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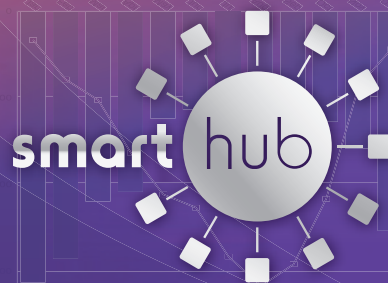
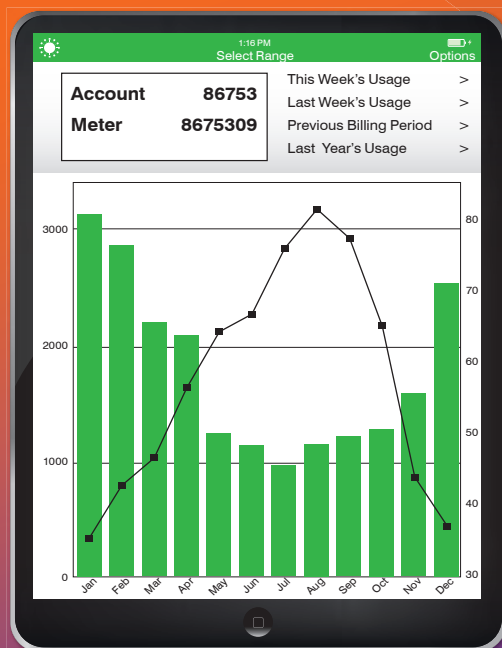
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ID-1

How Much Electricity Do You Use?

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www.cbec.cc
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Manager

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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

My Final Ruralite Back-Page Message

Hello Members:

I find this to be my final Manager's Back-Page message! WOW! It makes one ponder the finality of a decision to retire!

It has been such an honor to represent your Co-Op as the CEO and General Manager these past five-plus years. The challenges and opportunities have been engaging. Most importantly, we have kept the lights on and at affordable and reasonable rates. CBEC rates and fees are very competitive when compared to our sister electric co-op utilities throughout the Northwest. Your Co-Op Board is constantly aware of the impacts of increased rates on our member residences and businesses.

I have been so very fortunate to have been an employee of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative these past 22 years. My paychecks have never bounced, and my benefits have never been rejected due to non-payment of employer premiums. My earnings from your Co-Op have enabled me to provide for my family, live in a community as I prefer, and to volunteer in and contribute to our schools and organizations. It has enabled me a rewarding career and life. I truly appreciate my time here.

I commend and endorse Andy Fletcher as my successor. I wish him the very best in continuing and prospering the legacy of your electric cooperative. I believe he will continue to find our employees to be top-shelf, virtually all having been locally raised and educated within our service territory, or having a local family connection. These folks live, volunteer and contribute to our schools and communities. CBEC employees take pride in their work and in their lives. They are a good team, and they perform well together for our Membership. I have been blessed to be able to work with them.

I truly believe your Co-Op will continue to prosper and serve while maintaining our primary function: to keep the lights on and to support and nurture our members and communities.

Very 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

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Howard Gonser, Vice President
Dan Williams, Secretary
Wayne Jacobson, Treasurer
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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

Carbon Policy, Cap and Trade. Here We Go Again.

Lawmakers in Salem are again attempting to pass a bill that would make Oregon the second state after California to adopt an economywide cap-and-trade system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

The bill has support from Gov. Kate Brown and the state house's other top Democrats, but even its champions are treading carefully to protect the state's economy as they aim to address climate change. Last session's walkout by Republicans as well as the #TimberUnity efforts are clear examples as to why more thought had to be put into this legislation.

The proposed legislation has evolved yet again from an earlier version of cap-and-trade legislation known as the Clean Energy Jobs bill that lawmakers considered but failed to pass during a previous session.

As a reminder, the largest source of carbon emissions in Oregon isn't the power sector, but the transportation sector. The overwhelming majority of your electricity is provided by near zero-carbon sources. Please see www.nwascopud.org/about/power-sources to learn more. Similarly, if you are considering a switch to an electric vehicle, please know our rates are favorable to charge that vehicle with carbon-free energy. We offer rebates on home-charging infrastructure and information to help with your decision at www.nwascopud.org/programs-and-services/electric-vehicles.

Northern Wasco County PUD is monitoring what cap-and-trade legislation could mean to the power sector and the overall economy in our region. We are optimistic there would not be unintended financial consequences to our community and stand ready to participate in the legislative process to ensure your consumer-owned electric service utility and our community isn't negatively impacted.

Stay warm and stay safe,

Roger Kline
General Manager





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

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

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Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

When People Speak, Congress Still Listens

Politics have become so polarized it can be tough for Democrats and Republicans to come together to tackle big challenges. But that's exactly what happened recently in Washington, D.C., thanks to dedicated lawmakers, including five from Washington.

Reps. Susan DelBene (D-2), Dan Newhouse (R-4), Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-5), Derek Kilmer (D-6) and Denny Heck (D-10) listened to thousands of electric cooperative stakeholders as they fought tirelessly to add important legislation to the 2020 federal government spending bill. The bill was signed into law in December, and included a provision known as the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands—or RURAL Act—which solved an existential issue for electric co-ops and America's rural communities.

Electric co-ops work to secure government grants to help pay for numerous activities that benefit the communities they serve. These include grants for storm recovery, broadband deployment, renewable energy and economic development.

To maintain their tax-exempt status, co-ops can receive no more than 15% of their income from nonmember sources. Historically, government grants to co-ops were counted as contributions to capital. But due to a glitch in the 2017 tax law, government grants were reclassified as income, pushing some co-ops beyond the 15% threshold and jeopardizing their tax-exempt status.

The tax problem left co-ops with an unfair choice: Do they take the money they need to turn the lights back on for their members as quickly as possible after a disaster? Do they accept the broadband grants to help close the digital divide between rural and urban America? Or do they turn down those grants so they don't have to spend their members' money paying taxes rather than improving service?

Thanks to Congress, electric co-ops across Washington don't have to make those trade offs. This is good news for both co-ops and their members, because some co-ops would have had to raise their electric rates to pay new taxes.

The electric cooperatives in Washington are extremely grateful to the members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation for their support of the RURAL Act. In standing up for Washington's local communities, they proved that Congress still works for the people. Notably, the legislation drew the bipartisan support of more than 300 lawmakers in the House and more than half of the Senate before it was passed. That's a rarity these days.

In today's fast-paced society, pausing to give thanks is done with increasing rarity. That is unfortunate.

Thank you, Reps. DelBene, Newhouse, Rodgers, Kilmer and Heck for looking out for rural communities across Washington. And thank you for working with us to solve this problem.

Kent Lopez
General Manager
Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

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www.cpi.coop

OR-6

President's Report

Capital credit allocations and retirements are fundamental elements of the cooperative business model.

Capital credits represent each member's ownership of the cooperative, and are the margins allocated to members based on their purchases from the designated year. The cooperative uses these margins as operating capital. A retirement is the amount you receive back as a capital credit allotment, and is a percentage of your total capital credit balance. The amount to retire is determined by the board of directors annually, based on the financial condition of the cooperative.

At the end of 2019, the CPI Board of Directors authorized the return of approximately \$850,000 in patronage capital. This represents 37% of the capital credits for 1991.

Checks were mailed in December to members who received service from CPI that year.

To date, CPI has returned over \$21 million in patronage capital to CPI members. The securing of new and the retirement of outstanding capital credits is an important way cooperatives distinguish themselves.

2019 Legislative Wins

2019 ended with good news on the legislative front. Many of you participated in our grassroots effort to pass the Rural Areas and Land (RURAL) Act. We are pleased to announce your efforts were heard and played a large role in bipartisan passage of the bill.

The bill was necessary due to unintended consequences of the 2017 tax reform bill. This would have placed cooperatives' tax-exempt status in danger if they were to receive federal grants for things such as disaster recovery and broadband deployment. To remain tax-exempt, cooperatives must receive no more than 15% of gross income from nonmember sources. The tax reform bill redefined federal funding as a nonmember source, and cooperatives that went

over the 15% mark by receiving federal funding would lose their tax-exempt status.

We would like to thank all of our federal legislators, with special thanks to Rep. Greg Walden, who was particularly outspoken on the bill, as well as Sen. Ron Wyden, whose leadership position on the Senate Finance Committee gave him a unique opportunity to fight for rural Oregonians, which he did.

We also had a win with the repeal of the Affordable Care Act "Cadillac Tax," which would have imposed a 40% tax on some employer-sponsored health plans. Repeal of this tax ensures employer-sponsored health care coverage for almost 200 million U.S. citizens remains an effective and affordable option.

Those who made their voices heard through ORECA-Action played a pivotal role in these political wins and helped keep costs affordable for all our members. If you haven't signed up for our grassroots effort and want to take part, please go to our website at www.cpi.coop and click on the "Get Involved" link at the top of the page. Join CPI and other Oregon electric cooperative members to share your concerns with our legislators.

Congratulations Ted!

Ted Case, executive director of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the author of two books on co-op history, has won the annual J.C. Brown CEO Communication Leadership Award.

The award, presented to Ted on January 13, recognizes an electric cooperative industry executive who is committed to advancing communication in the industry. Ted is an outstanding asset to Oregon's electric cooperatives and is deserving of this award. Great job, Ted!

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

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Website: BentonREA.org

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Board Meetings, Agendas & Minutes

The board of trustees will meet February 26 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.

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Michael J. Bradshaw

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Jeff Ekrut, 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

Dam Report to Influence Future of Reliable, Carbon-free Hydroelectricity

Dear Members,

In the next few months the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration is expected to release the draft Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act on the coordinated water management function for operation, maintenance and configuration of the 14 federal dam and reservoir projects that comprise the Columbia River System.

This critical report will influence the future of the Columbia and lower Snake River dams. And so, it is equally important that you be informed on this study.

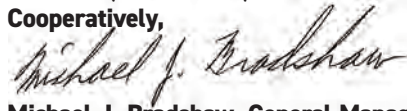
The lower Snake River dams provide many enhancements for our quality of life in Eastern Washington. They provide flood control, navigation, hydropower production, irrigation, fish and wildlife conservation, recreation, municipal and industrial water supply and water quality.

As Northwesterners, we value and choose to protect the habitat of our native salmon and wildlife of the Columbia and Snake rivers. **Both fish and dams can coexist.** But this fact is in jeopardy, as is our low-cost, renewable and carbon-free energy provided by our hydroelectric dams.

On page 28 of this magazine, Kurt Miller, executive director of Northwest RiverPartners, describes how the EIS can and will impact electricity consumers. I encourage you to read his article and take action to support the lower Snake River dams.

After the EIS report is released, there will be a 45-day public comment period for Northwest citizens to review and give their feedback. Benton REA will continue to educate you about how to make a difference in this battle to save our reliable, carbon-free, low-cost hydroelectricity.

Cooperatively,



Michael J. Bradshaw, General Manager

mikeb@bentonrea.org

Columbia River System Operations EIS Process



Offices

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Hermiston, OR 97838
541 567-6414

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

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www.umatillaelectric.com

OR-8

Your Voice Matters in Federal Hydro Review

At a recent Hermiston Chamber forum, several Board members and I heard a sobering message from Kurt Miller – the need is coming soon to speak up in support of the federal hydropower system.

Miller is executive director of Northwest RiverPartners, a Vancouver-based group that represents utilities, ports, farmers and businesses (UEC is a member). As he travels around the Northwest, Miller is helping lead the opposition to dam breaching as federal agencies prepare to release an environmental review of 14 dams on the Columbia/Snake system.



“This is a monumental time,” Miller said. “All of a sudden, we are at a stage of what seemed impossible a decade ago – that the lower Snake River dams could be breached. Now the federal action agencies are actually looking at the possibility.”

Among its many benefits to the irrigation, transportation and power industries, the hydro system provides 24/7 power to back up the intermittent output of wind turbines and solar arrays. “If we want to get to a clean energy future, we need hydropower to build the bridge to it,” he said.

An energy crisis could unfold in coming years as coal-fired generating plants are closed and dams are removed. “There is a real possibility the Northwest will have blackouts.”

A growing concern in both rural and urban areas is that dam removal would have a disproportional effect on lower-income communities, he said.

From my perspective, the loss of the lower Snake River dams would cost UEC millions of dollars over time in its impact

on acquiring power for our members, and billions of dollars in its impact to Northwest consumer-owned utilities.

Those major impacts to the Northwest power industry would come from the need to construct alternative power resources and to reintegrate region-wide transmission to access those new power resources.

The Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) are expected to issue a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) in February, with a 45-day comment period. Public forums will be scheduled. A final EIS will follow, and a formal decision is planned later in 2020.

BPA expects to receive comments by the thousands from anti-dam activists, Miller said. “We need our communities who are dependent on the dams to turn out and comment,” he said. “You can influence the outcome.”

We have published a page at umatillaelectric.com, “Your Voice Matters,” that will have information and links on this topic from federal agencies as well as Northwest RiverPartners and the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association. It will include details on how, when and where to comment.

We hope you take this opportunity to influence the future of our industry, our economy and our communities.

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

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*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

Announcing an Energy-Efficiency Partnership

Wasco Electric Cooperative has partnered with Efficiency Services Group to manage our energy conservation programs. ESG provides energy audits to WEC members to help identify possible money-saving measures within your home, along with information on available rebates.

We are proud to be a resource for our members to learn more about using electricity efficiently and to meet the needs of their household. WEC offers several energy-saving programs through rebates. These programs include appliance rebates, ductless heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and home weatherization rebates for windows and insulation.

For more information on our current programs, please visit our website at www.wascoelectric.com or contact our office at 541-296-2740.

Interested in an energy audit? Call ESG at 888-883-9879 or WEC at 541-296-2740 to have a trained ESG representative visit with you at your home to discuss your areas of concerns and available rebates. During this visit, the representative will provide on-the-spot recommendations for energy-efficiency upgrades that could improve the efficiency of your home, such as our heat pump water heater program, LED lighting or ductless heat pumps.

This program is offered as a benefit for members at no cost. These audits are funded through the Bonneville Power Administration's Conservation and Energy Efficiency program. WEC works in conjunction with BPA's programs to provide valuable resources to our members to help them save energy and, ultimately, lower their electric bill.

The ESG representatives are committed to helping our members save energy and money. When in our service territory completing audits, the ESG representatives will have logos on their vehicles and wear badges identifying themselves. If you have any questions prior to your visit or want to verify the person visiting with you is an ESG representative, call ESG at 888-883-9879 or our office at 541-296-2740.

To schedule a weatherization audit, contact ESG at 888-883-9879 or our office at 541-296-2740.

**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

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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.



OR-10

Survey Says...

Dear Member,

Over the last couple of years, we have sent out close to 1,000 surveys. The feedback has been extremely positive, especially with regard to the service we provide and the price you pay for electricity. One thing that stood out however, is that about half of you consider yourselves “customers” of Douglas Electric, instead of “members” of this cooperative. There is a distinct difference between the two.



In the 1930s, Public and People’s Utility Districts, and electric cooperatives developed when private utilities chose not to serve rural communities and farms. The terrain was difficult to serve and there was no money to be made. In 1942, previously created West Douglas Electric combined with North Douglas Electric to form present day Douglas Electric Cooperative, providing electricity to its original 1,193 members in north and west Douglas County.

Providing electric service the cooperative way distinguishes electric coops from investor-owned electric utilities. Cooperative members have a voice and a vote in cooperative matters. Board members set the rates and create the policies, and any member residing on the cooperative’s lines can qualify to be elected as a board member. As a not-for-profit electric utility, it’s also one of the reasons you pay some of the lowest electric rates in the country.

While investor-owned electric utilities have shareholders to satisfy, any margins realized by Douglas Electric Cooperative are returned to the members in the form of capital credits. Keep in mind that we exist to meet your needs, not to make a profit. To give you a few possible reference points, REI, Ocean Spray, Tillamook Creamery and our local Douglas County Farmers Co-op all operate in similar fashion.

On Saturday, April 4, we will hold our annual membership meeting at the Douglas County Fairgrounds and I would encourage you to attend. It’s a perfect time to experience what it feels like to be treated like a member and not a customer. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

James K. Brooks
General Manager

Columbia Power Co-op



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

DIRECTORS

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

MANAGER

Troy Cox

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

POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

OR-11

Mark of Quality Ensures Safety

You probably have seen the UL mark on a number of products. Illinois-based Underwriters Laboratories is the leading third-party certification organization in the United States and North America. As a not-for-profit product safety testing and certification organization, UL has been evaluating products in the interest of public safety since 1894.

The UL mark means samples of the product meet safety requirements, primarily based on UL's published standards.

The mark can be found on appliances and computer equipment, furnaces and heaters, fuses, electrical panelboards, smoke detectors, life jackets, bullet-resistant glass and thousands of other products.

To determine if a product is certified by UL, look for the mark on the product, not the packaging or store display.

An example of UL certification are surge protectors. When buying a surge protector, look for these features:

- UL 1449 listing and the term "Transient Voltage Surge Suppressor." The UL 1449 standard changed in 1998, so check old surge suppressors to make sure they still comply.
- An indicator light or some other feature is needed to show whether the device has experienced a power spike. If the light is out, the suppressor no longer works properly and should be replaced.
- Voltage suppression of 330 volts per UL standards. Higher voltage ratings give less protection. Ratings of 400 can be found on cheaper, less effective devices.
- Make sure any manufacturer insurance guarantees cover the cost of replacing damaged equipment.



Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

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Ryan Davies

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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 St., Redmond, OR.

www.cec.coop

OR-12

President's Message

A recent report by the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America caught my attention. The nonprofit and nongovernmental organization affirms the cleanest energy in the country flows through the Bonneville Power Administration's service region.

CEC benefits from this clean energy because it relies on BPA for nearly all its wholesale electricity and, as a result, can claim a nearly 100% carbon emission-free energy portfolio this year.

When you drive Interstate 84, it is hard to miss BPA's hydroelectric facilities strung along the Columbia River Gorge. However, BPA's footprint expands well beyond the river. The federal power marketing administration, created by Congress in 1937, has facilities throughout the Pacific Northwest covering 300,000 square miles, which include Idaho, Oregon, Washington and portions of five surrounding states. BPA's 261 substations and more than 15,000 miles of transmission lines deliver nearly 28% of the electric power used in the Northwest.

The value of BPA's hydroelectric power must not be underestimated, especially as policymakers take steps to adopt aggressive carbon-free emission goals. The 24/7 renewable baseload resource does and will continue to play an expansive role in achieving these ambitious goals as BPA's hydroelectric power backstops intermittent renewables such as solar and wind. The system also provides flood control and irrigation for agriculture, and supports commerce and industry, including large tech companies that want carbon-free, low-cost power.

While CEC benefits from subscribing to BPA's clean, renewable energy, it comes at a cost. Every two years since 2010, BPA has

increased its wholesale power rates to its utility customers. To try to neutralize these rising costs, Central Electric, along with other Oregon electric cooperatives, makes

every effort to work with BPA to keep its power rates competitive and ensure the resources' long-term economic viability.

Yet to quote the proverb, "No good deed goes unpunished," there has been a significant push in the legislature to adopt an economywide cap-and-trade bill. When introduced last year, the bill initially exposed Central Electric to nearly \$7 million in new costs between 2021 and 2030. As the bill wound its way through the legislative process, CEC successfully had the bill amended to reduce the cost exposure to just more than \$2.5 million during the same period.

In my view, imposing additional costs proves unwarranted when CEC has an almost carbon-free portfolio. Nor is it equitable when the two Oregon investor-owned utilities must only provide 50% renewable energy by 2040 and get a 10-year pass on carbon penalties.

When the Oregon State Legislature reconvenes for a short legislative session this month, cap-and-trade legislation will once again take center stage. As deliberations ensue, I encourage policymakers not to punish good actors, such as Central Electric, who have demonstrated a commitment and made the investment to provide clean, renewable and cost-effective energy to its members.



Dave Markham, President and CEO



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Corporate Services/CFO

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Matt Mjelde

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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

Should You Care About Loss of Load Probability?

In past months, I have explained some basics of how the electric power grid brings you the energy that powers your life. Electricity generation must be balanced with system load at all times for the grid to operate reliably. Reliable electricity service to your home requires reliable electric generation sources. Today, in the interest of the environment, reliable coal plants are being shut down and unreliable renewable sources such as wind and solar generation are being built. Wow, that sounds good and bad all at once!

We are seeing serious public pressure to transition our power supply to clean renewable sources. Here in Oregon, many legislative delegates are pushing for a carbon cap-and-trade law. The electric industry hears this from its consumers, too, and is working hard to speed this transition away from fossil fuels to renewables. In the coming years, 12 coal plants in five Northwestern states are scheduled to be shut down. That's a lot of power. You may ask, does this affect Coos-Curry Electric, since we get our electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration and the Federal Columbia River Power System? The answer is YES.

Electric energy is moved on an interconnected network of high-voltage transmission lines from where it is generated to where it is used. That means one big transmission network moves all sources of generation to points of load scattered across the region. Many generation sources rely on one transmission grid. If generation and load get too far out of balance on the grid, the transmission system can fail. Energy generated can't get to the load. We call this a blackout.

Fortunately, a lot of smart engineers, called system planners, are studying this problem continually. System planners calculate an important indicator called a loss of load probability. The number tells us the chance that a blackout will happen under forecast generation and load conditions. One such study recently released by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council is sobering. It said that by 2026 there is a 26% loss of load probability in the Northwest. A less conservative simulation gave a 33% probability by 2024. That means in four to six years we could have a 1-in-4 to a 1-in-3 chance of a widespread blackout in the Northwest. Not good.

Shutting down coal plants before we have other reliable generation sources to replace them poses a serious threat to the perpetual balance on the power grid and the reliability of our electricity supply. Find more details in a video published by KGW reporter Pat Dooris linked here: <http://www.ccec.coop/content/will-there-be-enough-electricity-after-coal-plants-shut-down>, on the Coos-Curry Electric website.



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.

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(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

Access to Consumers' Property

As of late, there has been some controversy about West Oregon Electric Cooperative employees or WOEC contractors gaining access to our facilities on consumers' property. When you, the consumer, come into the co-op to apply for service, you are given a copy of the service rules and regulations for West Oregon Electric Co-op. They can also be found on our website at www.westoregon.org. These are the rules and regulations that WOEC follows to ensure fair and equal treatment throughout the membership.

In that booklet under section 5.10, it states:

All property owned by the Cooperative and located on the consumer's premises shall be deemed to be personal property of the Cooperative and title thereto shall remain with the Cooperative. The Cooperative shall have the right at the expiration of service to remove all of its property. The Cooperative shall keep in repair and maintain its property installed on the premises of the consumer. Repair or replacement of landscaping, concrete, asphalt or any other consumer installed structures, etc., will be at the consumer's expense. Under no circumstances shall a consumer place or permit the placement of any building, other structure, trees or shrubs within the Cooperative's primary right-of-way, or change the grade, fill or excavate or carry on or permit any other activity within said right-of-way, if in the judgment of the Cooperative, such activity might interfere with the proper operation and maintenance of its electric lines or cables. By way of illustration, but not limited to, the following uses are specifically prohibited: swimming pools, tennis courts, satellite dishes, or storage of any materials or equipment.

This means WOEC and its representatives are to be allowed access to the poles, wire, transformer, switching cubicle and meter 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If the consumer wants to have locked access to their property, they will have to provide WOEC with a key, or have the co-op install one of their locks in series. If it is an electronic gate, an entry code must be supplied to the co-op. In case of an interruption or another emergency, WOEC has the right to cut the lock and enter the property.

It is prohibited to build any structures, walls, buildings, containers or barricades around WOEC equipment. These obstacles pose a safety hazard for our workers, and they will be removed. WOEC will not be held responsible for damages in the event our workers have to force access to co-op equipment on the consumer's property.

If a consumer is concerned about a contractor being on their property, they should notify the co-op to confirm their presence.

Following these rules and regulations allow for co-op efficiency, lineworker safety and reliable service. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the office at 503-429-3021.



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

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

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CA-15

Writer/Photographer Wanted

Have you read an interesting article in Surprise Valley's edition of Ruralite magazine and thought you have what it takes to write a fun, compelling or emotional feature? If so, SVE is looking for a local freelance journalist interested in finding and producing features in and around our service territory.

If you or someone you know has writing experience—professional or enthusiast—and wants to be a part of your utility's editorial effort, email writing and photography samples, along with a brief introduction, to Ruralite Assistant Editor Mike Teegarden at mteegarden@pur.coop. Be sure to include what excites you about writing in your community!



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In accordance with the Federal Civil Rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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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

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MANAGEMENT

Debi Wilson | General Manager

Susan Carter | Finance & Administration Manager

Tony Toncray | Operations Manager

Sean Krause | Engineering Manager

Andy Cave | IT Manager

BOARD MEETINGS

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

OR-16

Disaster Avoided!

As we are now in midst of winter, and weather forecasts have been predicting snow, many of us are remembering the debilitating 2019 February snowstorm, the power outages and the damage that came with it. It was a costly disaster, and tax changes by the Internal Revenue Service threatened to make it even more costly to Lane Electric and our members.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act presented unintended consequences to Oregon electric cooperatives, including Lane Electric. The tax law changes made government aid and grants taxable, whereas previously they were tax-exempt.

For Lane Electric specifically, it meant the Federal Emergency Management Agency grants we will receive for the 2019 snowstorm to offset 75% of storm damage repair costs could have been taxable. The money we will receive would have caused us to exceed the percentage of revenue we are allowed to maintain our tax-exempt status. In other words, under the 2017 tax law, we would have to pay taxes.

Lane Electric directors and staff, along with electric cooperatives across the country, emailed and visited with our elected officials in Washington, D.C., asking them to support the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands Act, which would correct the 2017 tax law. In August, we also did a call to action to you, our members, encouraging you to contact your elected officials and visit our grassroots webpage urging Congress to support the RURAL Act.

This act needed Democrats and Republicans alike to support our rural constituents and work together. As it turns out, there was excellent bipartisan support (see page 28), but not enough to ensure it would be included in the 2020 spending bill. For the RURAL Act to pass, it was essential to have the backing of Sen. Ron Wyden, who sits on an influential committee. Lane Electric, along with our fellow electric cooperatives, is thankful this disaster was avoided.

We are grateful our elected officials set aside their differences, were nonpartisan, and came together to support electric cooperatives across the country. This change would not have happened without Sen. Wyden supporting electric cooperatives and taking it across the finish line. Lane Electric expresses our deepest thanks and appreciation to Sen. Wyden for his support of the RURAL Act and rural Oregon.

Thank you, too, to all of our members who contacted our elected officials. You made a difference!



Debi Wilson
General Manager



**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

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The power of human connections

OR-17

Making Washington Work for You

Dear Members,

Our commitment to you extends far beyond the edge of our service territory as we support the needs of our cooperative community in Oregon and Washington, D.C. Providing Blachly-Lane consumer-members with safe and reliable power will always be our highest priority, but this requires much more than maintaining overhead power lines and other infrastructure.

It requires us to focus on what our elected leaders are doing in Washington, D.C., and right here in Oregon, to ensure they are acting in the cooperative's best interest.

Oregon's short legislative session begins February 3, and is likely to include carbon tax legislation that we will keep a close eye on. We may need your help with this to avoid costs that would impact your rates.

Please register at <https://oreca-action.org> to receive email alerts from me when we need your voice on issues that could harm the co-op, and when we need your voice to support legislation that benefits you as a member of this cooperative. When you receive an alert, you will be taken to an email tool that makes it easy for you to contact your legislator with the concern. This is an incredibly simple and powerful means for grassroots activism.

Your voice has already made a difference. Thanks to the actions of members like you on oreca-action.org, in December Congress passed bipartisan legislation known as the RURAL Act, which safeguards electric co-ops from losing their tax-exempt status when they receive government grants such as Federal Emergency Management Agency storm reimbursements. We thank those of you who reached out to our legislators to make this happen.

Greg Gardner
General Manager



UPCOMING DATES

- ▶ **February 18, 5:30 p.m.**—Director Nomination Petitions, Incumbent Director Information and Bylaw Proposals Due.
- ▶ **February 25, 1 p.m.**—Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.
- ▶ **March 14, 9:30 a.m.**—Blachly-Lane Coffee Talk at Abbi's Rosebud Café.
- ▶ **March 16, 1 p.m.**—Aware Committee Meeting.
- ▶ **April 18, 10 a.m.**—83rd Annual Meeting at Triangle Lake School.



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Randy L. Knowles
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Gwyn Miller
Assistant General Manager

Kevin Ricks
Renewable Energy Asset Manager

Mike DeMott
*Director of Finance
and Power Management*

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Brandy Myers
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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

We Remember

It is with a sad heart that we reflect on the passing of former Klickitat PUD General Manager Tom Svendsen. On behalf of all of us here at the PUD, I would like to pass along our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Debi, and their family.

In the interest of being true to Tom, this is also an opportunity to recognize a unique and positive individual. Tom hired me in 1997. The opportunity he offered me allowed my wife and I the chance to build a life and a family in a community we love. For that I will always be grateful.

Tom was undoubtedly the most creative engineer I have ever met, and he showed me what it is to be a professional. I did not always agree with Tom, but he never once varied from speaking his mind and doing what he thought in the best interests of the PUD and the community. He never held a grudge for slights or disagreements. That is a trait I have strived to emulate. I have learned much from Tom, and I will miss him.

See pages 4 and 5 for a bit of the history of Tom's career. I invite you to think a bit about the legacy you may leave behind when the time comes for you, as it will for all of us. I know Tom's legacy has driven me to think about the things I do and how they may improve our utility and my neighbors.

Cheers, Tom.

Jim Smith
General Manager





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Sagle, ID 83860

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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

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208-610-3853

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Judith Simonson, Noxon, MT
406-847-2643

District No. 3
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208-610-2999

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

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208-267-7064

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

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

ID-19

In Honor of Judith Simonson, NLI Board Secretary

It is with a sad heart that I inform you of the passing of our District 2 Director Judith Simonson. As a tribute to Judith, I would like to dedicate this month's Manager's Report in her memory.

Judith was born November 26, 1939, and passed away Friday, December 20, 2019, in Coeur d' Alene. She was a graduate of the Boston University School of Management and attended Harvard College, school of the Museum of Fine Arts School, Boston, and University of Wisconsin. She was a certified, credentialed director with a Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Judith joined the NLI Board in 1994. She served as board president for six years and board secretary for 13 years. She was deeply committed to the community, our member-owners and the cooperative principles. Judith also served on the board of the Montana Electric Cooperative Association for 20 years and was well known throughout the rural electric cooperative family as a leader and good friend.

She was known throughout Sanders County by her pen name, Jay Simons. Judith worked as a contributor for the Sanders County Ledger for more than 35 years. She loved meeting people writing stories, and always had a positive outlook on life.

Judith was devoted to her community. She was the former assistant director of Sanders County Community Development, established Trout Creek as the Huckleberry Capital of Montana, and was a board member and volunteer of the Noxon Food Bank and Thrift Store.

We are grateful to her family for sharing Judith with the cooperative. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Annie Terracciano
General Manager





P.O. Box 300
Grangeville, Idaho 83530
Phone: 208-983-1610
Toll free: 877-212-0424
Fax: 208-983-1432
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Website: www.iclp.coop

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Cottonwood

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Frank McIntire
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Grangeville

Greg M. Smith
Syringa

Bruce Nuxoll
Kooskia

Attorney
J.A. Wright

General Manager
Max Beach

c-21

What Is a Monthly Service Charge?

It's been a while since I was asked about our monthly service charge, but I figured I would explain it again.

What is the \$25.50 charge—85 cents per day—per meter you see every month on your statement whether you use power or not? We call it the monthly service charge. Others may call it a line and system fee, service availability charge, a fixed cost, flat fee or basic charge. No matter the name, this charge helps cover the cost of bringing electricity to homes. It covers part of the expenses the cooperative incurs regardless of how much electricity is sold. The monthly service charge covers such things as:

- Trucks, wire, transformers, meters and power poles needed to build and maintain the electric distribution system.
- Labor to build and maintain the lines.
- The cost of insurance, interest and taxes.
- Providing member services, data management systems and more.

Because all cooperative members benefit from having reliable electric service available when they need it, the service charge allows everyone to pay a share of the basic costs.

Members sometimes ask why ICL&P's monthly service charge is higher than neighboring utilities. It is higher than some, but quite a bit lower than others. This difference is because of our member density.

ICL&P serves an average of 3.7 members per mile of line. Compare this to a city where the average density is more than 30 customers per mile of line. It is always more economical to serve areas of higher density. However, ICL&P's average rates remain competitive with those neighboring utilities and are some of the lowest rates in the country. This is because the power

we receive comes from affordable, reliable and renewable hydropower that produces about 90% of the power we receive, and we are a not-for-profit local utility. You are our shareholders.

ICL&P serves a diverse membership. Some of our members use a lot of electricity all year. Others may use electricity only one or two months a year. Others are usually in between. The fact remains that whether you use a lot of electricity or a little, the cost of getting power to your location remains the same. That is why your residential electric bill has two separate charges: the monthly service charge to cover basic costs and the kilowatt-hour charge for the actual electricity used.

If the monthly service charge were to reflect what its actual cost should be—meaning everyone shared in the full cost of all the fixed costs listed above—the monthly service charge would be closer to \$70 a month. With a \$70 service charge, the variable part of your bill—or the cost per kwh—would be cut in half. This means that for most of you who use the “average” (1,000-1,200 kwh per month) amount of electricity, your bill would stay about the same. If you use more than the average family uses, your bill would go down and if you use less than what the average family uses, your bill would go up.

With us being a winter-peaking system, we rely on Mother Nature. If it's a cold winter, we sell more electricity and things balance out. If it's a mild winter, we fall short of budgeted expectations. I hope this further explains the monthly service charge each month on your power bill.

Thanks for listening,

Max Beach



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

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Neil Carpenter, Vice President
**Doug Logan, Secretary/
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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

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

WA-22

Rep. McMorris Rodgers plays key role to help rural communities

Washington politics has become so polarized that it can be tough for Democrats and Republicans to come together to tackle big challenges. But that's exactly what happened recently on Capitol Hill thanks to dedicated lawmakers like Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers.

Rep. McMorris Rodgers listened as thousands of electric cooperative stakeholders fought tirelessly to add important legislation to the 2020 spending bill. The bill, signed into law last month, included a provision known as the RURAL Act, which solved an existential issue for electric co-ops and America's rural communities.

Electric co-ops work to secure government grants to help pay for activities that benefit the communities they serve. These include grants for storm recovery, broadband deployment, renewable energy and economic development.

To maintain tax-exempt status, co-ops can receive no more than 15 percent of their income from grants such as this. Due to a glitch in the 2017 tax law, government grants were reclassified as income, pushing some co-ops beyond the 15 percent threshold. The tax problem left co-ops with an unfair choice: do they take the money they need to turn the lights back on for their members as quickly as possible after a disaster? Do they accept the broadband grants to help close the digital divide between rural and urban America? Or do they turn down those grants so they wouldn't have to spend their members' money paying taxes rather than improving service?

Thanks to Congress, electric co-ops across Washington don't have to make those tradeoffs. This is good news for co-ops and their members because some co-ops would have had to raise their electric rates to pay new taxes.

We at Columbia REA are extremely grateful to Rep. McMorris Rodgers for her support of the RURAL Act. In standing up for Washington's local communities, she proved that Congress still works for the people. Notably, the legislation drew the bipartisan support of more than 300 lawmakers in the House and more than half of the Senate before it was passed. That's a rarity in Washington these days.

In today's fast-paced society, pausing to give thanks is done with increasing rarity. That's unfortunate.

Thank you Rep. McMorris Rodgers, for looking out for rural communities across Washington and thank you for working with us to solve this problem.



Best,

Scott Peters
CEO



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

Departments

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

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

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Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Vice President

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Secretary/Treasurer

Vic Russell, Fall River

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Robert Reed, La Pine

Leland Smith, Sunriver

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

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

STAFF

General Manager

Dave Schneider

Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Steinhauer

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

There is strength in numbers, and there is strength in the individual voice. Combined, these create the momentum behind grassroots political action networks that work together to protect the interests of their members.

This was recently illustrated by a victory in a nationwide electric cooperative campaign to protect the tax status of electric cooperatives. Congress created a problem for electric co-ops when it made changes to the tax code in 2017 that inadvertently put co-ops' tax-exempt status at risk if they received government grants.

This could have stuck co-op members with the cost of paying taxes had Congress not acted to fix the problem. Fortunately, Congress heard our voices and passed bipartisan legislation known as the RURAL Act that makes it clear electric co-ops won't lose their tax-exempt status just because they receive government grants.

Thank you to Midstate Electric Cooperative members who participated in this campaign through our political action grassroots network, ORECA-Action. With the Oregon State Legislature 35-day short session underway, we may need to call on you again to ensure elected officials understand how their decisions affect the affordability and reliability of your electric service.

If you are not an ORECA-Action member, please join today. When important legislation is proposed that could impact our co-op, the ORECA-Action network provides you with information to send messages directly to your elected officials.

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. Together, we can make a difference.

Board Districts 5, 7 and 9 up for Election in 2020

An election for board of director positions to oversee the cooperative's operation will take place at MEC's 2020 annual membership meeting Saturday, May 9. Petitions for board districts 5 (Chemult), 7 (Fort Rock) and 9 (Sunriver) must be on file on or before Tuesday, March 10.

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.

Look for detailed descriptions on page 8. Petitions for the three positions may be obtained at MEC's headquarters facility.

Safety Reminders

Winter weather increases the chance of downed power lines. If you see a downed line, keep yourself and others away.

Do not move downed wires or cut trees off power lines. Rubber boots, gloves or a long stick WILL NOT protect you from electric shock.

If a line is blocking the entrance to your driveway, do not attempt to drive over it.

Call 911 and then report these situations to MEC immediately at 800-752-5935.

MEC's Scholarship Program

MEC's 2020 scholarship application is available at www.mse.coop. The deadline to submit the application and all required materials is Monday, May 4. Call 541-536-2126 option 5 for additional information.

Dave Schneider
General Manager



www.rrelectric.com

DIRECTORS

President Gary Jones

Secretary-Treasurer Larry Henson

John Campbell

Lindsey Manning

Krinn McCoy

Blaine Tanner

GENERAL MANAGER

Chad Black

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Heath Higley

Board meets the fourth Wednesday
of each month.

P.O. Box 617
Malta, ID 83342

TO CALL RAFT RIVER

• Office hours 208-645-2211

• Toll free 800-342-7732

(After hours and outages)

• Pay-by-phone 844-244-1497

WESTERN DIVISION

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

• Office hours 208-645-2211

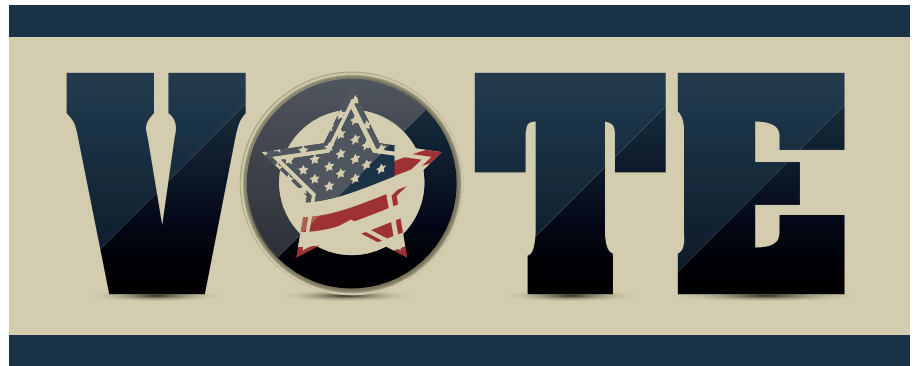
• Toll free 800-342-7732

(After hours and outages)



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

ID-24



Check Your Mail

Your annual meeting notice and ballot
will arrive in the March Ruralite.

2020 Annual Meeting and Election

Raft River High School Tuesday, March 17

Mail-in ballot. Mail in your ballot or return it, in person,
to the Malta office. Instructions are included with the ballot,
which must be received prior to the start of the annual meeting.

In person. Attend the annual meeting at Raft River High
School and register to cast your vote. Registration begins at 6 p.m.

Voting results will be announced at the meeting.
Please call 800-342-7732 if you have questions.



BIG BEND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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

Ritzville office 659-1700

Toll free 866-844-2363

Pay by phone 844-255-3682

For after-hours emergencies

866-844-2363

www.bbec.org

TRUSTEES

President Dan Hille

Vice President Ken Story

Secretary John Harder

Treasurer Lyle Holt

Robert Clinesmith

Curtis Dahl

Stacy Kniveton

Lanny Hayes

Dennis Swinger Sr.

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Yvette Armstrong

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf

WA-25



Big Bend Electric's annual meeting is a chance for members to hear about their cooperative's past year and the plan for the future.

Join Us February 22

On Saturday, February 22, we celebrate the 81st annual meeting for Big Bend Electric Cooperative at Basin City Elementary School in Basin City. The annual meeting is a gathering of members to hear the state of the co-op, elect board members, receive gifts, win prizes and enjoy a complimentary catered lunch.

All electric cooperatives are locally owned by their members—not stockholders, unlike investor-owned utilities, which exist to make a profit for their stockholders. In contrast, electric cooperatives are focused solely on the benefit of their members and return all profits, called margins, to members in the form of capital credits.

As a member of BBEC, your annual meeting is an opportunity to learn more about the cooperative you own, meet BBEC staff and discover more about the services we provide.

See pages 4 and 5 for more information and plan to join us!



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

.....
DIRECTORS

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Libby Calnon
.....

Serving rural
Hood River County
since 1945

OR-26

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

As a reminder, our office hours changed in January. We are open from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and closed Fridays. In a survey, members preferred these hours more than our previous hours. We hope the switch will help us serve you even better. As always, if you have an outage or service emergency, we can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 541-354-1233.

We are kicking off 2020 with our annual audit. It's mid-January as I write this, and staff from our audit firm, Friend & Reagan PC, is on-site to examine our accounting records and transactions for 2019. Their work will culminate in publication of year-end financial statements and audit reports for Hood River Electric Cooperative and Communications Access Cooperative Holding Enterprise. These will be reviewed by our auditors at the annual membership meeting in March.

Following membership approval at special meetings in November, HREC and CACHE officially merged January 1. HREC is now our electric service and internet service provider. We will have one membership meeting this year to report on our efforts in providing both services to you. The board of directors will set the date this month. You will receive formal notification in the mail in the coming weeks.

Your board of directors also established a nominating committee to identify candidates who might serve on the board. The terms of three directors expire each year. Members fill the director positions by electing or reelecting fellow members from a list of candidates identified by the nominating committee. Candidates may also file a petition to run for a seat on the board, as specified in the bylaws, or be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting. Members must attend the annual meeting to cast their votes.

Your co-op directors and staff work diligently to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable service using sound business practices. We look forward to serving you in 2020 and beyond.

General Manager Libby Calnon



Harney Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

277 Lottery Lane
Hines, OR 97738
541-573-2061

hec.burns@harneyelectric.org

Orovada, Nevada
775-272-3336

orovada.office@harneyelectric.org

www.harneyelectric.org

Find us on 

.....

Board of Directors

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

General Manager

Fred Flippence

Operations Manager

Jason Hill

Line Superintendent

Jason Radinovich

Electrical Engineer

Shane Sweet

Office Manager

Stephanie Bowen

Attorney

Raymond S. Kindley

OR-27

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

One of the most difficult recommendations your general manager must make to the board is a proposal to raise member rates for power. That is what I needed to do during December's annual budget process.

Bonneville Power Administration has tried to keep its cost down and announced this year it was leaving its power rate flat. But due to the loss of the residential exchange credit—which ended September 30—and the increased cost of transmission, Harney Electric's estimated cost of power increased 5.48%. Our power costs are approximately 57% of our total costs to provide power to the membership.

The board approved an increase to member rates effective with any bills processed after March 1, 2020. Residential, small commercial and stockwells will change, with the monthly minimum going from \$31.50 to \$34, and the kilowatt-hour rate going from 9 cents to 9.25 cents. The irrigation kilowatt-hour rate will go from 7 cents to 7.25 cents. The additional 1 cent charge for irrigation from October through April still applies.

The large commercial monthly minimum will increase from \$87 a month to \$95 a month. The kilowatt-hour rate will increase from 9.2 cents to 9.45 cents. All other rates remain the same. The rates above are all gross amounts. The 20% prompt payment discount will apply.

We at Harney Electric Cooperative strive to keep our costs down and will continue to work to that end. Our new residential rate of 9.25 cents relates to 7.40 cents if you receive the 20% prompt payment discount. That rate compares well with the average residential rate of 11.18 cents in Oregon. The national average is 13.30 cents.

We will continue to work on the issues BPA faces in trying to keep our rate low, such as fish mitigation, spill and aging infrastructure. We work with several public power organizations, and our voices are stronger in this effort.

Please contact me if you have questions about the rate increase.

Fred Flippence
General Manager





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

Board of Directors

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

Manager Ken Dizes

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

Email: energy@srec.org

Website: www.srec.org

A Look Back at 2019

2019 was a prosperous financial year for the cooperative. We achieved the lowest operating margins since I have been general manager, while still retiring \$330,000 in patronage capital and investing more than \$600,000 back into the electric cooperative. Typically, announcing low margins is not good news. But as a not-for-profit corporation, lower margins translate to more money in your pockets.

As a community partner, we supported our youth in 4-H programs, school activities and sports, scholarships, and a week-long youth rally where our youth learned leadership and team building, learned about electric cooperatives, and interacted with youth from many states. We were able to participate with your children at Natural Resources Day and teach them how to be safe around electricity. Additionally, we supported our local golf course, community event center and many events and fundraisers.

Your cooperative helped those who had difficulty paying their power bills by contributing more than \$15,000 to our Good Neighbor Program.

Operationally, 2019 was a good year. Despite billable work orders to install new electric services being slow, our crews were kept busy on maintenance and capital replacement projects. Crews built a new transmission line to interconnect with the Rock Creek Hydro Project. Our crews also installed avian protection on parts of our electric system as part of the Horse Butte Wind Farm Avian Mitigation Project. Power outage statistics haven't been computed yet, but my initial review indicates our system had a reduction in power outages compared to previous years. We believe this is due partly to maintenance projects we have engaged in to harden or make our power system more resilient.

The cooperative's fully owned propane company had a record year in the amount of propane sold and in net revenue. Your support of the propane company helps the cooperative avoid raising electric rates as high as we would without their contribution. The cooperative's investment now pays dividends and contributes to the co-op's stability.

Thank you for your patronage and continued support. The cooperative staff and board wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2020.



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

2020 CENSUS: FACT SHEET



✓ What is the census?

Once a decade, the U.S. Constitution requires a census, or count, of the American population.

✓ Who counts?

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.



How are census data used?

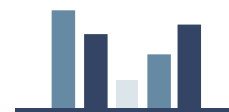
To determine the number of congressional representatives each state will have.

To allocate more than \$675 billion in federal investments across states, counties, and cities.

To inform the research, decision making, and planning in academic institutions, medical facilities, and all levels of government.



\$1,473
per person, per year
(in Idaho)



How do I respond to the census?

In March 2020, every household will receive a postcard with information on how to respond online, by phone, or by mail.



Online



Phone



Mail

Is my information secure?

Your personal information cannot be seen or used by other government agencies or the courts. The Census Bureau will never share a respondent's personal information with agencies such as ICE, the FBI, or police.

Official Census Day is
APRIL 1, 2020

Most households will receive an invitation from the U.S. Census Bureau from March 12-20, 2020, to respond online.





Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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

DIRECTORS

Randy R. Purser, President

Susan M. Harris, Vice President

Bret L. Zollinger, Sec./Treasurer

Chad H. Angell

James D. McKelvey

Maddie Mocettini-Hansen

Dean L. Myler

Lynn O. Rothwell

Merlin A. Waddoups

MANAGER/CEO

Brad J. Gamett

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

ID-30

Mark of Quality Ensures Safety

You probably have seen the UL mark on a number of products. Illinois-based Underwriters Laboratories is the leading third-party certification organization in the United States and North America. As a not-for-profit product safety testing and certification organization, UL has been evaluating products in the interest of public safety since 1894.

The UL mark means samples of the product meet safety requirements, primarily based on UL's published standards.

The mark can be found on appliances and computer equipment, furnaces and heaters, fuses, electrical panelboards, smoke detectors, life jackets, bullet-resistant glass and thousands of other products.

To determine if a product is certified by UL, look for the mark on the product, not the packaging or store display.

An example of UL certification are surge protectors. When buying a surge protector, look for these features:

- UL 1449 listing and the term "Transient Voltage Surge Suppressor." The UL 1449 standard changed in 1998, so check old surge suppressors to make sure they still comply.
- An indicator light or some other feature is needed to show whether the device has experienced a power spike. If the light is out, the suppressor no longer works properly and should be replaced.
- Voltage suppression of 330 volts per UL standards. Higher voltage ratings give less protection. Ratings of 400 can be found on cheaper, less effective devices.
- Make sure any manufacturer insurance guarantees cover the cost of replacing damaged equipment. ■





Board of Directors

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

P.O. Box 45
Glennallen, AK 99588
www.cvea.org
Copper Basin District
907-822-3211
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.
Valdez District
907-835-4301
367 Fairbanks Dr.
After hours outage line
866-835-2832

Important Dates

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

March

CVEA Board Meeting: The March
meeting of the Board of Directors is
1 p.m. Thursday, March 19, 2020, in
Valdez

AK-34

Save the Date

2020 Annual Meeting

Valdez: Tuesday, May 5

Copper Basin: Thursday, May 7

Committee Volunteer Opportunities: Credentials & Elections Committee

Credentials & Election (C&E) Committees are responsible for validating signatures on the back of director election ballot envelopes and counting the ballots for Director elections and Bylaws amendments.

The committees, one for each district, are comprised of interested members who are not employees, directors, candidates, or close relatives of these persons.

Service on the C&E Committees will take place during April, with most of the work performed the week prior to the meeting.

Community Foundation Scholarship Selection Committees

CVEACF Scholarship Selection Committees review scholarship application packets, determine which students to interview, conduct the interviews and select who will receive the scholarships being offered this year.

Participation on the committees requires attending three or four meetings as well as time for reviewing and scoring applications, and is estimated to take up to 10 hours.

If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer for either of these opportunities to serve, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email scheidt@cvea.org. The committee volunteer deadline is Tuesday, February 18, 2020.



THE GREEN POWER PROGRAM

BUILDING COMMUNITY  SUPPORTING GREEN ENERGY

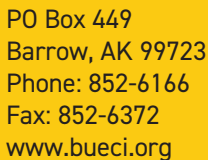
The Green Power program at Tillamook PUD supports local renewable energy generated by methane digesters in our community.

Benefits of the Green Power Program include...

- Access to a local power generation source- which could be utilized in an emergency situation or natural disaster.
- Improved environmental air and water quality- by providing local dairy farmers and businesses an outlet to process their waste in a manner that is both efficient and environmentally friendly.
- Connects our community and helps strengthen local businesses.

To support the Green Power program or for more information, visit www.tpod.org/ways-to-save/green-programs/green-power-program/ or call 503-842-2535.





President
Price E. Brower

Secretary
Herman L. Ahsoak

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

AK-36

“To move forward, you have to give back.”

This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative Inc. to the community we serve. With Valentine's Day approaching, we can't think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the co-op members.

We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive—because we live here just like you.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable utilities to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the consumer-members (that's you!) who we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. BUECI knows utilities are a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles, power lines and water to make a community.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. That can mean many different things, such as programs for our youth and partnering with organizations and other worthy programs.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same: By working together, I'm certain we can continue to do good things for our community.

[illegible]



Owned By Those We Serve

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Corporate Headquarters

758 Illinois Street
 PO Box 71249
 Fairbanks, AK 99707-1249

907-452-1151
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
 Fax 907-458-6365

Delta Junction Office

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

Nenana Office

7259 Parks Hwy.
 907-452-1151
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
 Fax 907-458-6387

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

Welcome to GVEA's Bill Payment Kiosk in Fairbanks and Delta!

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

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

Cash, checks and credit
cards accepted.

Kiosk Hours: Delta Open 24/7

*Conveniently located
just outside the front
door of the Delta office*



Fairbanks
7am – 6pm
Monday – Friday
excluding holiday closures
*Conveniently located
just inside the front door
of the Fairbanks office*



It's fast, safe and convenient!



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Fred Nelson, *Clio*
fnelson@psrec.coop

Vice President

Dick Short, *Graeagle*
dshort@psrec.coop

Secretary/Treasurer

David Hansen, *Doyle*
dhansen@psrec.coop

Larry Price, *Quincy*
lprice@psrec.coop

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

Tom Hammond, *Herlong*
thammond@psrec.coop

Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



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

As this gets to you in the heart of winter, there is still the possibility for major storms. A key way for all of us to get power back in the event of an outage is to conserve power, when possible, during storms. The lower the load on the system, the easier it is to restore power. Should rotating blackouts be required, we will work to provide members time to cook, bathe and do laundry. If everyone keeps their use to a minimum during a rolling blackout, we can supply more members with power. When we were on limited supplies for three straight weeks due to the Camp Fire, we were able to keep the lights on to virtually all of our members because many of you reduced your use.

PSREC has a new system for outage notifications. It lets us get more granular with outages, getting down to neighborhoods, instead of just broad regions. These notifications are provided via email and text messages. To sign up for these notices, sign into SmartHub at www.psrec.coop, and visit the Manage Notifications section to select the alerts you would like to receive. If you need assistance, please give us a call at 530-832-4261.

Community Solar

The PSREC Community Solar Program is still offering 100-kilowatt-hours-a-month blocks to members who want to use solar. PSREC offers members the choice of a monthly adder to their existing rate or a one-time upfront fee to participate in the Community Solar Program.

Buying solar power from PSREC's Community Solar Program is a great option for members who may not want to make the large upfront investment in a solar system, are renting, or live in an area with shading where a solar system would not produce optimal energy output. Community solar is a great, maintenance-free way to use renewable power without solar panels on your roof. We are working on a short-term payment plan that will make it easier to go solar.

For more information, or to sign up for the PSREC Community Solar Program, please call us at 530-832-4261 or visit www.psrec.coop.

Telecommunications

It's been an exciting time for our telecommunications business. We are working to get fiber optics to the premise for both Sierraville and Calpine, and we have also expanded service on Chandler Road and its offshoots. Additional wireless access points are planned in Sierraville and Milford. Upgrades are also being performed in other locations across our system.

We are pleased to report the main part of Quincy south of Highway 70 now has fiber to the home, offering download speeds up to 1 gigabyte per second.

Perhaps the most exciting news is that Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications has received grants from the California Public Utilities Commission's California Advanced Services Fund to bring service to hard-to-reach areas on our system and in the community. One key area receiving grant funding is Lake Davis.

We have quite a bit of work underway. PST is expanding broadband services throughout the region with unlimited data, net neutrality and download speeds of up to 1 gigabyte per second on our fiber optic network.

For more information, or to sign up for service, please call us at 530-832-4126 or visit www.pst.coop.

Scholarships

Two \$1,000 scholarships are available. See page 5 for details. The deadline is Monday, April 27.

For more information, please call me at 530-832-4261 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

Celebrating 50 Years of Service

Today, it's hard to imagine being without electricity, but it wasn't so long ago that our service territory was known as the last great "power desert."

For most Americans, the creation in 1970 of a small electric cooperative in some of the most rural areas of Eastern Nevada and Western Utah was not a newsworthy event. But for a small group of visionaries determined to electrify their communities, it was the culmination of years of hard work and dedication—a remarkable feat.

The men and women who founded Mt. Wheeler Power 50 years ago were volunteers who often paid a great personal expense to build an electric system that included parts of three counties in western Utah, White Pine County and parts of Eureka, Nye and Elko counties in Nevada. Mt. Wheeler Power's founders bought Eureka Power and Light Co. and Ely Light and Power Co., and then they built upon those systems.

The work of these pioneers 50 years ago is cause for celebration.

As we look ahead to the next 50 years, it's important to not take our membership for granted. If we can work together to bring power to a vast rural area, imagine what else we can do.

I encourage you to take an active role in your cooperative. Run for a seat on the board, attend board meetings and ask the tough questions.

Our pioneering spirit remains strong. We celebrate our past by forging ahead and building a brighter future for our communities. Providing our members with affordable and reliable electricity in the safest possible manner remains our top priority. Our 36 employees, nine board directors and I are proud to play an important role in the future of our communities and the lives of our members. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kevin Robison,
CEO





Board of Directors

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President

Gerald Anderson
Vice President

M Jonathan Dahl
Secretary/Treasurer

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

Director Emeritus

D. Vernon Dalton

Website

www.wrec.coop

Outage Hotline:

800-566-6696
24 hours a day

Carlin office:

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

Wendover office:

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

Wells office:

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

NV-41

Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub.

Life is fast and sometimes hectic, but it doesn't have to be complicated. Managing your electricity usage and account with Wells Rural Electric Co.'s SmartHub app is easy.



You may have heard about SmartHub—our innovative tool for account management. SmartHub can help you take control of your WREC account like never before, giving you more time to focus on other priorities. SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, your smartphone or tablet—Android or iOS—you can view your usage, contact member services, pay your bill, and get the latest cooperative news anytime, day or night.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment in just a couple steps. You can review your current bill or bills from the previous month or year if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, you can view your kilowatt-hour use, which will allow you to take steps to lower your bill. Insights from your usage history can help you determine which energy efficiency measures would have the most impact. Then use WREC's rebates to help pay for your energy efficiency upgrades.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment, you can securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next



time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

You'll also be able to see important notices from WREC with SmartHub. You can select how you want to be notified, including e-mail and text messaging.

You can contact WREC for member service requests or with any questions you may have. A few taps on SmartHub's contact feature make it quick and easy to let us know about your questions or concerns.

Access SmartHub by visiting www.wrec.coop or by downloading the app on your mobile device through Apple's App Store or Google Play.

If you need assistance with any of our services, contact your local office listed to the left of this column. We are always happy to help.

Plenty of things in life are complicated. Manage your WREC account with SmartHub, and simplify your life.

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer



NV-42

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Rebuilding Trust: Member Focused, Looking Ahead, Leading by Example



One of the great benefits of leading an organization like Valley Electric Association is the interaction with our members. Even in my first week as CEO, I was able to visit with dozens of our members, including many at the annual dinner of the Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce. I came away better informed, energized and determined.

Everyone has been so friendly and gracious, and I am thankful for the warm welcome. I am also grateful for the feedback. It provides direction and motivation for Valley to rebuild trust and become a “best in class” cooperative.

In fact, “rebuilding trust” will be the theme of our upcoming District Meetings in March and the Annual Meeting in April.

My approach to building trust begins with the promise that your Co-op will be transparent and we will be on firm financial footing. That will require VEA to be member-focused, forward looking and leading by example.

The effort to revamp the Association’s bylaws is important and timely and is a good example of how a member-focused Co-op responds to a need. At last year’s Annual Meeting, members made it clear that our bylaws are inadequate and confusing. The Board explained to me the need for us to take up that membership challenge, revise the bylaws and get the changes approved by the membership.

For months, our Member Liaison Committee, made up of volunteer members like you, examined the bylaws section by section from Article I to Article XII. Their goal was to revise the document so that it better serves members by:

- ▶ Better defining how membership meetings (annual, district and special) should be conducted.

- ▶ Rewriting and upgrading the qualifications for a member to serve on the Board of Directors.

- ▶ Putting forth a fair, proper and understandable process to remove a director from the Board.

The details revolving around the bylaw revisions mentioned above — and other less-significant revisions — are detailed elsewhere in this issue of the Ruralite and extensively on the VEA website. All the background you need will be available for your review through the Annual Meeting on April 25.

The revisions are substantial. The bylaws have been updated eight times over the years but never as extensively as what you are being asked to ratify 2020.

I was able to attend the most recent meeting of the Member Liaison Committee, and I was impressed by the commitment and determination of the members. It was obvious that they take seriously their responsibility to deliver to you a bylaws document that is easier to understand and better serves the interests of the Cooperative.

That’s what being member focused is all about.

In upcoming columns, I will address how “looking ahead” and “leading by example” will contribute to regaining your trust. Meantime, I look forward to meeting you at the district meetings.

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.



LIGHTNING FAST

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valleycom.com

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

Mark of Quality Ensures Safety

You probably have seen the UL mark on a number of products. Illinois-based Underwriters Laboratories is the leading third-party certification organization in the United States and North America. As a not-for-profit product safety testing and certification organization, UL has been evaluating products in the interest of public safety since 1894.

The UL mark means samples of the product meet safety requirements, primarily based on UL's published standards.

The mark can be found on appliances and computer equipment, furnaces and heaters, fuses, electrical panelboards, smoke detectors, life jackets, bullet-resistant glass and thousands of other products.

To determine if a product is certified by UL, look for the mark on the product, not the packaging or store display.

An example of UL certification are surge protectors. When buying a surge protector, look for these features:

- UL 1449 listing and the term "Transient Voltage Surge Suppressor." The UL 1449 standard changed in 1998, so check old surge suppressors to make sure they still comply.
- An indicator light or some other feature is needed to show whether the device has experienced a power spike. If the light is out, the suppressor no longer works properly and should be replaced.
- Voltage suppression of 330 volts per UL standards. Higher voltage ratings give less protection. Ratings of 400 can be found on cheaper, less effective devices.
- Make sure any manufacturer insurance guarantees cover the cost of replacing damaged equipment. ■





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@otec.coop

Report Outages at

866-430-4265

Find us on 

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George Galloway, Union
County
Greg Howard, Union County
Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, CEO

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

When People Speak, Congress Still Listens

Washington, D.C., politics have become so polarized it can be tough for Democrats and Republicans to come together to tackle big challenges. But that's exactly what happened recently on Capitol Hill, thanks to dedicated Oregon lawmakers Sen. Ron Wyden, Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, Congressman Peter DeFazio, Congressman Kurt Schrader and Congressman Greg Walden.

These legislators hail from different parts of our state and represent different political parties and ideologies. But each of them listened to the concerns of local rural electric cooperatives who spoke up.

In December, Congress passed the RURAL Act, protecting more than 900 electric cooperatives throughout the nation from losing their tax-exempt status. President Donald Trump signed it into law shortly after.

Passage of the RURAL Act provides certainty that cooperatives such as Oregon Trail Electric

Cooperative can leverage FEMA funds for possible storm recovery and other federal and state grants for rural broadband deployment and community development without the fear of added cost burden from taxes, which could potentially result in a rate increase to a cooperative's member-owners.

We want to thank all our member-owners who answered our calls to action over the past year and reached out to our congressional delegates, voicing their support to pass the RURAL Act.

In coming together to stand up for Oregon's rural communities, these lawmakers prove that Congress still works for the people.

Les Penning
CEO



An event such as the devastating winter storms in southern Oregon in 2019—to which OTEC sent crews to help in recovery and restoration efforts—that triggers the need for FEMA recovery will no longer result in harmful tax consequences for rural electric cooperatives.



Member-owned since 1921

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

Nominating Committee

A committee has been appointed to nominate members for board positions. Any member who wishes to run must contact one of the following committee members: Betty Deck, 360-832-3572; Kathy Mettler, 360-832-4922; Rosemary Nordstrom, 360-832-6962; or Geneal Palmer, 360-832-4912. Nominations close 40 days prior to the annual meeting in April.

WA-49

When People Speak, Congress Still Listens

Politics have become so polarized it can be tough for Democrats and Republicans to come together to tackle big challenges. But that's exactly what happened recently in Washington, D.C., thanks to dedicated lawmakers, including five from Washington.

Reps. Susan DelBene (D-2), Dan Newhouse (R-4), Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-5), Derek Kilmer (D-6) and Denny Heck (D-10) listened to thousands of electric cooperative stakeholders as they fought tirelessly to add important legislation to the 2020 federal government spending bill. The bill was signed into law in December, and included a provision known as the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands—or RURAL Act—which solved an existential issue for electric co-ops and America's rural communities.

Electric co-ops work to secure government grants to help pay for numerous activities that benefit the communities they serve. These include grants for storm recovery, broadband deployment, renewable energy and economic development.

To maintain their tax-exempt status, co-ops can receive no more than 15% of their income from nonmember sources. Historically, government grants to co-ops were counted as contributions to capital. But due to a glitch in the 2017 tax law, government grants were reclassified as income, pushing some co-ops beyond the 15% threshold and jeopardizing their tax-exempt status.

The tax problem left co-ops with an unfair choice: Do they take the money they need to turn the lights back on for their members as quickly as possible after a disaster? Do they accept the broadband grants to help close the digital divide between rural and urban America? Or do they turn down those grants so they don't have to spend their members' money paying taxes rather than improving service?

Thanks to Congress, electric co-ops across Washington don't have to make those trade offs. This is good news for both co-ops and their members, because some co-ops would have had to raise their electric rates to pay new taxes.

The electric cooperatives in Washington are extremely grateful to the members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation for their support of the RURAL Act. In standing up for Washington's local communities, they proved that Congress still works for the people. Notably, the legislation drew the bipartisan support of more than 300 lawmakers in the House and more than half of the Senate before it was passed. That's a rarity these days.

In today's fast-paced society, pausing to give thanks is done with increasing rarity. That is unfortunate.

Thank you, Reps. DelBene, Newhouse, Rodgers, Kilmer and Heck for looking out for rural communities across Washington. And thank you for working with us to solve this problem.

Kent Lopez

General Manager

Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association



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

Controller

Steve Chamberlin

Executive Assistant

Lisa Peabody

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Kendel Lyman, Vice President

Mike Hodge, Treasurer

Susan Serrette-Egan, Secretary

Roger Guay

John Saatela

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

2020 TEC Director Elections

Dear Members,

Director positions to the Tanner Electric Cooperative Board are up for reelection at the next annual meetings: Wednesday May 13, North Bend/Ames Lake and Saturday May 16, Anderson Island.

Qualified applicants must file a membership nomination petition signed by at least 15 members who reside in their respective service area. Only one member from each membership may sign a petition. Petitions must be delivered to the cooperative's headquarters in North Bend not less than 75 days prior to the date of the annual meeting of the membership at which directors are to be elected.

The descriptions of the cooperative membership eligibility and director qualifications, duties and responsibilities are set forth in the bylaws, which are available at www.tannerelectric.coop.

If you are interested, or want more information, email Administrative Assistant Lisa Peabody (lisa@tannerelectric.coop).

The current incumbent directors who are up for reelection in 2020 are:

- Kendel Lyman, Anderson Island
- Dutch Siedentopf, North Bend
- Susan Serrette-Egan, Ames Lake

Steven Walter

CEO



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.

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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



Parkland Light & Water members at the 2019 annual meeting. PHOTO BY RICK STEDMAN

Vote at the Annual Meeting

Parkland Light & Water hosts your annual meeting Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Keithley Middle School commons at 12324 12th Ave. South, Tacoma.

Please plan to attend. We need your vote!

Parkland Light & Water is owned by its members. Reports on the cooperative's condition will be discussed and one trustee will be elected.

Mark Mulder has announced his candidacy for the five-year term. Candidates also may be nominated from the floor. If you are also interested in running for this position, please announce your candidacy by February 10 by calling the Parkland Light & Water office at 253-531-5666 so your name can be published in the March edition of Ruralite.

Tips to Prevent Winter Plumbing Disasters

- It's a good idea to locate and mark your main line valve and check it for proper operation. This valve controls water flowing into the house. Marking the valve allows you to quickly turn off the water if a pipe bursts or you have other water problems.
- Ensure the water line to outside faucets is turned off and the line is drained. Drain each outdoor spigot after turning off the valve to prevent any remaining water from freezing and bursting the pipes.
- Eliminate drafts. Check around the

home for areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas and take measures to prevent the flow of cold air in the these areas. Hot and cold water lines can both freeze.

- If your water pipes freezes, do not thaw with an open flame or torch. Always be careful in or near standing water.

- If you plan to be away from home, keep the thermostat at a reasonable temperature to ensure areas with water pipes are kept above freezing.



**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
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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 #14422005

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

Community Calendar

February 4: Office open at 10 am

Important all staff training

February 6: Clatskanie Chamber Meeting

Noon at Colvins

February 13: Rainier Chamber Meeting

Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

February 19: Clatskanie PUD Board

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

Clatskanie Heritage Days Planning

**Meetings: Last Tuesday of every month
from now until June - 6 pm at Colvins.**

OR-60



BEWARE of SCAM CALLS

Scam artists are at it again. They continuously prey upon unsuspecting people, and scammers have recently been active in our area. Multiple commercial customers have received phone calls and voicemails demanding payment of late bills. The caller threatens to disconnect their service within a few minutes of the call, if they do not send payment immediately via a money transfer or pre-paid Visa. For your safety, please question any call you receive like this.

If you are contacted by anyone asking you to pay them within a short time window, obtain a prepaid Visa/Debit card for payment, or demanding your account information; please hang up and call our local office number to talk to one of our customer service representatives. We will be able to tell you if there are any issues with your account. Our local number is 503-728-2163. If they give you a different number than this one, do not call them back. Call us instead to report the incident, and check on your account status. Please be aware, and stay safe from scams!

Marc Farmer
General Manager



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

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Vice President

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Tom Atkinson

Wally Carter Sr.

Dood Lincoln-Carr

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Harold Short

General Manager/CEO

Martin Shrover

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

AK-64

We Love Our Community

“To move forward, you have to give back.”

This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Kotzebue Electric Cooperative to the community we serve. With Valentine's Day approaching, we can't think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the co-op members.

We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive—because we live here just like you.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the consumer-members (that's you!) who we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. KEA knows electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. That can mean many different things, such as programs for our youth and partnering with organizations and other worthy programs. *We also have a round up program, and grants will be available in April so stop by the office for an application.*

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same: By working together, I'm certain we can continue to do good things for our community.

Electric co-ops **power** our lives!





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Vice Chairman

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Mountain Village

Secretary

Helena R. Jones, Ambler

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Phyllis Clough, Old Harbor
Robert Hoffman, Bethel
Walter G. Sampson, Noorvik
board@avec.org

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Ambler	Nightmute
Andreafsky	Noatak
Anvik	Noorvik
Bethel	Nulato
Brevig Mission	Nunapitchuk
Chevak	Old Harbor
Eek	Oscarville
Ekvok	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

Why Does AVEC Need a Rate Increase?

Ten years ago, in January 2010, the Board of Directors enacted a very substantial rate decrease of 2 cents a kilowatt-hour across the board. This represented an income reduction of \$1.4 million or 6.5% of our total non-fuel revenue at that time. During the next decade, our operating results were acceptable and operating margins were relatively narrow.

In the last few years however, as weather patterns have changed throughout Alaska, we have found that our operating costs have increased while revenues have remained flat. In 2017, we experienced operating losses of \$2 million and in 2018 our losses were \$1 million. We expect 2019 to exhibit flat to low margins and 2020 is projected to have negative margins of close to \$1 million.

Our lenders require us to have positive operating margins in most years because we must demonstrate sound business practices by having the financial resources to repay our debt obligations, including principal and interest. That is the primary reason that we build operating margins into our rates.

With the expectation that we will continue to experience high operating costs, the board has directed that we begin to adjust rates by increasing the customer charge to better reflect the fixed cost of serving each member location. With the current \$5 customer charge, the service installation cost of more than \$5,000 in the villages does not get recovered during the expected 30-year life of the service. As a practical matter, it would take 90 years to recover that cost. Raising the customer charge by \$5 a month reduces that recovery period to 45 years, which is still too long.

The board has also directed staff to perform a Cost of Service Study (COSS) to better understand how revenues are generated relative to costs in order to ensure that all classes of consumers are paying their fair share. A COSS has not been completed since the last major rate revision in 1998.

The customer charge change will generate approximately \$630,000 in additional annual revenue. This is about 2.5 percent of our non-fuel revenue.

As most of you are aware, AVEC's fuel efficiency and line losses are amongst the best in the state so our communities typically are still paying 10 to 15% lower rates than their non-AVEC neighbors.

I hope that this brief overview answers some of your questions.
Until next time,

Meera Kohler
President and CEO





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

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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

Follow Us on Facebook

Keep informed and up-to-date,
outage info, special events and
all things LMUD.



www.facebook.com/pg/lassenmud



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Ted Case

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

Rachel Kloor

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

OR-400

Case in Point

Don't blink. The Oregon Legislature convenes this month, and there are some large questions to be answered. Unlike the odd-year slog of a session that feels like a marathon on a hilly course in the rain, the 35-day short session is more akin to watching Usain Bolt run 100 meters. It's a blur of motion.

The looming question of which bills will pass the legislature—and which are doomed—will not take long to answer because the deadlines to pass out of committee occur almost right out of the gate. Of course, the elephant in the Capitol cloakroom is how the Oregon Senate Republican caucus will engage the cap-and-trade bill that garnered national attention last year. Will they fight it on the Senate floor, or will they use a similar tactic to the 2019 session and deny the Democratic super-majority a quorum by leaving the state? No one seems to know the answer, adding to the drama of a session that is already full of drama.

ORECA will be in the Capitol this month, and will be following the cap-and-trade bill along with a host of other measures, such as wildfire and electric vehicle legislation. We will work to get these right because in the unscripted drama of the Oregon Legislature, only one thing is certain: It may be over in a flash, but the consequences of the legislature's actions will be felt far longer than the 35-day session that produced them.



Ted Case

Executive Director

Florida Currents

February 2020 • Volume 9, No. 4

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Message From the CEO

Teach Your Children the Importance of Energy Efficiency

Today's youth are growing up in an ever-connected, techno-world. Electronic and mobile devices, computers and gaming stations are commonplace in our homes. Smart home appliances, consumer electronics and electric vehicles have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles.

Families are increasingly reliant on technology and, in turn, energy consumption. Therefore, teaching the younger generation to save energy is an important life lesson.

However, most parents would agree that convincing kids to care about energy efficiency can be a hard sell. Perhaps the tactic, "What's in it for me?" can be a helpful tool in getting this message across. Explaining why it's important to save energy and how it will benefit the child may provide the motivation for a change in habits. In other words, less money spent on an electric bill can translate into more money to spend on fun activities. Most kids can relate to that!

It has long been said that actions speak louder than words. Children learn by watching what their parents do. Even if they don't seem to notice, when you turn off the lights when leaving a room or unplug the phone charger when your device is fully charged, your actions make an impression on your children.

Energy efficiency can be turned into a game for younger kids to locate all the things in your home that use electricity. Then decide which gadgets and appliances can be turned off or unplugged to save power every day.

Older children can learn how to program a smart thermostat and appliances. Shop with them for LED bulbs and Energy Star-rated appliances. Show them the electric bill so they can see the costs, energy use and learn how their actions impact the bill.

Your children will benefit from learning how using less energy means running your home more efficiently, conserving natural resources and helping the environment. Teaching your children about saving energy can instill good habits that will serve them well in adulthood.



Ryan C. Campbell, P.E.



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Great Gardens, Less Work

Spotlight, Page 12

Valentine's Day for the Whole Family

In the Kitchen, Page 16



FKEC NEWS

FEBRUARY 2020

www.FKEC.com

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MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

Considering going solar in 2020? FKEC offers a Solar Loan program and Net Metering. Learn more at www.FKEC.com or call 305-852-2431

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

Operation Round-Up® Raises Over \$3.2 Million

Over the last 26 years, Florida Keys Electric Cooperative's members have raised \$3,218,770 through Operation Round-Up®, a voluntary giving program that rounds members' electric bills to the next dollar. By "rounding up" your payment each month, FKEC's 32,800 account holders are making a big difference with small change in the Florida Keys.

The average round-up is 50 cents a month, and will never be more than 99 cents on a single bill. Each month, your statement will show an amount listed for Operation Round-Up®, and it will include the extra few cents to total an even dollar amount. For example, if a member's monthly bill is \$135.49, we will round it up to \$136.00. The extra 51 cents goes directly to the FKEC Members Charitable Trust.

The funds collected are distributed by FKEC's Members Charitable Trust board (see facing page) to your neighbors in need.



SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

Thank You for Making a Difference

I send a big "thank you" to our members for your quiet generosity. In 2019 alone, our current members donated \$138,560. Your willingness to give a little adds up to a lot and helps your friends and neighbors in need.

I also share deep felt gratitude to each volunteer Charitable Trust Board of Director, past and present. They give their time to diligently reviewing every request for help and make the tough decisions on how to best allocate the funds you've raised. They certainly have earned my trust in the hard choices they make. Thank you!

Operation Round-Up® is a voluntary program. Members can opt out of the program by contacting FKEC at 305-852-2431 and requesting the appropriate form.



CONTACT US

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

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

214 SR 70 West
Lake Placid, FL 33852

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

POWER INTERRUPTION NUMBER

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

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The Board's next meeting is at 9 a.m. February 27 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

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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

2019 Ends on a High Note

As I write, we are in the final touches of closing the books on another successful year. Our lenders will be pleased with our results. During 2019, we finally began to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency proceeds for Hurricane Irma recovery costs. We received an unexpected blessing when FEMA increased the reimbursement rate from the normal 75% level to 90%! We have yet to receive all funds due us, but what we did receive in 2019 made it possible to meet one of our most important annual goals: retiring member capital credits.

Our 2019 plan called for the retirement of 1984 capital credits. Our successes allowed us to not only meet that goal, but also to retire 1985 and 1986 capital credits. That puts us two years shy of our minimum goal of a 30-year retirement cycle. It's a great feeling to be in a stable financial position and able to return members' investments in their cooperative. That's how the model is supposed to work: Neighbors Working for Neighbors. Looking to 2020, our plan calls for the retirement of 1987 capital credits. As always, we will strive to do more if possible.

Our 2020 plan also takes into account the official Federal Aviation Administration approval to develop Airglades International Airport as a commercial hub, starting with food and other perishables coming from South and Central America. Buildout of the airport and surrounding area will be an intense investment period for the cooperative. New meters generating revenue will not be in place for several years. As such, our engineering division is keeping a close eye on when to pull the trigger on our related projects. We don't want to get too far ahead of the activity, nor do we want to fall behind.

It will be the most challenging time in the cooperative's 75-year history. We have the team in place to make it a success. To make the 2020 plan work for our lenders, we've had to bump up rates a little bit. It equates to a 1% increase on the rates we started with in 2019. For residential accounts, that translates to \$139.95 for 1,000 kilowatt-hours versus \$138.50 for 2019. Costs continue to rise, yet the cooperative's meter count has flatlined since 2007. We are looking forward to Airglades changing that trend.

Speaking of 75 years, I invite you to attend the cooperative's 75th Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 21, at Moore Haven Middle-High School. Our keynote speaker will talk about a project the cooperative took the lead on to revitalize Moore Haven. This project wasn't planned because of the particular year, but it's ironic how this development plan mirrors the start of the cooperative so many years ago. If you come to the meeting, remember to bring your picture ID, which is your only cost of admission. This year, each registered member will receive a \$10 bill credit as a registration gift and have the chance to win additional prizes, including the grand prize: a Ford Explorer. Seeing how it's a special year for the cooperative, we are going to give the grand-prize winner a choice of the Explorer or a \$2,500 bill credit.

Come to your Annual Meeting and hear more about the successes of 2019 and the plans for 2020. I look forward to seeing you again.



Jeff Brewington



PowerSouth®
ENERGY COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

As a Company, We're Doing What We Can

By Gary Smith
President and CEO
PowerSouth Energy Cooperative



A few months ago, I wrote about comments I receive on my articles. I quote another reader this month who offers thoughts about a column I wrote on the debate surrounding climate change.

He wrote, "Although I also do not see the practicality of the drastic and radical changes that some of the candidates are proposing, it is interesting that the CEO of a power company is undermining the need to plan for a future where renewable energy will play a significant role. Whether Mr. Smith will live to see it or not, fossil fuels will eventually run out. It is in the interest of America to look far into the future and be at the forefront of developing technology and energy sources of the future.

"Please don't justify your opinion by mentioning cost. Remember how computers were expensive at the time when typewriters were the mainstream; and how trains used to be dangerously fast for human beings to ride? Either we stick to our typewriters, keep riding our horses and succumb to our fate, or we keep America great and lead ahead of the Chinese and Europeans.

"It starts with CEOs with vision for the new economy and the world to come, and leaders who plan how we can get there."

The reader makes some interesting points. Fossil fuels may eventually run out, but I doubt if I live to see it. Most estimates indicate that proven oil and gas reserves will last more than 50 years

at current consumption rates. Of course, consumption rates are likely to increase as more people in the world move out of poverty and use more fossil fuels. However, more reserves are discovered every year as extraction technologies improve.

While the reader says not to justify a position by mentioning cost, it cannot be ignored in any economic or industrial evaluation or activity. This is not the time to delve into the laws of energy or physics. But the energy revolution, if there is one, will not be guided by Moore's Law—which applies to the economies of computing power—but by the scientific laws of energy and physics. Energy costs will not scale like the economies of computing power.

The reader challenges leaders to adopt a vision for the new economy and the world to come. That vision should apply to everyone in the world, not just the U.S. The rest of the world is trying to get where we are, and they are doing it with fossil fuels. China and India are building coal-fired generation plants at a rapid pace. Those plants will operate for decades. They will continue to use fossil fuels because they are energy-dense, cheaper and more reliable than renewable resources.

Because of changes in environmental regulations, PowerSouth is improving its emission footprint and moving away slightly from fossil fuels. We will close our coal-fired generation units in October 2020 because of increased regulation of coal ash. We will replace that generation with a highly efficient natural gas combined-cycle plant. It will produce more electricity, and emit about half the carbon dioxide and not have the ash issues associated with the coal plant.

We have a purchased power agreement in Vogtle Units 3 and 4 nuclear expansion near Augusta, Georgia, for 5% of the capacity (125 megawatts) for a 20-year

term. That power is carbon free and is a pure hedge against carbon-free mandates or carbon taxes. It will be more expensive than power generated by natural gas, but also more environmentally friendly.

We are entering into a purchased power agreement for 80 MW of solar below our average energy cost. We held off on solar generation until the price dropped below our average cost of energy. We would like to have more, but are uncertain whether we can reliably manage the intermittency of more than 80 MW and meet our responsibility as an electric utility to balance load with generation.

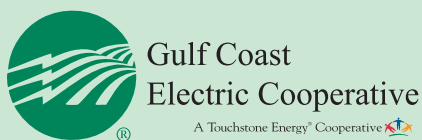
We are looking at battery technology and waiting for the price of batteries to drop to a price comparable to our average cost of service. However, we will not have sufficient renewable energy or battery capacity to operate more than a minimal amount of our system on batteries.

There is no significant wind in Alabama to support wind generation. Transmission of wind generation from the west costs too much to be reasonably affordable, so we don't expect wind to be a material part of our generation mix.

We have done about all we can to cut carbon emissions and clean up our generation without a significant breakthrough in technology. Today, I see no real evidence of that type of advancement. We also are doing about all we can reliably do to add renewable generation.

Considering that, I have to take exception with my reader's position. The world will be dependent on fossil fuels for electric generation for some time—probably multiple decades—because we have no other alternative.

No renewable or carbon-free generation resource provides the reliable and affordable service we provide to our members today. Anything else is unacceptable. ■



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

www.gcec.com

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John Bartley

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Treasurer Betty Moore
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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 Love Our Community

"To move forward, you have to give back."

This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative to the community we serve. With Valentine's Day approaching, we can't think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the co-op members.

We know the quality of life improved for all when we helped bring electricity to rural Florida many years ago. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping address some of those issues.

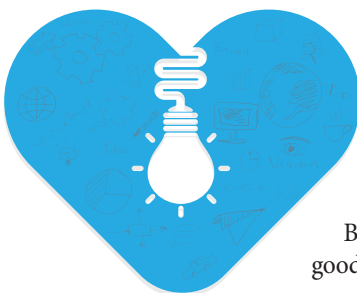
We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive—because we live here just like you.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the consumer-members (that's you!) who we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative knows electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. That can mean many different things. It can mean programs for Florida's youth, such as education scholarships or the Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. It means Project Helping Hand—a program that helps local families in need pay their utility bills. It means partnering with organizations such as United Way and other worthy programs.

Through nearly eight decades, our community-focused programs and other giving projects have enabled those in need to keep the lights on and so much more—and we couldn't do any of this without you, our members. We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

Electric co-ops **power** our lives!



Doug Birmingham

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same:

By working together, I'm certain we can continue to do good things for our community.



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

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MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

14505 Arbor Green Trail
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District 9

WILLIE DAWES
PRESIDENT

BOARD MEETINGS

February 25, 2020

March 24, 2020

April 21, 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

Your District Meeting: Attend, Learn, Win Prizes

Electric co-ops, including Peace River Electric, are owned by the people they serve. As a member and owner of PRECO, you play an essential role in the life of the co-op by attending your district meeting.

Each February, district meetings are held in three of PRECO's nine districts. PRECO conducts district meetings to elect or affirm member representatives to a three-year term on the board of directors. Your district meeting provides an opportunity to exercise your right of co-op ownership by taking part in this process.

This month, we invite members of Districts 1, 4 and 7 to attend their district meeting. If you live in one of these districts, you will receive a flyer in the mail with the date, time and location of your district meeting. It also will have important bylaw requirements, registration instructions and biography information.

At your district meeting, you'll also learn about the programs and services we offer, hear updates on electric utility industry issues and meet many of the employees who

keep your cooperative running smoothly.

Having a democratically elected board of directors ensures PRECO is continually maintained and operated with your best interests in mind. The board's duties include ensuring compliance with governmental regulations, maintaining sound financial standing, impartially representing the interests of all members and more. This is why having a qualified board of directors is so vital.

PRECO members who register to attend the meeting:

- Receive a \$10 electric bill credit.
- Participate in door prize drawings.
- Are entered in a drawing for the grand prize: a self-charging robotic vacuum cleaner.
- Enjoy light refreshments, coffee and soft drinks.

See page 4 for more information.

Watch for a flyer in the mail, then plan to attend your district meeting.

Randy Shaw



Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc.

www.MarlboroElectric.coop

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

843-479-3855
800-922-9174

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Monday–Friday

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Paul Conway

CO-OP NEWS EDITOR

Matt Haynie
email: mhaynie@marlboro.coop

MISSION STATEMENT

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

"... in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, 1789



As one of, if not the, largest businesses headquartered in Marlboro County, Marlboro Electric Cooperative is more than just an electric company.

Like all businesses, we proudly pay our fair share of taxes—a sum that results in significant impacts on both Marlboro and Dillon counties. In fact, property taxes paid by MEC and our affiliates support public schools, road construction and the salaries and benefits of our police, firefighters and other first responders. These services and the people behind them help make the communities we serve a better place to live, work and raise a family.

In 2019, Marlboro Electric paid more than \$1.1 million in property taxes: \$877,099.10 to Marlboro County and \$283,281.90 to Dillon County. This makes us one of the largest contributors to the tax base in either county.

What's more, during the past decade, Marlboro Electric paid more than \$8.5 million in property taxes to Marlboro County and more than \$2.7 million in property taxes to Dillon County.

In addition to the taxes paid by Marlboro Electric, Central Electric Power Cooperative—the MEC co-owned wholesale power aggregator for the state's electric co-ops—paid property taxes of more than \$176,000 to Marlboro County and more than \$36,000 to Dillon County.

While we serve more than 6,500 consumers in Marlboro and Dillon counties, Marlboro Electric is a non-for-profit and does not pay corporate income taxes. Rather, as a member-owned co-op, we return all proceeds (revenue that exceeds operating expenses) to our members in the form of capital credits. Happily, in 2019, our proceeds enabled us to return \$348,628.88 in capital credits to you, our members. This marks one of the highest years on record for capital credit returns to our members, while having lowered rates for six years in a row and becoming the state's lowest power provider. Lower rates and larger checks are meant to show you that your co-op is running efficiently, smoothly and on all cylinders to create value and benefit for you, our owners!

Along with law enforcement, road maintenance and our school systems, property tax payments underwrite government and municipal salaries, as well as provide funding for our parks and recreation areas. As part of our commitment to you, our members, we are honored to play a significant role in funding these community services and helping to improve this place we all call home.

JOHN ALFORD

District 5 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!

