



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

"We Care"

4230 Hatwai Road • PO Box 997
Lewiston, ID 83501
(888) 743-1501
(208) 743-5220
www.clearwaterpower.com

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Business Hours

Monday - Thursday

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

Closed Fridays

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ID-1

Your furnace needs to *breathe*.
So do you.



Dirty filters force your furnace to run longer and can lead to long-term damage. Replace your filters every three months. It's a cheap and easy way to save energy and save money.

It's your power to save.



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

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

Board of Directors

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Deacon Heideman, Fairview

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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

Oregon's Upcoming Legislative "Short" Session

Hello Members:

Your Co-Op and related statewide organization—the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association—are constantly monitoring Legislative and Bureaucratic activity in Salem. With the 2020 "Short Session" just around the corner, we have been following proposed and rumored Legislation. The Carbon "Cap & Trade" Taxation issue will return in some form or another—hopefully with more rural and frontier Oregon input. A new public utility "Franchise Tax" of 1% on all Co-Op and PUD electric bills has been rumored, to fund Electric Vehicle infrastructure aimed predominately for the Metro and Willamette Valley areas. (Do remember your Co-Op installed several of these charging unit items some years ago!) The fear among public utilities is that this is just the start of a new revenue stream structure for Salem. Utilities are an easy way to tax citizens and have the dollars collected sent to Salem for any future purpose the Legislature can think of to spend money.



Hoping not to sound like a broken record, your Co-Op continues to be very interested in expanding and utilizing the Grassroots Political Response Team of our Members. When needed, we will contact you to simply relay pre-addressed email messages to our legislative officials to fend-off these unnecessary mandates that will cost you and your Co-Op money. Please assist us in keeping your power bills as affordable as possible. Each CBEC office has the registration cards to use in joining our Grassroots efforts. Please provide your email address to your Co-Op for future notifications and pre-written messages that you can forward to various elected officials and administrative managers. Together we become a voice that is heard. Columbia Basin will never release your information to any non-Co-Op group or purpose.

If you haven't done so already, please consider registering for the Grassroots Political Response Team. We all need to work collectively to maintain our locally controlled, secure, reliable and affordable electric service.

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
Wayne Jacobsen

Manager

Roger Kline

Board Meetings

Usually the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the PUD offices, 2345 River Road. 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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

As we begin this new year, please remember cold weather tends to increase your electrical consumption and your PUD bills. Please also remember, we have friends and neighbors who can use our help.

We understand the cost per unit of measurement—kilowatt hours—is only one aspect. The amount of energy used via energy consumption is what can make an energy bill larger from one season to the next. That is why we work hard to provide opportunities for energy conservation. We will soon offer other options such as prepay to help our customer-owners in need.

Another way we help those in need is through our Neighbor to Neighbor program. This program gives a helping hand to customers who are struggling to pay their electric bills. One hundred percent of customer donations stays in our community!

Eligible households who do not qualify for other state or federal assistance may receive up to \$125 in a 12-month period. Eligibility is established according to federally defined poverty levels. Verification of eligibility is determined by the Mid-Columbia Community Action Partnership.

You can sign up to have a small monthly contribution of \$1, \$2 or \$5 automatically added to your bill each month, or you can make your contribution on a separate check made payable to "Neighbor to Neighbor." All contributions are tax deductible.

Please consider joining me in supporting some of our fellow community members in this manner.

Thank you,

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.

.....

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Monte Joseph, Sec./Treasurer
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District 1, Coulee Dam

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Pete Palmer
District 4, Nespelem

Patrick Morin Jr.
District 6, Nespelem

Ron Heath
District 7, Disautel

Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5





CONSUMERS POWER INC.

MAILING ADDRESS

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

LOCAL OFFICES

6990 West Hills Road
Philomath, OR 97370

1900 W Oak St.

Lebanon, OR 97355

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Kevin Christopher |
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

STAFF

Roman Gillen | PRESIDENT/CEO
Scott Muller | TREASURER/CFO

www.cpi.coop

OR-6

President's Report

Media reports questioning the solvency of the Bonneville Power Administration continue to appear in both regional and national media outlets. We would like to respond directly to these outlandish, unsubstantiated and unfair claims.

BPA is in no way insolvent or in danger of becoming insolvent. Its contracts with public power utilities in the Northwest guarantee coverage of its costs. BPA has made 36 consecutive annual payments to the U.S. Treasury, fully repaying investments in the federal hydro system. In fact, third-party credit rating services such as Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's have all affirmed BPA is on solid financial footing.

That being said, the competitiveness of BPA's rates in the future is a legitimate concern for BPA and its public power customers alike.

Our purchases of power from BPA come bundled with many valuable services, making a direct cost comparison with standard spot market purchases difficult and complex. This important fact is often overlooked or ignored by BPA's critics, and the reports make unfair apples-to-oranges comparisons. A better statement of BPA's competitive situation is that we are concerned about BPA's ability to mitigate the layering of considerable cost pressures driven by operational, market and ongoing legal challenges to the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

BPA's response to our competitiveness concerns by holding the line on rates for the current two-year rate period is appropriate and appreciated, although we firmly object to the surcharge BPA just imposed to increase its financial reserves. To ensure future

competitiveness, we believe it is critical for BPA to exercise strict cost controls sufficient to keep wholesale power rates level for future rate periods. The nonprofit, community-owned Northwest utilities that make up the bulk of BPA's revenues are working to support BPA in its efforts to reduce costs and increase revenue opportunities. BPA's cost competitiveness is a crucial issue as we consider our long-term power supply options prior to the expiration of our current BPA contracts in 2028.

Federal dams on the Columbia and Lower Snake rivers and locally on the Willamette River provide many additional economic and environmental benefits of tremendous value, including shipping, irrigation, flood control and recreation. National and international attention have become increasingly intent on reducing carbon emissions. The federal hydro system is the largest source of flexible, carbon-free generation in the West. Degradation of our region's federal hydro system will result in higher carbon emissions, higher costs and less reliability. It's essential to adequately account for all of these factors when placing a value on the power we buy from BPA.

BPA's mission is multipurpose, and we in public power understand the crucial role the agency plays in the Northwest. The region's nonprofit utilities remain committed to holding the agency accountable for its costs and spending decisions. Yet we also see great opportunities for BPA, the federal hydro system and the Pacific Northwest economy for the foreseeable future.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO



Give a Gift That Keeps on Giving

When you sign up for Operation Round Up, your bill will be rounded up each month to the nearest dollar. That difference helps support our local communities. The average cost per customer is \$6 a year. To sign up or for more information, please give us a call at 800-872-9036 or visit us online at www.cpi.coop.



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
Contact the Office: 800-221-6987
Website: BentonREA.org

Board of Trustees

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

Board Meetings, Agendas & Minutes

The board of trustees will meet January 29 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, call 509-786-8260 or email priorityrequests@bentonrea.org.

General Manager

Michael J. Bradshaw

Management Staff

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

Where Reliable Power Comes From

Dear Members,

We are all aware of the extreme inconvenience that surfaces when our power goes out. That is why electric system reliability is one of the essential priorities for any electric utility to be successful in its mission to provide the best possible service to its consumers.

I am proud to say from 2014 to 2018, Benton REA's electrical power system, on average, has been up and running, available to provide our members with electrical service, between 99.97% and 99.99% of the time. The average service availability index number was 99.99% for 2018. We don't have 2019 data yet, but I am confident the numbers are similar.

The dedicated employees at Benton REA work hard all year to achieve this reliability result for the benefit of you, the members.

As a member, you can help us keep the lights on by telling us about possible outage-causing issues. Please contact us if you see one of our power poles leaning or down. Keeping your landscaping, trees and plants away from power lines, underground transformer enclosures, electric meters and other power line equipment also helps prevent outages.

Support Hydropower as a Reliable Energy Source

Benton REA's distribution power lines bring electricity to your home from our substations. Substations receive the electricity from transmission lines traveling from where the energy is generated. For us, 86% of that electricity comes from dams.

We're thankful for this renewable resource that is also extremely reliable. Hydropower helps us keep the electricity flowing 24/7, even in extreme temperatures when people need it to stay safe and comfortable. When the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow, firm, dispatchable hydropower is ready and available to provide a reliable and cost-effective source of electricity.

Washington citizens who want to make their voice heard regarding a recent study on the potential removal of the lower Snake River dams will have the opportunity to do so.

Earlier this year, Gov. Jay Inslee allocated \$750,000 to study the impact to the Central and Eastern Washington economies if the four lower Snake River dams were to be removed. You can learn more about the study and share how the dams impact your life at <http://lsrdstakeholderprocess.org>.

There will be a hearing held on the study commissioned by Gov. Inslee on Monday, January 13, at the Pasco Red Lion Hotel and Conference Center. Benton REA representatives will be at the hearing. I encourage Benton REA members to come support the four lower Snake River dams. Look for your invitation to the public hearing and rally on page 8.

Cooperatively,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael J. Bradshaw'.

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



Offices

750 W. Elm Ave.
Hermiston, OR 97838
541 567-6414

400 N.E. Eldrige Drive
Boardman, OR
541 481-2220

Hours

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

1-800-452-2273

Report An Outage
1.888.465.5701 day or night

Directors

Bryan Wolfe, President
Jeff Wenholz, Vice President
Steve Platt, Secretary-Treasurer
Lee Docken
Phil Hamm
John Otis
Glenn Rohde

General Manager

Robert Echenrode

www.umatillaelectric.com

OR-8

Rates, Refunds and Retirees

A new year begins at Umatilla Electric Cooperative.

As we enter 2020 our new rates become effective and reflect our efforts to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable power, while operating in a fiscally sound and sustainable way.

Summarized on Page 8 of this Ruralite, the new rates will add 2 percent to UEC revenues in 2020, our first overall revenue increase in four years, recovering costs of providing service at the best value.

In addition, we have greatly streamlined the structure of our rates across all classes of service to better reflect the way we acquire wholesale power. We also wanted to simplify the way we talk to you about pricing. You can more easily see and understand the value of what you're getting for our services.

Because we have simplified our rates by eliminating blocks, baselines and off-peak rates, and have adjusted our basic, demand and energy charges, the impact of the new rates will vary by individual member's usage.

A residential member using 1,200 kilowatt hours a month (the average at UEC) will rise 30 cents per day. Members using several thousand kilowatt hours will see a lesser impact or see a decrease in their electric bill.

Full details for all customer classes are published at UmatillaElectric.com. Please call or visit if you would like a rate comparison of your old and new rates.

For those seeking lower energy bills, please ask about low- and no-cost recommendations to lower your bill, ways to monitor and

manage your account for savings, and ways to save energy with rebates and loans.

In addition to setting rates, our Board is tasked with determining whether any profits realized by UEC are returned to members in the form of Capital Credits refunds.

In April, the Board returned \$4.5 million to members who received power in 2017. In December, as noted on Page 29, your Board approved the distribution of another \$3.5 million to members for the years 2005 and a portion of 2006, a continuing reflection of the value of your cooperative.

As the new year begins, **four UEC employees will be retiring**. Geri Dickmeier has fulfilled various roles in her 26 years, most recently as our compliance administrator. Doug Minton has worked 25 years in maintenance and as a warehouseman. Mike Harper has worked 23 years as an accountant. Jim Lands is retiring as Operations Superintendent after 22 years. Each has a record of community service and each has made invaluable contributions in service to UEC members.

All of us at UEC wish Geri, Doug, Mike and Jim the best in the years to come, and we look forward to another year of service to you the membership, in 2020.



Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO



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

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

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Mathew Clausen	Secretary
Jerry Duling	Treasurer
Stacy Eakin	Director
Robert Durham	Director
Robert Hammel	Director
Jim McNamee	Director
DeOra Patton	Director

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

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

Mission Statement

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

OR-9

The Value of Bonneville Power

Media reports questioning the solvency of the Bonneville Power Administration continue to appear in both regional and national media outlets. We would like to respond directly to these outlandish, unsubstantiated and unfair claims.

BPA is in no way insolvent or in danger of becoming insolvent. Its contracts with public power utilities in the Northwest guarantee coverage of its costs. BPA has made 36 consecutive annual payments to the U.S. Treasury, fully repaying investments in the federal hydro system. In fact, third-party credit rating services such as Moody's and Standard & Poor's have all affirmed BPA is on solid financial footing.

That being said, the competitiveness of BPA's rates in the future is a legitimate concern for BPA and its public power customers. Our power purchases from BPA come bundled with many valuable services, making a direct cost comparison with standard spot-market purchases difficult and complex. This important fact is often overlooked or ignored by BPA's critics, and the reports make unfair apples-to-oranges comparisons. A better statement of BPA's competitive situation is that we are concerned about BPA's ability to mitigate the layering of considerable cost pressures driven by operational, market and ongoing legal challenges to the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

BPA's response to our competitiveness concerns by holding the line on wholesale power rates for the current two-year rate period is appropriate and appreciated, although we firmly object to the surcharge BPA just imposed to increase its financial reserves. To ensure future competitiveness, we believe it is critical for BPA to exercise strict cost controls and keep wholesale power rates level for future rate periods.

The not-for-profit community-owned Northwest utilities that make up the bulk of BPA's revenues are working to support BPA in its efforts to reduce costs and increase revenue opportunities. BPA's cost competitiveness is a crucial issue as we consider our long-term power supply options prior to the expiration of our current BPA contracts in 2028.

The federal dams on the Columbia and Lower Snake rivers provide many valuable economic and environmental benefits, including shipping, irrigation, flood control and recreation. They are also critical to our clean energy future. The federal hydro system is also the largest source of flexible, carbon-free energy in the Northwest. It helps us add new solar and wind, and is critical to avoiding blackouts in the region. It's essential to adequately account for all of these factors when placing a value on the power we buy from BPA.

BPA's mission is multipurpose. We in public power understand the crucial role the agency plays in the Northwest.

Wasco Electric Cooperative and the rest of the region's not-for-profit utilities remain committed to holding the agency accountable for its costs and spending decisions, yet we also see great opportunities for BPA and the federal hydro system to support the Pacific Northwest economy and way of life for the foreseeable future.



Jeff Davis
General Manager

Owned By Those We Serve

Douglas Electric Cooperative Inc.
1981 NE Stephens St.
Roseburg, Oregon
Phone 541-673-6616
800-233-2733
Outage 888-420-8826

Officers

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

General Manager
Keith Brooks

Assistant General Manager
Phil Bigler

Office Manager/CFO
David Western

Superintendent
Todd Sherwood

Member Services
Todd C. Munsey

System Engineer
Jess Dory, PE

Mission Statement

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

DOUGLAS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OR-10

Board Member Elections

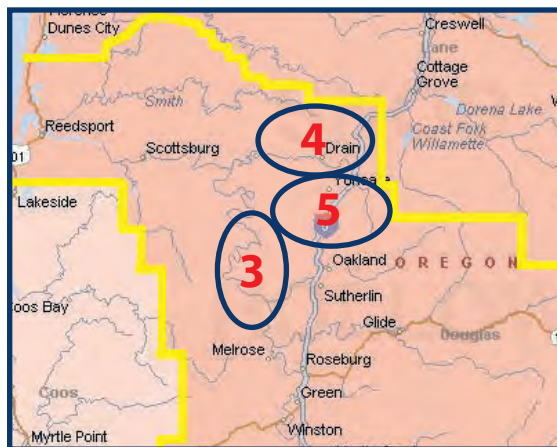
Dear Member,

If you are interested in getting involved in your cooperative, director positions for Districts 3, 4 and 5 are up for election at the next Annual Meeting to be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds April 4, 2020.

District 3 - Incumbent - Larry Shipley - This district can generally be described as Elgarose, Melqua, Cleveland Rapids, Lower Garden Valley, Umpqua, Hubbard Creek, Tyee, and Kellogg.

District 4 - Incumbent - Robert Poage - This district can generally be described as Lower and Upper Smith River, west of Drain to the tunnel on Highway 38 (City of Drain not included), Anlauf, and Curtin.

District 5 - Incumbent - Dick McHaffie - This district can generally be described as Yoncalla, Hayhurst, Rice Hill, Scotts Valley, and Elkhead.



Qualified applicants must file a membership nomination petition, signed by 15 or more members who reside in the respective district. Petitions must be in your cooperative's headquarters on or before January 31, 2020.

If you would like information about the opportunities and benefits of getting involved, director qualifications, and a nomination petition, please come to your Cooperative's headquarters located at 1981 NE Stephens, Roseburg, Oregon.

Columbia Power Co-op



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

DIRECTORS

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

MANAGER

Troy Cox

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

POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

OR-11

Minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Members

The 70th Annual Meeting of Members of the Columbia Power Cooperative Association was held in the school gymnasium at Spray, Oregon, on December 7, 2019.

Director Dan Cannon delivered the invocation. President Paul Walton called the meeting to order, welcomed the members and thanked CPC employees for the work they do throughout the year. He introduced Vice President Adam Temple to conduct the business portion of the meeting.

Temple announced a quorum was present and declared it was an official meeting of CPC. He asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the meeting notice and dispense with the reading of the December 1, 2018, annual meeting minutes.

Upon motion by Cannon, seconded by Director Dallas Newton and carried, the motion to dispense of reading the meeting notice and the 2018 annual meeting minutes was approved. Temple called for director nominations from the floor. With no nominations from the floor, Temple closed the nominations and called for the ballots.

Secretary-Treasurer Brian Campbell read a statement prepared by the CPC audit firm CPA LLC. The audit firm gave CPC the highest opinion given by a certified public accountant. The firm found CPC staff was following the prescribed accounting system, the information in our annual report is fairly stated, and everything showed our healthy cooperative is working for the members.

Manager Troy Cox introduced the board and special guests, and then

presented the financial report for the audit year ending September 30, 2019.

Cox covered the figures contained therein and said the electric plant has increased by about \$81,902. He said members' equity of nearly \$7.77 million is now at 31.2% of total assets. The members' equity should start increasing slightly each year now that we are not borrowing any more money for rebuilding the system. Once the member equity ratio reaches 40%, the board will have the option of returning some of the patronage capital.

Cox said power sales were steady and the cost of power purchased from the Bonneville Power Administration was steady. It was a good year, with more than \$4 million in operating revenues, producing margins of \$371,100.

Cox recognized CPC employees and thanked them for the outstanding job they do.

Director Cannon entertained the crowd with an array of humor and poetry.

Walton announced the election process was completed. Campbell was elected for a new three-year term in the Monument/Kimberly area. Temple was elected for a new three-year term in the Mitchell/Twickenham area. Judy Wilson was elected to a new three-year term in the Ukiah/Dale area.

There being no further business to come before the members, the meeting was adjourned. Members were invited to a home-cooked dinner at the Spray Grange.

**Brian Campbell
Secretary**

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

DIRECTORS:

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

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

Attorney, Thomas M. Grim
Cable Huston LLP, Portland

STAFF:

President and CEO
Dave Markham

Chief Financial Officer
Rawleigh White

Director of Operations & Engineering
Brad Wilson

Corporate Information Officer
Lisa Cutter

**Director of Member
and Public Relations**
Brent ten Pas

**Director of Customer
and Energy Services**
Ryan Davies

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

Unfinished Legislative Business

With a new year upon us, it is important to consider what the state and federal legislatures have in store for electric cooperatives. Will it be a new chapter, new verse or just the same old story? Whatever storyline develops, Central Electric will work diligently to ensure costly and unnecessary legislative and regulatory burdens are not passed on to members.

As the story played out last year, Oregon's economywide carbon cap-and-trade bill (HB 2020) initially exposed Central Electric to nearly \$7 million in new costs between 2021 and 2030. This cost exposure was unacceptable, given the electricity we provide to our members is already more than 96% carbon emission-free. To mitigate this financial risk, CEC met with the governor's office and legislators, offering solutions which, eventually, were amended to the bill. The amendments reduced our cost exposure to approximately \$3 million during the same 10-year period. HB 2020 languished on the Senate floor.

What happens during next month's legislative short-session remains unclear. Will HB 2020 resurface, or will a vastly modified version be unveiled? Whatever the outcome, fairness and equity should prevail. Central Electric should not be financially punished for its nearly 100% carbon emission-free portfolio, while the two Oregon investor-owned utilities, who are only required to provide 50% renewable energy by 2040, get a 10-year free pass on carbon penalties. I will keep you informed of our efforts as this saga continues.

On the federal legislative front, Oregon cooperatives spent last year promoting a bill to correct an unintended adverse outcome. When Congress passed comprehensive tax reform in 2017, from thousands of pages emerged language jeopardizing many electrical cooperatives' tax-exempt status.

Cooperatives must abide by the 85%-15% income test to maintain their tax-exempt status. That means no more than 15% of gross income may come from nonmember sources. For example, an electric cooperative that accepted grant money to assist with disaster recovery or broadband deployment would have to count the money as income if total monies received exceeded 15%.

The threat of a cooperative losing its tax-exempt status hits close to home. Two Oregon cooperatives, Lane Electric and Douglas Electric, were seriously impacted by last February's record-setting "Snowmageddon." While Lane Electric incurred \$5.7 million in repairs and Douglas Electric about \$10 million, both are eligible to receive aid up to 75% of those costs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These co-ops, however, may be forced to choose between keeping their tax-exempt status or foregoing FEMA financial assistance.

The bipartisan RURAL Act (H.R. 2147 and S. 1032) would resolve this dilemma. The Oregon congressional delegation has demonstrated bipartisan support for the RURAL Act, and Sen. Ron Wyden, as a leader on the Senate tax committee, helped advance this legislation. At the time of this writing, the legislation has passed the House and the Senate and awaits the President's signature.

Members who made their voices heard through ORECA-Action played an instrumental role in this big win. If you haven't already and want to participate this year, I encourage you to visit our website, www.cec.coop, click on the Community tab and then ORECA-Action. Join your fellow CEC members and other Oregon electric co-op members to share your concerns with policymakers.

Dave Markham, President and CEO



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John G. Herzog, Brookings/Harbor

Vice President

Georgia A. Cockerham, Brookings/Harbor

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Jim Kolen, Gold Beach

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Peter C. Radabaugh, Bandon/Coquille

Daryl C. Robison, Port Orford/Langlois

Daniel Loshbaugh, Northern At-Large

Attorney—Tyler Pepple

Staff

General Manager/CEO

Brent Bischoff

Corporate Services/CFO

Frank Corrales

Engineering Manager

Matt Mjelde

Marketing and Member

Services Manager

Jacob Knudsen

Operations Manager

Randy McDonald

Local numbers

Coquille 541-396-3118

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

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

Brookings..... 541-469-2103

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

Monday through Thursday.

Closed Friday.

After-Hours Outage Number

866-352-9044

Call Before You Dig

811

www.ccec.coop

OR-13

Much to Look Forward to in 2020

One year ago, I reported to you my first impressions of Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative after taking the reigns as the new general manager and CEO. I'm happy to report now that my good first impressions have been validated with my experience throughout 2019. The management team is an extremely talented group of professionals. Each manager is an expert in their own department and works tenaciously to improve their arm of the co-op. Unitedly, they work to strengthen the whole organization.

Likewise, the staff and crews are capable and talented professionals working day in and day out to operate, maintain and build upon our processes and systems to best serve you.

Reviewing 2019, we were fortunate last February to narrowly avoid the "snowmageddon" that destroyed major portions of the power grid at our neighboring electric co-ops in Douglas and Lane counties. We did have two unplanned Bonneville Power Administration transmission outages in June and September. They caused widespread power outages primarily affecting Gold Beach and Brookings for several hours. Recently, the "bomb cyclone" tore up parts of our system in Gold Beach and Brookings the week of Thanksgiving. Our line crews worked tirelessly to restore power in time for everyone to cook turkeys and watch football on Thanksgiving. Throughout thousands of man-hours worked in 2019, we had just one minor cut on a finger, a tribute to the safety awareness of our crews.

At the end of last school year, CCEC hosted its second annual Kids Safety Camp. Thirty first and second graders spent a Saturday morning learning how to live in and interact safely with our modern environment—one of many activities where CCEC gave back to our communities. In August, we held our first Member Appreciation Days, one at each of our four area offices. We enjoyed sharing a barbecue meal with those of you who came. It was good to hear your appreciation for and expectations of CCEC in person.

During 2019, we solicited input from across our members to understand if you would like CCEC to build and offer high-quality fiber optic broadband service. We've received mostly favorable responses to the question. There is due diligence work yet to complete before the board can conclude the project is financially viable. And finally, the board and management team had a productive two-day strategic planning session. We are finalizing that effort so we can march smartly through the new year focused on key strategic goals and objectives to serve you the energy that powers your life.

Happy New Year!

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

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed for lunch
from noon to 1 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Brett Costley
(Dist. 4 – Vernonia)

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

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

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

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

Rosemary Lohrke
(Dist. 6 – Chapman, Scappoose)

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Bob Perry

Contact the board:
directors@westoregon.org

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

OR-14

Rate Increase Begins This Month

Dear Members,

The Bonneville Power Administration announced a rate increase effective October 1, 2019. We will pass this increase in our cost of power to our members effective January 1, 2020.

We will discuss this change at a rate information meeting Thursday, January 9, at the Vernonia Rural Fire Department Building, 555 Bridge St. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.

This will be an increase to all classes and blocks of \$0.004 per kWh used. This means that for each 100 kWh you use, your bill will increase by \$0.40. For consumers using 1,000 kWh, the bill will increase by \$4 a month.

You will see this increase in the bill you receive in February for the power that is consumed and billed for January.

Rural electric cooperatives work on a cost basis. We charge only what it costs us to provide the service. As our costs change, the price we charge also should change. The cost of power we bought in 2018-19 averaged \$0.04097/kWh (4.10 cents) and is being raised to \$0.0460/kWh (4.60 cents). We are increasing nothing but the cost of power.

All members are welcome to attend and to ask questions regarding the BPA pass-through at this meeting.

New Office Hours

Beginning January 2, WOEC's regular office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The office is closed daily for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

This change is necessary to allow our employees a regular lunch hour while keeping our front office appropriately staffed. While the office is closed, payments may be made by phone, drop box or online at westoregon.org. Our dispatch center can be reached by phone 24/7 at 503-429-3021 to process power outage reports.

Thank you for your understanding.

Happy New Year!

Bob Perry
General Manager





Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

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

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

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

www.surprisevalleyelectric.org

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

After hours and outages:
Call office numbers above

STAFF

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Flynn, President
Valley Falls

Scott Warner, Vice President
Lakeview

Raymond Cloud, Secretary/Treasurer
New Pine Creek

Wesley Cook
Cedarville

Craig Joiner
Lookout

John Erquiaga
Lake City

Kyle Weber
Alturas

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

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CA-15

Energy Efficiency for the Year

Saving money with greater energy efficiency may be a year-round objective for many consumers, but the way to achieve this goal varies by season. A number of factors affect energy efficiency, including weather, the age and condition of the home, and desired comfort levels.

Fall and Winter

There are simple steps you can take to increase energy efficiency and keep your home warm in fall and winter.

Fall is a great time to check seals on doors and windows for air leaks. Caulk and weatherstrip as needed to seal in warm air and save energy. Similarly, examine outlets for air leaks. Where necessary, install gaskets around the outlet to prevent drafts. During the day, open curtains or drapes on south-facing windows to enable sunlight to heat your home naturally. Close curtains or drapes at night for an added layer of window insulation.

As the temperature drops with the onset of winter, schedule a service appointment for your heating system to ensure it operates at an optimal level. Low-cost or no-cost steps for energy savings include taping or affixing heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against cold air. Ensure the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to reduce infiltration. Use a programmable thermostat to set the temperature as low as is comfortable when you are home—ideally around 68 degrees. When you are asleep or away, turn the temperature down 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours. According to the Department of Energy, this small adjustment can help you save approximately 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs.

Spring and Summer

During warmer months, energy savings and efficiency require different measures, many of which are inexpensive. If you live in a cool climate, open your windows in the evening and turn off your cooling system while sleeping. In the morning, shut the windows and blinds to hold in the cool air.

Where practical, plant trees and shrubs that provide shade in warm months and allow sunlight in winter. In addition to the aesthetic value, well-placed trees can take heat gain from the sun and provide needed shade by creating a canopy for the house.

In extremely hot weather, your cooling system works hard to close the gap between the high outdoor temperature and the cool indoor thermostat setting. To lessen the difference in temperature between the two, and to lower cooling costs, set the thermostat as high as you can while maintaining your comfort level. Use a ceiling fan in conjunction with your air conditioning to increase the thermostat setting by approximately four degrees with no reduction in comfort levels.

To learn more about additional energy-saving tips and programs, contact Surprise Valley Electric.■



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Knudsen Obermeyer, Oakridge District | President

Kathy Keable, McKenzie District | Vice President

Hugh Buermann, Row River District | Treasurer

Jerry Shorey, Oakridge District | Secretary

Jack Billings, Central District

J. Ingrid Kessler, Central District

Chris Seubert, Central District

MANAGEMENT

Debi Wilson | General Manager

Tony Toncray | Engineering & Operations Manager

BOARD MEETINGS

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

OR-16

A New Year, A New Decade

Dear Co-op Community Members:

As we rang in 2020, we also rang in a new decade of opportunity. Welcome to the 2020s. A new year brings opportunity for reflection on our past and optimism for our future. As we close out 2019, I want to reflect on some highlights from this past year.

February brought us a storm for the decades. When we thought the ice storm of 2016 was the worst we had seen, Mother Nature had to close out the 2010s with a bang. The February storm caused widespread damage to 77% of our electric system. It impacted 10,120 members and our small line crew of 16 increased to a crew of 111 linemen. As a utility, we learned the importance of preparedness and shared the message with you all year long.

In April, I was honored to be hired as your general manager. After serving Lane Electric members in various roles for nearly two decades, I was thrilled to be chosen to lead your cooperative. Being in this new role has been a highlight of the year and a true honor.

In May, visited with you at our five district meetings. We updated members on the broadband feasibility study, Bonneville Power Administration rates, our financial and legal reports, and our distribution system report. We look forward to seeing you at our 2020 meetings.

I visited Washington, D.C., on behalf of our members and cooperatives to advocate for the RURAL Act, which will help us maintain reasonable rates by protecting our tax-exempt status.

During the summer, line crews and tree trimmers worked to improve reliability. We also changed out reclosers to do our part to reduce fire risk to our beautiful community.

I am proud we continued supporting our local youth. In 2019, we distributed scholarships totaling approximately \$20,000 to seven deserving students. We also offer a scholarship for a trip for one high school junior to visit our nation's capital. Lastly, we continued our support of FFA and 4-H.

Lane Electric supported local communities through local events, celebrations, and parades. We also donated to local schools and grad parties. And very dear to our cooperative, we provided lunch to our veterans.

Lane Electric celebrated 80 years of service. We went from serving 650 members in 1939 to the nearly 13,000 we proudly serve today.

As we ring in 2020, we are proud to serve you, our members. We hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. From our families to yours, Happy New Year!



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,

Let me start by wishing all of you a happy new year! Many of us mark the start of a new year by resolving to accomplish a goal we set for ourselves. At your electric cooperative, our goals were set last year in the approved budget and work plan. Now it's time for us to take stock in the past year's performance regarding the co-op's budget priorities and strategic plan objectives. The staff and I will be reporting the results of our efforts in 2019 to the board of directors at our January board meeting.

I am happy to say the employees here at Blachly-Lane did a remarkable job of delivering safe, reliable and cost-effective electric service to our members despite challenges like a major snowstorm. They accomplished their work without a single lost-time accident or injury, and achieved accreditation from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's and Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program.

It's also the time of year we implement any rate changes approved by the board in December. Our 2020 budget and work plans require a 2.5% rate increase to accomplish that work and meet our fiscal responsibilities. Asking members to pay more for energy and our services is never easy or taken lightly. Rate impacts are always taken into consideration when preparing work plans and budgets. Please see page 28 of this issue for the 2020 rate table.

Every new year brings us an opportunity to ring out the old and bring in the new. For me, that means reflecting on our accomplishments and our shortcomings. We take this time to set new goals and recommit to the important work we do for our members: safety, reliability and serving our members as cost-effectively as we can.

Greg Gardner

General Manager





Board of Commissioners

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President

Douglas B. Miller
Vice President

Randy L. Knowles
Secretary

.....
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General Manager

Kevin Ricks
Renewable Energy Asset Manager

Gwyn Miller
Assistant General Manager

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

Striving Toward Excellence in 2020

Wow, it's hard to believe that it's 2020 already. Y2K seems like yesterday, doesn't it?

To start the year, I want to make sure you all are aware that the Klickitat PUD Board of Commissioners has approved our 2020 operating budget. An important item from that is there will not be an electric rate increase in 2020. This follows no rate increases in 2017 and 2018, and a 1.5% increase in 2019.

Three out of four years without a rate increase is an impressive accomplishment, and I am very proud of our employees. I continue to be impressed with their commitment and willingness to learn and grow in their abilities to serve you better each year. We will strive to continue to improve as we serve you in the year ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the employees' efforts and extend my thanks to them for their dedicated service.

I would also like to thank our customers for supporting your community through our assistance programs. If you missed out on information regarding Operation Warm Heart, be sure to look at page 8 to learn how you can participate.

Another exciting update is that Gwyn Miller has been promoted to assistant general manager. Gwyn has served Klickitat PUD since 2011 as the human resources manager. She has also managed the information technology, customer service and accounting departments for the past several years. She will continue to oversee these departments. We're very pleased to have Gwyn in this new role.

I sincerely hope you all enjoyed a happy holiday season. Here's to a successful 2020.

Jim Smith
General Manager





NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.

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www.nli.coop
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Sagle, ID 83860

For Outages:
866-665-4837

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within the Sandpoint area:**
208-263-5141

Outside Sandpoint:
800-326-9594

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Steve Elgar

Board Vice President
Kennon McClintock

Board Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Dolan

General Manager
Annie Terracciano

Board of Directors by District

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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

No Rate Increase

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the company of family and friends over the holidays, and your resolutions are in place for the start of a great new year. Whether your resolution is to lose weight, save money, spend more time with your family, or learn something new and exciting, let's get to work achieving our goals in the year ahead.

I am happy to report that there will NOT be a residential rate increase this year even though NLI will see a rate increase from the Bonneville Power Administration.

Every two years, BPA conducts a formal process known as a rate case to ensure its projected revenue from the electricity it sells will cover the expenses it incurs.

The amount BPA charges must cover payments on federal dams, building and maintaining transmission lines, fish and wildlife mitigation, energy-efficiency programs and other obligations required by federal and state laws.

On October 1, 2019, BPA's overall rates went up by 4% for NLI. This increase includes a wholesale rate increase, a transmission rate increase and a financial reserves policy surcharge.

BPA supplies 90% of NLI's power. An increase in BPA rates makes a huge impact on the expenses of your co-op. The NLI board and employees have worked diligently to create a 2020 budget that will not require an increase in rates and allows us to absorb BPA's rate increase. NLI stands firm on its commitment to provide safe, reliable service at an affordable price.

I wish you all the best in the new year!

Annie Terracciano
General Manager





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

Jim Poxleitner | President
Cottonwood

Ernie Robinson | Vice President
White Bird

Gerald Frei | Secretary-Treasurer
Grangeville

Frank McIntire
Kamiah

Martin Poxleitner
Grangeville

Greg M. Smith
Syringa

Bruce Nuxoll
Kooskia

Attorney
J.A. Wright

General Manager
Max Beach



c-21



Look Out for Scams

I wanted to rerun this article because we continue to get reports of phishy calls to Idaho County Light & Power members

Unfortunately, scams are now common. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action to turning off your power.

Utility scams often involve someone posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim. Understand the threats and your best course of action.

If someone calls demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from them, hang up and contact local authorities. Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank information or loading a prepaid credit or debit card.

If you have any doubts about your Idaho County Light & Power bill, contact our member payment center in person or by phone at 208-983-1610.

If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of ICL&P and wants payment or to inspect your property, call us at 208-983-1610 to verify employment. If they are not, call local authorities and do

not let the individual into your home.

There are other types of scams consumers should watch out for. Government agencies such as the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. This information is always sent by mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang up immediately.

If you receive an email from an unknown sender, an email riddled with spelling errors and typos, or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links and do not respond. Delete the email or send it to your spam folder.

If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang up. The caller wants access to personal information on your computer.

ICL&P wants to make sure you avoid all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. If you have questions or want more information about how you can protect yourself from scammers, call us or go to www.iclp.coop. ■



Columbia REA

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

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

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

2020 Vision - No, you're not seeing things

Whether you have renewed your commitment to personal health, or maybe just sporting a new pair of shoes, it's always nice to start the new year with a little something new.

Among the new things around here in 2020 is the design of *Ruralite*, our monthly magazine filled with industry trends, regional co-op news and energy-saving tips, as well as all the goings-on and good work happening at Columbia REA. We hope you enjoy the new look to the magazine!

We will always make our best effort to bring you the most helpful, accurate and relevant information in the most timely fashion, the way you want it delivered, whether that is through *Ruralite*, our website (columbiarea.coop), periodic emails, social media or the good old-fashioned U.S. mail.

In our recent member survey, *Ruralite* once again proved to be your preferred method of receiving information from the Cooperative:

"Ruralite magazine continues to be the communication channel used most often by members for information about the Co-op and half of the residential members say they always read the magazine."

- 2019 Member Satisfaction Survey, NRECA Market Research Services

So we hope you keep reading *Ruralite*, because as always, we will have a lot of important information to share with you throughout the coming months. Before you know it we'll be talking about our Annual Membership Meeting and Board of Director's elections in April, and our 2020 Community Grant program, which you'll be hearing more about very soon!

We'll also have information on energy efficiency, safety tips, local stories and staff profiles, and the latest rates information and industry trends.

And we know that you don't just read *Ruralite*, so look for some changes to our website, columbiarea.coop, very soon as well. We'll be updating the design and functionality of our online and mobile presence early in 2020. SmartHub, our mobile app for members, has also been updated, and soon it will be even easier to pay your bill online and even track your usage and communicate with us through SmartHub.

At Columbia REA, we are hitting the ground running with a clear vision for 2020... and beyond.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year,

Scott Peters
CEO





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

Departments

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

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Vice President

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Secretary/Treasurer

Vic Russell, Fall River
Diana Cox, Christmas Valley
Bud Kendall, La Pine
Robert Reed, La Pine
Leland Smith, Sunriver
Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist
Ken Wilson, Chemult

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

STAFF

General Manager

Dave Schneider

Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Steinhauer

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

Happy New Year! The calendar year is the fiscal and operating year for Midstate Electric Cooperative, so the staff will be busy closing out 2019 during the coming weeks.

I am pleased to report that even though the Bonneville Power Administration increased our wholesale power rate in October, your management team prepared a 2020 working budget that did not include a rate increase and did not reduce any of our services to you, our members. The budget was approved by the board of directors at the November board meeting.

2020 Annual Meeting

The 2020 MEC annual membership meeting is Saturday, May 9. Please make a note of it on your calendar. You will receive formal notification of the time and location of the meeting well in advance.

Districts 5 (Chemult), 7 (Fort Rock) and 9 (Sunriver) are up for election this year. Candidates to represent those districts may be nominated for director by filing a petition signed by at least 15 members of the cooperative who reside in that district. Petitions for the three positions may be obtained at MEC's headquarters facility and must be filed with the secretary on or before Tuesday, March 10.

For information about qualifications and duties of directors, call 541-536-2126 option 5. For detailed descriptions of districts 5, 7 and 9, see page 8.

Career Day

MEC hosted its fourth annual Career Day for North Lake, Gilchrist and La Pine high school students November 19. Check out the article and pictures on page 25.

MEC High School Sophomores and Juniors—Last Call

MEC will send one student delegate to the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 18-25, 2020.

This all-expenses-paid trip is a unique opportunity for a high school sophomore or junior whose parents are MEC members. The deadline to apply is Thursday, January 30. Call 541-536-2126 option 5 for information.

Oregon Legislature Returns to Salem

The Oregon State Legislature returns next month for a short 35-day session. The leaders of both the House and Senate—along with Gov. Kate Brown—have made it clear that passing a cap-and-trade bill similar to California's is a priority.

As a BPA customer—using close to 100% carbon-free hydroelectric power—this should not be a concern to MEC. However, legislation of this nature can have far-reaching effects depending on the approach taken by the state government. With assistance from the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association and other organizations, MEC will be engaged throughout the 2020 session advocating for outcomes that have neutral or beneficial effects on our members.

We may need to call on our political grassroots advocates to band together to contact elected officials to affect the political process. If you are not an ORECA-Action member, please join today. Go to www.mse.coop and click on the ORECA-Action Grassroots button on the upper right of the home page or call 541-536-2126 option 5. Thank you for your support.

Dave Schneider
General Manager



www.rrelectric.com

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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

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(All calls for Jackpot, Jarbidge,
Mountain City and Owyhee)

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- Toll free 800-342-7732
(After hours and outages)



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

ID-24



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY JAVIER BROSCHE

Is Anyone There?

Has your phone number, address or email changed recently? If so, please take a minute to update your current contact information with us.

This information is kept confidential and is used for Raft River Electric communication purposes only. It is quick and easy to update your contact information online at our SmartHub page at rrelectric.smarthub.coop/Login or by calling the office at 208-645-2211 or 800-342-7732.

Did you know that by updating your contact information with us, you can quickly and easily report a power outage or receive a power outage notification?

Staying connected is important for many reasons!



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

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Curtis Dahl

Stacy Kniveton

Lanny Hayes

Dennis Swinger Sr.

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Yvette Armstrong

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf



WA-25

2020 BBEC Rate Increase

Big Bend Electric Cooperative recently conducted a cost-of-service analysis. After careful review, the board of trustees approved a 5.2% rate increase affecting all rate classes including residential, commercial and irrigation. The rate increase is effective April 1, 2020, with the exception of irrigation facilities charges—horsepower charges—which are effective February 1, 2020.

The COSA identified several areas where BBEC rates come up short if we continue on our current trajectory. As a not-for-profit electric utility, our goal is to set rates as close to our actual cost as possible while maintaining sufficient cash reserves for equipment maintenance, infrastructure improvements and unforeseen events.

Several factors contribute to the need for increased rates.

Wholesale Electricity Prices Increases

The cost to supply electricity changes minute by minute on the wholesale energy market. Most of our wholesale power is purchased from the Bonneville Power Administration. BPA is projected to increase rates continually throughout the next several years.

Increasing Regulations

New state and federal regulations, tariffs and trade wars affect the cost to provide electrical service to our members.

Inflation

The cost of materials and inventory is directly affected by inflation. The same materials purchased just a few years ago to build new services are not being sold at the same prices today.

Operations and Maintenance Costs

Maintaining the electrical grid to provide you safe, reliable electricity at any given moment is a full-time job that requires expensive equipment and materials. Construction, maintenance and operating costs rise every year, as does consumer demand on the system. Modernizing the electrical infrastructure to keep up with the rising demand for electricity to power our cellphones, iPads, smart cars and linked devices takes a toll on cash reserves at the co-op.

Our No. 1 goal is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. Thank you for helping us keep the co-op financially stable and able to weather any storm that may lie ahead.

For additional information on the rate increase or for a complete rate schedule, please contact our office at 866-844-2363 or visit our website at www.bbec.org.



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

541-354-1233
www.hrec.coop
www.facebook.com/
HRECCoop/

Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday,
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Closed on Fridays

.....

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President Butch Gehrig
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John McGhee
Opal DeBoard
Dick Sohler
Jeff Osborn

GENERAL MANAGER

Libby Calnon

.....

Serving rural
Hood River County
since 1945

OR-26

Manager's Message

Media reports questioning the solvency of the Bonneville Power Administration continue to appear in both regional and national media outlets. We would like to respond directly to these outlandish, unsubstantiated and unfair claims.

BPA is in no way insolvent or in danger of becoming insolvent. Its contracts with public power utilities in the Northwest guarantee coverage of its costs. BPA has made 36 consecutive annual payments to the U.S. Treasury, fully repaying investments in the federal hydro system. In fact, third-party credit rating services such as Moody's and Standard & Poor's have all affirmed BPA is on solid financial footing.

That being said, the competitiveness of BPA's rates in the future is a legitimate concern for BPA and its public power customers. Our power purchases from BPA come bundled with many valuable services, making a direct cost comparison with standard spot-market purchases difficult and complex. This important fact is often overlooked or ignored by BPA's critics, and the reports make unfair apples-to-oranges comparisons. A better statement of BPA's competitive situation is that we are concerned about BPA's ability to mitigate the layering of considerable cost pressures driven by operational, market and ongoing legal challenges to the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

BPA's response to our competitiveness concerns by holding the line on wholesale power rates for the current two-year rate period is appropriate and appreciated, although we firmly object to the surcharge BPA just imposed to increase its financial reserves. To ensure future competitiveness, we believe it is critical for BPA to exercise strict cost controls and keep wholesale

power rates level for future rate periods. The not-for-profit community-owned Northwest utilities that make up the bulk of BPA's revenues are working to support BPA in its efforts to reduce costs

and increase revenue opportunities. BPA's cost competitiveness is a crucial issue as we consider our long-term power supply options prior to the expiration of our current BPA contracts in 2028.

The federal dams in the Columbia River basin provide many valuable economic and environmental benefits, including shipping, irrigation, flood control and recreation. They are also critical to our clean energy future. The federal hydro system is also the largest source of flexible, carbon-free energy in the Northwest. It helps us add new solar and wind, and is critical to avoiding blackouts in the region. It's essential to adequately account for all of these factors when placing a value on the power we buy from BPA.

BPA's mission is multipurpose. We in public power understand the crucial role the agency plays in the Northwest.

Hood River Electric Cooperative and the rest of the region's not-for-profit utilities remain committed to holding the agency accountable for its costs and spending decisions, yet we also see great opportunities for BPA and the federal hydro system to support the Pacific Northwest economy and way of life for the foreseeable future.



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

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.....

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Rod Hoagland
Hank Dufurrena
Zach Sword

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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,

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

- A flashlight, oil or battery-powered lamp or lantern with extra batteries or oil.
- Candles and matches. Although you should not carry them around in the dark, candles are safe when set on a flat, stable nonflammable surface. Be sure to keep them away from drapes and other flammable fabrics. Do not leave them unattended.
- A battery-powered radio. If the outage is lengthy or associated with another emergency, local radio reports will provide regular updates.
- Emergency phone numbers. Keep numbers for your utility, doctor, fire department and police easily accessible.
- A telephone connected directly to the phone jack. Cordless phones and phones with answering machines require electricity to operate. If you have advanced warning of a storm, be sure to charge your cellphone battery.
- A first-aid kit and prescription medications. Make sure you have an ample supply of all medicines you regularly use. During a storm, travel may not be possible for several days.
- Extra blankets, sleeping bags and warm clothes. If you are without heat for

an extended period, close off one room to live in, and wear extra layers of clothes.

- Clean drinking water. Fresh water is not always available when the power goes out—particularly if you rely on a well. Have at least 1 gallon for each person per day.
- A manual can opener and nonperishable food. Canned or instant food and freeze-dried meals are good to have on hand, but often require hot water or a source of heat to prepare. A camp stove and fuel may be handy, but be sure to use it outdoors. Breakfast bars, crackers, peanut butter and canned or dried fruit require no preparation. Remember paper plates.
- A cooler for storing frequently used foods. Food will keep several hours in a closed refrigerator, and up to two days in the freezer. It will spoil more quickly if the door is opened, or the refrigerator or freezer is not full.
- Firewood and kindling. If you have a fireplace or wood stove, make sure you have an adequate supply of wood and plenty of matches.

See page 8 for a coupon code for Mountain House dehydrated meals for Harney Electric members.

All of us at Harney Electric wish all of you a happy, safe new year!

General Manager Fred Flippence





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

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 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



Salmon River Electric Rates

Effective December 25, SREC retail electric rates increased for some customer classes. The increase was not as large as previously communicated.

The predominant need to raise electric rates is driven by the Bonneville Power Administration once again raising its wholesale electricity rates. BPA has raised SREC's electric rates in excess of 10% since SREC last raised retail electric rates in 2016. It has raised SREC rates in excess of 30% since 2011.

Overall, SREC is raising electric rates 2.6%. Residential rates are increasing by 3%. Three-phase irrigation rates are increasing 6%, while single-phase irrigation rates will decrease by 1%. RV park demand customer rates are increasing the most—11%. Three-phase commercial, one-phase commercial, RV park non-demand and dusk-to-dawn lighting rates remain unchanged. Rate classes not experiencing rate adjustments already meet their revenue requirement based on the most recent cost-of-service analysis.

SREC commissioned a comprehensive rate study in 2013. A comprehensive rate study generally consists of three separate, yet interrelated, analysis into revenue requirement, cost of service and rate design. A comprehensive rate study is generally good for five to seven years—if certain inputs are relatively constant. These inputs include growth, wholesale electric rates, rate structure and strategic direction.

Revenue requirement is determining what costs need to be recovered through rates. Power costs make up approximately 50% of these costs. They are determined by BPA through rate case processes. The remainder of the costs occur locally and are driven by strategic direction, work plans, operation and maintenance, and staffing levels, all of which are rolled into annual budgets.

The objective of the cost of service analysis is to analyze costs and equitably assign those costs to customers, commensurate with the cost of serving those customers. This analysis is done using an industry standard model designed to functionalize, classify and allocate costs to the various customer classes.

Rate design determines how electric rates recover costs or generate the necessary revenue to meet the cooperative's revenue requirements. It includes considerations such as fixed costs recovery versus variable cost recovery, access charges, energy charges, demand charges, time of use, energy conservation and rate messaging. Setting the right access charges is often the most challenging part of rate design.

There are several schools of thought on how to best recover fixed costs. The SREC board has chosen to recover most of its fixed costs in the access charge, and has set a soft target initially of recovering 75% of fixed costs in the access charge. The remainder of fixed costs are then collected through kilowatt-hour (energy) and kilowatt (demand) charges.



Ken Dizes

Ken Dizes
General Manager



United Electric CO-OP INC.

Directors

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

Board meetings are typically held
the fourth Monday of the month.

General Manager

Jo Elg

Engineering and Operations

Trevor Parke

Line Superintendent

Kay Hill

Executive Assistant/Billing Specialist

Trisha Moultrie

Member Services Manager

Chris Seibold

Mailing address:

1330 21st St.
Heyburn, ID 83336

Phone: 208-679-2222

Fax: 208-679-3333

Email: uec@uec.coop

Website: www.uec.coop

Office hours: Monday-Thursday,
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

After Hours: 208-679-4444



ID-29

On the Wire at United Electric

Did you think Christmas had come twice when you opened your power bill from United Electric the first of January and saw a credit on your account? The board of directors, management, and staff were excited to be able to offer a rebate to customers who received power from United Electric in 2019!

Because United Electric is a non-profit cooperative, the amount of revenue required to operate the cooperative is monitored very closely and revenue above the cost of conducting business is returned to the member.

The co-op example that always comes to mind is REI Co-op. REI is a national outdoor retail co-op focused on its members and the community – just like every co-op. There is a small membership fee to join REI and as a member you receive a portion of the cooperative's margins each year based on a percentage of purchases you made. That's what being a non-profit cooperative is all about. Non-profit cooperatives return revenues that are above the cost of conducting business back to its members.

United Electric had a good financial year in 2019, and the board of directors determined it prudent to rebate a portion of 2019's margins back to the members who received power in 2019. The main factors contributing to the good financial health of United Electric:

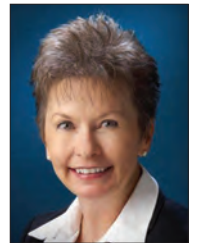
- The co-op experienced record kilowatt hour usage as well as record peak demands in several months during 2019. The higher usage provided higher than projected revenues.
- The co-op has been prudent in managing expenditures, strived to gain efficiencies, all while working hard to maintain exceptional service and commitment to the members.

Like any electric utility, United Electric uses its revenue to operate, maintain, upgrade and expand its system, and restore power when outages occur. The board of directors evaluated United Electric's cash position and overall financial well-being, as well as the condition of the distribution system when making the determination to rebate a portion of 2019's margins back to the members.

Wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year,

Jo Elg

General Manager





Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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

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Maddie Mocettini-Hansen
Dean L. Myler
Lynn O. Rothwell
Merlin A. Waddoups

MANAGER/CEO

Brad J. Gamett

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





Board of Directors

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

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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

January

Happy New Year from CVEA!

CVEA Offices Closed:

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

CVEA Bylaws Amendment Petition

Deadline: 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

February

Director Nomination Deadline: 6 p.m. Thursday, February 13, 2020

CVEA Offices Closed:

The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, February 17, 2020, for President's Day

Scholarship Application Deadline: 6 p.m. Thursday, February 20, 2020

CVEA Board Meeting: The February meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, February 20, 2020, in Glennallen

AK-34

Interested in Running for the CVEA Board?

Join a dedicated group of community members who work on a volunteer basis for the benefit of all CVEA members.

The Board meets once a month, normally on the third Thursday, for regular board meetings, and on occasion for special meetings or work sessions. Directors may also travel to participate in statewide and national meetings.

If you have been a member of CVEA for at least 12 continuous months, are a member in good standing, and are not an employee or close relative of an incumbent director or employee, you may be eligible to be a director. For a complete list of director qualifications, please refer to CVEA's Bylaws Section 4.02, Qualifications, found at cvea.org.

In order for a member to become a candidate, they must be nominated by petition. Candidates must complete a petition signed by at least 15 active CVEA members, whose signatures must match the signatures on file, and submit the petition to the CVEA office in their district by **6 p.m., Thursday, February 13, 2020**.

The director seats of Mark Shorten and Jeff Saxe will be up for election in 2020.

CVEA Community Foundation Scholarship Applications Now Available!

The Foundation will award roughly \$8,000 in scholarships in 2020; with two \$500 and one \$1,000 General Scholarships, and one Youth Rally Leadership Camp Scholarship available in each district.

The General Scholarships will be awarded to well rounded high school seniors who plan to pursue post-secondary education through a vocational or technical school, an apprenticeship training or a college degree program. This scholarship is merit based; scoring on education, community involvement, future education/career goals, and need.

The Idaho Youth Rally Scholarship provides an opportunity for sophomores and juniors attending high schools in CVEA's service area to attend a week-long electric industry leadership camp in Caldwell, Idaho in July. At this event students practice leadership, communication skills, and teamwork while learning about electric utility practices and issues.

The Foundation scholarship programs are funded with unclaimed escheated capital credits, fundraisers, and voluntary donations from CVEA members, like you.

Scholarship recipients will be decided in April and announced at CVEA's annual meeting. Scholarship information and applications are available at either CVEA office and on cvea.org under Community Support in the Scholarship section.

The submission deadline is 6 p.m., Thursday, February 20, 2020.

If you have questions about the CVEA Director elections or Community Foundation scholarship programs or need assistance, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 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.tpod.org

*Office hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday through Thursday.*

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

A Look at the Year Ahead in 2020

Dear Customers:

I am not sure how it happened so fast, but here we are again in a new year.

At Tillamook PUD, we are excited when a new year comes around, even before it begins. Each year, we spend time evaluating our strategic plan, identifying work that needs to be accomplished, and developing a budget so we can transition into the new year efficiently and get started working on new objectives.

Tillamook PUD plans to have another busy year in 2020. We have several system maintenance and improvement projects planned for this year, including working with Tillamook County on the relocation of electrical facilities to accommodate the construction of culvert replacements along Highway 53 in Nehalem and on Bay Ocean Road in Tillamook. We will also resume the Rockaway to Wheeler line rebuilding project in late spring.

We are looking to replace the current LED reader board in front of the main office. Our reader board is frequently used by several organizations to help relay important messages about community efforts and event happenings. It is also used for everyday Tillamook PUD information and safety messaging.

From a preparedness stance, we have a few areas of focus. We plan to continue to evaluate our facilities and make improvements, as well as add to our materials and equipment on hand to increase our level of readiness. Staff will continue to work with various entities, both locally and regionally, on preparedness efforts as well.

In our community, we plan to have three Town Hall events again this year to provide additional opportunities of staff availability and engage with our customers. We will continue to be involved with local schools, teaching youth about electrical safety, engineering with solar-powered cars, energy efficiency and discussing career opportunities. Our energy services department once again plans to dedicate funds to our low-income weatherization program to help individuals and families in need with energy-savings projects.

I always look forward to a new year. The opportunity for growth and innovation, as well as the challenges brought on by a new year, are invigorating. I wish you all the best in 2020 and hope your year is full of great possibility!

Sincerely,

Todd Simmons
General Manager





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

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Tina A. Wolgemuth

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

It Pays to be a Member

BUECI board approves \$218,849 in capital credit refunds

At the December 2019 BUECI budget meeting, the board decided to retire all electric capital credits from 1998, which totals \$218,849.03. Refunds are expected to be distributed in late December to mid-January 2020.

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

How will these funds be distributed?

Active and former members whose refunds are greater than \$5 are issued a check.

Members with delinquent bills will have the capital credit applied to their outstanding balance owed to the cooperative. A check will be issued if the refund balance is greater than \$5.

While capital credit allocations happen each year, the cooperative typically retains this money for a period of 25 to 35 years. During this period, capital credits are reinvested in the system for projects and maintenance, such as replacing turbines, switchgears and buildings.

BUECI's board of directors specifically authorizes each retirement only after careful consideration of the financial impact to the cooperative. When capital credits are retired, BUECI issues a refund. If you leave BUECI's system, it's important that your current mailing address is on file so future capital credit refunds reach you.

For more information about capital credits, visit www.bueci.org/capital-credit.



Owned By Those We Serve

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

Corporate Headquarters

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 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



As you're zipping across the snow, keep an eye out for guy wires. They can be hard to see in the twilight of winter. Hitting a guy wire can wreck your day, your sled and your body.

Remember: Rights of way granted to GVEA by its members are private property. Please respect your neighbors' right to privacy.

Power line rights of way are NOT public access routes.

No legal public thoroughfare is created by the installation of a power line.

Landowners retain all rights of ownership.

Property owners can prosecute trespassers.



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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Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



Our subsidiary,
Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications

offers a variety of high-quality
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www.pst.coop or call
800-221-3474

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

CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

Happy New Year! 2019 was a full, productive year for Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative and Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications.

We are pleased to announce we were awarded the five California Advanced Services Fund grants we applied for to bring broadband services to the hardest-to-reach areas of our region. We will begin construction of the projects during the first quarter of 2020.

PSREC continued its increased vegetation management and removal of hazard trees on the system to improve reliability and fire safety. We appreciate the increased cooperation we have had from our members on this key reliability and safety issue. PSREC also continued to improve system reliability and response times through our supervisory control and data acquisition system. State law requires that all property owners allow cooperative staff and contractors to remove hazard trees that meet the state definition.

Be Prepared for Outages

Even though your cooperative has invested in system improvements, removed hazard trees and kept up its ongoing maintenance, outages can and will happen. Being prepared can help make the best of a bad situation. Please visit www.psrec.coop for information on outage preparedness and electrical safety.

PSREC has changed its outage notification system to provide more localized outage information to members. To view the most up-to-date outage information, or report an outage, please log into the PSREC SmartHub app on your Apple or Android device, or log in at www.psrec.coop. As of February 29, we will no longer use the current text messaging system. You will automatically receive email notifications of outages if you have an email address on file

with PSREC, but to continue to receive text messages, you must log into SmartHub and activate your mobile number in the new system. Instructions on how to add your mobile number for outage notifications can be found on page 4, at www.psrec.coop, or by calling us. Please report all outages to us, day or night, at 800-555-2207 or through the SmartHub app.

Telecommunications

PST crews are wrapping up work to complete the coax-to-fiber conversion to provide broadband services to Chandler Road and the surrounding area. They have also completed converting a large portion of west Quincy to fiber optics as well. We were delayed on finishing Sierraville and Calpine due to materials delays, but we will be working to complete them as soon as possible.

Please call us at 800-221-3474 or visit www.pst.coop for more information.

Scholarships

PSREC and PST are again offering scholarships to students who receive either electric or internet services from PSREC or PST at their primary residence in Plumas, Sierra, Lassen and Washoe counties. An application can be found on page 28. The deadline is April 27. More information can also be found on our website at www.psrec.coop.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please call me at 800-555-2207 ext. 6076, or email me at bmarshall@psrec.coop.

Sincerely,



Bob Marshall
General Manager



MT. WHEELER POWER

1600 Great Basin Blvd.
Ely, NV 89301

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

Emergency Contacts

Ely Office
775-289-8981

Eureka Office
775-237-5693

Outside Ely / Eureka Area
800-97-POWER

Board of Directors

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

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

Mt. Wheeler Power's 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

Thanks and Happy New Year

We wish to convey our very best wishes and sincere thanks to all of you as we look back on an eventful 2019. The past 12 months have been marked by noteworthy achievements and change, including the release of our new phone app, the system mapping project, the approval and ground-breaking of our building renovations, and our commitment to focus and improve our member communications. There are so many points of gratification—too many to do them all justice in this short statement.

Shifting our momentum into the new calendar year, we are looking forward with enormous optimism and enthusiasm in 2020. In February we will celebrate our 50th anniversary. We are looking forward to the opening of the first electric vehicle charging station located at the R-Place service station at the junction of highway 318 and 93. We are also expanding our social media platforms and have budgeted for upgrades to both our Machacek and Gonder substations. In the summer, we will host our annual meeting and celebrate our grand reopening. We are proud and excited by all of these important events, and we will maintain our momentum as we work to shape our future as a cooperative.

Thanks so much for helping to make the past year so memorable. It is with joyful anticipation that we look forward to what we will accomplish together in the year to come.

Happy New Year.

Shellie Watts,
Member Services /HR Manager



Wells Rural Electric Company

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Vice President

M Jonathan Dahl
Secretary/Treasurer

Kirk Dahl
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Ouida Madison
Fred Montes de Oca
Lois Nannini
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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

Changing Meanings

Could it be that our world is changing so dramatically we need a new word to express our amazement every year or two? I recently overheard a young man excitedly describing a new truck he had seen as “sick.” His enthusiasm left no doubt that “sick” meant the polar opposite of the flu. Another young man I know uses “insane” to describe things he really likes. Depending on how far back your memories go, you might have used words like “phat,” “radical,” “wicked,” “righteous,” “groovy,” “gnarly,” or even “the bomb.” Regardless of your age or the word that conveys that sense of amazement for you, there are a few things that I think are “awesome.”



Membership: Cooperatives harness the awesome power of community to bring safe, reliable, affordable and clean electricity to you. Because you—the members—own Wells Rural Electric Company, every decision we make is focused on your long-term interests.

The Board of Directors: Every year, you have an opportunity to vote in an election that determines which of your fellow members will represent you to ensure your interests are at the heart of every decision regarding policy, power supply and rate structure.

SmartHub: These days, there's an app for everything. The SmartHub app allows you to easily track your electricity usage and manage your account.

Energy Efficiency Programs: Helping consumers use less of your primary product doesn't make sense for most businesses, but it does when your business is a not-for-profit electric cooperative whose every decision is focused on increasing value for its members.

The Next Dollar Foundation: The power of community will be taking a big step forward in 2020. Beginning this month, your electricity bill will be rounded-up to the next dollar, and the “change” will be donated to the Next Dollar Foundation to fund much-needed community projects and education grants. If you don't agree the Next Dollar Foundation is an awesome community resource, you can keep the change by sending an opt-out form to your local office.

Applications for project funding and education grants are available on our website. Education grants are open to graduating seniors and older students who want to further their education. For more information and to access the applications, visit www.wrec.coop/community/next-dollar-foundation.

The New Operations Center: Your Board of Directors recently toured the new Operations Center. Construction is moving forward as planned, and the new facility will enable your employees to provide an even higher level of service. In addition to providing safer and more efficient workspaces, the new building will enhance security for materials and provide protection for valuable assets and equipment. We look forward to welcoming you into that facility when construction is finished this spring.

99.98% Reliability: Last, but far from least, excellent reliability drives our budgets, training programs and work plans. Our ever-growing reliance on technology is increasing expectations for reliability, and we think our record for reliability is absolutely awesome!

Happy New Year!

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer



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 Robin Barber

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

LETTER FROM THE CEO

The Goal: Best in Class

One of the questions the Board asked in the interview process was "What attracts you to Valley Electric Association?" It's a good question that deserves a good answer.

From a business perspective, I like that Valley Electric manages and owns its power supply system. Valley purchases power, transmits power on poles that it owns or operates and delivers it to local substations that it owns as well. I am also impressed that Valley responded to its members and provides broadband service to roughly 10,000 members.

I am attracted to the innovative and team-oriented work environment that is being developed and nurtured at Valley Electric. I am a strong proponent of building teams and developing an innovative strategy-driven organization that delivers positive results in an open and honest manner.

A second question you may be wondering about is, What are the major challenges facing Valley Electric? I have four standards to measure the health of an electric cooperative.

The first is the safety of its employees and members. From my initial observations, Valley is doing well in managing the safety aspect of the business.

The second is reliability or, How well are we doing in "keeping the lights on?" Valley seems to be effectively managing the reliability of its electric system.

The third standard is financial management and cost control. While many good things have happened to improve the financial position and manage costs in the last six months, this is where I see the most opportunity. Much of my time will be spent in this critical area.

The fourth and ultimate standard of measuring the health of an electric cooperative is member satisfaction. All I had to do was Google "VEA," and I quickly had access to the public story of Valley over the last 18 months. In my interview with the Board, the topic of being member focused, looking forward, and leading by example were common themes. It will take time for Valley Electric to earn the trust and respect of our community, members, and employees, and we are committed to doing just that.

So, what is my vision for Valley Electric to look like in three to five years? A "Best in Class" Electric Cooperative that is exceeding its members' expectations in safety, reliability, financial management, and member satisfaction.

Most problems develop over many years, and continuous improvement is hard work. I am a realist with a dose of optimism, who likes a challenge. As William Arthur Ward put it: "If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it." I ask that you give us time to become the electric cooperative you would like, and I pledge my best effort to lead the dedicated employees at Valley Electric to imagine it, achieve it, dream it and become it.

Until next month,

Mark Stallons
Chief Executive

Mark Stallons was named CEO of VEA in November 2019 after nearly 30 years in management positions at three cooperatives in the Midwest.



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.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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



Happy New Year
from 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 

[Facebook.com/OTECcoop](https://www.facebook.com/OTECcoop)



Follow us at twitter.com/OTECcoop
OTECcoop (@OTECcoop)

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

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

Les Penning, CEO

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

Capital Credits and Your Electric Rates

OTEC Member-Owners,

In December, your OTEC Board of Directors approved the retirement of \$3.5 million in capital credits, the second-highest amount ever retired by your cooperative. We are pleased to have the financial strength to be able to distribute capital credits for the 23rd year in a row.

Capital credit retirements are one of the more visible benefits of membership in your cooperative. Since we are a not-for-profit electric cooperative, when you are a member-owner you invest in OTEC through the purchase of electricity. Unlike an investor-owned utility, which returns a portion of profits back to its stockholders, not-for-profit cooperatives like OTEC return those funds to member-owners. Since 1996, nearly \$43 million has been returned to our member-owners. The money helps Eastern Oregon's economy by staying local.

But the announcement of the retirement of capital credits has brought up a common question. Why doesn't OTEC keep the capital credit money and use it to help lower rates? We know this question comes on the heel of a rate increase, which was driven by a wholesale power cost increase from the Bonneville Power Administration. Despite the increase, your cooperative remains competitive when it comes to the price of your electricity. OTEC's average all-inclusive (delivery charge and energy charge) residential rate is 9.83 cents per kilowatt-hour, compared to the average of 11.18 cents in Oregon and the national average of 13.30 cents.

So, why don't we just reduce rates instead of returning capital credits?

OTEC is required to generate a current year margin—or net income—to satisfy our bank's lending and debt repayment criteria. By meeting this requirement, OTEC receives more favorable interest rates on the funds that your cooperative borrows. If OTEC were to lower rates rather than return capital credits, it would be a

one-time rate reduction. As a result, we would have higher debt costs because we would lose discounts we receive for meeting our loan covenants. The money OTEC returns through capital credit retirements is from member equity—your ownership and investment in the cooperative. Your investment ensures OTEC can build and maintain our system to provide you with safe and reliable service.

Member equity also reduces OTEC's need to borrow. When the need arises, OTEC can borrow at much lower rates due to the investments of our member-owners. By borrowing to finance long-term investments in your cooperative's plant and equipment, costs are spread fairly to benefit present and future members.

It is important that OTEC maintains a balance of debt and equity so each generation of OTEC members shares in the cost of maintaining the plant that provides them the access to clean, renewable hydropower. These factors allow your cooperative to minimize borrowing and avoid paying high-interest rates. That, in turn, helps keep rates lower for the long term.

The credit on your account or check you receive is a reminder of the benefits of your membership/ownership in the cooperative and keeps the money in the communities OTEC serves.

We hope this adds clarity to how capital credits and rates work together. For more information, visit www.otec.coop/capital-credits. Don't hesitate to give us a call or stop by your local OTEC office.

Cooperatives exist to make sure the needs of their member-owners are being met, not to make a profit. The resources and assets used to keep your service reliable, safe and competitively priced are your investment and owned by you. Here at OTEC, we use those resources to best serve you, our member-owners.

Les Penning, CEO



Member-owned since 1921

Ohop Mutual Light Co.

34014 Mountain Highway E.
Eatonville, WA 98328
Phone: 253-847-4363
Power problems: 253-847-4363
Pay by phone: 888-477-8085
Email: office@ohop.coop
www.ohop.coop

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

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



WA-49

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

By the time you read this, Christmas and New Year's Day have come and gone. The months of preparation and anticipation seem so long, while the actual holidays fly by in a flash. I hope you all had happy and healthy holidays!

Again, this year our Christmas truck was lit up beautifully for the Eatonville Parade. We also had our first Community Christmas Celebration for our members and neighbors. It included a winter barbecue and kids' activities—visiting Santa and Mrs. Claus, seeing live reindeer, decorating ornaments and cookies, riding the Holiday Train and visiting the Grinch. The atmosphere was full of holiday spirit.

Our employees are proud of the parade and the Community Christmas Celebration because they put a lot of effort and hours of work into decorating and preparing for both events. Watching the joy and happiness the celebration inspires in children and their parents, as well as the rest of the community, makes the extra effort all worthwhile.

Winter Reminder

Washington experiences most of its power outages in winter, due to wind, rain, snow and ice.

When an outage occurs, our crew works diligently—day and night in adverse weather—to get everybody back on as quickly as possible. If you have a chance, please let them know you appreciate their dedication and hard work in a dangerous situation. They are always encouraged by good comments.

Here are a few tips to help you to be prepared and help us bring power back online quicker in case of an outage.

- Call Ohop. Tell us about anything you observed, such as wires down, loud noise, etc.
- Keep away from downed wires.
- Turn on an outside light. That will tell repair crews power is restored.
- Trip the breaker to space heaters and water heater units.
- Unplug voltage-sensitive equipment, such as computers and other electronics.
- Check your supplies. Make sure you have plenty of candles, matches, batteries, flashlights, bottled drinking water and ready-to-eat food items on hand.
- Food in the refrigerator/freezer should be fine during short outages, provided the door is not opened frequently. A fully stocked freezer can preserve food for three to four days, depending on the surrounding air temperature.
- Use generators carefully. Portable generators pose a serious hazard to repair crews if not used properly.

If you have any questions, please give us a call. Stay safe and warm.

Ken Klotz
General Manager



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

Chief Executive Officer

Steven Walter

Operations Manager

Nick Himebauch

Executive Assistant

Lisa Peabody

Board of Directors

Ed Stephenson, President

Kendel Lyman, Vice President

Mike Hodge, Treasurer

Susan Serrette-Egan, Secretary

Roger Guay

Jeff Gillette

Paul Bay

Dutch Siedentopf

Steve Nicholes

An electric utility owned
by those we serve in:

North Bend

Ames Lake

Anderson Island

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

WA-50

We Want to Hear From You

We live in a device-driven world. Our smartphones, tablets, laptops and an assortment of other devices help us communicate and connect. Companies spend billions pushing out a steady drumbeat of messages and information, and we are constantly bombarded with one-way communication. But is anyone listening on the other end?

At Tanner Electric Cooperative, we not only listen, we are eager to hear from you. Whether you text us, respond to a survey or social media post, send an email or stop by to chat in person, we thrive on your feedback. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with our community's priorities and needs.

Because we are a cooperative, we have a different way of operating. TEC exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the co-op members. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve. We hope you will consider us more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

You will notice that throughout the year, we create the opportunity for you and other community members to attend our co-op's annual meeting to hear from you.

We are in the midst of significant changes in the energy sector as technology and the drive for more renewables and a more balanced energy mix is impacting long-term planning. These are complex issues we will navigate in the coming months and years. This is why it's so important we hear from you and other community members as we plot our course for the future.

TEC works to continually learn from our members about their priorities so we can better serve you—because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. But we can only improve, adapt and effectively plan for the future if we have two-way communication.

For our co-op and community to thrive now and in the future, we depend on hearing from you. I hope you connect with us and let us know your perspective. You can always reach me directly at the office or by email at steve@tannerelectric.coop. I'm listening.

Steven Walter
CEO

Happy New Year



Owned By
Those We Serve

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

www.plw.coop

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Susan Cutrell

Incorporated in 1914—
The country's oldest
mutual cooperative



The ability to run for and elect board leadership is one of many aspects that sets cooperatives apart from investor-owned utilities. PHOTO BY ENTERLINEDESIGN

Will You Run for Office?

Parkland Light & Water Co.'s annual meeting is Tuesday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the commons area at Keithley Middle School. The address is 12324 12th Ave. South.

One trustee will be elected for a five-year term. Members interested in running for the position should declare their candidacy by February 10 so their name can be published in the March issue of Ruralite.

Having a say in your co-op's leadership is one of the many benefits of cooperative membership. Please plan to attend the annual meeting. We need your vote!





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

Office hours: 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
Closed Friday through Sunday

Please call to report outages
503-728-2163

Automated Secure Payment Center
1-844-262-2431

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #14012001

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

Community Calendar

January 1: Happy New Year

CPUD office closed

January 2: Clatskanie Chamber Meeting

Noon at Colvins

January 9: Rainier Chamber Meeting

Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

January 15: Clatskanie PUD Board

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

January 31: Clatskanie Arts Commission

Roy Orbison Tribute Band, 1 pm - 5 pm
Clatskanie Cultural Center

OR-60

As we look forward to an exciting 2020, we also reflect back on a successful 2019. It has been a pleasure to provide you with service throughout this past year. It was very busy one for us, and I'd like to share a few of the highlights with you.

We once again received a first place award for safety from the Northwest Public Power Association on a regional level, and a first place award from the American Public Power Association on a national level. These safety awards represent the teamwork of all employees working together in a culture of safe practices, trainings, committee meetings, and a conscious effort by all staff to put it into daily practice. More importantly, everyone remained safe and uninjured while at work.

We were also successful in receiving seven regional NWPPA Excellence in Communications awards. The awards include, four third-place awards; special publication, social media, website, and an advertising campaign for our 75th anniversary campaign and video; second-place for our 75th anniversary perpetual calendar; and two first-place awards; one for our annual report/2019 calendar, and one for our monthly Ruralite magazine. We constantly strive to enhance and expand our communications with our customer-owners. We have upgraded our website and social media platforms to provide more timely communications, especially during outages. Ruralite magazine communicates not only vital information about our utility and essential information about our industry, but also features articles about our service area and the people and businesses we serve.

Thanks to the collaboration of our management team and board of directors, we were able to act on an opportunity to reduce our PERS costs going forward, which will reduce debt obligations. We continue to make prudent financial decisions with our debt-reduction strategy, and achieving very conservative budgets based upon less than average hydro generation at 90% of normal.

Our residential rates continue to be the lowest in the state and among the lowest in the nation while providing safe, reliable power. We are proud to be your People's Utility District, and will continue to provide a high level of service in all aspects of our organization. We thank you for your support and confidence in us. We wish everyone a safe, warm, and happy new year!

Marc Farmer
General Manager





KOTZEBUE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

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

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Vice President

Dominic Ivanoff

Secretary

Charlie Gregg

Treasurer

Allen Jessup Sr.

Tom Atkinson

Wally Carter Sr.

Dood Lincoln-Carr

Pierre Lonewolf

Harold Short

General Manager/CEO

Martin Shroyer

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

AK-64





Board of Directors

Chairman

Fred Sagoonick, Shaktoolik

Vice Chairman

Robert L. Beans Sr.,
Mountain Village

Secretary

Helena R. Jones, Ambler

Treasurer

Peter Demoski, Nulato

Directors

Phyllis Clough, Old Harbor
Robert Hoffman, Bethel
Walter G. Sampson, Noorvik

board@avec.org

Communities Served

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

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



AK-105

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

MONDAY JANUARY 27, 2020

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

4831 EAGLE STREET

ANCHORAGE ALASKA 99503

877-901-9696, Conf ID: 371-653-2009#

The Board of Directors is considering raising the monthly Customer Charge fee by approximately \$5 per month for all consumers, with the exception of those in Yakutat.

As all members were notified in the 2017 and 2018 Annual Reports, AVEC experienced net Operating Losses of \$1,950,239 in calendar year 2017 and \$1,039,678 in 2018. A net Operating Loss is also expected for the current calendar year of 2019.

The proposed change in the Customer Charge will yield about \$650,000 annually. The board will be considering other actions later in the year to bring the cooperative to a position of positive Operating Margins in 2020 and beyond.

Members are invited to call in during the scheduled Public Hearing or to submit written comments to the above address.



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Daren Hagata
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Administrative Services Manager

Karen Rollings

Electric Operations Manager

Cort Cortez

Public Relations Manager

Theresa Phillips

IT Manager

Nick Dominguez

Senior Accountant

Catherine Schroeder

Customer Service Supervisor

Christina M. Nystrom

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

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

CA-106

General Manager's Message

As we move into the new decade, the people at your locally-owned public power utility are continuing to work hard to provide the best possible service to you, our customer-owners. We take our mission seriously: to provide reliable electric service to our customers at the lowest practical cost.

Over the past few years, we've implemented many system upgrades to improve reliability and increase efficiency. We're proud of what we've been able to accomplish, even while maintaining some of the lowest electric rates in the state of California. Here are a few of the major projects we've recently completed, as well as some we'll be working on in 2020.

In 2019, LMUD completed the implementation of our Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project. The new meters give customers access to more detailed information on energy usage, making it easier to help them understand how they can use energy more efficiently. Using the Smart Hub app, customers can easily view this information directly from their home computers or smart phones. You can also view and pay your monthly bill, set up automatic payments, and more. If you're not yet signed up for Smart Hub, contact our Customer Service department and we can walk you through the easy set-up process.

The new meters also allow us to automate many tasks, such as meter reading, disconnects and reconnects. In addition to these benefits, the meters provide a lot of information that improve efficiency of operations. For example, each meter can let us know if it is not receiving voltage from the power grid, making it much easier to quickly determine the location of outages.

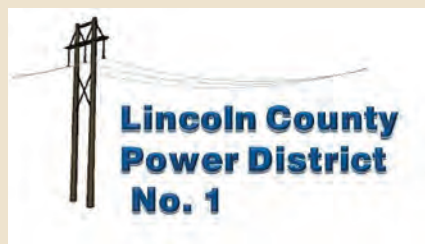
Looking forward to 2020, we'll be moving forward with more projects that will provide long-term benefits to the District and our customers, in addition to our ongoing regular maintenance of the electric system.

We're improving the redundancy of our IT systems across the board to help minimize downtime and improve customer service. We also expect to complete implementation of a Supervisory Command And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, which will allow us to monitor and control many parts of the transmission and distribution system remotely.

We continue to work on the interconnection to the Reno-Alturas Transmission Line on the eastern edge of our service territory, which will provide an alternative to the single 60kV PG&E line we currently rely on. This new interconnection will dramatically improve our reliability, and will likely result in significant transmission cost savings to the District over the long term. All the permitting for this project was completed in 2019. The contract negotiations with NV Energy have taken longer than expected, but we hope to have these agreements finalized soon. Once those are in place and approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, we'll be ready to complete the design work and move forward with construction.

We, at LMUD, welcome 2020 with a commitment to continue to provide, safe, reliable and fairly priced service. From all of us, best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year!

—Doug C. Smith



Lincoln County Power District No. 1

201 Bullionville Road
Panaca, Nevada 89042

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

Email: lcprd@lcprd1.com

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Ken Dixon
Bob Rollins
Richard Katschke
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General Manager

David Luttrell

Board meets the second Tuesday of each month.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

NV-107

Looking Back and Forward

Every year, we look back at what we have accomplished and look forward to what we will accomplish in the new year. I am always amazed at how much our staff has accomplished, but I can honestly say 2019 was an amazing year at the Power District.

It started by building on our success in helping to defeat Ballot Question 3 on energy choice. We took our rural voice to the Nevada Legislature last spring, working on legislation that proposed to increase the requirement for renewable energy in Nevada and getting the bill changed to recognize and count clean hydropower as renewable energy. This was an important victory for Lincoln County. Approximately 85% of the electric power used in Lincoln County comes from Hoover Dam. If we could not count our Hoover hydropower as renewable, the impact on our rates would have been significant.

During 2019 we also completed the first phase of our planned relocation of the Power District headquarters to Panaca. Many of you attended the open house for our new administrative building and our new operations building last April. We are very proud of these facilities and thankful for the community's support. Moving an entire utility operation is no easy task, so we decided to complete the move in two phases. We also sought to minimize any impact on our rates. The second phase of the move will be to construct a new shop and warehouse building. We will break ground on this phase later this year.

In July, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp. recognized the Power District for having some of the lowest electric service rates in the country. Out of 814 rural utilities across the U.S., only 11 others have rates lower than ours.

We recently entered a 10-year contract with the city of Caliente to operate its electric system and support them in providing electric service to their customers. The town of Pioche also transferred its electric system to the Power District. Both transactions will significantly benefit businesses and residents in Caliente, Pioche and Lincoln County as a whole.

In other accomplishments, we deployed our automated metering infrastructure system in Panaca and the Meadow Valley areas. We will continue its roll-out to other areas this year. AMI allows us to continue to reduce labor costs and improve operating efficiencies.

We also replaced another section of structures on the main transmission line supplying Lincoln County. We remain on track to completely rebuild the line by 2022. Our crews worked hard on the distribution line that runs between Caselton and Caliente and on several large projects for new services in Meadow Valley, Rainbow Canyon and near Mesquite.

It was a busy year, and we look forward to being just as busy in 2020. From all of us at the power district, we wish you a happy and prosperous new year.



David Luttrell, General Manager



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The power of human connections®

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

OR-400

Case in Point

It was a good way to end the year.

In 2019, I used this page several times to advocate for passage of the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands Act (S. 1032/H.R. 2147), which ensures co-ops do not jeopardize their tax-exempt status when they accept government grants. As of this writing, the RURAL Act was included in the 11th-hour tax package negotiated by Congress before it left for the year. Passage of this bipartisan legislation will mean Oregon's electric co-ops do not have to choose among their tax status, rebuilding their infrastructure or deploying broadband.

Our Oregon congressional delegation rallied behind the RURAL Act—Congressman Greg Walden was particularly outspoken—but we believed the bill's ultimate fate rested with U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden. His leadership post on the Senate Finance Committee gave him a unique opportunity to be in the room during the year-end tax negotiations when the deal would be done. And it turned out he *was* in the room, fighting—and delivering—for rural Oregon.

We certainly appreciate Sen. Wyden's leadership and that of the entire Oregon House delegation. It was a nice Christmas present from the U.S. Congress and, in the darkest of political times, a shining example of bipartisan cooperation that used to be commonplace, but has recently faded away, like memories of a distant year. May we see more of this in 2020.

Happy New Year.

Ted Case

Executive Director





Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc.

www.MarlboroElectric.coop

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P.O. Box 1057
Bennettsville, SC 29512

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800-922-9174

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Monday–Friday

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Paul Conway

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Matt Haynie
email: mhaynie@marlboroelectric.coop

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Trustee Message

The big ball has dropped on Times Square and the holiday decorations are packed away. For the children, Christmas break has come to an unwelcome end.

It's the start of the 2020 school year, and soon the classrooms will be filled with kids—not to mention some teachers—counting down the days until summer break. In the meantime, we encourage local students to make it their best year yet.

Give Us An 'A'

At MEC, we believe a good education is a fundamental part of a child's success in life. Correspondingly, our Give Us An 'A' program was developed to reward students for their hard work throughout the school year.

Participating is simple. When your child receives at least one "A" on their report card, we want to know about it! Please share a copy with MEC by bringing it in person or mailing it to us at Marlboro Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 1057, Bennettsville, SC 29512.

All eligible students are entered into a drawing. Marlboro Electric will randomly select and award eight students, twice a year, at the end of each semester. From elementary to high school, all ages are eligible to win, and the contest is open to any A-student attending school in Marlboro or Dillon counties.

Marlboro Electric Cooperative College Scholarship Fund

At MEC, we celebrate academic achievement and encourage a love of education in our local youth. This is particularly important to me. When I was young—and trust me when I say that was a while ago—college was something few people attended.

In an effort to increase opportunities for local scholars, MEC trustees and management created the Marlboro Electric Cooperative College Scholarship Fund.

To help our members' children achieve their dreams of higher education, four scholarships are available this year:

- Two for \$2,500 each at a two-year South Carolina institution.
- Two for up to \$9,500 each at a four-year South Carolina institution.

Eligible students must submit an application along with their transcripts for review by our committee. Recipients must be enrolled as full-time students. Awards are renewed annually, provided students maintain a 2.7 GPA.

2020 MEC Scholarship applications must be postmarked by March 15.

Find the application, along with additional information about the scholarships, on MEC's website, www.marlborelectric.net.

Questions? Please call Melody Nolan at 843-454-2895.

Meanwhile, as local students, teachers and administrators head back into the classroom, we wish them all a safe and successful year ahead.

RONNIE QUICK

District 8 Trustee

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

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



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Steven Silkotch, Secretary
Harold Burdick, Treasurer
Chilli Ainsworth
Michael Machado

General Manager

Kevin Short

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

January and February
Congratulations!

- Donald Kay 3 years
- Sandy King 6 years

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 1—New Year's holiday observed, co-op office closed.
- February 17—President's Day, co-op office closed.

Easy Money

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

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

A Message from the Manager

Always Faithful

It seems as if I'm writing this type of message too often these days. On November 13, 2019, Billy Adams passed away. Our community has lost one its most respected and beloved residents, one whose contributions and dedication have made this a better place for all of us.

Billy most recently served several terms as our board president, but began his employment with us in 1981 as a meter technician. Since then, he has witnessed and been an integral part of some of the most dynamic improvements to our system in our nearly 70-year history. He presided over the dedication of our SunAnza solar project, the ConnectAnza internet service project, and several operating and structural improvements for reliability and cost-saving measures. Additionally, Billy represented us for several years on the board of our generation and transmission provider, Arizona Electric Power Cooperative Inc.

Prior to his time with us, Billy owned and operated his own glazing business in Anza. He served with the United States Marines during the Korean War, and was a local resident and member of Anza Electric for many years.

As a tribute to his faithful and unwavering loyalty to Anza Electric, our new substation on Bautista Road will be dedicated next year as the Billy Adams Substation. We hope this small gesture of our appreciation will serve as a lasting tribute to Billy's contributions to our community.

All the team at the cooperative has been honored and proud to serve our community with Billy at the helm. We will miss his firm hand at the wheel, but look to the future with confidence, thankful for his service.

For myself, I have lost a good friend and mentor—a man I looked up to and respected for his steadfast commitment to our cooperative. He is already sorely missed.

Semper Fi, Billy.



Kevin Short

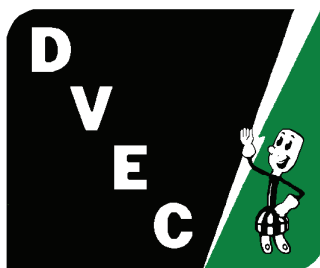
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P.O. Box 391909 • Anza, CA 92539

Phone: 951-763-433 • Fax: 951-763-5297 • aec@anzaelectric.org • www.anzaelectric.org

Our crew is on standby 24 hours a day. To report an outage or other service problem, please call 951-763-4333.





Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative Inc.

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Steven Lunt
CEO

BOARD MEETINGS

January 20
February 18
March 16.

*Generally the third Monday
of the month*

Owned By Those We Serve—
Incorporated June 1947



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CEO's Message

I'm Thankful for Cooperatives

Many of us start the new year by making lists: New Year's resolutions, goals we want to accomplish or a maybe even a "honey-do" list. The list I have in mind as I begin this new year includes the top reasons I'm grateful for cooperatives.

In addition to being a member of Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative, I'm a member of and I use the services of several other cooperatives in my daily life. I do my banking at a credit union, which is a financial cooperative. I regularly shop at a hardware store and an auto parts store that are cooperative businesses.

Here is a list of benefits all members of Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative have in common.

Cooperatives provide goods and services that may not otherwise be available, or not at a reasonable price. Duncan Valley Electric provides electricity and natural gas, but cooperatives across the nation provide numerous services such as housing, child care, health care, groceries, hardware, telecommunications and financial services.

When you get services from

a cooperative, you are more than a customer. You are a member-owner in that business. Your patronage is an investment in the cooperative and the community.

Co-ops are accountable to you, the member-owners. This means we are interested in keeping costs low for members, not in making profits for faraway stockholders.

Remember, you are more than a customer. You are a member-owner. You have a voice in your cooperative and you can vote annually to elect directors and change bylaws, as needed.

Co-ops are socially responsible organizations, dedicated to the well-being of the community. We sponsor scholarships and local events. We support initiatives that better the lives of our members and the communities in which they live.

Our employees are your friends and neighbors. They have a vested interest in the lives and livelihoods of the



Steven Lunt

members of our community. The money employees earn and spend stays in the local area.

We leverage our abilities by being a member of other cooperatives. We are members of

a generation and

transmission cooperative, statewide cooperatives in Arizona and New Mexico, plus a national alliance of electric cooperatives. Although we are staffed by local people, we have access to a broad network of knowledge, resources and manpower.

Cooperatives have played a major role in improving the lives of Americans for decades. Not only do we provide a vital service for our daily lives, we are an integral part of the communities we serve. This year, the same as every year since 1947, DVEC will be there for you to provide competitively priced, reliable energy services and to invest time, money and expertise to build the economy and strengthen relationships with our member-owners.



Electrical District No. 2

P.O. Box 548
Coolidge, AZ 85128

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

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

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

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Maintain Your Equipment

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



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

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

Tri-Cor Air Conditioning & Heating

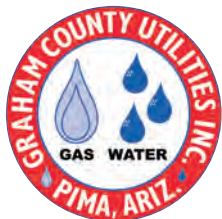
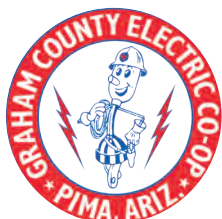
a division of Electrical District No. 2

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

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ROC 143627





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Kirk Gray



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Manager's Message

Loan Program Expands

On October 29, the Arizona Corporation Commission granted Graham County Electric Cooperative the ability to expand participation in the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program. The REDL&G Program supports economic development projects in rural areas served by electric cooperatives.

The REDL&G program had some inherent limitations when the program initially rolled out in late 2018. The ACC's decision allows an increase in funding for qualifying rural economic development projects within GCEC's service territory.

Projects funded through the REDL&G Program do not cost GCEC's members anything. Funding for the REDL&G Program comes to GCEC as an interest-free loan through the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, administered by the United States Department of Agriculture. GCEC then acts as a funding conduit for approved projects. Any costs associated with approved projects are borne by the loan recipient. The benefit for GCEC



membership is increased electric sales, which helps keep down rates for all members. The REDL&G Program is the first of its kind to be authorized and funded in Arizona.

The REDL&G program is just one of several opportunities offered by GCEC that emphasizes the Seventh Cooperative Principle, which states: "While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members."

This program is another example of GCEC's commitment to our mission statement: "We are committed to provide safe, reliable and efficient resources to enhance the lives of our members and the communities we serve."

To learn more or apply for an interest-free loan, visit www.gce.coop, click on the Resources tab and then on the REDL&G link, or call us at 928-485-2451.

—Kirk Gray

Florida Currents

January 2020 • Volume 9, No. 3

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Message From the CEO

'Commitment'

As 2019 winds down and we enter 2020, I think it's a good opportunity to reflect on the past year. As I look back on my time working for Escambia River Electric Cooperative this year, one word comes to mind time and time again: commitment.

When I came to EREC in June, I had worked in electric cooperatives for quite a few years. I knew the work ethic of electric cooperative employees. I knew the feeling of family between cooperative employees and their members. And I knew the commitment of electric cooperatives to the well-being of the communities they serve.

EREC embodies those characteristics of the electric cooperative model—the commitment of the cooperative employees.

EREC's line crews are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. The job requires line crewmen to set aside their personal priorities to serve the membership of their cooperative.

And it's not just the line crews. Every employee at the electric cooperative has an important part to play. Whether it's a new service order to be placed on the daily schedule or a member's question about energy efficiency, EREC employees are committed to serving co-op members.

I have also seen commitment demonstrated in our community. I am loving life in the close-knit communities EREC serves. In the time I have been here, I have witnessed the pride in the local school systems—community members reaching out to support the ball teams and FFA events, for example. I've seen the community fill the streets for town events and holiday celebrations.

The members of this area are committed to building a stronger community and making a better tomorrow for all of us—and EREC has been and will be there every step of the way.

Because of the commitment of our cooperative and our community, I am looking forward to this new year. EREC has a record of excellent service to its membership and to this community. My commitment to you, EREC's member-owners, is to make sure that never changes.



Ryan C. Campbell, P.E.



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One Man's Passion Opens Outdoors to Mobility-Challenged

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MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

Want to stay more connected in 2020? Follow us on Facebook @FloridaKeysElectricCooperative and visit www.FKEC.com for the latest news and services.

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

FKEC NEWS

JANUARY 2020

www.FKEC.com

Starting 2020 Off Right!

In my December CEO report, I wrapped up the year by highlighting our accomplishments in 2019 and touched on some projects planned for 2020. Now, I'd like to start the new year and new decade with a note of gratitude.

First, let me thank our employees, staff, and board of directors. Each of these people play an essential role in our success, and I appreciate their commitment to doing the best job possible.

Thanks to everyone's hard work, FKEC maintains a 99.994 percent power reliability and a 98.25 percent overall customer satisfaction rating.

As you will see in the following pages, the holidays have not slowed us down. Just in the month of December, we installed an upgraded self-supporting pole which increases the overall strength of our transmission system (see facing page), and broke ground on the construction of the addition to our Marathon Operations Center (see page 6). A committee has also been working on some exciting online changes that we hope to unveil next month.

In addition to the pride they put into their jobs, I also thank each member of our team for the pride they take in giving back to our Upper and Middle Keys communities.

Now that I've recognized the people behind the power, I must express my gratitude to you, our member-consumers.

As a cooperative, we have the good fortune to be partners with the people we serve. You are not just electric-consumers, as members, you are a part of our team, and the driving force behind the high standards we hold ourselves to.



SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

We are proud to serve you and appreciate any opportunity to work with our members to maintain the hometown spirit we all embrace. We look forward to working side by side with our members to give back to the community throughout the coming year.

In 2020 we will remain committed to being an influential community partner and to bringing you increased and improved customer services all while keeping the lights on and the AC running.

Our future is bright, and we look forward to continuing to serve you, our members, and this wonderful community.

GLADES

Electric Cooperative, Inc
Celebrating 75 Years of
"Neighbors Working for Neighbors"

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Lake Placid, FL 33852

Mondays and Wednesdays (closed 1 to 2 p.m.)
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Okeechobee, FL 34972

POWER INTERRUPTION NUMBER

Moore Haven..... 863-946-6200
Phones are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including weekends and holidays. Please have your location or account number handy when you call.

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John "Jack" Coxe, President, District 8
Lake Josephine, 863-414-3833
James "Jim" Aul, Vice President, District 7
Lorida, 863-441-0441
Shannon Hall, Secretary/Treasurer, District 4
Lakeport and Brighton, 863-946-3242
Donnie Lundy, Trustee, District 1
Moore Haven, 863-946-0402
Barney Goodman, Trustee, District 2
Hendry County, 561-414-8737
Dr. John Huysman, Trustee, District 3
Ortona and Palmdale, 863-946-2911
Tyler Pugh, Trustee, District 5
Venus and Hicoria, 239-247-4508
Lee Henderson, Trustee, District 6
Highlands Park, 863-633-9281
Angela Hodges, Trustee, District 9
Okeechobee, 863-801-3140

The Board's next meeting will be at 9 a.m. January 30 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

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

FL-153

Annual Meeting Upcoming

Our 2020 Annual Meeting is just around the corner. We will celebrate our 75th anniversary Saturday, March 21, 2020.

At the cooperative's 2019 Annual Meeting, we discussed the cost of holding such a meeting and asked for your thoughts. We heard you. As a part of this year's festivities, we are taking some cost-cutting measures. We are eliminating the fleet of golf carts we used in the past. When operated by employees on overtime, the cost becomes unjustifiable.

Last year, I said it was the last time for a vehicle giveaway because we have cut our fleet considerably. Well, guess what? We found an Explorer we will offer up as a grand prize. In recognition of our 75th anniversary, we're spicing it up a bit. The grand prize winner will have a choice of the Explorer or a \$2,500 GEC billing credit! Also, we won't tie up your entire morning with a long, drawn out prize giveaway. We plan to award fewer prizes, but upgrade the average value to \$75 each.

Another change coming for our 75th anniversary is our registration door prize. This year, each registered member will receive a \$10 GEC billing credit and a special item in recognition of our anniversary.

At this annual meeting, we will highlight some of our recent ongoing activities in community development. Zachary Mannheimer, principal community placemaker of Alchemy Community Transformations, will be our guest speaker. His presentation will show you the unique way we are tackling local community development. I think you'll find it very interesting.

It's a fitting presentation for our 75th anniversary. In 1945, we were leading the way for the development and enhancement of our communities. We're still engaged in those pioneering efforts 75 years later.

Please plan to attend this special milestone annual meeting. Check upcoming editions of Florida Currents for more details.

I wish you all a prosperous and happy New Year.



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

We Want to Hear From You

We live in a device-driven world. Our smartphones, tablets, laptops and an assortment of other devices help us communicate and connect. Companies spend billions pushing out a steady drumbeat of messages and information, and we are constantly bombarded with one-way communication.

But is anyone listening on the other end?

At Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, we are not only listening, we are eager to hear from you. Whether you respond to a survey or social media post, send an email, or stop by and chat in person, we thrive on your feedback. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with our community's priorities and needs.

Because we are a cooperative, we have a different way of operating. Gulf Coast Electric exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

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

The annual meeting creates an opportunity for you and other community members to provide feedback. We also conduct regular surveys to gather feedback so we can plan for new initiatives, technical upgrades, and improvements on existing co-op programs and services. Our planning is led by local members just like you who understand the needs of the community and are looking out for the long-term interests of the larger community.

We are in the midst of significant changes in the energy sector, as technology and the drive for more renewables and a more balanced energy mix impact long-term planning. We will navigate these complex issues in the coming months and years. This is why it's so important that we hear from you and other community members as we plot our course for the future.

GCEC works to continually learn from our members about their priorities so we can better serve you—because your electric co-op was built *by* the community, *for* the community. But we can only improve, adapt and effectively plan for the future if we have two-way communication.

For our co-op and community to thrive now and in the future, we depend on hearing from you. I hope you will connect with us and let us know your perspective.

I'm listening.



Doug Birmingham

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative offices are closed January 1 in observance of New Year's Day. We wish all of our members a happy and prosperous new year!





Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

www.preco.coop
800-282-3824

TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

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

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

210 Metheny Road
Wauchula, FL 33873

MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

14505 Arbor Green Trail
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

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ELLEN BACHMAN
VICE PRESIDENT

District 9

WILLIE DAWES
PRESIDENT

BOARD MEETINGS

January 28, 2020

February 25, 2020

March 24, 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

Keep Trees Away From Power Lines to Increase Reliability

Florida's tropical climate provides us with lots of lush, beautiful trees. When trees contact power lines, they become hazards capable of causing fires, injury or power outages. Vegetation—such as trees, shrubs and brush—growing too close to power lines and electrical equipment is a threat to service reliability.

From January through November 2019, trees and limbs were responsible for more than 366 outages, affecting more than 9,000 PRECO members.

To reduce potential tree-related problems, PRECO maintains a continual right-of-way maintenance program. Our contractor, Georgia Right of Way, maintains a fleet of vehicles and equipment designed for clearing right-of-way while minimizing environmental impact. GAROW works daily to trim and remove vegetation contacting power lines, overhanging branches and trees that could pull down wires or grow into lines.

Here in the Sunshine State, the growing season lasts almost all year, so keeping the lines clear is a never-ending task. When crews complete trimming activities along our entire 3,800 miles of power lines, vegetation is already beginning to grow back at the starting point.

That's why we need your help.

To keep your electricity flowing, please let us know if you see trees or limbs that



When trees are in close proximity to power lines, bad things can happen. During Hurricane Irma, many trees took down electrical equipment. PHOTO BY PAM BLAIR

could pose a risk to power lines. Just as important, before planting trees at home, think about how tall and wide they may become. Ten to 15 feet of ground-to-sky clearance should be available on each side of PRECO's power lines. When planting new trees, consider power lines when choosing tree varieties and tree locations.

When landscaping, don't plant trees and shrubs near those green metal cabinets that house electrical equipment. Never dig near one of these cabinets; striking a buried power line can result in injury or death. Also, a lineworker could become tangled in trees or shrubs and fall into live power line equipment.

At Peace River Electric Cooperative, our goal is to provide you with safe, reliable electric service. To report problem trees, call us toll-free at 800-282-3824.

Randy Shaw

It's All About Powerful Relationships

It has been a little more than a year since I accepted the CEO position at the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives. I walked into ALEC with zero electric cooperative experience. A move like that can make even the most experienced professional nervous.



Jeff Arnold

Fortunately, I'm surrounded by a staff that inspires me every day, as well as a board of directors and membership that want nothing more than to help me succeed at this position. For that I'm grateful.

Working in the public sector for 21 years and serving as a state representative for 14 years groomed me to lead the efforts of the statewide association, and taught me the value and importance of building strong relationships.

ALEC is a relationship-driven organization and a powerful force that brings Louisiana co-op leaders together to share ideas and solve common challenges.

Our mission is to help our electric cooperatives provide safe, affordable and reliable electrical service to their members, be a collective voice, be on the cutting edge of our industry and represent our great state while promoting the great work we do for our members.

Working together, ALEC members accomplish things that would be costly, difficult or impossible to do alone. That is the cooperative way.

We at ALEC strive to be the trusted resource, champion the cause and inspire the future of the electric cooperative movement every day.

2019 brought a lot of changes and challenges to the statewide association. Regulatory control overstepped its boundaries and attempted to take away your rights as an owner of your electric co-op and a ratepayer. Competition remains fierce with large investor-owned utilities that have deep pockets to gain access to decision makers. Those adversities challenged us to find opportunities to improve the way we do business.

Louisiana electric cooperatives have seen their fair share of political battles, regulatory issues, power cost negotiations and natural disasters. During these moments, electric cooperatives shine their brightest by banding together to offer each other a helping hand and reinventing themselves.

Our metamorphosis is just beginning. In the next several months, you will see many changes from ALEC. Our staff has

embraced the changes and brought to the table several fresh ideas. ALEC has a modernized logo that represents our great state. We are also strategically partnering with firms and service cooperatives to offer our members new and exciting opportunities.

ALEC has partnered with Pioneer Utility Resources to convert Louisiana Country and Along These Lines from 12-page tabloid newspapers to sleek, modernized, 24-page magazines. Your issues will arrive in the mail every other month. Your loyal readership to the statewide publication has been impressive in a day where all you hear is, "Print is dead." You, our valued members, have proven this wrong. We hope you enjoy the new format and content.

2020 promises to bring additional challenges: the RURAL Act on the federal level, 64 new state legislators and negotiating with power suppliers to find the best wholesale price for our members.

ALEC staff, together with your local electric cooperatives, will meet those challenges by strategically placing you, the member, first.

We hope you have a safe, prosperous and healthy New Year!

— ALEC CEO Jeff Arnold

Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc.

Staff

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jeff Arnold

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Beama Pierce

DIRECTOR OF LOSS CONTROL

Mike Bergeaux

SAFETY COORDINATOR

Aarron Graham

DIR. OF MEMBER SERVICES/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Addie Armato

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Robin Plunket, manager
Jody Overhultz, representative

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Vice President Dennis Glass

Secretary/Treasurer Michael Heinen

NRECA Director Jeff Arnold

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J.R. Hickman Teddy Welch

Claiborne Electric Cooperative Inc.

Mark Brown Lane Davidson

Dixie Electric Membership Corp.

Daniel Berthelot Leslie Falks

Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative Inc.

Michael Heinen Kirk Weldon

South Louisiana Electric Co-op Association

Tracy Duval Brian Rivet

Washington-St. Tammany Electric Co-op Inc.

Carey Bateman Dennis Glass

Associate Member

Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative Inc.



The Thrill of Tammany Trace

Exciting opportunities await outdoor enthusiasts, page 6

Local Pages 4, 5, 8, 17, 20, 21
Plugged In 10
In the Kitchen 12



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Stoney Doyle | District Four
Teddy Welch | District Five
Trent Buxton | District Six
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Kay Fox | Vice President of Marketing and Member Services
Ron Marshall | Vice President of Finance and Corporate Services
Kevin Aycock | Vice President of Engineering and Technical Services
Scott Deshotel | Vice President of Operations and Construction Services

BEAUREGARD ELECTRIC OFFICES

Main office

1010 East 1st Street
 DeRidder, LA 70634
 Phone: 800-367-0275

Moss Bluff

975 North Perkins Ferry Road
 Lake Charles, LA 70611
 Phone: 337-885-6684

New Llano

12542 Lake Charles Hwy./P.O. Box 367
 Leesville, LA 71446
 Phone: 337-239-3451

www.beci.org

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You're More Than a Customer

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this observation reflects Beauregard Electric's philosophy toward our members and the broader service territory we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different bottom line. While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation: Your well-being and that of the larger community we serve are our first priority.

To us, you are not just a customer. You are a member of our co-op. Without you, we would not exist.

In 1939, BECi was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders, politicians, 4-H extension agents and families came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none—to small rural communities of Sugartown, Pitkin, Rosepine, New Llano, Dry Creek, Merryville, Longville, Ragley, Hyatt, Singer and more. At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create BECi.

For most people, our founding and its circumstances are long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we can do this because of members like you.

The publication you are reading right now is a result of our effort to give our members what they want. We can now provide you even more local features in a new, modern and financially responsible way.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always exploring options that will help you manage your energy use, such as our pre-pay billing program, PowerPay, and the ability to see your energy use in real time through our online member portal. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

Beauregard Electric members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community—just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local charitable organizations such as CASA, United Way, American Cancer Society, Beauregard Council on Aging, God's Food Box, local schools, sports and community events. Through the BECi Share program, we offer members a way to help us help the community by rounding up their electric bill to the next dollar. The difference is donated to community action agencies and the BECi scholarship program. When you support these efforts, you support the community and make it a better place for everyone.

While times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.



Kevin Turner

Kevin Turner
 EVP, General Manager



12525 Hwy. 9, Homer, LA 71040

Phone: 318-927-3504

www.our.coop

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Richard Noles | Secretary/Treasurer
F. Lane Davidson
Phillip Fincher
Scott Jones
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Leroy Perritt
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Bill Dye | Chief Financial Officer
Joey White | Manager of Member Relations & Marketing
EmmaLee Tingle | Communications and Marketing Specialist
Stephen Faulk | Homer General Foreman
Candy Hicks | Homer Office Manager
Stacy Jones | Farmerville Office Manager
George Upshaw | Farmerville General Foreman

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Manager's Message

As you have certainly noticed by now, Louisiana Country has had quite the makeover. I want to be the first to welcome our members to our publication's new look. Our staff is excited about this change, and we hope our members will enjoy the new magazine format.

There are more than 900 electric cooperatives across the nation, and most have discontinued printing on newspaper stock, moving to the type of slick publication you're holding now. At Claiborne Electric, we are glad to offer our members such a nice product.

This move actually helps us lower printing costs, which offers yet another way we keep spending down to ensure our members' rates stay among the lowest in the nation.

This new magazine format will allow our members to have more room for local and statewide news, more feature stories, a recipe section, and plenty of room for cooperative news and notifications we need to pass along to members. Pages specific to Claiborne Electric will remain the same each month.

The news that once appeared in the center pages of the Louisiana Country newspaper is on pages 4-5 of the magazine. Members can find additional Claiborne Electric news and information on pages 8, 17 and 21-22. This month, page 8 contains our cover story: the preview of our 2020 Annual Meeting entertainment, The Quebe Sisters. Mark your calendars for April 25 and don't miss that meeting in Ruston!

On page 17, you'll find information on our recent Operation Round Up recipients. Pages 21-22 contain important information on proposed bylaw changes that will be put before the membership for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

Each issue of Louisiana Country now provides two months' worth of information. This January/February issue gives you all the co-op news you need until you receive the next issue at the beginning of March. Of course, much of that issue will be used to get members ready for the 2020 Annual Meeting. We have some exciting changes for the meeting coming your way.

As you leaf through the new magazine, I hope you are as pleased with the new product as we are. This change has been a major undertaking for the Claiborne Electric Board of Directors and management team. We hope you enjoy this publication and are proud to display it in your home as a Claiborne Electric member.

Mark Brown
CEO, General Manager



Mark Brown

Would you like to win a \$200 bill credit?

We are building a database for electronic communication with our members. When we have important news or information, we would like to reach our members quickly through e-mail.

We promise not to fill your inbox!

For your chance to win, e-mail the following to Win200@our.coop:

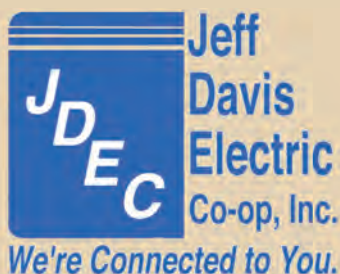
- **Name**
- **Account number**
- **E-mail address**

We will draw a monthly winner to receive a \$200 bill credit.

All members with an e-mail address on file will be entered in each drawing.

Winners will be contacted by e-mail with instructions to claim the credit.

If the credit is not claimed within 10 days, we will draw again.



906 N. Lake Arthur Ave.

P.O. Box 1229

Jennings, LA 70546

337-824-4330

337-824-8936 (fax)

Branch office:

815 Hwy. 27, Bell City, LA 70630

337-598-5700

www.jdec.org

STAFF

Michael J. Heinen | General Manager

Winnie L. Farris | Administrative Assistant/
Insurance Benefits/HR

Eric Gautreaux | Director of Safety/
Member Services

Sharla Prejean | Manager of Office Services/IT

Anya Killmer | Manager of Finance

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Kain Miller | Superintendent, Hackett

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Michael Heinen

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and information, and we are constantly bombarded with one-way communication.

But is anyone listening on the other end?

At Jeff Davis Electric, we are not only listening, we are eager to hear from you. Whether you call us, respond to a survey or social media post, send an email or stop by and chat in person, we thrive on your feedback.

Connecting with you helps us keep pace with our community's priorities and needs.

Because we are a cooperative, we have a different way of operating. Jeff Davis Electric exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

We hope you will consider us more than your energy provider, but instead a local

business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

Our planning is led by local members just like you who understand the needs of the community and are looking out for the long-term interests of the larger community.

We are in the midst of significant changes in the energy sector, as technology and the drive for more renewables and a more balanced energy mix impact long-term planning. These are complex issues we will navigate in the coming months and years.

This is why it's so important we hear from you and other community members as we plot our course for the future.

Jeff Davis Electric works to continually learn from our members about their priorities so we can better serve you. Your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. But we can only improve, adapt and effectively plan for the future if we have two-way communication.

For our co-op and community to thrive now and in the future, we depend on hearing from you. I hope you will connect with us and let us know your perspective.

Michael Heinen
General Manager





PANOLA-HARRISON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

410 E. Houston St. • P.O. Box 1058
Marshall, TX 75671
903-935-7936 local • 800-972-1093 toll-free
Website: phec.us

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
24-hour service for outages and emergencies

GENERAL MANAGER

Kathy Wood

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1: Paul Fortune

District 2: Albert Tiller | President

District 3: Jay Goswick | Treasurer

District 5: Debbie Burch

District 6: Jerry L. Holmes | Vice President

District 7: Gene Stough

Year organized: 1937

Counties and parishes served:

Harrison, Panola, Caddo and Desoto

Connected meters: 19,854

Members: 13,684

Energized line: 2,465 miles distribution;
72 miles transmission

Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative is an equal-opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a civil rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination complaint form online at ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call 1-866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, by fax to 202-690-7442 or by email to program.intake@usda.gov.

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A Fresh Start in a New Year



Kathy Wood

There's a certain poetry to opening a pristine calendar each January. The clean slate, absent scribbled-in appointments and obligations, encourages reflection and a bit of personal accounting. Rather

than lack, the calendar's empty grid represents promise—the potential for a fresh start in a new year.

Of course, this month, that sense of possibility is accentuated as we embark on not just a new year, but a new decade. It's an especially opportune moment to think about habits and practices that we may want to change, maintain or cultivate.

At Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative, we like to take stock in the same way. Each year presents 365 (or 366 this leap year) new opportunities to earn our members' trust and business, and January 1 is a good time for all of us here to think about the best ways to do that.

As you know, the co-op's most fundamental mission is to provide you the best possible electric service at the lowest possible cost. That's what our staff members—from employees at the front desk to warehouse personnel and from

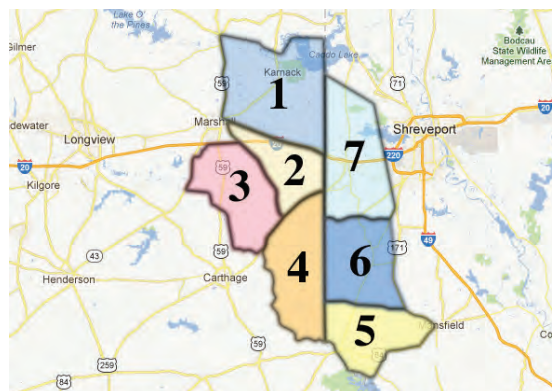
the engineering department to our human resources team and everyone in between—dedicate themselves to, year in and year out. For their dedication, I'd like to express my gratitude. All of them come to work each day with the safe provision of service to our members foremost in mind.

Our board of directors deserves a big thank-you, too. The members of Panola-Harrison EC's board have taken on the weighty responsibility of running a multimillion-dollar utility. The commitment they display in keeping up with the changing regulatory, technological and legislative landscapes that affect our industry is laudable. Decisions made by the board aren't undertaken lightly, as directors know that the outcomes of those choices affect thousands of their fellow members. Their diligence is appreciated, and I strive every day to emulate their conscientiousness.

A final thank-you goes to you, our members, who make all our jobs possible. Your support and understanding when things don't go right, and your input, whether via suggestion, compliment or complaint, helps us do a better job for you.

Without you, there would be no cooperative. For you, for this co-op and for ourselves, you can count on us at Panola-Harrison EC to do our best to be worthy beneficiaries of 2020's bounty and promise.

Kathy Wood, General Manager



BILL PAYMENT INFORMATION

Bring your electric bill or bill stubs when visiting the co-op office in Marshall with billing inquiries or payment questions. Payments can be made by mail, at our local office, by phone or on our website. We accept cash, check, electronic funds transfer, credit card and check by phone. Please call 1-866-520-1211 or 903-935-4657 to pay by credit card or check by phone, or use our website at phec.us.



Low Rates. High Expectations.

SOUTH LOUISIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361
2028 Coteau Road, Hwy. 660, Houma, LA 70364
985-876-6880
985-851-3644 (fax)
Amelia branch office:
2903 Lake Palourde Road
Morgan City, LA 70380
985-631-3605
www.sleca.com

STAFF

Joseph A. Ticheli | General Manager
Marc Caldwell | District Manager
Matt Peters | Operations Superintendent
Brett Ledet | Manager of Engineering
Ben Adams | Manager of Finance and Corporate Services
Danny LeBlanc | Manager of Purchasing

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Tracy Duval
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A 23-Year Culture of Safety



Joseph A. Ticheli

accident. That dates back to 1996.

Board President Alexander Doyle and I agree this safety record demonstrates the board of directors' commitment to our employees as well as our membership. Accidents can have costly ramifications to our employees' lives and families as well as our cooperative's bottom line. 94626001

Safety training is paramount for electric cooperative employees, and SLECA's culture of safety is one of the best in the nation.

Mike Bergeaux, director of safety and loss control with the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, commended our employees and board.

"This is a very important milestone,"

As your general manager at South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association, I am proud to announce SLECA has worked more than 3.8 million work-hours without a lost-time

said Mike, who works closely with ALEC's staff and SLECA's employees to provide safety training. "It symbolizes everyone's concern for the safety of one another."

SLECA also participates in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program.

We instill a culture of safety in all our employees. It takes a pledge to safety, starting with our directors all the way to our employees and their families. It is important to us that our employees go home to their families safe each and every day.

At the November Louisiana Public Service Commission meeting, Commissioner Greene congratulated SLECA for being nationally recognized for its safe and efficient work, and thanked employees and directors for the work they do.

I am proud of this 23-year accomplishment, but I am even more grateful for the top-down support and commitment of everyone at the electric cooperative.

Joseph A. Ticheli
General Manager

ENERGY EMERGENCY DEFERRED BILLING

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association's Energy Emergency Deferred Billing Program provides eligible customers with a mechanism to defer utility payments in the event the Louisiana Public Service Commission should declare an "energy emergency." To qualify for the program, a residential customer or government entity must meet certain requirements and be pre-qualified and pre-enrolled prior to any LPSC-declared energy emergency. For details and the requirements to become a qualified consumer, contact SLECA at P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA; 985-876-6880.

Eligible customers include any one of the following:

- Those persons whose income does not exceed 150% of the poverty level as established by the federal government and who are 65 years of age or older.
- Those persons who receive either food stamps or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
- Those persons whose sole income consists of Social Security payments.
- As determined by the commission or other vital government entities who provide services, the absence of which could result in imminent peril to the public health, safety and welfare.
- Those persons who need life-sustaining, electrically operated equipment, or life-sustaining medical treatment that requires electricity in order to live.

SLECA Sweepstakes

Did you know SLECA gives away cash just for reading **Louisiana Country**? In each issue, four account numbers are randomly selected by computer and hidden in articles on SLECA's pages (4, 5, 8, 17, 20 and 21). If you see your account number, call SLECA and win \$25 cash or have your winnings applied to your bill. You're missing out on great articles and the chance to win money if you are not reading **Louisiana Country**.



WST Electric

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www.wste.coop

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We Want to Hear From You

We live in a device-driven world. Our smartphones, tablets, laptops and an assortment of other devices help us communicate and connect. Companies spend billions pushing out a steady drumbeat of messages and information, and we are constantly bombarded with one-way communication. But is anyone listening on the other end?

At Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative, we are not only listening, we are eager to hear from you. Whether you call us, respond to a survey or social media post, send an email or stop by and chat in person, we thrive on your feedback. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with our community's priorities and needs.

Because we are a cooperative, we have a different way of operating. WSTE exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the co-op members. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve. We hope you will consider us more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

You will notice that throughout the year, we create opportunities for you and other community members to attend co-op gatherings and events to hear from you, including our annual meeting.

Our planning is led by local members just like you who understand the needs of the community and are looking out for the long-term interests of the larger community.

We are in the midst of significant changes in the energy sector, as technology and the drive for more renewables and a more balanced energy mix impact long-term planning. These are complex issues that we will navigate in the coming months and years. This is why it's so important that we hear from you and other community members as we plot our course for the future.

WSTE works to continually learn from our members about their priorities so we can better serve you. Your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. But we can only improve, adapt and effectively plan for the future if we have two-way communication.

For our co-op and community to thrive now and in the future, we depend on hearing from you. I hope you will connect with us and let us know your perspective.



The Lucky Account Number Contest continues this month with two winners included in this edition of Louisiana Country. Before you continue looking through this edition for your winning number, look for your account number printed above your mailing address. Locate this number anywhere in this issue and win a \$50 prize. Call 985-839-3562 to claim your prize.





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Mission

DEMCO is focused on enhancing the quality of life for members by providing safe, reliable and competitively priced energy services.

Along These Lines (USPS 4089) is published bimonthly by the Association of Louisiana Electric Co-ops Inc., 10725 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, in partnership with Pioneer Utility Resources.

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Manager's Report

Randy Pierce
CEO & General Manager



Welcome to a new year and a new Along these Lines magazine! While we promise to maintain the longstanding tradition of local content, the updated glossy publication now includes more stories that highlight and reflect Louisiana's heritage. The lagniappe is threefold: improved legibility, better photo resolution, and a lower cost to print and distribute.

Although we've changed the format of this publication, some things will remain constant. Specifically, I reference the characteristics of your DEMCO co-op and the character of the employees who work here.

As an electric cooperative, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to co-op members. However, we know it takes more than poles, wires and kilowatt-hours to make the co-op strong. It takes time, money, and a lot of heart and spirit to enrich the lives of our members and the communities we serve. At DEMCO, our employees, pictured below, are the heart of the co-op because they are devoted to the mission of the co-op and consistently demonstrate their commitment to the community.

Annual giving has always been an important belief and practice for DEMCO employees to show their commitment and concern for our co-op friends, families and neighbors. (Account number 01658909002)

Each year, DEMCO employees voluntarily contribute to two local organizations: Dream Day Foundation and Capital Area United Way. In 2019, DEMCO employees contributed more than \$64,000 to these organizations. I know you will agree it is no small gesture to withhold money from a hard-earned paycheck for the benefit of someone less fortunate.

Another remarkable effort that shows how much DEMCO employees care for the community is reflected in our cooperative's annual holiday giving project. In 2019, employees donated blankets, pillows and personal items to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. In 2018, employees donated one ton of food to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

I am grateful to be part of a team of such excellent employees who care for and contribute to the communities we serve. I hope you continue to find comfort in knowing that DEMCO employees have and always will be powerful and generous resources you can count on.

