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Cooperative

"We Care"

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ID-1



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EnergySTORE
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171 Linden Way
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Heppner, OR 97836
541-676-9146

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

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Lori Anderson, Condon

Todd Lindsay, Sand Hollow

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Manager

Thomas Wolff, Heppner

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

OR-2

A Safe and Joyful Holiday Season to You All

Hello, Members:

A very robust *Happy Holidays* to each and all of you! Do enjoy this Holiday Season, visiting, socializing and breaking bread with family and friends whenever you can.

Good news! At our recent Co-Op Annual Meeting in Heppner, I was pleased to announce a \$575,000 Capital Credit General Redemption scheduled for the middle of this month. This action will retire all of the remaining 1992, all remaining 1993, and \$50,000 of the 1994 outstanding patronage. Consumers who were on the system in 1992 through 1994 will receive payments shortly after December 16. The co-op has used this equity for operating capital, and now it's being returned to you.

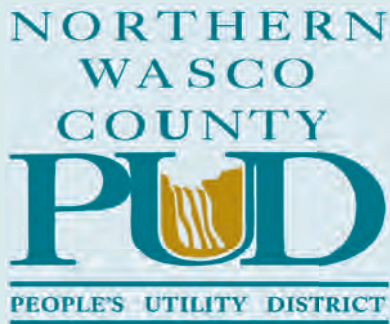
Do think and practice safety and safe habits during the Holiday Season. Do not climb up on a chair to get that once-a-year pan down to roast a big turkey! Use an appropriate stepstool or small ladder. Think safety in all your endeavors. At CBEC, we have adopted a *Culture of Safety* program—from our crews in the field, to the office staff, to our Board of Directors. A vibrant, healthy and safe employee work force is so critical to a successful organization. I believe this is also so very true of a family unit. Watch out for each other, especially during the Holiday Season.

The Holidays are a time for children, for sharing with others and for taking an assessment of all our blessings. Do an anonymous good deed for another, and it will improve your outlook on life—guaranteed. Laugh, share and smile—people will wonder what you are up to!

Best Regards,

Tommy Wolff
CEO/General Manager





**2345 River Road
The Dalles, OR 97058
541-296-2226 Fax 298-3320
www.nwascopud.org**

Board of Directors

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

Manager

Roger Kline

Board Meetings

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

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values and Beliefs

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

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

We believe in:

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

OR-3

Manager's Report

Greetings,

As the seasonal tune goes, the weather outside is—or can be—frightful. What isn't frightful is the reliability of your electric service, and the resilience of the infrastructure and teams that provide it for you every day.

As I reflect on the past year and look forward to the year ahead, I am most appreciative of the people I have the pleasure of working with and serving every day.

Your people's utility district is governed by a dedicated and compassionate board of directors. The policy and regional work they support and participate in has provided us a positive vision for the future. The performance indicators they monitor continue to illustrate the excellence of the district. We accomplish all of this work on your behalf safely and with the utmost dedication. Of that, I am very proud and appreciative.

Consider this my usual plug for energy audits and conservation measures as well. We strive to have programs everyone can use to lower their energy consumption and bills. Energy consumption—the amount you use—drives the amount of your bill. We strive to work with every customer, if the need arises, to make payment arrangements or support in that manner. Please communicate with us during times of need. We want you to be safe and warm in your homes and businesses.

Best to all and happy holidays,

**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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Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5



*Merry Christmas from all of us at
Nespelem Valley Electric*



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

MAILING ADDRESS

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

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Philomath, OR 97370

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Scott Muller
TREASURER/CFO

www.cpi.coop

**Merry
Christmas**

OR-6

President's Report

Operation Round Up

In 2019, the CPI Charitable Trust awarded \$19,382 in grants. Those grants were made possible by CPI members and employees who give to the trust through our Operation Round Up program.

Through Operation Round Up, the electric bills of participating CPI customers are rounded up to the next dollar each month. The extra cents collected from each customer go into the Round Up fund. Contributions to Operation Round Up are tax deductible, and we note your contribution on your January electric bill each year.

Since its launch in 1993, the trust has awarded more than \$392,000 to nonprofit organizations, providing assistance throughout CPI's six-county service territory.

We'll keep you informed through Ruralite on grants awarded and the work of the Consumers Power Charitable Trust. All Operation Round Up funds stay in our community. Guidelines for awarding this money address special needs for individuals or families as well as special community projects.

The 2019 recipients were: South Benton County Gleaners, Alsea Valley Gleaners, Logsdon Community Club, Art in the Park, Lebanon Association for Theater Arts, Jeni's Place-Alsea Food Bank, Boys and Girls Club of Corvallis, Happy Workers Club, Alsea Community Effort, Linn County Animal Rescue, Community Outreach Inc., Kitty Angel Team Adoption, Quilts for Caring Hands, Hand in Hand Farms, Old Mill Center and Idanha-Detroit Rural Fire Protection District.

To sign up for Operation Round Up and help those in need throughout CPI's service

territory, please visit www.cpi.coop/about-cpi/operation-round-up.

CPI High School Students—Last Call

It is time to turn in your applications for the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour. More than 1,600 students from across America take part in the Youth Tour experience, and so can you! Travel to Washington, D.C., where you will meet your U.S. representatives and senators.

This unique trip will give you the opportunity to watch history come alive as you explore the museums, memorials and monuments with students from your state. You will meet student leaders from nearly every state and make friendships that last a lifetime. You can be a part of a group that has more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life, including U.S. senators and CEOs.

The 2020 trip is June 19-26. High school juniors in CPI's service territory are encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, December 21.

Merry Christmas

The board of directors and employees of Consumers Power extend to you and your family the very best for a joyful holiday season and a new year filled with happiness in 2020.

We strive to make sure you continue to enjoy dependable, friendly and professional service at the lowest possible cost. We thank you for your business this past year and look forward to serving you for many years to come.

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

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Board Meetings, Agendas & Minutes

The board of trustees will meet December 18 at 6 p.m. in the Prosser Office unless otherwise indicated on our website.

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

PowerNET and Your Capital Credit Check

Dear Members,

Christmas is almost here, and with it comes the newest tech gadgets and toys. Benton REA is proud to not only provide the reliable electricity those new devices need for power, but also the internet connection they need to function.

Benton REA's PowerNET is a full-service internet provider and network integrator, providing unique, high-quality internet, PC repair, IT support and business consulting services in the Mid-Columbia and Yakima valleys.

PowerNET can help you decide on the best computer hardware and software Christmas gifts. For assistance, call 509-786-4004 or check out our services at BentonREA.org/PowerNET.

PowerNET is here for your family and your business, no matter your internet or IT needs. Give our technicians a call before the gifts are unwrapped.



Capital Credit Checks Mailed

Issuing capital credit checks during December has become a favorite holiday tradition at Benton REA. Since formed in 1937, Benton REA has returned \$13.8 million to its members!

More than 20,000 current and former Benton REA members will receive checks this month for their 2019 capital credit payment. This year, the board of trustees chose to retire more than \$1.8 million of those capital credits to Benton REA members. This is just one of the many benefits of membership in your locally owned and democratically controlled electric cooperative. More information about capital credits is on pages 28 and 29 of this magazine.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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



Offices

Hermiston Office

750 W. Elm Ave.
541 567-6414

Boardman Office

400 N.E. Eldrige Drive
541 481-2220

Hours

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

Toll-Free

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Steve Platt

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Phil Hamm

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Glenn Rohde

General Manager

Robert Echenrode

Mission

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

umatillaelectric.com

OR-8



The Board of Directors and employees of Umatilla Electric Cooperative extend to you and your family the very best for a joyful Christmas season and a New Year filled with happiness!

We are proud to be your electric cooperative and look forward to serving you for many years to come.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

Office Hours:

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

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Keenan Webber..... Customer Service Rep.
Mackenzie Chukwuyenum.. Financial Analyst
Casey McCleary..... Operations Manager
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Brewster Whitmire E&O Assistant
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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

Capital Credit Retirement

This month, Wasco Electric Cooperative will retire all of the 1989 and a portion of the 1990 capital margins back to members and former members.

The total capital credits returned to members who received service in 1989 and 1990 will be \$500,000. In addition to these general retirements, the co-op retired \$46,000 to the estates of deceased members during the year, bringing the total capital credits to be returned to members in 2019 to \$546,000.

Capital credits are unique to cooperatives such as Wasco Electric. Investor-owned power companies make profits and pay dividends to stockholders, but cooperatives work on a not-for-profit basis and allocate their operating income back to their members.

Capital credits represent your share of the cooperative's operating income—the operating revenue remaining after operating expenses.

The amount designated in your name each year depends on your energy purchases for the year. To calculate this, we divide your annual energy purchase by the cooperative's operating income for the year. The more electricity you buy, the larger your share of the capital credits.

Each February, members who received service the prior year are mailed a statement of their prior year's capital credit allocation. The member's allocation amount is based on the year-end operating margin.

Capital credits are not necessarily dollars in a bank account. Instead, they

represent funds that have been invested in the co-op's utility plant.

Most months, Wasco Electric receives more cash from operations than is necessary to pay for operating expenses. However, the cooperative needs cash for purposes other than paying for operating expenses. Wasco Electric must service its debt; i.e., pay principle and interest on money it has borrowed.

The cooperative must also use cash to pay for capital expenditures. The amount of cash needed for capital expenditures is largely determined by the growth of a utility and the replacement schedule of its aging system.

Your board of directors considers distribution of capital credits and the effect on the financial well-being of the cooperative each year. The board has the discretion to return capital credits as long as the co-op is financially fit to return them without any additional borrowing to pay capital credits.

Happy Holidays

The board of directors and employees of Wasco Electric wish each of you a happy holiday season and a prosperous 2020. It has been our pleasure to serve you this year.

Jeff Davis
General Manager



Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

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Cable Huston LLP, Portland

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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

Rising BPA Costs and Strategic Investment Initiative Drive Rate Change

Central Electric Cooperative will implement a rate increase impacting all customer classes effective January 1, 2020. Though not unexpected, the decision to do so is never welcome but necessary. This marks only the fourth rate increase in the past 20 years.

Two major cost drivers influenced this action. The first, outside CEC's control, is the Bonneville Power Administration's continued rate increases every two years. BPA, which supplies virtually all of CEC's wholesale electricity, raised transmission rates on its customers for the 2020-2021 rate period—a 5.97% increase for CEC. BPA also imposed a 1.5% surcharge on its utility customers to ensure the agency retains levels of financial reserves above the minimum required to remain solvent.

The other cost driver is CEC's strategic investment initiative, which dedicates \$147 million over the next 10 years to strengthen and upgrade its infrastructure to ensure continued safety, efficiency and long-term reliability. This initiative will also help meet Central Oregon's increasing requirement for more electricity, fueled by population growth and members' evolving needs.

The strategic investment initiative accelerates the upgrades to CEC's poles, wires, underground cables and substations. Funding this 10-year initiative will be achieved through a combination of rates and borrowing, and will position the co-op to provide safe and reliable electricity to our members for the next 79 years.

Much analysis and thoughtful deliberation went into the decision to increase rates. When BPA raised utilities' wholesale electricity rates in 2017, CEC successfully avoided passing it on to you at that time. A recent cost-of-service analysis, however, confirmed we could not absorb BPA's rate increase again. The COSA helps guide management and the board to understand the financial impact of the BPA rate increase and the 10-year strategic investment initiative.

As a result, the increase in the residential rate is 5.2%. You will see the rate adjustment on your February bill. Despite this action, I am proud to say CEC's residential rate will remain approximately 18% below the Oregon average and 33% below the national average.

Look for more information about the rate increase in the January issue of Ruralite and on CEC's website, www.cec.coop.



Dave Markham, President and CEO





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Frank Corrales

Engineering Manager

Matt Mjelde

Marketing and Member

Services Manager

Jacob Knudsen

Operations Manager

Randy McDonald

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

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

Brookings 541-469-2103

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

Monday through Thursday.

Closed Friday.

After-Hours Outage Number

866-352-9044

Call Before You Dig

811

www.ccec.coop

OR-13

100% Wind and Solar: What If?

Last month, I described how renewable energy sources—wind and solar—are variable and unpredictable. Though loved for their clean and renewable properties, wind and solar generation tend to upset the balance between electric system generation and load because they are variable and unpredictable. (See www.ccec.coop if you missed the last two articles.)

What if today you could instantly replace all fossil fuel generation with wind and solar generation? What would that look like?

The one really great thing you'd get is a 100% carbon-neutral electric energy source. We increasingly see this as a goal of many private companies and some electric utilities. We all want to be good environmental stewards, preserving the earth for the benefit of future generations. That's a big deal—as it should be.

What is the downside of our hypothetical replacement of fossil fuel generation on the grid today with wind and solar generation? There would be one really big consequence: You just replaced a lot of firm, consistent, reliable generation with variable, unpredictable, unreliable generation.

What does that mean?

You can't depend on the electricity being on. On average across the U.S., about 60% of our electric energy is generated by fossil fuels. Replacing this with wind and solar makes the generation source far too variable to maintain the perpetual balance between generation and load necessary to keep the power grid functioning. Not to mention that every beautiful vista you see today would have to be covered with a wind or solar farm. The electric system would be totally unreliable. Given our dependence on electricity today, this is unacceptable.

What is the solution? Grid-scale electric energy storage, in theory. The problem is that the science of grid-scale battery storage is the size of a seed right now, and must grow into a giant redwood to be useful. Our battery capacity on the power grid today is a drop in the bucket of the electric energy we use constantly. We're working on it, but we simply don't have an electric energy storage solution today. It would be like trying to power your house with your car battery on a cold winter night when the wind isn't blowing.

We haven't found the silver bullet to go 100% renewable yet, but a lot of great minds are working on it. Fortunately, in the Northwest our electricity is 85% hydro-power so we have a huge head start on the rest of the U.S.

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

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Bob Perry

Contact the board:
directors@westoregon.org

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

The December board meeting is Tuesday,
December 17—one week early—to allow
board and staff to spend the holiday with
their families.

OR-14

WOEC Receives Loan for Improvements

West Oregon Electric Cooperative recently was awarded an \$8.48 million loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service. RUS guarantees low-interest loans to rural electric, telephone and water cooperatives across the U.S. and its territories.

Applying for this loan guarantee was a two-year process. The money will help WOEC replace and upgrade our system so we can keep the lights on for you.

Two years ago, staff began working with our engineering firm to draft a four-year construction work plan. The construction work plan is a government requirement of all utilities that participate in this loan program. The plan details what we expect to do during the next four years, along with cost estimates of each project in the work plan.

This process is similar to a home construction loan. First, plans must be approved by the lender. As certain stages of construction are completed and inspected, a limited amount of funds is released to pay contractors. In our case, once a project is completed, it is inspected and signed off by an outside engineering firm to ensure it is built to RUS standards. The paperwork is then submitted to the board and management to sign off again before being submitted to RUS for a draw against that portion of the work plan. It is important to note, we do not receive the total amount of the loan upfront.

Periodically, RUS will send out field auditors to inspect our paperwork and receipts to ensure the funds went to the projects we outlined in the construction work plan. RUS provides provisions to amend the work plan as needed in case things change, but those amendments must be approved by RUS.

Part of our mission is to ensure you enjoy the benefits of reliable electric service. The availability of low-interest loans from RUS helps make this possible.

Regards,

Bob Perry
General Manager





Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

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

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

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

www.surprisevalleyelectric.org

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

After hours and outages:
Call office numbers above

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

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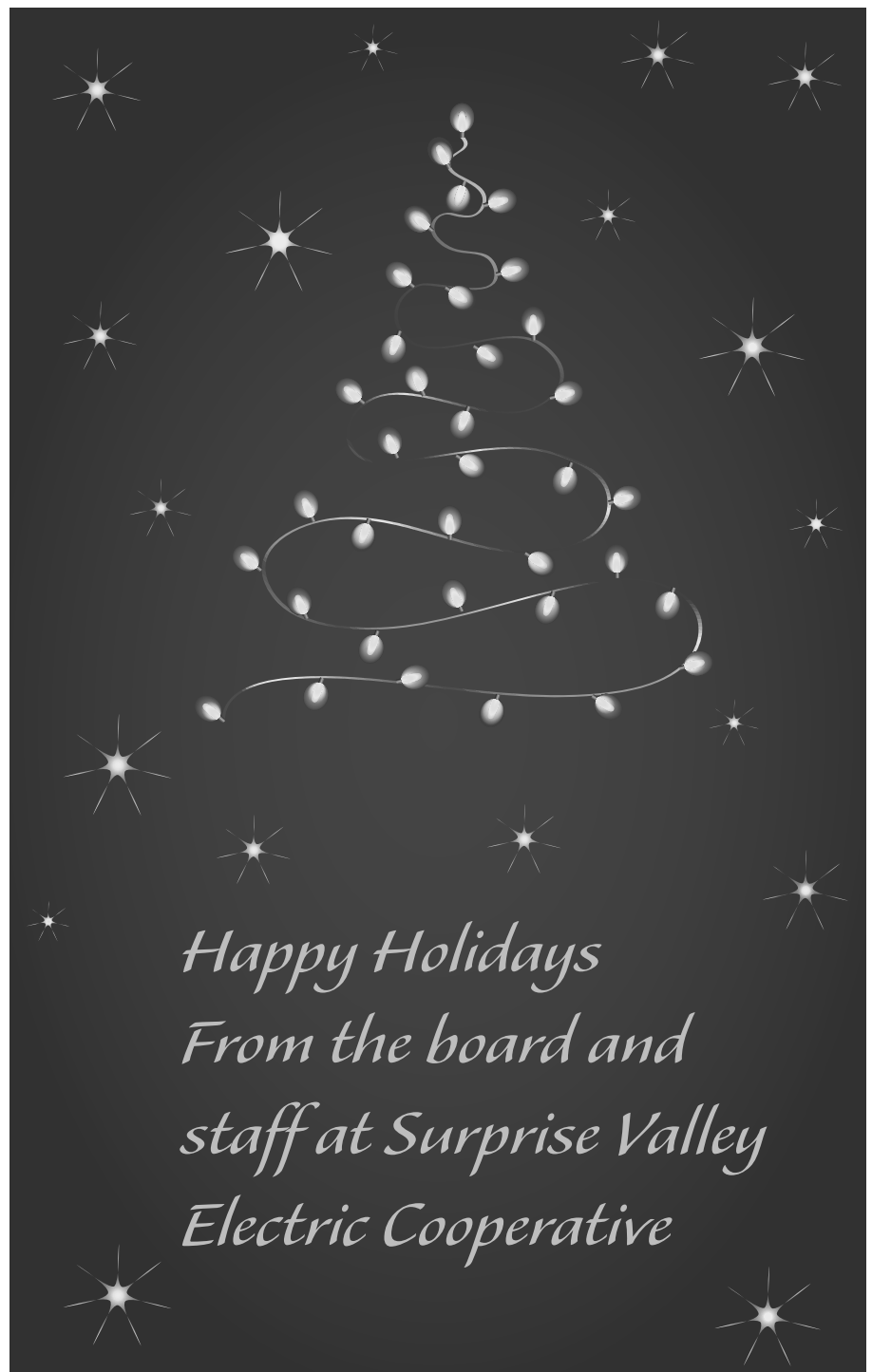
Kyle Weber
Alturas

*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



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

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

GENERAL MANAGER
Debi Wilson

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Tony Toncray
Engineering & Operations Manager

BOARD MEETINGS

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

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OR-16

Do You Know a High School Junior?

Dear Co-op Community Members:

Lane Electric is proud to provide another opportunity for one lucky high school junior to attend the 2020 Washington Youth Tour. I can't think of a better way for a student to learn about U.S. history and government than to visit our nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

As many as 1,800 students across the United States will get this incredible opportunity to learn more about our nation, develop leadership skills, gain knowledge of electric co-ops and make new friends. Students will spend one week touring Washington, meeting congressional leaders and visiting Capitol Hill. There is a packed schedule, with built in educational opportunities and fun social events.

You can get a glimpse of some of the many places the students will visit on page 8 of this edition of Ruralite magazine. The students will fly out of Portland and spend five full days visiting memorials, museums, a baseball game and enjoying many meals together.

While enjoying the rich history, students will also get to learn about cooperatives and their people-focused business model. Cooperatives are a prestigious group of organizations that truly care about their local community. We are proud to be a nonprofit organization owned by our members and governed by an elected board of directors. Cooperatives across the nation help keep money local and in the communities

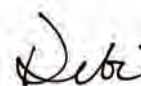
they serve. We love sharing our model with others!

Aside from our business model, we are also proud to be a part of the history of electrifying the United States.

Providing electricity to rural communities was, and still is, not profitable. Rural areas are difficult and expensive to reach. In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made it possible to get electricity to our low-density areas when he signed the Rural Electrification Act, which provided loans to reach rural America. Today, 99% of our rural consumers receive electricity. The history of providing electricity to consumers is a fascinating lesson in itself.

Parents and guardians: This is an all-expense-paid trip. The only cash students may need is for souvenirs. To apply, students must be a high school junior and their parent or guardian must be a Lane Electric member. Applications are due Thursday, January 23. There is still plenty of time, but don't delay, especially with the busy upcoming holiday season.

I am delighted Lane Electric is able to provide this enriching and immersive educational opportunity!



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 services for our consumer-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,

The holidays are a time of year many of us eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations and lots of festivities. Here in Blachly-Lane territory, we especially look forward to our sponsorship of the annual light parades in Veneta and Junction City, held this year December 12 and 13, respectively.

We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones. However, given the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can also offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. For all of us at Blachly-Lane, we are grateful for you, the members of the co-op.

You see, one of our founding principles as a co-op is Concern for Community. While our main focus is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we give back to help our community thrive.

Reflection

I'm grateful we made a positive impact in the community again this year. Thanks to your contributions and those of our employees, Blachly-Lane Energy Share collected \$8,540 to help families in the community pay their energy bills.

As part of our Concern for Community, each summer we offer one of our high-school juniors a leadership opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., with the Youth Tour program. These students return and share their leadership within our communities, making us all stronger and more aware of the power of our democracy.

We support our community schools, libraries, granges and food banks. Whether we're providing information about our energy-efficiency rebates or electric vehicles, or helping new local businesses get established, we are here to help you and our community.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead to 2020, we hope you will share your opinions with us. Our members have valuable perspective, and we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you. We are led by you—the co-op members—and we depend on your feedback.

As we prepare for next year, we look forward to the opportunity to serve you and the greater community. On behalf of the Blachly-Lane Electric Co-op family, we hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright!

Greg Gardner
General Manager





Board of Commissioners

Dan G. Gunkel

President

Douglas B. Miller

Vice President

Randy L. Knowles

Secretary

.....
Jim Smith

General Manager

Kevin Ricks

Renewable Energy Asset Manager

Gwyn Miller

H.R. & Business Services Director

Mike DeMott

Power Manager

Mark Pritchard

Operations Manager

Ron Schultz

Engineering Manager

Brandy Myers

Customer Service Supervisor

.....
www.klickitatpud.com

Goldendale Office

1313 S. Columbus Ave.

Goldendale, WA 98620

509-773-5891

800-548-8357

White Salmon Office

110 NE Estes Ave.

P.O. Box 187

White Salmon, WA 98672

509-493-2255

800-548-8358



WA-18

Helping Your Community

Hi, everyone.

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the Christmas holiday season. This is the time of year we are preparing for winter and, hopefully, thinking about all the things we are grateful for.

I ask that each of you thinks about contributing to those less fortunate in our communities. Please consider options offered through the PUD.

Operation Warm Heart

Unforeseen financial hardships can create an additional burden on families. Since 1989, caring Klickitat PUD customers have given generously to Operation Warm Heart to support those who find themselves in these situations. Operation Warm Heart allows customers to contribute to others' power bills. Neighbor helping neighbor is a proud Klickitat County PUD tradition.

Applications are available at KPUD offices and are subject to review by an independent third party. There are no income limits. Nominations are also accepted if you are aware of someone in financial need who may be unwilling to apply for assistance on their own.

You can be part of Operation Warm Heart with a tax-deductible contribution of any amount. There are three easy ways to give:

- Have a small amount added to your monthly KPUD bill. Most people give just \$1 or \$2 a month.
- Make a one-time contribution of any amount. All gifts are welcome.
- Place your bill on Operation Round Up, which rounds up utility bills to the nearest dollar.

If you would like to participate, call the friendly PUD customer service staff in Goldendale or White Salmon.

Back Packs 4 Kids

Another way to help is the Back Packs 4 Kids Program. The program is based in Goldendale but serves children across Klickitat County to fight child hunger. During the school year, it provides weekend food to kids who may go hungry without it. The nonprofit organization is driven strictly by volunteers and generous donations. No child should ever have to go without food.

Go to www.backpacks4kids.org for more information about how to donate to this worthwhile program.

From all of us and our families at your PUD, best wishes for a warm and happy holiday season!

Jim Smith

General Manager



NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.

The power of local service

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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

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

Outside Sandpoint:
800-326-9594

Board President
Steve Elgar

Board Vice President
Kennon McClintock

Board Secretary/Treasurer
Judith Simonson

General Manager
Annie Terracciano

Board of Directors by District

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ID-19

Capital Credit Checks Coming Soon

Happy holidays from all of us at Northern Lights!

I am excited to announce that this year the board of directors authorized a total of \$1,158,314 of capital credits from the remainder of 1990 and all of 1991 to be returned to our members. This means that if you were a Northern Lights member in those years, you will be receiving a check in the mail. Your check amount is determined by the amount of energy you used during those years.

We work hard to serve our members by providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Since our members are owners, when revenues exceed the cost of providing this service, these margins are returned to the members in the form of capital credits. Capital credits are not immediately paid out the year they were earned. These funds are used by NLI for electric lines, trucks and equipment needed to serve our members. This offsets our need to borrow money, which would cause higher rates.

Capital credits from years past that go unclaimed are held by the cooperative. A list of all members with unclaimed capital credit distributions is available on our website at www.nli.coop. If you find your name on the list, please call us at 208-263-5141.

As another option, you can always donate your capital credit check to the Northern Lights Community Trust, which distributes the funds to local charities in our service area. Please see the insert enclosed with your check for instructions on how to do this. Feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

I wish you all a prosperous and happy year ahead.

Merry Christmas!



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

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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

Holiday Greetings from ICL&P



Drawing by retired Superintendent Roger Inghram

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

Stopping to smell the Christmas cookies

December...unbelievable! Where did the year go? While it sure feels like each passing year speeds by faster and faster, at least the calendar always has a way of saving the best month for last. I will always welcome December with open arms, because December brings with it the Holiday Season, tradition, good food, friends and family.

As bewildering as the passage of time may be, December also has a way of slowing things down...of recapturing the past...for just a few days...before we have to flip the calendar and start over. Human nature, it seems, compels us to observe, in some way, the path that we have all travelled to get where we are. For you that may mean a spiritual path, a treasured family tradition, favorite recipes from Grandma, the warmth of a family home...or all of the above. We all carry with us reminders of our journey. December's holiday parades, festivals, music, food and parties are how we, as a nation, have chosen to honor those reminders and those memories, and the people, places and traditions that helped create them.

In my home, we have always cooked as a family. When the kids were little, it was cookies for Santa. As they got older, they began to help more in the kitchen. Our Holiday Celebrations have always centered around meals, so cooking together just seems to help everyone feel part of the celebration. And what are we celebrating...? Each other...mostly, I guess, as well as those who have come before us and have given us the traditions we observe now, and those who will come along after and hopefully keep observing our family's favorite customs for generations.

It is a tradition in itself that has been part of our culture for a long time, as the modern Christmas Holiday is represented and observed pretty much the same way now as it has been since the mid-1800s.

In 1935, Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote *Little House on the Prairie*, about her own childhood growing up in the Kansas Territory in the 1870s:

"Ma was busy all day long, cooking good things for Christmas. She baked salt-rising bread and r'n'Injun bread, and Swedish crackers, and a huge pan of baked beans, with salt pork and molasses. She baked vinegar pies and dried-apple pies and filled a big jar with cookies, and she let Laura and Mary lick the cake spoon."

Update the menu a bit here and there, and that all feels very familiar to millions of people around the world to this very day.

I know it does to me.

Happy Holidays,
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

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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:

The Midstate Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has reviewed the co-op's financial condition and is pleased to announce the retirement of \$1,408,966 in capital credits. In mid-December, members who bought power during 2002 and 2003 will receive capital credit refunds in proportion to how much they contributed to those year's margins.

MEC is a not-for-profit business. Among other things, this means operating margins flow back to its membership in the form of capital credits. Margins are the funds left over at the end of the year after all expenses are paid. Margins are retained by the cooperative and used for several years, thus lowering the cost to provide electricity. The alternative would be to borrow money to run the cooperative, which would raise the cost to provide service.

MEC paid the last capital credit refund in December 2018.

Holiday Safety

Think safety when it comes time to decorate this holiday season. Here are a few tips to add safety to that holiday sparkle:

- Before you start decorating, check cords for wear. When decorating outdoors, be sure decorations and extension cords are designed for outdoor use. All cords should be insulated and sockets attached firmly.
- When decorating outdoors, keep ladders away from overhead power lines.
- Uncoil extension cords fully before use. Make sure the extension cord matches your amperage needs.
- Do not place cords near water pipes

and appliances that put off a lot of heat.

- Do not overload electrical outlets. Too many plugs in one outlet can start a fire.

• Unplug cords when you string lights.

• Unplug lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave home. When unplugging a cord, pull on the plug head, not the cord.

• Place trees away from fireplaces, candles, space heaters, electrical appliances and other heat sources.

• If you have a live tree, make sure it is fresh and gets lots of water.

• If you have an artificial tree, make sure it is fire resistant.

• Keep paper decorations away from tree lights.

Operate Your Home Efficiently

As winter sets in and temperatures fall, think about how you might operate your home more efficiently. Seal any leaks to keep heat in and cold out. Weatherstrip doors and windows to eliminate drafts.

Ask our energy services department about our weatherization and energy-efficiency programs. Remember: The higher the setting on your thermostat, the higher your electric bill will be.

For more information on how you can save energy, call us at 541-536-2126 option 5.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our office is closed December 25 and January 1. Our after-hours outage line is open 24 hours a day to assist you, 800-752-5935.

General Manager Dave Schneider



www.rrelectric.com

DIRECTORS

President Gary Jones

Vice President Dennis Poulsen

Secretary-Treasurer Larry Henson

John Campbell

Lindsey Manning

Krinn McCoy

Blaine Tanner

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

Proposed Bylaw Amendment

Article VIII Section 2 (c) Patronage Capital in Connection With Furnishing Electric Energy

Add the following language:

- Consistent with this Bylaw, the retirement and payment of Capital Credits are in the sole discretion of the Board and are not affected by previous retirements and payments. The amount, manner, method, and timing of retiring and paying Capital Credits shall be determined only by the Board, including, but not limited to, members voluntarily accepting discounted Capital Credit payments for early retirement and retiring Capital Credits on a LIFO (last in first out) basis in addition to the traditional FIFO (first in first out) basis, as the Board, in its discretion, determines will be fair and equitable to all member-owners and in the best interests of the Cooperative.

Delete the following language:

- Any such retirements of capital shall be made in order of priority according to the year in which the capital was furnished and credited, the capital first received by the Cooperative being first retired.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment FAQ

Why is the amendment being proposed?

This amendment is being proposed as due diligence by the board of directors and is consistent with the advisory motion made during the 2019 RREC annual meeting. This amendment would allow the board of directors more flexibility in the retiring of capital credits.

Where and when can I vote on the amendment?

There are two ways to vote on this amendment: Cast your ballot at the annual meeting March 17, 2020, at Raft River High School or vote by mail. Ballots will be mailed to each member at the beginning of March and must be returned to the office by 5:30 p.m. annual meeting day.

What is required to amend the bylaws?

A majority of votes cast by a quorum of

the members is needed to pass the bylaw amendment.

What happens if the bylaw amendment doesn't pass?

The bylaws remain unchanged.

When would these changes take place?

These changes would become effective as soon as they are approved by the membership.

Elections

Interested in running for RREC's board?

The 81st annual meeting is March 17, 2020. There will be elections for Districts 3 and 5, and an at-large seat. Pick up an application at the office or download one from www.rrelectric.com.

Applications are due January 17. Call us if you have any questions.



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

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Vice President Ken Story

Secretary John Harder

Treasurer Lyle Holt

Robert Clinesmith

Curtis Dahl

Stacy Kniveton

Lanny Hayes

Dennis Swinger Sr.

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Yvette Armstrong

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf

WA-25



Holiday Safety Tips

It's the happiest season of all, but it is also one of the most dangerous. This holiday season, Big Bend Electric Cooperative encourages you to be aware of electrical hazards that come with the season.

"Holiday decorations are one of the most festive and dangerous parts of the season," says Molly Hall, executive director of the Safe Electricity program. "Combine holiday lighting, space heating and holiday guests, and you have a lot of safety hazards."

Keep your season merry, bright and safe with these tips:

- ▶ Safety precautions should start before you begin holiday decorating. Inspect all the lights you plan to use. Make sure the wires are in good condition—not cracked, brittle or frayed. The sockets should not be damaged and no lightbulbs should be missing.
- ▶ All lights should be certified by Underwriters Laboratories, ETL or CSA. The Underwriters Laboratories symbol is a capital UL in a circle with the word "LISTED" below. The ETL symbol is a capital ETL in a circle with a small CM at the end of the "L". The circle contains the words INTERK and LISTED. The CSA label is a large letter "C" around the letters "S" and "A." You should be especially observant of proper listings if you buy lights online.
- ▶ Never tack or nail through a strand of lights. Do not place cords under rugs or in high-traffic areas.
- ▶ Never string more than three strands of lights together unless the packaging says it is safe to do so. The lights could overload and start a fire.
- ▶ Turn off the lights before going to sleep or leaving the house. A timer can help you do this.
- ▶ For outdoor decorations, use only lights and decorations that are rated for outdoor use. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- ▶ Lighted and electrical outdoor decorations should be plugged into ground-fault circuit interrupter outlets. GFCIs detect and prevent dangerous electrical situations where a shock may occur. GFCI protection is important outdoors, where weather conditions can create dangerous electrical situations.
- ▶ Do not overload extension cords or outlets. Electric overloads can cause shocks and start fires.
- ▶ Ensure all children in your home, including ones that are visiting for the holidays, know the dangers of electricity and know that your electrical decorations are not toys.

For more information, visit 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

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Libby Calnon

Serving rural
Hood River County
since 1945

OR-26

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

As the year winds to a close, I have three topics to share with you.

Office Hours Change January 1

This spring, we surveyed members to get feedback on our operations. One question we asked was about our office hours. Most members had no opinion on this topic. For those with a preference, extended office hours were preferred over our current schedule.

Beginning January 1, our office hours will be Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The office will be closed Fridays.

Many utilities in the region have switched to this schedule, which enables members to visit the office before or after their own workdays. The utilities that have switched report productivity is the same or better, and costs are the same or lower. If this change has unintended consequences or if the membership as a whole is less satisfied, we will switch back.

Our emergency services remain available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 541-354-1233.

Energy Assistance Program

This time of year, energy bills can climb

as the temperature drops. These higher winter heating bills can be a severe burden for some Hood River Electric Cooperative members. Fortunately, help is available through HREC's energy-assistance program.

This program is funded through donations from members like you, and by capital credits that go unclaimed. Some members make an annual donation, and others donate a little each month. If you'd like to set up a recurring donation, please call us at 541-354-1233.

Thank you for your support of your fellow HREC members.

Capital Credits Update

In September, your HREC Board of Directors authorized the return of \$541,968 in capital credits to members. We retired the remainder of the 2007 capital credits and 50% of the 2008 capital credits. If you were an HREC member in 2007 or 2008, you should have received your check within the past few weeks.

On behalf of the board and staff at HREC, thank you for the opportunity to serve you. We wish you a happy and prosperous new year.

General Manager Libby Calnon



Harney Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

Harney Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit utility owned by the members we serve. As a member-owner of HEC, you benefit by sharing in the patronage retirement process, including the allocation of capital credits.

This month, your cooperative returns more than \$580,000 in capital credits to HEC members who bought electricity in 1995. Members should receive a capital credits check in December.

The Patronage Retirement Process

The process returns margins to the member-consumers of the cooperative. In the first of two steps, capital credits are allocated to member accounts the year in which margins are received. The process is complete when these capital credits are paid out at a later date.

The Allocation of Capital Credits

At year-end, if HEC has collected revenue in excess of expenses, it is posted as margins. Margins are allocated to each member in proportion to the amount of electricity they bought that year. The more electricity bought, the greater share of margins allocated to the member's capital credit account.

Capital Credits Retirement

HEC maintains a capital credits account for all members of the cooperative, past

and present.

Capital credits accumulate for each member until it becomes financially feasible to return them.

When HEC disburses capital credits, it is referred to as a retirement.



Capital Credits Work for You

Capital credits provide a major source of equity. Our lenders require us to maintain a certain level of equity to borrow money. Capital credits are also used to minimize debt financing and reduce your cost of service to help keep electric bills affordable.

Your Address is Important

Ensure we have your current mailing address, even if you leave our service area, so you may continue to receive your capital credits retirement checks in the future.

For more information about capital credits, visit our website at www.harneyelectric.org, or call us at 541-573-2061.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fred Flippence

General Manager



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

Board of Directors

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

Manager Ken Dizes

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

Email: energy@srec.org

Website: www.srec.org

ID-28

Capital Credit Checks Are in the Mail

During the October board meeting, the SREC board authorized a \$250,000 general capital credit retirement. Capital credit checks were mailed this month to members who paid a power bill to SREC in 1997. The cooperative also paid \$80,000 decedent capital credits in 2019. SREC has paid back \$9 million to its member-owners since it began selling electricity in 1951.

It is the cooperative's policy to retire capital credits on an annual basis, if the cooperative is in a financial position to do so. According to the guidance provided in the policy, the cooperative is retiring 5% of its total capital credits on a first-in-first-out annual basis, or rotating member capital or patronage about every 20 years.

Capital credits are derived from margins or profits the cooperative made and then retained in individual member capital credit accounts. This retained capital is invested back into the cooperative. This ensures all members participate financially in the cooperative, which is one of the cooperative principles mentioned last month.

It seems odd that the cooperatives, which are not-for-profit, would need to generate a profit, but we do so to satisfy lender requirements. We could charge higher rates and avoid borrowing, but that is not the lowest-cost way to serve our member-owners.

Investor-owned electric utilities earn profits for their investors. It isn't as profitable to serve electricity to rural or scattered populations, which is why electric cooperatives exist. Investor-owned utilities didn't want to serve rural areas. Your electric cooperative services approximately 3.8 customers per mile of distribution power lines, while IOUs serve 40 or more customers per mile of line.

Your economic participation in your electric cooperative is vital to our ability to provide reliable, safe and cost-effective electricity. We thank you for supporting your electric cooperative.

As a side note, retail electric rates will increase and will go in effect by January 1, 2020. The board is still wrestling with the level of that increase. The board finalized new rates at its November board meeting and we will have more information to share next month.



Ken Dizes



United Electric
CO-OP INC.

Directors

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

General Manager

Jo Elg

Engineering and Operations

Trevor Parke

Line Superintendent

Kay Hill

Executive Assistant/Billing Specialist

Trisha Moultrie

Member Services Manager

Chris Seibold

Mailing address:

1330 21st St.
Heyburn, ID 83336

Phone: 208-679-2222

Fax: 208-679-3333

Email: uec@uec.coop

Website: www.uec.coop

Office hours: Monday-Thursday,

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

After Hours: 208-679-4444

ID-29



‘Twas
The night before
Christmas
And all through the house
Not a creature was stirring ‘cause the power
Was out. How can this happen?
What trouble could be? The house is all dark
Even the lights on the tree.
The lineman’s asleep all cozy and warm. His power apparently
was spared by the storm. Deep into slumber
But soon to awake ‘cause a tree on the line has caused it to break.
The calls swamp the office. “MY POWER IS OUT!”
Get them here quickly, ‘cause I carry clout.” The dispatcher calls
And with a hint of despair, He informs the lineman the lines need repair.
In three or four hours the trouble is found.
You see the road didn’t pass where the tree went down. After walking through snow
And fighting the storm, the line is now clear and the power is on.
And now it’s morning. The kids shout with glee and their eyes shine as bright
As the lights on the tree. The lineman goes home now as tired as can be.
The storm just ignored it was his Christmas Eve.
He’s not asking for praise
Or for you to applaud, ‘cause according to him it’s just part of the job.
But please just remember as you pick up the horn
And you call the office
He may be out in the storm.

This poem was published in the December 1979 issue of Country Living. It was written by Kevin Hughes, an engineering technical draftsman at Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative — New Concord, OH



Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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

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Vice President

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Maddie Mocettini-Hansen
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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



*Merry Christmas from all of us at
Lost River Electric Cooperative*



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

P.O. Box 45
Glennallen, AK 99588
www.cvea.org

Copper Basin District

907-822-3211
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

Valdez District

907-835-4301
367 Fairbanks Dr.
After hours outage line
866-835-2832

Important Dates

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 Monday, December 23 at 12 p.m. through Wednesday, December 25, 2019, for the Christmas Holiday, and Tuesday, December 31, 2019, for New Year's Eve

January

CVEA Offices Closed:

The CVEA offices will be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2020, for the New Year's Holiday

CVEA Bylaws Amendment Petition

Deadline: Recommended Bylaws amendments must be submitted by petition no later than 6 p.m. Thursday, January 9, 2020

CVEA Board Meeting: The January meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, January 16, 2020, in Valdez

AK-34



CVEA Bylaws Amendments

CVEA members may propose Bylaws amendments for placement on the 2020 ballot by filing a petition with the Board of Directors. The petition must be signed by at least 10 percent of the membership and filed at least 90 days before the annual meeting.

Please submit any amendments by petition prior to 6 p.m., Thursday, January 9, 2020. Petitions may be submitted to the Glennallen or Valdez office.

A copy of CVEA Bylaws can be picked up at either office or referenced online at cvea.org.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Sharon Scheidt at (907) 822-5506, (907) 835-7005, or email 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

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



WISHING YOU A SAFE & HAPPY

Holiday Season

From your friends at Tillamook PUD

Beginning on Monday, December 30, 2019,
our new office hours will be
7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday - Thursday.

*We are looking forward to the new year
and continuing to provide safe, reliable
and affordable electricity!*





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

Board of Directors

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

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36



Owned By Those We Serve

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John Sloan, Secretary (District 6)
Bill Nordmark, Treasurer (District 7)
Chris Bunch (District 5)
David Messier (District 1)
Rick Schikora (District 3)

Corporate Headquarters

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

Delta Junction Office

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

Nenana Office

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

Report Outages:

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

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!



AK-37

Using a Timer is Smart

No need to plug in your vehicle all night

Here's a huge energy waster: plugging in your vehicle all night.

If the overnight temperature is 20 degrees above zero or warmer, you don't need to plug in at all. If the low temperature dips to between 20 degrees above and 20 degrees below zero, two hours of plug-in time should suffice. If it's

colder than 20 degrees below, you can add more time. Four hours is usually enough, even on the coldest Interior night.

So why not plug in as soon as you get home, just to be safe? Cost. The average vehicle (1,000-watt load) plugged in 10 hours each night would add about \$60 to your monthly electric bill.

If you're an early riser, you can pull on your boots and plug in two hours before you need to leave in the morning.

But there's an easier way: plug your vehicle into a timer as soon as you get home. Set the power to click on two hours before you go to work. In very cold weather, increase the time.

This simple step will save the average Interior resident about \$60 a month in electricity.

Non-hard-wired vehicle plug-in timers can be purchased locally for \$20 to \$40. Hard-wired timers cost upwards of \$50.

To view a short how-to video on programming a vehicle plug-in timer, visit blog.gvea.com and search "car." ■





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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fnelson@psrec.coop

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dshort@psrec.coop

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dhansen@psrec.coop

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droberti@psrec.coop

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thammond@psrec.coop

Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



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

CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

Merry Christmas and happy holidays! We hope you have a happy and safe holiday season. If you or your family are decorating for the holidays, please remember not to overload outlets and circuits, and always look up for overhead lines before you install any tall features or exhibits.

Telecommunications News

On Friday, November 1, the California Public Utilities Commission posted draft resolutions to provide funding for the five grant applications Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications submitted in May. The commission will vote on these resolutions at its December 5 meeting. We hope to hear shortly after the meeting that PST has authorization to begin construction of the projects that will bring broadband services to some of the hardest-to-reach areas of our region, including Lake Davis, Mohawk Vista, Elysian Valley/Gold Run, Johnsville and Keddie.

Expansion of broadband services in Quincy is going well. We recently opened a new area of West Quincy with fiber optics and are making progress on the Chandler Road fiber construction. You can check availability for your location at www.pst.coop, or by calling 530-832-4261. By the time this reaches you, we also hope to be finishing off the Sierraville-Calpine project, including a new advanced wireless system for southern Sierra Valley and direct fiber optic connections for members along the route.

PST's internet services are unlimited, so you don't have to worry about data caps, and speeds go up to 1 gigabyte per second on our fiber optic service.

To learn more about our services or get on our interest list, please visit www.pst.coop or call us at 530-832-4261.

Eyes and Ears

It's been a long autumn for many of California's residents. We have been lucky that no fires have affected our homes like we have seen in California's Coastal Range.

We spend a tremendous amount of time and money grooming our rights of way and maintaining our equipment, but it is a never-ending job.

We have been able to keep the lights on, but we can always use your help. Our members often let us know when there are problems with our system.

We have a remote, rural power grid with only six customers per mile of power line. When you let us know that you think there may be an equipment malfunction or that something looks out of place on the line, you help us prevent fires and outages.

Thank you, and please continue to call us if you think something isn't right. We have operators available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year at 800-555-2207.

Capital Credits

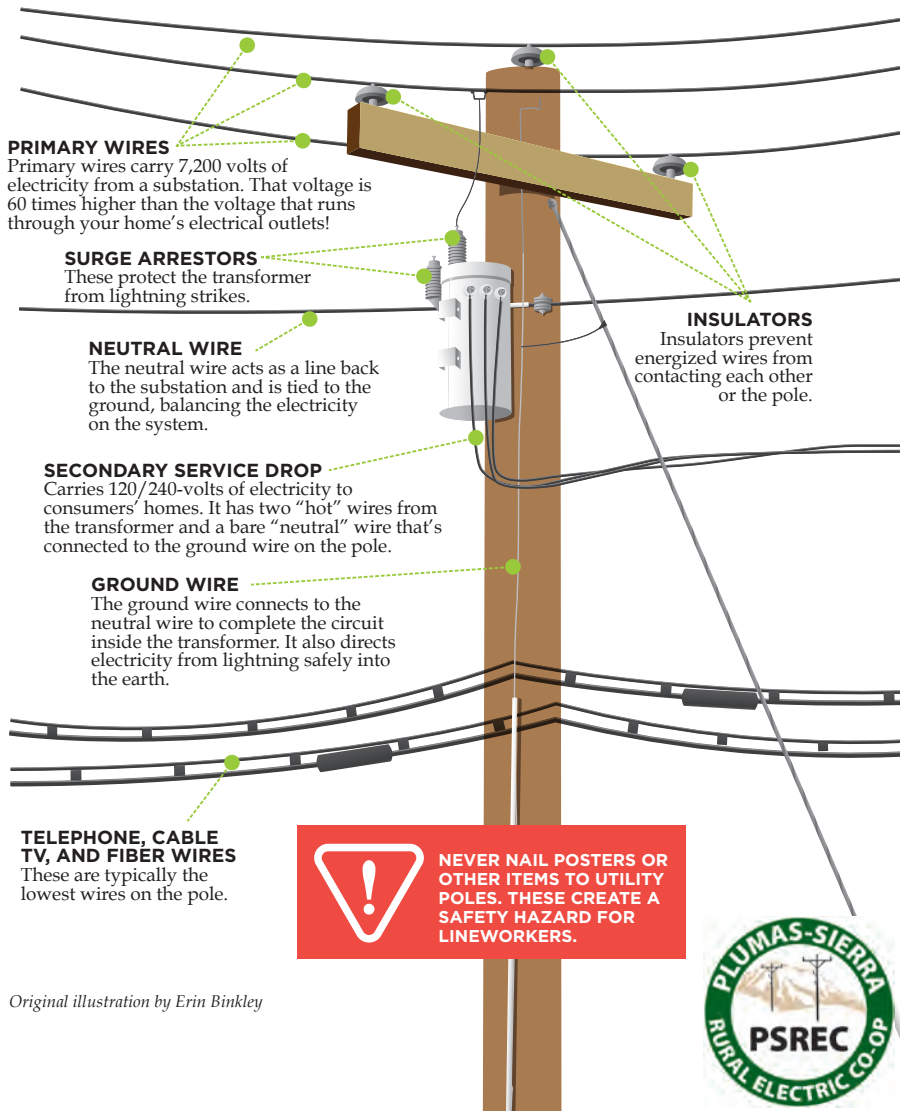
One of the ways electric cooperatives are different from investor-owned utilities is each cooperative depends on its members to provide the necessary funding, or equity, for operation.

Inspired by the idea that people can pool their resources to get things done—a fact that hasn't changed since PSREC was formed in 1937 by a group of people who banded together to bring electricity to the countryside—your membership ensures access to reliable resources and services, a cornerstone of economic opportunity.

Continues on page 25

WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.



Original illustration by Erin Binkley

Manager's Message

Continued from page 32

The mechanism by which members contribute equity is known as capital credits, which are determined at the close of each business year by allocating the net profits of PSREC to each member based on the amount of electricity the member purchased.

Capital credit returns are evaluated annually by PSREC's board of directors. The board has determined PSREC will distribute a refund to members in 2019.

Members in good standing will receive capital credit refunds on their December bills, which are received in January. If less than \$50, the refund will appear as a credit on your bill. If your refund is \$50 or more, a check will be mailed in January.

Thank you for your support of PSREC and the common needs of our community!

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

Sincerely,

Bob Marshall
General Manager

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 6

Christmas in Old Town. Downtown Portola. 5 to 8 p.m. Light parade, Santa visits, Christmas marketplace, food and more.

For more information, call 530-836-6811.

Sparkle. Main Street, Quincy. 5 to 9 p.m.

For more information, email info@quincychamber.com.

Santa's Sleigh Days. Susanville.

For more information, call 530-257-5321.

December 7

Graeagle Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting. Graeagle Park. 1 to 5 p.m. Merchant open house, carolers, pictures with Santa and horse carriage rides. Tree lighting at 5 p.m. in the park.

For more information, email info@graeaglemerchants.com.

Magical Country Christmas. Historic Uptown Susanville. 5 to 7 p.m. Tree lighting, fireworks, live entertainment and Christmas parade.

For more information, call 530-257-4323.

December 7

Downieville Holiday on Main Celebration and Craft Fair. Downieville Community Hall. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 530-289-3126.

December 13 & 14

Holiday Craft Show. Lassen County Fair Grounds. 195 Russell Ave., Susanville.

For more information, call 530-251-8900.



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 winter office hours
are in effect. 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



Board Meeting



**Closed for
Christmas**



**Closed for New
Year's Day**

For more important dates, visit
mwpower.net/content/community-calendar

Wells Rural Electric Company

Board of Directors

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Gerald Anderson
Vice President

M Jonathan Dahl
Secretary/Treasurer

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

Director Emeritus

D. Vernon Dalton

website:

www.wrec.coop

Outage Hotline:

800-566-6696
24 hours a day

Carlin office:

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

Wendover office:

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

Wells office:

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

NV-41

Making a Difference

In the Disney Pixar film "Up", Carl and Ellie Fredricksen save money for their dream trip to Paradise Falls by dropping change into a jar. They end up breaking into the jar to deal with life's little surprises, like medical bills from a broken leg, but as soon as an emergency passes, they resume dropping their change into a jar so they have a stash of cash when it's important.

Think of the Next Dollar Foundation like a change jar for your whole community. For the past 24 years, some members of Wells Rural Electric Company (WREC) have been dropping the change from their monthly electricity bill into the jar. When their community had a need, funds were available for projects like grass for a baseball field, medical equipment or higher education.

More than 120 projects have been completed with assistance from the Next Dollar Foundation. Students with career goals as diverse as nuclear engineering and nursing have received help to pay for their education. It's likely some of those activities have made your life better, too.

Beginning in January, the change jar will refill faster because all members of WREC will be automatically enrolled to donate the change from their monthly electricity bills to the Next Dollar Foundation. Discussions with members found wide-spread support for the change in enrollment. I hope that such support demonstrates the value all members have seen in projects and education grants funded by the Next Dollar Foundation. More information is available on page 8, inside. If you have any questions about contributing to the Next Dollar Foundation, have an idea for a project that would improve your community, want to



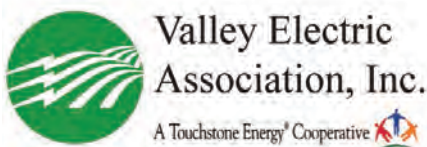
apply for an education grant or opt-out, please visit <https://www.wrec.coop/community/next-dollar-foundation>.

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer



Above, funding from the Next Dollar Foundation to purchase sod allowed the Wendover Wildcats to use their baseball field right away rather than having to wait a year for grass to grow from seed. Below, clockwise from top left, recipients of the 2019 Next Dollar Foundation Education Grants are Herman Dorado of West Wendover, Valerie Murphy of Wendover, John Gamble of Carlin and Jade Kelly of Wells.





NV-42



LIGHTNING FAST

Internet Service



valleycom.com

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1 Michelle Caird	DISTRICT 2 Bonnie Groenert
DISTRICT 3 Rob Shirley	DISTRICT 4 Kathleen Keyes
DISTRICT 5 Terrie D'Antonio	DISTRICT 6 Open

OFFICE PHONE

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

AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

We are here 24 hours a day,
seven days a week for your
emergency needs.

(775) 727-5312

Website: www.vea.coop

Email: wmc@vea.coop

Looking Ahead to 2020

This space is usually reserved for the Cooperative's CEO to address members directly. For the next few issues, however, Interim CEO Terrie D'Antonio has asked several of her direct reports to share our perspectives on VEA affairs.

I am first up. As head of Communications, Marketing and Governmental Affairs, our department has a lot on our plate as we turn the page on another year. I want to talk with you about some of the important changes and initiatives we will be communicating to you in 2020.

VEA's leadership for 2020 will be completely new. To go along with six new members of the Board of Directors, we expect VEA's new Chief Executive Officer to be on site in January. Applicant interviews were conducted the week before Thanksgiving, and the decision was expected to be made shortly afterward.

The new CEO will need an introduction to VEA members between now and the March District Meetings. We will be working to help him or her become familiar with VEA's 6,800 square miles of territory, its distinct communities and its 19,000 members.

Significant revisions to the Association's bylaws will require membership approval in the spring. The inadequacy of the existing bylaws – the framework for the operation and management of the organization – was glaringly apparent during the 2019 Annual Meeting. The Board directed the Member Liaison Committee of member-owner volunteers to draft improvements, which the panel has been doing over the course of six meetings since July. While, bits and pieces of the VEA bylaws have been updated in years

past, the committee went through the document from beginning to end to revise and clarify.

Much information will be coming your way before the ballots are mailed in March.

Another pressing issue is a new Net Metering Policy. For months, the Co-op's Policy Committee and a subcommittee on distributed generation have been looking at the impact of the tremendous growth of residential solar systems in VEA territory and how that growth is affecting the Co-op. Volunteer members – many of whom are themselves solar generators – have worked to revise our old policy to reflect the needs of members and the Co-op in 2020. The existing policy was approved in 2008 when there were only a handful of solar generators. We'll soon have 1,000. The committee's suggested revisions were not finished as I wrote this. Our job will be to explain the changes to members before the Board weighs in.

That's not all. You will be reading about huge changes in VEA's Charitable Foundation in 2020. A separate committee is addressing how to better serve our communities and non-profits.

VEA is not the same Cooperative it was a year ago. The New Year promises to usher another year of significant change – and improvement.

Until next month,

Mike Hengel

Mike Hengel, Executive Vice President of Communications, Marketing and Governmental Affairs for Valley Electric Association, Inc.



Commissioners

Joe O'Leary

Paul Rogers

Shan Rowbotham

General Manager

Matt Boast

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

Need Help With Your Utility Bills?

The following organizations may be able to help.

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

WA-43



*Merry Christmas from all of us at
Kittitas PUD*





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

District Offices

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

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

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

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

www.otec.coop
communications@otecc.com

Report Outages at
866-430-4265

Find us on 

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Baker County
Vice President Wayne Overton,
Baker County
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Bonebrake, Baker County

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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

Powering Forward

As we head into the twilight of 2019, it's time we at Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative look at everything we are thankful for and the challenges that lie ahead.

We are pleased to report your cooperative remains financially healthy. OTEC continues to drive and focus on system reliability, operational efficiencies and strengthening our already-strong culture of safety to keep our team, our member-owners and the public safe. Because of our financial stability and forward financial outlook, your board of directors authorized \$3.5 million in capital credit retirements this year to be returned to our member-owners.

Capital credits are one of the many benefits of your membership. OTEC has returned capital credits every year since 1996, totaling \$43 million.

We also remain competitive when it comes to the price of your electricity. OTEC's average residential rate is 9.83 cents per kilowatt-hour, compared to the average of 11.18 cents in Oregon. Oregon is the ninth-lowest average in the nation compared to a national average of 13.30 cents per kilowatt-hour, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

However, there are challenges ahead.

An issue very much on the peoples' minds is the threat of wildfires. We are very thankful Oregon's wildfire season this year had minimal impact to our infrastructure on operations across OTEC's territory. In 2015, OTEC suffered more than \$1 million in infrastructure loss and some of our members lost their homes. The Oregon Department of Forestry reports this year's season was three weeks shorter than average, and the total acres burned across Oregon was 56% below average.

Despite the fortunate news, we in Eastern Oregon must remain extra vigilant and prepare accordingly as we approach next spring.

The ongoing wildfire devastation in California impacts utilities and the public

nationwide. The impact from the fires has come in many forms, including new regulations, significant negative insurance coverage and rate changes, and new legislation. OTEC continues to focus on its wildfire mitigation plans, which influence operations and maintenance of more than 3,000 miles of power lines.

Rest assured, your cooperative is not sitting idle. Wildfire mitigation is just one of the many issues we are focused on for 2020. We are also keeping a close eye on the legislative front.

On a national level, the urgent battle to protect electric cooperatives' tax-exempt status is still being fought as I write this.

I'm speaking once again about the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands Act which, if passed, would ensure co-ops such as OTEC would not jeopardize their tax-exempt status if they accept Federal Emergency Management Association recovery dollars following natural disasters or accept other government grants.

There's still time for you to act on this vitally important piece of legislation, which has broad bipartisan support. Visit otec.coop/cooperative-status-under-attack, where we have links with more information on how you can help.

The next session of the Oregon Legislature is expected to begin the way the last one ended—with a clash between Democrats and Republicans over carbon emissions.

Democrats are reworking a proposal to create a cap-and-trade program in Oregon for consideration in February. We will engage and communicate extensively regarding this issue in the weeks and months to come.

These are just a few issues we are watching as we head into 2020. I'm confident OTEC and its employees will meet the industry and market challenges we face as we serve you and the communities we call home.

Happy holidays to you and your family.

Les Penning, CEO



Member-owned since 1921

Ohop Mutual Light Co.

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Power problems: 253-847-4363
Pay by phone: 888-477-8085
Email: office@ohop.coop
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Kenneth Klotz

WA-49



Ohop's Holiday Celebration

**Thursday, December 12
4 to 7:30 p.m.**

Join us at Ohop Mutual's office for fun activities, great food and a chance to win raffle prizes. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, see live reindeer and join the Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest.

Join in all the reindeer fun with activities for kids as they create their own ornaments and decorate holiday cookies. Then try your luck at the raffle to see if you've been naughty or nice.

When you're ready, enjoy the great meal made by Santa's elves, including desserts that would light up Rudolph's nose.

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

**Kenneth Klotz
General Manager**



45710 SE North Bend Way
P.O. Box 1426
North Bend, WA 98045-1426
Telephone: 425-888-0623
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by those we serve in:*

North Bend
Ames Lake
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*Tanner Electric Cooperative is an equal
opportunity provider and employer*



WA-50

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 Tanner 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 Tanner 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 TEC'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. TEC 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 TEC 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.



Parkland Light & Water Co.

Owned By Those We Serve

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

www.plw.coop

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*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

General Manager's Message

Operation Round Up

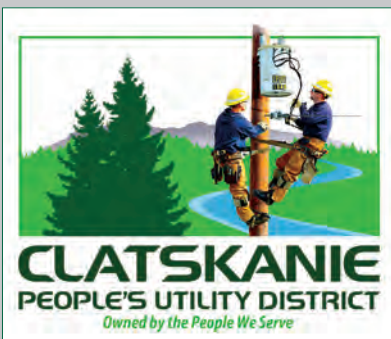
As Parkland Light & Water Co.'s general manager, I want to express my gratitude for your membership in our electric/water cooperative. We are able to make our communities a better place because of your connection to Parkland Light & Water.

I'd like to take a moment to talk with you about our Project Round Up campaign. During the 2018 holiday season, we launched Project Round Up, a fundraising effort that helps our less fortunate neighbors pay their utility bills—electric and/or water. This campaign lets you make a difference by rounding up your utility bill to the next whole dollar. The difference is donated to help your neighbors.

One hundred percent of the donations go directly toward utility billing assistance. It all starts with you choosing to opt in to the program. You also can make a one-time donation. You can do either by filling in the form inserted in this edition of Ruralite and returning it to PL&W or by picking up the form at PL&W's office.

I am grateful for this community and to be a part of Parkland Light & Water. Our employees are some of the most hardworking, caring and dedicated people I know. Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and equitable electric and water services. Our employees go above and beyond. They aim to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. We view our role in the community as a catalyst for good. The cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue making this a better place for everyone this holiday season and year-round.

Susan Cutrell
General Manager



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

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Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #12032500

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

Community Calendar

December 5: Clatskanie Chamber

Meeting 7:30 am at Colvins

December 7: Clatskanie Chamber Tree

Lighting 5:00 pm Ark Real Estate, Hwy 30

**December 10: CPUD office will open at
10 am (All staff training 7 am - 10 am)**

December 12: Rainier Chamber

Meeting Noon at Methodist Church

December 18: Clatskanie PUD Board

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

December 24 & 25: Merry Christmas

CPUD office closed

OR-60





KOTZEBUE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

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

AK-64





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Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



/AlaskaVillage

AK-105

A Message from Meera

Cellular phones are changing our lives – at home and at work. Today there are 2.7 billion cellphones in use worldwide – most being smart phones with capabilities greater than the largest super computers of forty years ago. They have revolutionized our lives and AVEC work has also been dramatically changed in many ways as shown below.

An AVEC technician is working in a village when a generator goes down unexpectedly. He takes a look at the generator, a type he has not worked on before. He calls in to report the outage and requests trouble-shooting advice.

Soon he has the generator partially disassembled and, based on the latest troubleshooting text received, suspects one of the rotating diodes is bad. He takes a picture of the wiring and texts the readings to the office. He receives confirmation that the diode is indeed bad and is instructed to look for a replacement at the power plant.

He finds several, sends a picture of them and receives a text telling him which one to use and how to test it. He installs it, restores the generator to full availability, informs the office of the resolution and returns to his original job.

Three years ago, two wind technicians found themselves stranded on top of a wind tower that was on fire below. They used their cellphones to notify the City and the home office. The fire was extinguished within an hour and they were able to descend safely with help from the first responders.

These are examples of the value and flexibility that cellphones bring. Our technicians know they have back-up support in their pockets. Safety is improved. They can take pictures when necessary to accurately inform the office of what they see so that they and support staff can be on the same page. Text messaging allows conversations in noisy power plants and enables more detailed information to be exchanged. Technicians can receive factory documentation and pictures whenever needed, with no interruptions to their work.

When AVEC first started providing electric service, phone service was a luxury. Making a phone call required waiting in line for the only phone in the village, usually at the City. Finding a technician in the field to send him to an emergency elsewhere required the cooperation of others in the community to track him down. VHF and CB radios were used - and often still are.

Satellite communications have changed the way we all do business and the value today of having a cellphone in your pocket is hard to overstate. So if that teenager has a new cellphone on their Christmas list, maybe that's not such a bad idea.

From all of us at AVEC, jave a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Meera Kohler
President and CEO





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

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

CA-106

Winter Programs Help Those in Need

At Lassen Municipal Utility District, we understand that winter in Lassen County can bring not only extreme weather, but can also be a time when the family budget is stretched to the brink. That is why we offer a variety of programs designed to help our customers conserve energy and, if needed, a helping hand through tough economic times.

LMUD's Winter Energy Assistance Rate, WEAR, provides assistance to LMUD's income-qualified customers who may need help paying their electric bill. WEAR provides a discount of up to 50%—depending on eligibility criteria—on energy use from November to April, lessening the impact of winter energy use.

WEAR applications may be picked up at the LMUD office at 65 S. Roop St. or downloaded at lmud.org.

LMUD also offers the Emergency Energy Assistance Program. EEAP is a one-time emergency assistance program for income-qualified customers. The goal of the program is to avoid disconnection of service for those customers facing an unexpected financial crisis. EEAP applications are available through the Susanville Salvation Army office in the Grocery Outlet shopping center.

For the past few years, LMUD has offered energy gift cards in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100. Available for purchase at the LMUD office, gift cards can be applied to any LMUD account. They make a great gift for senior citizens, college students or any LMUD customer. It is our hope that by working together we can overcome difficult economic times.

On behalf of the LMUD staff and board of directors, we wish all of our customers a safe and happy holiday season. As a reminder, the LMUD office will be closed Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25, in observance of Christmas and Wednesday, January 1, in observance of New Years.

As always, our 24-hour customer service hotline at 530-257-4174 is available in case of an emergency.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.
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Umpqua Indian Utility
Wasco Electric Co-op
West Oregon Electric Co-op

OR-400

Case in Point

We packed a lot into the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting last month. We had excellent presentations from energy experts, legislators, pollsters and even Oregon Secretary of State Bev Clarno.

Perhaps the most important item on our agenda was honoring three co-op leaders for careers of outstanding achievement: West Oregon Electric Cooperative former Director Robert VanNatta, Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative Manager Tommy Wolff and Umatilla Electric Cooperative Director Bryan Wolfe.

Nothing can tarnish these men's legacies. It saddens me, however, that unless Congress passes the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands Act this year, much of what they have toiled for will be at risk.

VanNatta helped build a co-op that serves one of the hardest places in the country to keep the lights on. Flooding and high winds are commonplace in Vernonia, and sometimes WOEC needs assistance. Unless Congress passes the RURAL Act, a co-op accepting Federal Emergency Management Agency funds may lose its tax-exempt status.

Wolff has spent the past few years spearheading an ambitious broadband project in the Columbia Basin to help bridge the gaping digital divide for his members. But unless Congress passes the RURAL Act, accepting broadband grants could also cost his co-op its tax-exempt status.

The U.S. Congress must act. As noted by our cover this month, U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden will be in the room in the waning days of this session when a small group of legislators decides which tax measures will live or die. The entire Oregon U.S. House delegation has co-sponsored the RURAL Act, and we greatly appreciate their support.

We hope Sen. Wyden continues to support rural Oregon and the outstanding co-op leaders who have devoted their careers to this program. Let's honor them by passing the RURAL Act now.



Ted Case

Executive Director

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TO CONTACT FLORIDA CURRENTS

Mailing address:
5625 NE Elam Young Pkwy. Suite 400
Hillsboro, OR 97124
Email: info@floridacurrents.com
Website: www.floridacurrents.com

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Contact Jessah Willis
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611 S. Congress Ave. Suite 504
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EREC
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Message From the CEO

Time-of-Use Makes a Difference

When you use electricity can be just as important as how much you actually use

The holidays are a special time of year. Hanging festive Christmas lights and decorations, baking (and eating) delicious holiday treats, shopping for the perfect gifts for our loved ones ... all the extra effort and planning are part of what makes the holidays so exciting.

However, the extra drain on our wallets that the season can bring is not always so thrilling. We include articles in this magazine every month regarding energy efficiency and how using less energy can save you money. We all know a little extra cash can come in handy during the holidays. But did you know that when you use electricity often matters as much as the amount of electricity you consume?

It's no surprise electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Electric co-ops must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy demands of our members during times of high-energy use, also known as peak demand hours.

Early morning, when people start their day, and evening, when people return home after work, are common times for peak demand hours. Escambia River Electric Cooperative must have enough electricity generation capacity to meet those times of high demand. Energy is more expensive during peak demand hours because more people are using it. It's the basic economic law of supply and demand.

Adjusting the time you do some of your daily activities that consume large amounts of electricity helps level out our system's energy peaks and helps reduce the power capacity requirements for our system. This, in turn, can help us keep our electric rates as low as possible, which can make a difference for the better on your electric bill. And we can all find ways to use those extra dollars, whether it's the holiday season or not.

On behalf of our entire EREC family, we wish you all the best this holiday season.



Ryan C. Campbell, P.E.



Inside

December 2019
Vol. 9, No. 2

Serving After Service 12

Thanks to a variety of government programs, opportunities in agriculture abound for motivated veterans.

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DECEMBER 2019

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MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

FKEC wishes you a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to continuing to provide you with high quality service in 2020 and beyond.

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

SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

Project Highlights: Accomplishments and Future Plans

Over the last twelve months, Florida Keys Electric Co-op has continued our work to further improve the reliability and storm resiliency of our power system. As we wrap up another year —FKEC's 79th serving the Upper and Middle Keys— I'd like to highlight a few of our accomplishments in 2019 and projects we have planned in 2020.

Transmission Insulator Replacement Project

This year, in Marathon, we completed replacing all transmission insulators from Coco Plum Drive to the Seven Mile Bridge. In 2020, we plan to continue the storm hardening upgrade by replacing all transmission insulators from Islamorada to Coco Plum. In all, we will have replaced 1,938 insulators with new and improved models more suitable for our corrosive environment and extreme weather conditions.

Substation Protection and Control Upgrade

In 2019 we also successfully replaced and upgraded the existing protection and control equipment at our Marathon substation. Protection and control equipment and schemes do just that — They are a series of devices, like breakers



and relays, that function to protect the flow of power. In the event of a fault within a substation, the critical equipment can instantly relay the load to other devices to bypass the problem and prevent widespread transmission outages.

The substantial undertaking included working on extreme high voltage equipment, turning an old office building into a dedicated relay room, and working at night during hours of lower power consumption.

All substations are critical to power delivery; however, the Marathon facility has the added role of being the interconnection point between our FKEC system and the power transmitted from the mainland down to Keys Energy, the Lower Keys electric provider.

The equipment upgrade already proved to pay off when an iguana recently got into one of the two main station transformers. In an instant, the new equipment and the protection scheme transferred all the power load from the compromised transformer to a second transformer, preventing any interruption to power service.



FKEC continues to reinforce and strengthen structures in our 11 miles of water crossings by having concrete “LifeJackets®” constructed at the base of the poles.

Water Crossings Pole Reinforcement

FKEC has also been working to reinforce all transmission poles located in our 11 miles of water crossing, and we hope to complete this in 2020. The preventative maintenance addresses corrosion issues by constructing “LifeJackets®” at the water line to increase the strength and lifespan of each pole.

Projects in 2020

Moving forward, over the next twelve months we also hope to replace the guyed transmission pole at Robbie’s Marina to a self-supporting pole. In 2020, we may also be able to start work on the express underground feed to Ocean Reef, as well as begin the process of moving the transmission poles on the Oceanside of Sea Oats Beach to the other side of US 1.

The foresight and research our staff, employees, and board of directors put into planning for our future continues to pay off for FKEC members. By recognizing areas of vulnerability and researching what new, quality technologies are available to fortify our power service, we are able to maintain our 99.999% reliability.



Upgrading the protection and controls at the Marathon substation included turning an old office building into a state of the art relay room. The equipment in this room enables the power load to be instantly redirected to other devices should a fault occur.

Photos by Alberto Gonzalez Novoa



CONTACT US

863-946-6200 (member services)
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OFFICES

Mondays through Thursdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
26733 U.S. Hwy. 27 East
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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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The Board's next meeting will be at 9 a.m. December 31 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

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FL-153

CEO's Message

Reflecting and Dreaming

It's the time of year when we move into the holiday season, reflect on the year that has passed and dream of the new one to come.

Looking back, as usual, there was the good and not so good. At the top of the list of the not so good was the announcement in late September that Southern Gardens Citrus Processing was ending operations. SGCP was the cooperative's single-largest load. In fact, when SGCP began operations, it was the single-largest load within Seminole Electric Cooperative's entire statewide transmission service area. Shortly after this numbing announcement, we received word of what tops our good list.

After many years of constant wonder, the plan to transform the Hendry County airport—which is in the cooperative's territory—into an international commercial facility was finally given full approval by the Federal Aviation Administration. It's something we've had to plan for throughout the wait. From the plans we've studied, we know the airport expansion itself won't replace the entire SGCP load, but the load that follows to support international airport operations eventually will. We anticipate the transformative construction process to begin in March 2020 and full operations to begin in early 2023. What an exciting time for our area! For a cooperative that has seen absolutely no growth since 2007, we look to our future with great anticipation.

Other good things we can reflect on in 2019 are the system hardening and equipment improvements we made throughout our territory. In July, we replaced 71 wooden poles with spun concrete structures in a section of our Lorida transmission line. This fall on the Big Cypress Reservation, we are changing out 125 wooden poles for ductile iron poles. We have installed an additional 804 ductile iron poles on our system in 2019 as a result of replacements identified through pole inspections and installations in new service construction. The switch from wooden to more durable concrete or ductile iron poles allows lines to better withstand wind and other elements and has a lower cost over the lifespan of the pole. In 2019, we also replaced 86 oil reclosers with longer-lasting and lower-maintenance vacuum reclosers, and added 179 sectionalizers to our system, replacing fuses. Fuses blow immediately, but sectionalizers allow temporary faults to clear themselves before becoming a sustained outage. All of these improvements are part of our ongoing mission to deliver safe, affordable, reliable electricity to our members with exceptional service.

In 2020, we look forward to Glades Electric Cooperative's 75th anniversary—quite a testimony to the cooperative business model and the tenacity of GEC member-owners.

We end this year with a gift to many of the cooperative's member-owners. Our financial position allows us to continue retirement of members' capital credits. Those of you with us since 1984-1986 will see a credit on your December bill for your share of \$1,387,942.11 margins earned. Checks will be mailed to former members, so be sure to keep your mailing address current with us, even after you leave our system.

Merry Christmas to all!



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

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

John Bartley

TRUSTEES

President Doug Birmingham
Vice President Jimmy Black
Secretary Rupert Brown
Treasurer Betty Moore
Robert Byrd
Gary Cox
Kinneth Daniels
Carl Goodson
Eddie Jones

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

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

FL-154

GCEC President's Message

May Your Holiday Season Be Merry and Bright

Many of us eagerly anticipate the holidays. The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations and lots of festivities. We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones. Personally, I look forward to spending more time with family and friends.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle, the holidays can offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. Those of us at Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative are grateful for you, our members.

While our main focus is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we want to give back and help our community thrive. One of our founding principles is Concern for Community.

In reflecting on the past year, I'm grateful we could make a positive impact in the community. We appreciate your contributions to Project Helping Hand. As a result of your generosity, we helped many local families pay their energy bills. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with local schools to raise electrical safety awareness using our new Live Line Safety Demonstration Trailer. We continue to work closely with local high schools to award college scholarships.

There are other ways we can help the community. Whether providing information about our rebate programs or helping you find ways to save energy at home, we want you to know we're here to help.

Looking ahead to 2020, we hope you will share your opinions with us. We recognize our members have a valuable perspective. That's why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you. We are led by you, the members, and depend on your feedback.

As we prepare for next year, we look forward to the opportunity to serve you and the greater community. On behalf of the Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative family, we hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright!



Doug Birmingham



**Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative
offices will close at noon
Thursday, December 12, and will
be closed all day Tuesday through
Thursday, December 24-26. Merry
Christmas from all of us at GCEC!**



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.precio.coop
800-282-3824

TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

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

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

210 Metheny Road
Wauchula, FL 33873

MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

14505 Arbor Green Trail
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1

LEONARD CRAWLEY

District 2

KENNETH ODEN

District 3

BRUCE VICKERS
SECRETARY/TREASURER

District 4

HOLLIS ALBRITTON

District 5

MAURICE HENDERSON

District 6

JOHN MARTIN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY/TREASURER

District 7

CHRIS PORTALE

District 8

ELLEN BACHMAN
VICE PRESIDENT

District 9

WILLIE DAWES
PRESIDENT

BOARD MEETINGS

December 17, 2019

January 28, 2020

February 25, 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

PRECO to Pay Members \$1.3 Million in Capital Credits

I'm so glad it's this time of year again. The holidays are a time we look forward to gathering with family and friends, huddling around a lighted tree and sipping eggnog. For many Peace River Electric Cooperative members, it is also the time of year to receive capital credits from the cooperative.

As a member-owned organization, PRECO operates as a not-for-profit electric distribution utility. One cornerstone of the cooperative business model is the allocation and retirement of patronage capital—a two-step process that returns margins to our members. Each year, the cooperative calculates margins, which are described as revenues left over at the end of the year after all expenses. We allocate margins to each member's capital credits account based on their electricity purchases that year. PRECO's lenders require these allocated margins to be retained and used for equity in the cooperative.

Holding this equity permits us to obtain low-cost loans and reduces the amount of money we need to borrow. Also, capital credits help PRECO meet financial obligations, maintain its electric system and serve new members.

PRECO maintains a capital credits account for all past and present co-op members. Even if you move and are no longer a member of the co-op, the capital credits stay in your account. It's important to update your address with PRECO if you move away so you receive your capital credits in the future.

The cooperative retires capital credits when it is financially feasible to do so. When capital credits are retired, PRECO returns your equity to you. This month, PRECO is retiring more than \$1.3 million in capital credits. For more information about the capital credits process, see page 4.

Randy Shaw



**Peace River Electric Cooperative offices
will be closed Tuesday, December 24;
Wednesday, December 25; and
Wednesday, January 1.**

*Merry Christmas,
Happy Holidays
and Happy New Year*