement in our industry and get an update on our efforts to electrify villages in Guatemala. We're sending an engineering team to Central America this month in advance of construction in April.

We are also going to hear about the D-Day invasion. If that topic seems out of place, remember it is the 75th anniversary of D-Day. That is why I asked author Alex Kershaw to discuss his book, "The First Wave," a definitive account of the American and Allied soldiers who fought to liberate Europe from Nazi occupation.

If things work out, we may get a chance to honor Oregon veterans who stormed the beaches at Normandy. Twenty years ago, I had the opportunity to tour Normandy during a trip to Europe. It was a powerful experience.

The right for 200 Oregon co-op leaders to congregate freely this month in Salem for classes, presentations and fellowship may not have been possible without these heroic efforts. But the sad reality is we are losing World War II veterans at a rapid rate.

A discussion about cybersecurity may just have to wait until next year.



#### Ted Case

#### Executive Director

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Billy Adams, President  
Tom Firth, Vice President  
Steven Silkotch, Secretary  
Harold Burdick, Treasurer  
Chilli Ainsworth  
Stephan Lauzier  
Michael Machado

## GENERAL MANAGER

Kevin Short

### IMPORTANT DATES

- ▶ November 3—Daylight saving time ends
- ▶ November 28—Thanksgiving Day, co-op office closed
- ▶ November 29—Day after Thanksgiving, co-op office closed
- ▶ December 25—Christmas holiday observed, co-op office closed
- ▶ January 1—New Year's holiday observed, co-op office closed

### EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

#### November and December Congratulations!

- ▶ Debbie Winger ..... 5 years
- ▶ Steve Abbott ..... 3 years
- ▶ Steven Spies ..... 2 years
- ▶ Heather Newman ..... 2 years
- ▶ Kelly Brenz ..... 1 year
- ▶ Jaime Cardenas-Rosas .. 1 year

## Easy Money

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



Touchstone Energy®  
*The power of human connections*

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

## A Message from the Manager

# Independence Day

2018 will likely go down in our cooperative's history as one of the worst years on record for outages. As I've discussed several times with our members, we lived through 12 systemwide events last year, ranging from a few minutes long to the epic 10-day disaster as a result of the Cranston Fire.

No one I know enjoys these interruptions in service. Even though all but one were the result of something out of our direct control and located off-system, we still experience the direct effects of them. AEC is still responsible to our members for information, communication and restoration efforts, and we take that responsibility seriously. I'm pleased that our continuing efforts to improve our working relationship with the dedicated and professional staff at Southern California Edison are yielding positive results in the areas of outage-related information, system improvements and coordination.

A few years ago, we embarked on a remarkable journey to install and operate our own on-system solar generation. The first 2-megawatt phase of SunAnza began commercial operation in 2017. To date, it has generated thousands of megawatt-hours of clean, low-cost energy for our members. It was a great start to our future. The second phase was overwhelmingly approved by our board in August. This marks our energy Independence Day.

Phase II adds another 1.4 MW of solar generation. This alone is great, but the best part—the independence—is the 2 MW of energy-storage battery that comes with it. This battery equipment will provide us the capability to energize at least one circuit at a time during outages, completely off-grid in what's referred to as islanding. We'll be able to provide service to a portion of our system at a time, leveraging our solar generation during daylight hours to extend the capacity even further.

This system will also allow us to reduce our peak demand on the grid at critical times, extending our capacity well into the future and deferring the need for costly and difficult-to-build transmission assets. All this capability comes to our members at a cost that is below the average cost of our current energy market purchases.

This amazing opportunity would not be possible without the continuing cooperation of our generation and transmission provider, Arizona Electric Power Cooperative. Their efforts to help us thrive in an ever-changing and challenging environment are greatly appreciated, and will continue to be a part of our promise to our members to provide the most reliable and affordable utility services possible.

I will continue to update you as we begin installation work on this history-making project. Thank you all for your continued support of your cooperative team.

**Happy Holidays!**



Kevin Short



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

## Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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Frank Downs  
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Leon Reynolds  
Dustie Robinette

### ADMINISTRATION

Steven Lunt  
CEO

### BOARD MEETINGS

November 18  
December 16  
January 20

*Generally the third Monday  
of the month*

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



### CEO's Message

## We Are Thankful for Your Membership

*"Feeling gratitude and not  
expressing it is like wrapping a  
present and not giving it."*

—William Arthur Ward

In the spirit of this quote, I would like to express my gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative, we are able to make our community a better place.

During this season of giving thanks, I think it's important to let you and other members of DVEC know just what an impact you have on our co-op and the greater community—likely in ways you may not realize.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is Concern for Community. While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

We work closely with our local schools to provide safety demonstrations and

award college scholarships. DVEC also participates in the annual Washington Youth Tour, where local students travel to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. The trip is inspirational for many students.

We are both humbled and honored to be a part of this leadership development journey.

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

We are thankful our co-op board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment in time results in



Steven Lunt

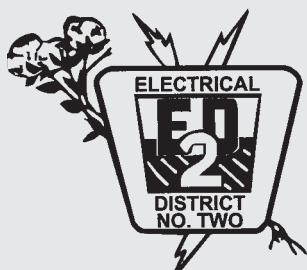
better informed advisers who serve the co-op's interests in a way our consumer-members expect and deserve.

On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers

and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when we are trying to restore power during challenging situations and prolonged periods.

DVEC was established 72 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue to make our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you.

For that, we're thankful for your membership.



## Electrical District No. 2

P.O. Box 548  
Coolidge, AZ 85128

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

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

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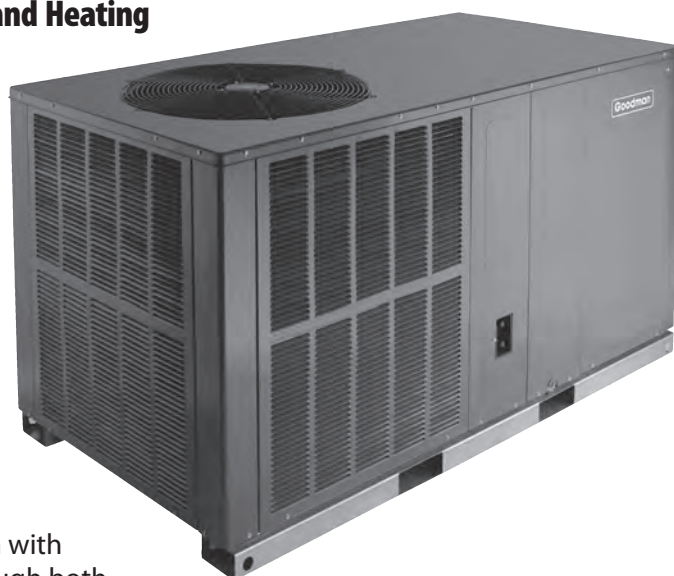
**GENERAL MANAGER**  
Kenneth W. Robbins

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

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

# Maintain Your Equipment

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



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

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

## Tri-Cor Air Conditioning & Heating

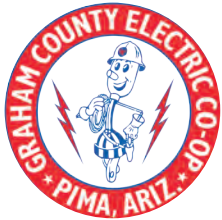
*a division of Electrical District No. 2*

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

ROC 143626

ROC 143627





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**CEO and General Manager:**

Kirk Gray



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**Manager's Message**

## Christmas Toy Drive and Operation Roundup

Graham County Electric and Graham County Utilities are pleased to announce the fifth annual Christmas toy drive and utility assistance program. The 2018 utility assistance program provided much-needed help to 27 cooperative members' families, with utility assistance credits. Graham County Electric Foundation Inc. donated toys, gift certificates and money to the Pima Angel Tree program as well.

We would like to continue to expand the program to help more members in need this holiday season and throughout the year. GCEF was established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. GCEF administers multiple community-based programs. One of them is our annual toy drive and utility assistance program. GCEF is a registered participant in a national cooperative program called Operation Roundup. As members of GCEC and/or GCU, you may sign up to round up your monthly utility bill to the nearest whole dollar, or more. All contributions are remitted to GCEF, which uses donated funds for the utility assistance program during the holiday season and year-round. All monetary donations should be made payable to the Graham County Electric Foundation Inc. All donations may qualify as tax-deductible contributions.

You may donate toys and/or money to assist members in need with toys for children in the household and/or to help with utility bills during this holiday season at our Pima



office. GCEF also requests your help to identify members in need of assistance. Please contact Diane Junion or Kim Larkey at 928-485-2451 for details on how and when to donate, or if you wish to nominate members who are in need of assistance.

Last year, Santa visited our Pima office to hand out toys and candy to children. This activity was well received by our membership, and was announced and promoted through our Facebook page. We have invited Santa to come to our Pima office again this year. For more information concerning Santa's schedule and GCEF's community-based programs, stay connected with your cooperatives through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

GCEF's programs are designed to align with the Seventh Cooperative Principle, which states, "While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members." There is much need in the communities we serve, and we greatly appreciate the participation and generosity of our member/owners.

The board of directors and employees of Graham County Electric, Graham County Utilities and Graham County Electric Foundation sincerely wish you and yours a blessed holiday season.

—Kirk Gray

### Graham County Fair Raffle Winners

Stephany Apodaca and Don Miller will each receive a bill credit. Congratulations.



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## Message From the CEO

# Right-of-Way Maintenance Helps Prevent Outages

Trees are a beautiful part of the landscape for homes and businesses in our community. Properly placed trees can give us the benefit of energy efficiency by offering cool summer shade and providing insulation against heat loss in the winter. However, trees growing under or near power lines can cause power outages.

Wind and rain can cause tree limbs to obstruct or fall on power lines when they are too close. At Escambia River Electric Cooperative, our right-of-way crews regularly trim vegetation around power lines to help prevent outages.

You can help minimize power disruptions by planting the right tree in the right place. When you are making decisions on the landscape of your yard, keep in mind trees should not be planted within 20 feet of power lines. You'll also want to think about how large the tree will grow, what type of root system it has and how fast it will mature. Those factors have a bearing on how close a tree can be placed to a power line.

Even areas served by underground power have some above-ground equipment that requires clearance. Utility workers sometimes use long, insulated tools to work on the padmount transformers used with underground services. Safety standards require EREC to clear any landscape or vegetation that blocks access to the transformers to ensure power reliability and safety.

I know it can be tempting to conceal these transformer boxes when you're working to beautify your lawn. But equipment that is hard to locate and safely access increases your outage time and causes a dangerous situation for EREC linemen.

If you have questions regarding tree placement around power lines, visit [erect.com](http://erect.com) and click on the Tree Planting Guide under the Energy tab or call our office for more information.

We appreciate your help as we work together to keep your power flowing and keep service disruptions to a minimum.



Ryan C. Campbell, P.E.



# Inside

November 2019  
Vol. 9, No. 1

## Saving the Native Cats 12

Thanks to dedicated conservation initiatives, endangered Florida panthers are making a comeback.

### Also In This Issue

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| Great Picture Hunt 18 | Outdoor Pursuits 24 |

Your utility pages: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 25, 26, 28, 29, 32



# FKEC NEWS

NOVEMBER 2019

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Pay by Phone 1-855-385-9912

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

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 377, Tavernier, FL 33070

### MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

Visit our online media center at [www.FKEC.com/Cooperative/](http://www.FKEC.com/Cooperative/) to access archives of past Florida Currents magazines or current news release.

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

## SCOTT NEWBERRY

*Chief Executive Officer*

## Economic Participation

Like cooperatives around the world, FKEC operates according to a set of seven core principles, adopted by the International Cooperative Alliance dating back as far as 1844. These governing values are a key reason that America's electric co-ops operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first.

One of the principles by which all cooperatives —electric utilities and otherwise— do business is Members' Economic Participation. Under this guide, members contribute equitably to and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At FKEC, our member-consumers contribute equitably through their monthly electric bills, and the revenue earned in excess of our expenses (called margins) are later returned to members as Capital Credits.



Working with other cooperative businesses also means we too receive returns on our investment. Recently, two representatives from Gresco Utility Supply, a co-op out of Wildwood, FL, delivered our annual Patronage Dividend check for \$6,300. The check is our return on materials purchased from Gresco over a twelve-month period.

Just like this unique benefit entitles us to a piece of Gresco's prosperity, it also entitles you —our FKEC member-consumers— to a piece of our success. This year, FKEC is proud to return \$2.3 million dollars to members, which is 100% of our margins from 2001.

*See facing page for more details.*



From left, Gresco's Mark Grant and Roy Lumsden with FKEC's CFO Cris Beaty, Material and Warehouse Supervisor Brooke Cash, and Director of Safety, Loss Control and Procurement Walt Stephens.

Photo by Marie Braun

#### CONTACT US

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

#### OFFICES

*Mondays through Thursdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.*  
26733 U.S. Hwy. 27 East  
P.O. Box 519  
Moore Haven, FL 33471

214 SR 70 West  
Lake Placid, FL 33852

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

#### POWER INTERRUPTION NUMBER

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

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

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Lee Henderson, Trustee, District 6  
*Highlands Park, 863-633-9281*  
Angela Hodges, Trustee, District 9  
*Okeechobee, 863-801-3140*

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

#### EXECUTIVE STAFF

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

FL-153

#### CEO's Message

## Good News for Our Area

They said it would never be done. We hear those words all the time around here, but look what happened: It did get done. Airglades International Airport will be a reality! Sometime in 2022, the first perishable cargo jet will land at Hendry County's new, specially and specifically designed airport.

That will just be the start. I can see foresee ancillary businesses filling the roadway from Clewiston to LaBelle and to Moore Haven as well—all of it in GEC territory. The growth for our area will be phenomenal, and job choices will abound unlike before. Very exciting times!

At the cooperative, we've been planning for this for many years. We have a great staff in place ready to tackle the expansion coming to our territory. It's not going to be a breeze. We have a tremendous infrastructure investment long before we see the returns. But once we do see the meters spinning, it will be nice to spread the cooperative's costs across a much broader base. That's good for all members.

Glades County, don't feel left out in all this. As I wrote a few issues ago, the cooperative is taking the lead in revitalizing Moore Haven using what's called a placemaking program. The first phase of citizen visioning sessions is complete. The project leads from McClure Engineering are determining the ideas best suited for pursuit and will develop sound business plans that will carry citizen visions to fruition.

Not at all a surprise was the desire from each group to have a freestanding grocery store. Although statistics show it takes a population of 3,000 to support such a business, the McClure group will attempt to come up with a successful plan. Also high on everyone's list was a nice restaurant. The city and the cooperative own adjoining property on the river and are working together to bring such an establishment to this site. That will, in turn, lead to further development along the riverfront, and Moore Haven will be a great stopping point for boat traffic between the coasts. Our member, River Forest Yachting Center, is supportive. The company sends traffic on to LaBelle or other locations, but would prefer sending traffic to Moore Haven.

If you would like to learn more about the placemaking program, visit McClure's website at [www.mcclureplacemaking.com](http://www.mcclureplacemaking.com). Soon, McClure will create a website strictly for our Moore Haven project. We'll let you know when that's available.

I'll say it again: These are very exciting times in our neighborhood!



Jeff Brewington



Gulf Coast  
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

#### OFFICES

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

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

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

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Kinneth Daniels  
Carl Goodson  
Eddie Jones

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

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

FL-154

#### GCEC President's Message

## A Spirit of Thankfulness

November is a time for reflection and giving thanks. I am grateful for our sister co-ops who enable us to better serve you and our broader community, and I am thankful for our members.

When you think about Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, you probably associate us with the local community—and you are right. Our leadership team, board of directors and employees all live and work here in the community we serve. But in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, it was evident GCEC is part of a larger cooperative network that brings additional value, tools and knowledge benefiting you, the members of the co-op.

Through a system of mutual aid, we coordinated with our sister co-ops in areas unaffected by the storm to bring in additional trucks, equipment and manpower. Our employees are thankful for your patience when we are trying to restore power during challenging situations.

I also am grateful for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to GCEC, we are able to make our community a better place.

I generally use this space to provide updates on new projects and developments and report on the progress of ongoing initiatives. We share these updates so our consumer-members have a window into our priorities, progress and challenges. However, during this season of giving thanks, it is equally important to let you know just what an impact you have on our co-op and the community, likely in ways you may not even realize.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is Concern for Community. While our priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good. We are purposeful in partnering with local groups. We work closely with local schools to provide safety demonstrations and award college scholarships. GCEC participates in an annual Youth Tour where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. The trip is inspirational for students. We are humbled and honored to be a part of this leadership development journey.

You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs. When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems, provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve operations and better serve the co-op membership. We are thankful our board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment of time results in better-informed advisers who serve the co-op's interests in ways our consumer-members deserve.

GCEC was established to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue to make our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you. For that, we are thankful for your membership. ■



Doug Birmingham



## Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**www.preco.coop**  
**800-282-3824**

### TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

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

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Wauchula, FL 33873

### MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

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WILLIE DAWES  
PRESIDENT

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November 19, 2019

December 17, 2019

January 28, 2020

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

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

FL-155

### CEO Message

## Decorate Safely for the Holidays

The holidays offer great moments for building memories, but when it comes to decorating, it's also the perfect time to think about safety.

The global safety certification company, Underwriters Laboratories, classifies holiday lighting as a seasonal product designed for no more than 90 days of use.

While the actual holidays run about six weeks, outdoor holiday lighting displays are typically put up early and taken down late, exposed to the elements the entire time.

Always inspect holiday lights each year before you put them up. You may find there are pinches or torn areas on the insulation. Open, exposed wiring or any signs of fraying or pinching are indications of weakened wiring. Those flaws are prone to breakage and may raise the potential for heat buildup, which can cause a fire.

While you're checking the wiring and fixtures, make sure you check for chewing damage caused by wild animals or your own pets. Also look for signs that the insulation itself is wearing thin enough to expose wiring.

Extension cords are designed for temporary use—and only certain extension cords are intended for use outdoors. Be sure to buy a cord that is rated for outdoor use if it will be exposed to weather and the elements. Check extension cords each year for wear or damage. If you can see exposed wiring, throw it away.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, about 100 Christmas tree fires occur each year during the holidays, causing about \$12 million in damage annually. Reduce the risks by placing your Christmas tree away from heat sources such as vents or space heaters, and top off the water reservoir daily.

Peace River Electric Cooperative joins local firefighters and the NFPA in urging you to consider safety as you decorate and enjoy the holiday season with family and friends.



According to the National Fire Protection Association, burning candles start two out of five home fires every year. Consider battery-operated LED candles as safer alternatives.

*Randy Shaw*



## Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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

### GENERAL INFORMATION

843-479-3855  
800-922-9174

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8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Monday–Friday

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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.

## Be Thankful This Holiday Season

On November 18, 1963—just four days before his death—President John F. Kennedy publicly pardoned a turkey outside the Oval Office. In this preemptive Thanksgiving proclamation, he said, “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

The holiday season seems to start earlier every year, and it’s easy to get caught up in the twinkling, simulated cheer of modern times. But amidst all the pressures of planning celebrations and picking out the perfect gift, I find it’s more important to stop and give thanks. While often a focus of many family Thanksgiving celebrations, the daily act of counting one’s blessings cannot be underestimated.

In fact, a 2009 study by the National Institutes of Health found that our hypothalamus—the part of our brain that regulates sleep, appetite, metabolism and growth—is activated when we feel gratitude or partake in acts of kindness. What’s more, performing charitable deeds and basking in feelings of appreciation floods our brains with dopamine—a neurochemical that boosts our mood, increases our motivation and attention span, and contributes to feelings of pleasure and satisfaction. In other words, the more good we do and thanks we give, the better we feel and the better we are.

So strive to behave charitably and find reasons to be thankful for those moments as you battle the crowds for Black Friday deals, endure family photo shoots filled with tears, tantrums and matching pajamas, or sit at the Christmas dinner table across from a difficult sibling or your most annoying in-law (not you, Barb or John, who read this religiously; I love you!).

Moreover, as we head into a new decade, may we all take to heart JFK’s words and find ways to live in a place of gratitude. In that spirit, I find myself ever-thankful to be in a position to serve the wonderful members of Marlboro Electric Co-op. As I reflect on the gift of the year ahead, Colossians 3:15 comes to mind: “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And always be thankful.”

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

### WILLIAM L. FLEMMING JR.

President and CEO



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!

