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Cooperative

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Monday - Thursday

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

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ID-1

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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

Don't Be Surprised!

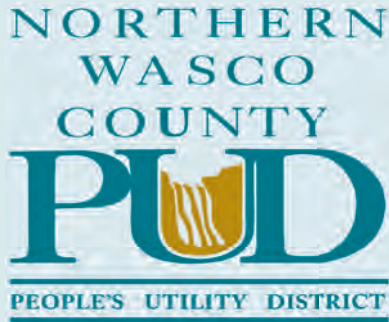


Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Before picking up a shovel, pick up the telephone. Electric, water, sewer, natural gas, telephone and cable television lines often are buried underground. One wrong move can cause you and your neighbors to be cut off from vital services—or cause death or injury to you, from an electric shock or an explosion.

At least two business days before you plan to dig, call Oregon's one-call center or your local utilities. Affected utility companies will come out and use color-coded paint to mark the locations of underground utilities. Calling ahead not only is common sense, it's the law.

**Dial 811 toll free to be connected to
Oregon's statewide one-call center.**



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

Board of Directors

Roger Howe, President
Howard Gonser, Vice President
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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

Columbia River System Operations— Draft Environmental Impact Statement

By the time this issue of Ruralite gets to your mailbox, the region should have received the draft results of the Columbia River System operations environmental impact statement. The DEIS documents the evaluation of the impacts of the long-term coordinated water management functions for the operation, maintenance and configuration of the 14 federal dam and reservoir projects that comprise the federal Columbia River System.

The DEIS is developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act in response to the need to review and update management of this system. This includes evaluating impacts to resources in the context of new information and changed conditions in the Columbia River basin. Information from this process will inform future decisions and allow for a flexible approach to meeting multiple responsibilities and complying with all applicable laws.

The co-lead agencies—the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration—considered input from the public and tribal, state and local governments obtained during the scoping period and input from cooperating agencies during development of the DEIS. The agencies applied screening criteria, such as technical feasibility, to develop a reasonable range of alternatives that meet EIS objectives and balance the multiple purposes of the 14 projects. Details of the evaluation, including a preferred alternative, will be available for review in the DEIS.

More than 90% of your electricity is provided by the output of this federal

system of dams. Our local economy and community are connected to the river for cultural, agriculture, transportation, recreation, economic and an abundance of other benefits we appreciate here in

the Gorge and the Pacific Northwest. In this, we are all connected. Please consider participating in the public comment process to ensure all the region is heard. Passionate and well-funded special interest groups continue to attempt to sway public opinion away from the benefits of the federal system and the carbon-free, flexible, reliable and low-cost attributes of hydroelectricity.

Let me be clear on this next point: A “preferred alternative” or eventual, future state outcome is expected from the DEIS. This outcome will likely change the way the federal system is operated or perhaps even physically constructed. Also—and likely most importantly—whatever the outcome, Northern Wasco County PUD will have a plan for addressing it and a path forward ensuring our continued success. Many thanks to the board of directors for its support in this area.

Lastly, NWCPUD is a member of Northwest RiverPartners. Please visit www.nwriverpartners.org to learn more about the benefits of hydroelectricity and its role in our clean energy future. Full disclosure: I am also on the board of directors, so I really think they're great!



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

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call 634-4571 to page
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Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

Don't Be Surprised!



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**Dial 811 toll free to be connected to
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OR-6

President's Report

Last month, with a record crowd on hand, Punxsutawney Phil emerged from his den and did not see his shadow, signifying an early spring according to folklore. Early spring will hopefully bring warmer days, beautiful flowers and trees brimming with new growth.

Trees and plants are valuable assets in commercial, private and public landscapes. They add beauty, help the environment and add value to property. However, they can be a major challenge for electric utilities.

When trees contact live wires they can become conductors of electricity, causing power outages or creating dangerous situations for anyone coming into contact with them.

CPI works hard maintaining its rights-of-way near overhead lines to provide safe and reliable electric service. With growth rates of 8 to 10 feet a year on some species of trees, it's a full-time job staying ahead of annual growth. In fact, CPI employs several full-time crews to prune and remove about 20,000 trees annually. CPI prefers that no trees are planted within its rights-of-way with overhead lines, or within 10 feet of underground transformers.

Severe and prolonged drought conditions throughout the Western U.S. in recent years have killed and continue to affect conifer and cedar trees. These dead trees adjacent to power lines pose a direct threat to electric service reliability and could become a fire hazard.

To reduce this potential hazard, we recommend having dead or dying trees removed. If you are unable to safely remove them, CPI is willing to help at no cost to you. The wood and

brush from these trees are left for your use or disposal. If you choose not to have these trees removed, you may be liable for the costs from this hazardous situation. This could include, but not be limited to, fire suppression costs, property damage, power line repair and cleanup costs.

Excess vegetation around underground transformers can block the view of the transformers and require removal of flowers and vines to gain access. Planting to cover underground facilities makes an underground outage last longer and is unsafe for workers. There are many ways to incorporate an underground transformer into the layout of your landscape plans. With proper species selection and placement, you can live with that "green box" and help maintain electric reliability for yourself and your neighbors.

You can help when planting trees near overhead lines or vegetation around underground transformers. Before you plant or do any digging, call the Oregon Utility Notification Center at least three days in advance—not counting weekends and holidays—to have underground utilities marked. OUNC can be reached by dialing 811.

Call CPI's Right-of-Way department at 541-929-3124 or 800-872-9036 for help with tree and plant selection and placement to ensure we all do our part to maintain safe and reliable electric service.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO



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

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

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

Report an Outage: 509-786-2913
Contact the Office: 800-221-6987
Website: BentonREA.org

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Board Meetings, Agendas & Minutes

The board of trustees will meet March 25 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 Bastow, Information Technology
Manager
Troy Berglund, Community Development
and Member Relations Manager
Terry Mundorf, General Counsel Attorney
Blodgett, Mickelsen & Adamson, Auditor

WA-7

Concern for Community

Dear Members,

When our community needed electricity, citizens came together to form a cooperative and make the community better. Since 1937, Benton REA has helped improve the quality of life for our members through reliable electricity and concern for the community.

Benton REA recently hosted blood drives at our offices with huge success and community support. Our employees and members showed up to give the gift of life. Our next blood drive is March 31 at our West Richland office from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. We hope to see you there.

Benton REA awards up to \$48,000 each year in scholarships to students pursuing a college degree or a trade certificate. Next month, we'll announce our 2020 scholarship recipients as well as the two students who will represent Benton REA at the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. This weeklong trip gives students a broader perspective of electric cooperatives, and how they can make an impact on their federal and local government as well as their community.

Electrical safety education is critical to Benton REA and our neighboring Tri-Cities utilities. We share a life-sized, high-voltage electrical safety demonstration trailer. Benton REA lineworkers can use the arcs and sparks to show the power and danger of electricity. You may have seen this demonstration at the Salmon Summit, our annual meeting or other community events. We also bring a classroom-size demonstration to the Farm Fair each year. Contact Benton REA if you'd like to schedule a safety demonstration for your students or community group.

We're blessed to live in a region with so many community nonprofit organizations. There are 75 in Prosser alone. Benton REA offers community donations to organizations that support our members. Please let us know your fundraising goal, and we will review your request to determine if Benton REA is able to provide a donation.

We wouldn't be here without our community, so we want to be here for our community.

Cooperatively,

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

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



Offices

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

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

Hours

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Monday-Thursday

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Glenn Rohde

General Manager

Robert Echenrode

www.umatillaelectric.com

OR-8

Flood Damage Recovery Underway

The floods in early February have exacted an enormous cost in economic and human terms.

To those forced from their homes, lost their possessions, had their property destroyed, the Board and staff of UEC offer our condolences at the losses you have suffered.

As recovery efforts unfold, we have prepared an early estimate of \$2.3 million to replace damaged or destroyed UEC facilities along the Upper Umatilla River, South Fork of the Walla Walla River and Nolin grade south of Echo.



As we provide service in expanses of remote and rugged terrain, our line workers are equipped and trained to restore power in extremely challenging circumstances. But this was a historically devastating flood. Roads and other pathways our power lines followed have been washed away along with our poles and wires and transformers, and restoration will be a complex and extended process.

We have been contacting affected members to establish expectations and priorities. In each case, we are looking at all options to restore power once their services are accessible or habitable again.

As UEC exists solely to serve our membership and communities, we have vowed to provide our local governments any support we are able in equipment, manpower, logistics, cash or other material donations.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, we may be able to recover a portion of our allowable expenses through federal disaster relief. We will be working closely with our first responders, state and local governments and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in efforts to receive approval for this critical aid.

I'm pleased to announce that two of our lineworkers, Matt Lyda and Matt Ellis, have volunteered to spend two weeks in April helping bring power to a Guatemalan mountain village that has none.


In coordination with NRECA International, the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association put together an organizing committee chaired by Les Penning, CEO of Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative. Thirteen volunteers will be making the trip.

Please see the feature article on pages 4-5 of this *Ruralite* for the project's many benefits and how you might engage in its support.

The work will be arduous, and they will be spending time away from home and family, so I applaud Matt and Matt for stepping forward for what will be a life-changing experience for all involved.

Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

105 E. 4th St.
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Office phone: 541-296-2740
Toll-free phone: 800-341-8580
www.wascoelectric.com

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Wesley Woods Serviceman
Dan Funkhouser Grass Valley Foreman
Frank Roeder Maupin Foreman

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

Mission Statement

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

OR-9

Oregon's Electric Cooperatives Team Up to Electrify Guatemala

The Oregon Rural Cooperative Association and electric co-ops across Oregon are embarking on an ambitious project to electrify a remote village in the mountains of Guatemala. In April, a team of more than a dozen volunteer linemen and electrical experts from Oregon cooperatives will bring power to an area that has none, creating a foundation for the village to achieve future economic prosperity and experience an improved quality of life.



**OREGON
EMPOWERS
GUATEMALA 2020**

This electrification project, called Oregon Empowers Guatemala, is coordinated through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's philanthropic arm, NRECA International.

"Bringing electricity to regions that have none takes us back to our roots of rural electrification," says Jeff Davis, Wasco Electric Cooperative general manager.

Volunteers will build an electrical distribution system in the village of Aldea Montanita de la Virgen in the district of Jalapa, a mountainous region in the southeastern part of the country. The village has 60 homes that typically consist of two to three rooms. The center of the village has three structures: a church, a community/health center and a three-room schoolhouse—all without electricity. Locals live humbly without running water, food refrigeration or electric appliances. The community truly is a subsistence community. Villagers live on what they grow, including corn, beans, bananas, watermelons, squash, fruits, chickens, turkeys and game hens. They grow coffee to sell for income.

The Oregon Empowers team will wire all 60 homes and the three community buildings for electricity. The primary system will include 32 poles and four transformers on 3.1 miles of primary line and 2.5 miles of secondary line. Most of the terrain consists of steep hillsides.

The Oregon Empowers committee, comprised of cooperative leaders and trustees from the statewide association, selected a team of 13 volunteers for the upcoming trip.

"We are grateful for the overwhelming response of Oregon cooperative linemen who are willing to leave their homes for an extended period of time to empower far-away communities," says Les Penning, CEO of Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative and chairman of the Oregon Empowers committee. "Access to electricity will bring economic empowerment, better access to health care and enhanced safety for these villagers."

Oregon's electric cooperatives have established a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Oregon Empowers Foundation to support this cause. All contributions are tax deductible.

For more details and to contribute to the project, visit www.oregonempowers.com.

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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Office Manager/CFO

David Western

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Todd Sherwood

Member Services

Todd C. Munsey

System Engineer

Jess Dory, PE

Mission Statement

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

DOUGLAS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OR-10

Clean & Green

Dear Member,

As you will undoubtedly hear more and more about the subject of “Cap & Trade”, it’s important to share the good news about your cooperative’s power resource mix.

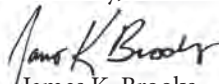
First of all, “Cap” refers to the capping of emissions or pollutants. In most cases, carbon is the target. The government issues permits allowing businesses to release a certain amount of carbon into the atmosphere. “Trade” refers to unused permits or credits that businesses can then sell or trade to other businesses. The number of permits and credits issued by the government decreases every year, increasing the cost and value of these credits.

Because we buy the vast majority of our power from the Bonneville Power Administration, most of it is hydropower from the federal hydro system. It is renewable, carbon-free and as “green” as it gets. In fact, every consumer-owned electric utility in Oregon can tell the same story. Our contract with BPA also includes some nuclear, combined-cycle natural gas, landfill gas, wind and solar. Combined, it makes **Douglas Electric Cooperative’s power resource mix over 97% carbon-free.** (See page 8, for more specific percentages.)

Occasionally, we hear that members would like us to be more “green”, which tells me that we’re not doing a good enough job of telling our story. While 97% carbon-free still isn’t good enough for some folks, that percentage, coupled with our low rates is a great position for Douglas Electric Cooperative members to be in.

For more information on that subject, efficiency incentives and rebates, and everything else going on at your cooperative, plan to attend your Annual Meeting, Saturday April 4, at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

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

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

MANAGER

Troy Cox

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

POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

Co-op office 934-2311
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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

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Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

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**Director of Member
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Brent ten Pas

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

24-HOUR PHONE NUMBERS:

In Redmond, call 541-548-2144
or toll free at 800-924-8736

Mission Statement

The aim of Central Electric Co-op is to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.

Board meets the third Thursday of each month at the CEC office, 2098 NW 6th St., Redmond, OR.

www.cec.coop

OR-12

Reducing the Threat of Wildfires

Nearly 50,000 wildfires burned 4.6 million acres throughout the United States last year, with the West hit especially hard.

During the past decade, California's 20 most destructive fires ignited due to faulty electrical equipment or downed power lines.

Searching for answers, Congress convened a hearing in January inviting utility executives and forest management specialists to articulate what steps utilities and the federal government could take to make electric infrastructure more resilient against future failures.

Invited to testify, I highlighted Central Electric's experiences, spoke to the practical challenges we face to implement wildfire precautions and ensure system reliability, and discussed how the federal government could lend assistance through improving certain policies and practices.

I also shared that Oregon cooperatives were demonstrating leadership by initiating a unique approach to partner with federal land agencies to implement strategies to reduce the risk of wildfires.

A core effort to reduce wildfire risk, ensure public safety and provide reliable service to our members relies on upgrading utility poles and managing vegetation in utility corridors on heavily forested federal lands. A major hurdle, however, is getting timely authorization or permits from the federal land agency.

For example, Central Electric is seeking approval to replace 131 aging power poles and remove encroaching vegetation along a 13-mile overhead power line route on federal land in the Camp Sherman area. Installing taller poles with wider crossarms will enhance reliability and resiliency and

reduce the threat of wildfire ignitions.

Central Electric also requested permission to remove all vegetation within the utility corridor, including dead snags, hazard trees and limbs outside of the utility corridor, which could fall into contact with the power line.

Despite submitting our application to the federal land agency in April 2019, we have not been authorized to move forward. The window of opportunity in Camp Sherman to complete this project before the fire season is narrow due to winter snow and spring rain.

While this episode—and others like it—prove frustrating, we highly value our relationships with federal land agencies and want to work collaboratively with them. In that vein, Oregon electric co-op leaders will convene a workshop this spring with the state, regional and district land management agencies to identify actions that can be implemented on federal lands in a timely fashion to reduce wildfire risk within utility corridors and adjacent lands.

The strong support expressed by the federal land management agencies is encouraging. I am optimistic we can develop principles committed to producing an agreement among all stakeholders to more efficiently reduce the threat of wildfires to the benefit of Central Oregon's citizens, communities and natural resources.



Dave Markham, President and CEO



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Attorney—Tyler Pepple

Staff

General Manager/CEO

Brent Bischoff

Corporate Services/CFO

Frank Corrales

Engineering Manager

Matt Mjelde

Marketing and Member

Services Manager

Jacob Knudsen

Operations Manager

Randy McDonald

Local numbers

Coquille 541-396-3118
 Port Orford..... 541-332-3931
 Gold Beach..... 541-247-6638
 Brookings..... 541-469-2103

Area office hours 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 Monday through Thursday.
 Closed Friday.

After-Hours Outage Number

866-352-9044

Call Before You Dig

811

www.ccec.coop

OR-13

Environmental Issues at Odds

Spring is on its way! Soon, mountain snows will feed our river systems as temperatures warm and winter gives way to summer. Have you ever experienced the awesome sight of spring spill at one of the Columbia River hydroelectric dams? As the Columbia River surges during spring runoff, river flows can exceed generation capacity, so excess water is spilled over the dams. That awesome sight emphasizes the tremendous clean renewable energy harnessed by the Federal Columbia River Power System to be delivered to your home and millions of others across the Northwest.



Do you know that spill over the dams continues long past spring runoff to the end of August? Summer spill, as it is called, is a tool used to help salmon and steelhead smolt migrate down the river to the ocean. That makes sense since humans modified the fish habitat with dams that we want to maintain a healthy habitat for the fish. The benefit of summer spill to fish comes with a cost.



Every cubic foot of water spilled over the dams is lost opportunity to generate clean (noncarbon-emitting) renewable electric energy. Summer spill happens at a time when electric loads are high for air conditioning and irrigation, and it reduces the amount of clean renewable hydroelectric energy available to meet peak summer loads.

One environmental faction wants to maximize summer spill and remove the Snake River dams for the benefit of fish. Another environmental faction wants to combat climate change by minimizing and eliminating carbon-emitting energy sources. At the risk of stating the obvious, to minimize carbon-emitting energy sources, we must maximize the noncarbon-emitting generation sources we already have. Right in our backyard on the FCRPS, these two environmental issues are at odds.

There is no silver bullet. Humankind has not yet discovered the perpetual motion machine. Every energy source comes with its own set of risks and challenges. As long as we want to keep the lights on, we will have to manage the risks and work through the challenges. Summer spill, Snake River dam removal, and carbon cap and trade are hotly contested environmental topics in the Northwest. Ideally, all stakeholders will come together in the spirit of reason and cooperation to find solutions to these difficult issues. The compromises made and laws enacted to meet these challenges ripple down in one way or another to the cost and reliability of the energy sources we use to power our lives every day.

Brent Bischoff
 General Manager and CEO



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

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

.....
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President Brett Costley
(Dist. 4 – Vernonia)
- Vice President Jim Buxton
(Dist. 3 – Vernonia, Keasey)
- Sec./Treasurer Erika Paleck
(Dist. 5 – Timber, Buxton)
- Brian Baker
(Dist. 1 – Jewell, Elsie, Hamlet)
- Mark Kaminski
(Dist. 2 – Mist, Apiary,
Birkenfeld)
- Rosemary Lohrke
(Dist. 6 – Chapman, Scappoose)
- Larry Heesacker
(Dist. 7 – Manning, Hagg Lake,
Yamhill County)

GENERAL MANAGER

Bob Perry

Contact the board:
directors@westoregon.org

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

OR-14

What West Oregon Can Do for You

This month, on page 28, you will find an article that highlights what your co-op can do for you. As a member of West Oregon Electric Cooperative, you have access to benefits and programs you may not be aware of.

Scholarships. 2020 scholarship applications will be mailed to each high school in the WOECC service territory. Applications also will be available for pick up in our office and posted on our website. West Oregon Electric's scholarship committee will process applications from students who live in the service territory. Students may apply for the Sam Hearing Academic Scholarship or the VOLTA Scholarship.

Co-op Connections. WOECC members can benefit from the Co-op Connections Card program available through Touchstone Energy. This membership card provides a variety of local and national discounts. Discounts include, but are not limited to, travel, hotel stays, prescription drugs, insurance, dining, event tickets and more. If you do not have a Co-op Connections Card and are interested in the benefit, drop by our office to pick one up. You do not need the card to active your membership. You can visit the Co-op Connections website at www.connections.coop and sign up. Doing so will grant you immediate access to the program.

SmartHub. Members are encouraged to visit our website, www.westoregon.org, and register through SmartHub to monitor monthly use, manage accounts and make payments online. SmartHub also has a mobile app for easier and instant access.

If you are interested in more information on these programs or need assistance, please contact our office. We are available and ready to help you get started!

Regards,

Bob Perry
General Manager





Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

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

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

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

www.surprisevalleyelectric.org

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

After hours and outages:
Call office numbers above.

STAFF

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

"Owned by those we serve."

This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.

CA-15



Contractors Working on Lines

Dear Member:

You may see trucks working on our lines that have an unfamiliar logo. SVEC has hired Christenson Electric Inc. of Portland, Oregon, as a subcontractor to perform transmission pole changeouts on SVEC transmission lines. This will require physical access throughout SVEC's service territory.

Should you have any questions, please contact DJ Northrup at 530-233-3511.

Sincerely,

Brad Kresge
General Manager



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Knudsen Obermeyer, Oakridge District | President

Kathy Keable, McKenzie District | Vice President

Hugh Buermann, Row River District | Treasurer

Jerry Shorey, Oakridge District | Secretary

Jack Billings, Central District

J. Ingrid Kessler, Central District

Chris Seubert, Central District

MANAGEMENT

Debi Wilson | General Manager

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 the LEC website.

OR-16

2020 Rate Changes

Dear Co-op Community Members:

Rate changes are always a difficult discussion. Last fall, your board of directors faced the tough decision to raise rates. The rate change was effective January 1, 2020. In your January statements, we notified you of the changes to your bill, but I want to follow up with you, our members, on how we came to this decision.

Increasing Fixed Costs

Lane Electric has fixed costs that continually increase and do not vary with energy use. Examples include utility equipment, maintenance, outage restoration, tree trimming and general administration. Another factor impacting our budget was the 2019 February snowstorm. This storm was costly. While we are able to have 75% of our costs reimbursed by Federal Emergency Management Agency, the remainder is funded by members.

For Lane Electric to be more resilient during extreme weather events, it is necessary that we also continue to invest in our infrastructure to improve the reliability of our system.

Average kWh Consumption Declining

Our annual kilowatt-hour consumption is trending downward. About 78% of our total kWh sales come from residential members.

Our co-op needs a more dependable source of revenue to cover operating costs. This is why you see increases in the basic charge. The basic charge is our most predictable revenue source, but currently makes up only 21% of our electric revenue.

Declining kWh sales could be offset by increasing the number of members we

serve. Unfortunately, growth in new accounts has been flat for many years.

The good news is through the years, energy efficiency is more a part of our daily lives. We are surrounded by new homes, appliances, and lightbulbs that help keep our energy consumption low. Lane Electric is proud of the energy conservation programs we offer, and will continue to offer, to our members.

Rate discussions are difficult because we know increases are a burden to our members. We believe predictability—for the co-op and for you—is important and is best achieved through the basic charge.

Winter temperatures vary from year to year. An increase to only the kWh charge in a colder winter could result in the unintended consequence of a windfall of revenue not needed by the co-op and high electric bills for our members.

Lane Electric is owned by you, our members. We are a not-for-profit organization that does not collect money for shareholders. Meeting operational needs with affordable rate structures has been, and continues to be, a focus of the board of directors. The board and all Lane Electric employees are committed to operating efficiently to provide you with reliable electric service.



Sincerely,

Debi Wilson



**Blachly-Lane
Electric Cooperative**

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

Mission Statement: *Blachly-Lane provides safe, reliable electric services for our consumer-members.*

Board of Directors

District 1
Ernie Jacksch
541-927-3466
jacksche@blec.coop

District 2
Curtis Short, Chairman
541-359-9434
shortc@blec.coop

District 3
Beverly Mattheisen
541-998-3704
mattheisenb@blec.coop

District 4
Marlene Northrup, Vice Chairwoman
541-998-1216
northrupm@blec.coop

District 5
Eric Imbler, Secretary/Treasurer
541-954-1949
imblere@blec.coop

General Manager
Greg Gardner
gardnerg@blec.coop

OR-17

Manager's Report

Dear Members,

Next month, we will hold our 83rd annual meeting at the place of our founding, Triangle Lake. A lot has changed in the eight decades since this cooperative was formed. As we look forward to this new decade, your cooperative will face new challenges and opportunities, in large part brought on by the digital age.

The annual meeting of our members has also changed over time, from when the meeting was as much a social gathering as it was about conducting the business of electing directors and learning about the fiscal health of the co-op. In the digital age, our social gatherings take place on social media. Folks spend their Saturdays in April busy doing so many things that taking time to show up for the annual meeting has become less of a priority. That doesn't mean members aren't engaged or interested in what is going on. They simply engage in other ways. For example, while attendance at annual meetings has steadily declined, we have had record numbers of people vote by mail.

This past year, we took a hard look at the cost of conducting an annual meeting. We looked at the cost of the meal and the labor to cover the logistics of holding the meeting in our traditional way. We looked at moving the meeting location to our new multipurpose room and other cost-cutting methods.

Other co-ops in the state have taken similar moves for much the same reason. At West Oregon Electric Cooperative, they now have digital ballots so members vote using the internet. Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative has scaled back on the meals and trimmed the meeting agenda to conduct the required business as spelled out by its bylaws. Lane Electric Cooperative conducts multiple meetings throughout their service territory rather than one large meeting to get closer to individual members.

Late last year, we proposed scaling back the meals to lower costs while still meeting bylaw requirements. Your board of directors reached out to the AWARE committee to gauge member response to that proposal. Most supported cutting out the meal and hosting the meeting with coffee, juice and pastries while continuing to hold our meetings in traditional locations.

No matter if you vote by mail or show up for the meeting in person, your democratic participation is just as important as your financial participation in your cooperative. In the meantime, we'll continue to look for ways to cut costs while meeting the interests of members.

Sincerely,

Greg Gardner
General Manager





Board of Commissioners

Dan G. Gunkel
President

Douglas B. Miller
Vice President

Randy L. Knowles
Secretary

.....
Jim Smith
General Manager

Gwyn Miller
Assistant General Manager

Kevin Ricks
Renewable Energy Asset Manager

Mike DeMott
*Director of Finance
and Power Management*

Mark Pritchard
Operations Manager

Ron Schultz
Engineering Manager

Brandy Myers
Customer Service Supervisor

.....
www.klickitatpud.com

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

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



WA-18

Manager's Message

Within Klickitat PUD, our water and wastewater department serves 16 water and wastewater systems. KPUD owns 14 of those systems in Glenwood, Lyle, Klickitat, Wishram, Rimrock Estates, Roosevelt, Ponderosa Park, the old aluminum smelter site and Bickleton. The utility also provides services to New Hope Farms, Klickitat County and the Port of Klickitat in Dallesport.

Each water and wastewater system is separate from the others. Each has its own rates and operating permit requirements, and each is accounted for separately. This is unlike the electric system that operates as one system throughout the county.

This structure creates a considerable amount of work to manage, but the rates for each of these systems is controlled by the decisions, activities and investments made in each of the communities.

Water-wastewater is a small department of six people: a coordinator, a lead operator and four certified system operators. The systems are small and remote from each other. Many of the systems need daily monitoring and adjusting. This requires each department employee to understand all the systems, their design, operation, permit requirements and idiosyncrasies. Because we do not control the inputs to the water or wastewater systems, the control systems take constant adjusting and tuning. A significant amount of travel is required to visit these systems.

Klickitat PUD is installing remote monitoring systems so we can see what is happening from the office or from cellphones while in the field. We then can reduce the number of trips. This, in turn, reduces travel time and allows operators to focus on completing maintenance or other required work. It is especially important to find these time savings because testing, monitoring and reporting requirements continue to be more stringent and take more time to complete.

We also have been steadily installing radio-read meters on a system-by-system basis for water services. Leak detection is always a challenge and focus. We have tools to help us detect major leaks quickly and provide a way for us to locate these leaks, many of which are on customers' systems. We have detected many leaks before the customer was aware of an issue.

The waste-wastewater staff cannot do it alone. They are supported by our customer service staff, our accounting and payroll staff, and purchasing and warehouse personnel. Our engineering department and electric meter shop also bring technical skills to the team.

I am proud of the work your KPUD employees do. They work every day to improve their teamwork and provide you quality service. They regularly receive awards from the Department of Ecology for exceptional performance.

Soon, we will communicate with you about 2020 water and wastewater rates and budgets, and visit the communities we serve that hold community council meetings. This process culminates in a public hearing May 26 in the Klickitat PUD commission room. I urge all of you to engage in these discussions. I look forward to talking with you.

Jim Smith
General Manager



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Sagle, ID 83860

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208-263-5141

Outside Sandpoint:
800-326-9594

Board President
Steve Elgar

Board Vice President
Kennon McClintock

Board Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Dolan

General Manager
Annie Terracciano

Board of Directors by District

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Mike Dolan, Nordman, ID
208-610-3853

District No. 2
Vacant

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

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

District No. 5
Kennon McClintock, Moyie Springs, ID
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

The Power of Hydro

For decades, the Pacific Northwest has relied on clean, renewable hydropower for the vast majority of its energy needs. It is a carbon-free, low-cost resource that works to power our homes and businesses. Because hydropower is clean and renewable, the Pacific Northwest has a carbon footprint that is half that of other regions in the country. It also ensures our electric rates are some of the lowest in the country, as the Columbia River dams produce energy cheaper than nuclear, coal and natural gas-fired plants.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration are expected to release a draft environmental impact statement 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. After the draft EIS is released, there is a 45-day comment period for Northwest citizens to review and give their feedback. This critical report will influence the future of the Columbia and lower Snake River dams.

Most of Northern Light's power comes from hydropower, which includes 10% from our own Lake Creek Dam in Montana. BPA supplies the other 90%. Each year, BPA spends millions of dollars on efforts to help improve access for salmon with great success. Every main stem federal dam in our region now has fish slides or other technologies to help young salmon migrate downstream. Fish and dams can coexist.

We hope to continue to rely on renewable clean hydropower for many years to come. Now that spring is almost here, it is a perfect time to get outside to view nature's beautiful rivers and be glad our region gets its power from such a great renewable source.

Cheers to spring!

Annie Terracciano
General Manager





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

DIRECTORS

Jim Poxleitner | President
Cottonwood

Ernie Robinson | Vice President
White Bird

Gerald Frei | Secretary-Treasurer
Grangeville

Frank McIntire
Kamiah

Martin Poxleitner
Grangeville

Greg M. Smith
Syringa

Bruce Nuxoll
Kooskia

Attorney
J.A. Wright

General Manager
Max Beach

c-21

Youth Rally Scholarships

Dear Members,

It is time again to talk about the Youth Tour and scholarships. For the 29th year, this opportunity is available to sophomores or juniors in high school—or the equivalent—of Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative members who are looking to pursue college or technical school following graduation.

I have heard many great stories through the years about the impacts this experience has afforded several young individuals in our community. We know our youth is our future, and this is such a great opportunity.

I hope all eligible students take advantage of the opportunity to apply for the cooperative's Youth Rally scholarships advertised in this issue. After reading the feature story about our delegates from last year's competition, I believe you will see it is well worth the effort. Three lucky winners not only take home \$750 scholarships good for the college or technical school of their choice, they get to attend the youth leadership conference sponsored by our statewide association of cooperative and municipal electric utilities, Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association.

Those who attend will compete for additional scholarships. Approximately one-third of all delegates attending the ICUA Youth Rally come home with scholarships ranging from \$300 to \$600.

While attending the conference, delegates learn how their utilities operate and are governed. They participate in cooperative problem-solving and leadership exercises. They meet and learn from leaders in industry and government. Participants also visit the state Capitol and, if that all sounds a little too intense, get to relax with a day at Roaring Springs Water Park and more fun activities in the evenings when classes are done.

I think the most rewarding thing they find are the relationships they make with other delegates. Many of them keep in touch and continue to cross paths for years to come as they move into positions of leadership in business or government.

The deadline for applications is March 31. The Youth Rally runs from July 6 to 11, so pencil it in on your calendar.

Please check out our website at www.iclp.coop for more information.

Thanks,

Max Beach, General Manager



Columbia REA

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 
The power of human connections

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

Board of Directors

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

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

Staff

**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 &
Information Technology**
**Jeff Myers,
Manager of Safety Services**

WA-22

Annual Meeting 2020 - We'd love to see you there!

Our 2020 Annual Meeting is a little more than a month away, and we hope you are making plans to join us at the Marcus Whitman Hotel on Thursday, April 16th. It should be a very interesting and informative meeting, as we have several important and timely topics to cover. Please see page 4 of this issue of Ruralite for more details on the 2020 Annual Meeting. You may RSVP by calling 509-526-4041. And stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for online registration in the coming days.



As usual, round-trip transportation will be provided from Burbank, Starbuck and Dayton, and a delicious dinner will be served by the Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center. The Ryegrass String Band will be playing and we will have some fun door prizes and a few other surprises in store for you as well.

I have invited Kurt Miller, Executive Director of Northwest River Partners, to come and bring us up to speed on the ongoing discussion around the lower Snake river dams, and how NW River Partners is working to bring solutions that will help hydropower and salmon coexist and thrive.

We will also discuss the importance of implementing the residential demand charge into our cost structure and billing process. The residential demand charge will be an important tool to help us allocate costs fairly and accurately across our entire membership as our distribution load becomes more complex. We'll also take a look at the growing use of electric vehicles, and some of the challenges that the ever-increasing number of charging stations may bring.


And of course, we will have our regular agenda items to cover, including the announcement of the winners of our 2020 Board of Directors elections and the introduction of our three 2020 Academic Scholarship recipients, as well as our Jeff Meredith Memorial Lineman Scholarship recipient.

So please join us on Thursday, April 16 at The Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center, as we not only celebrate another successful year at Columbia REA, but discuss how we will navigate some interesting times ahead for our Cooperative.

Best,

Scott Peters
CEO



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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

Departments

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

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Vice President

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Secretary/Treasurer

Vic Russell, Fall River

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Robert Reed, La Pine

Leland Smith, Sunriver

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

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

STAFF

General Manager

Dave Schneider

Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Steinhauer

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

The Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association released this statement on Gov. Kate Brown's support for removal of the lower Snake River dams:

Oregon's 18 electric cooperatives are extremely disappointed with Gov. Kate Brown's decision to support the breaching of the four lower Snake River dams. The Snake River dams produce more than 1,000 average megawatts of reliable, carbon-free energy—enough energy for more than 800,000 Northwest homes.

Gov. Brown's decision, made without any consultation with leaders of consumer-owned utilities, will have severe consequences for our mission to provide affordable, reliable electricity to more than a half-million Oregonians.

It is stunning that during a serious legislative debate on carbon reduction, Gov. Brown supports a course of action that is estimated to increase CO₂ emissions by more than 2 million metric tons every year. This output is the equivalent of adding 421,000 passenger cars to the region's roads each year. If the state of Oregon is serious about addressing climate change, it is now moving in the wrong direction.

Furthermore, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council—to which Gov. Brown has appointed two Oregon members—has concluded that the Northwest power supply becomes inadequate as early as next year. Taking out the lower Snake River dams, which help keep our region's power and transmission systems in balance, could lead to the crashing of the electrical grid and blackouts for Oregonians.

Finally, we disagree with Gov. Brown's claim that the removal of the Snake River dams will "simultaneously address both

the orca and salmon recovery dilemma" in the region. The region's ratepayers have made significant long-term investments in large-scale structural and operational changes

to further improve existing fish passage routes as well as provide new safe passage structures at these dams. The juvenile survival performance standard target is 96% for yearling chinook and steelhead. Gov. Brown should support building on this success story rather than embracing an extreme position that will harm rural Oregonians.

We urge Gov. Brown to reconsider this ill-fated decision.



MEC's 68th Annual Meeting

Preparations are progressing for MEC's 68th Annual Meeting of the Members on Saturday, May 9, at La Pine High School. The event gives you a chance to participate in the business of your electric cooperative. It also provides you with a firsthand look at our programs and services. Registration, displays, demonstrations, health fair and barbecue begin at 10 a.m. The business meeting starts at noon.

MEC's Scholarship Program

MEC's 2020 scholarship application is available at www.mse.coop. The deadline for submitting all required materials is Monday, May 4. For more information, call 541-536-2126 option 5.

There is additional information about your cooperative on pages 8 and 25.

General Manager Dave Schneider



www.rrelectric.com

DIRECTORS

President Gary Jones
Secretary-Treasurer Larry Henson
Jason Harper
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)



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ID-24

You Are Invited Raft River Electric's 81st Annual Meeting

All co-op members in attendance will receive an attendance gift and be entered into a drawing for some great prizes, including an \$800 power bill credit! Take this opportunity to meet with friends and neighbors and be a part of your co-op community!

Order of Business

- ▶ Call to order
- ▶ Reading of the 2020 annual meeting notice
- ▶ Reading of the 2019 annual meeting minutes
- ▶ Presentations and reports
- ▶ Election of directors
- ▶ Unfinished business
- ▶ New business
- ▶ Adjournment



**Raft River High School
Malta, Idaho**

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Registration and complimentary meal begin at 6 p.m.

Business meeting begins at 7 p.m.



BIG BEND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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

Ritzville office 659-1700

Toll free 866-844-2363

Pay by phone 844-255-3682

For after-hours emergencies

866-844-2363

www.bbec.org

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Vice President Ken Story

Secretary John Harder

Treasurer Lyle Holt

Curtis Dahl

Stacy Kniveton

Lanny Hayes

Dennis Swinger Sr.

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Yvette Armstrong

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf

WA-25

Capital Credit Checks Mailed

The Big Bend Electric Cooperative Inc. Board of Directors recently approved the retirement of more than \$2.1 million to the cooperative's members. Refunds have been mailed to eligible consumers who purchased power from the cooperative during 2000 and 2018.

Capital Credit FAQ

I am no longer a member of the co-op. Do I forfeit my capital credits?

No. Capital credits stay with you even after you are no longer an active member of the cooperative. It is important to keep your address current with us until all capital credits have been distributed.

Can I receive my capital credits in a lump sum after I leave the co-op?

No. We do not pay out early retirements. We use these funds to operate the business. When the board of trustees authorizes a retirement, checks will be distributed.

I found an old capital credit check. Is it too late to cash it?

Please call our office with the check number so we can verify if the check can be cashed.

How often will I receive capital credit checks? How much will they be?

The amount of capital credits to be refunded depends on prior years' margins and future capital needs. The board of trustees will decide if there will be a capital credit retirement and which years to pay. The board has chosen to return capital credits to the members for more than 40 years. These checks are typically distributed in February.

For more details on Capital Credits, go to our website at www.bbec.org.

Feel free to contact our office with other questions.

Send emails to capitalcredit@bbec.org



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

541-354-1233
www.hrec.coop

www.facebook.com/HRECCoop

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

.....

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:

You are invited to attend Hood River Electric Cooperative's 74th annual meeting at the Hood River County Fairgrounds Community Building on Thursday, March 12, at 7 p.m.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to:

- Elect three directors to the board.
- Hear reports on 2019 operations from the auditor, attorney and general manager.

- Meet your directors and staff.

The nominating committee nominated the following members to be candidates for election to the board of directors:

- Butch Gehrig, incumbent, Summit Drive, Odell
- Opal DeBoard, incumbent, Thomsen Road, Pine Grove
- Jeff Osborn, incumbent, Neal Creek Road, Pine Grove

Additional nominations will be called for from the floor. Three candidates will be elected to serve three-year terms on the board of directors.

We will raffle several door prizes, and serve pie and coffee at the conclusion of the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there!


Sincerely,

General Manager Libby Calnon



Harney Electric Cooperative




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

277 Lottery Lane
Hines, OR 97738
541-573-2061
hines@hec.coop

Orovada, Nevada
775-272-3336
orovada@hec.coop

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

It's Annual Meeting Time

Dear Members,

The annual meeting of Harney Electric Cooperative is Saturday, May 2, at the Community Hall in Denio, Nevada.

Two directors will be elected. Members have an opportunity to review reports on the progress of the cooperative and to conduct necessary business.

Dinner is served at noon. There is no cost. We hope you will attend this important function.

Sincerely,

Gary Miller

Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Members,

As can be seen from the secretary's announcement above, it is annual meeting time again. It is a good opportunity to hear firsthand how things are going and what we expect in the future. Probably the most important aspect of the meeting is the election of the directors.

Nominees must reside in the district they would represent.

Nominees are selected by the nominating committee or by petition signed by any 15 bona fide members. Any such

nominations by petition must be received in the Hines office not fewer than 34 days before the meeting date. The petition deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, March 27.

The cooperative's service territory is divided into seven geographical districts. Each is represented by a board member serving a three-year term.

The districts open for board member election this year are:

- No. 3: Crane-Princeton to Riverside; incumbent Joe Cronin.
- No. 5: Denio South; incumbent Frank Albisu.

Serving on the board of directors is not something one should take lightly. Neither is your decision as to who you feel would do the best job of guiding the policy decisions of your co-op. Your vote is important. Cast it carefully.

For those of you who will be able to attend the meeting, we look forward to seeing you there.

With personal regards,

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

Concern for Community

One of the Seven Cooperative Principles that guides your electric cooperative is Concern for Community. As Salmon River Electric focuses on member needs, we also work for the sustainable development of the communities we serve by implementing policies and practices accepted by our member-owners.

Support of our youth and young adults is one the practices supported by our member-owners. It helps us develop the communities we serve. We are proud to sponsor our youth in various ways, including their academic, sport and other extracurricular activities.



Ken Dizes

One example of how we support our youth is by inviting sophomores and juniors at Challis High School to apply to attend the Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association Youth Rally. The Youth Rally is a fun-filled experience where students have the opportunity to gain leadership and team building skills, and learn about electric cooperatives. This weeklong experience is paid for by the cooperative and provides students with opportunities to compete for scholarships.

Please check with your high school counselor, Tyler Thayn at SREC or visit SREC's website at www.srec.org under "Upcoming Events" for more information. The deadline to apply for the Youth Rally is April 3.

We also support our youth and young adults by providing local scholarship opportunities.

We are offering six scholarships for 2020. There are five \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors of Challis High School, former graduates of Challis High School and/or community home-schooled students pursuing academic or vocational studies. There also is a \$5,000 scholarship to any person, including graduating seniors, interested in pursuing a lineman career.

Completed applications must be received by March 13. Contact Tyler at tyler@srec.org or 879-2283 ext. 105 for additional details and requirements. The application is also posted at www.srec.org under "Upcoming Events."

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



United Electric's Annual Meeting is right around the corner!

March 17 at Minico High School
Registration 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Business meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

What is on the ballot?

In addition to the director election for both the Minidoka District and the Cassia District, there a good governance bylaw amendment is on the ballot.

As part of its due diligence, the board of directors has dedicated the past year to a review of good governance practices. As a result, the board proposes that several good governance practices be included in United Electric's bylaws.

Vote YES if you support the proposed good governance practices.

Vote NO if you do not support the proposed good governance practices.

How do I vote?

- 1) Cast your ballot at the annual meeting March 17, 2020 at Minico High School.
- 2) Vote by mail. Ballots were mailed to each member in February. You may mail the ballot, drop it off at the office or bring it to the annual meeting.



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.

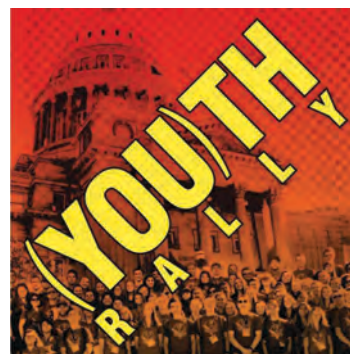
ICUA Youth Rally and Scholarships

To promote cooperative values that will help guide our future success, Lost River Electric Cooperative is sponsoring local attendance at the 2020 Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association Youth Rally.

The 2020 Youth Rally is July 6 to July 11 at The College of Idaho in Caldwell. Join dozens of youth from throughout the Northwest as we combine learning and fun into activities that build friendships and champion the cause of our member-owned energy utilities. Activities, both indoors and outdoors, provide a great opportunity for personal development, building leadership skills and meeting other teens from throughout the region.

LREC will sponsor two rally participants, which includes all associated expenses and transportation. Application eligibility is limited to sophomores and juniors—or equivalent—whose parents or legal guardians are members of LREC. In addition to rally participation, both winning applicants will receive a \$750 LREC college scholarship and the opportunity to compete for additional college scholarships at the rally. Local applicants not selected as youth rally participants may be eligible for additional scholarship opportunities.

Application packets are available at the LREC office at 305 S. Pine St. in Mackay, from Jaci Hill at Butte County High School or Amber Hulse at Mackay High School. Completed applications must be received at the LREC office by 5 p.m. March 31, 2020.





A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative 

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

March

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

April

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

Voting Deadline: Director election ballots must be received in the correct CVEA mailbox by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2020
*don't forget to sign the back of the ballot envelope

AK-34

Save the Date

2020 Annual Meeting

Valdez: Tuesday, May 5

Copper Basin: Thursday, May 7

Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc., invites you to the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members. The CVEA Annual Meeting is your chance, as a member-owner, to find out what is going on at your electric cooperative.

This year's meeting will be Tuesday, May 5, in the Valdez District at the Valdez Civic Center, and Thursday, May 7, in the Copper Basin District at the Alaska Bible College Murdock Campus Center. Registration and food service begin at 5:30 p.m. and the business meeting begins at 6 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting will be to hear reports, learn about CVEA projects and issues, ask questions about your cooperative, accept director election results, and to transact any other business that may come before the Membership.

In addition to learning valuable information, every member signed in by 6 p.m. will be eligible to win a ton of cool prizes, including a \$1,000 cash grand prize, and will receive a \$10 credit on their power bill! Don't be late!

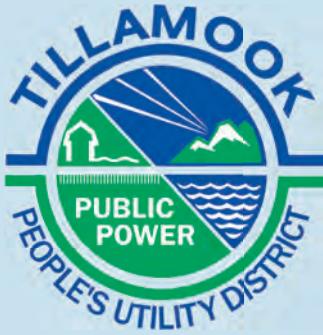
In April all cooperative members will receive the official notice of the annual meeting in the mail, along with the 2019 Annual Report, and the 2020 Director Election materials. Director candidate profiles, a ballot, and a stamped return envelope will be included. Co-op members in each district will select one candidate. As a member of your cooperative, the single-most important action you can take is to vote for your board representatives.

Per CVEA Bylaws, a minimum of 10 percent of the district membership must return their ballots to constitute a valid election. For this reason, even if there is only one candidate, we still need you to VOTE!

Ballots must be received in the designated CVEA post office box by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2020. When voting, please remember the back of the ballot envelope must be signed by the member whose signature is on file. If you are unsure what is on your signature card, or need an update, please stop by either office or give us a call at 822-3211 or 835-4301 prior to March 24, 2020.

This year, all valid ballots received by the deadline will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 CVEA energy credit!

So, please, when you receive your ballot, make your voice heard and exercise your right to vote!



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

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

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

Board of Directors

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

General Manager

Todd Simmons

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

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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



OR-35

Manager's Message

Dear Customers,

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which grants women the right to vote. This momentous achievement was not obtained easily by any means. Suffragettes fought for decades to give women a shred of equality, to have their voice heard and their vote counted.

As I ponder this pivotal moment in our history, I am reminded of the significant contributions women have made and how they have shaped the world we live in.

I am also reminded of the impact women have made in my life. I think about how much I have learned from women in my role as a professional, peer, son, brother, father, husband and coach, and how this has helped me recognize some of the challenges women face.

Being in these roles has encouraged me to be an advocate whenever I have the opportunity, not for just women but for everyone underrepresented in our society.

In the energy industry, gender inequality tends to be the norm, which can make recruiting a diverse workforce challenging. The percentage of women in the utilities workforce is approximately 22%, compared to other industries nationwide where women equate to about 47% of the workforce. When I see statistics like this along with projected industry retirements—nearly 70% of the utility sector workforce is set to retire in the coming years—I see a need to engage more people in the utility industry and an even greater need to diversify our workforce.

As a utility, we encourage youth to think outside of traditional roles and gender barriers by providing opportunities such as job shadowing and informational workshops so they can recognize their

interests and talents. I am a huge supporter of educational opportunities that focus on science, technology, engineering and math disciplines. For young people, females especially, the opportunity to engage in academic programs based on STEM curriculum helps encourage and nurture their abilities—a key to their future successes.

Extending this support and encouragement into the workplace is also essential. As our younger generations develop their talents, obtain certifications in their chosen career path and head into the workforce, it is our job as a utility to support their goals and provide resources for them to continue their professional development.

One of the employee resource groups at Tillamook PUD is a women's leadership group. This group is open to the entire utility and has a diverse mix of participants. The group's goal is to encourage staff to pursue career and educational interests, identify leadership opportunities and connect peers to create a network of internal support. The group continues to expand and have a positive effect on staff.

Each year on March 8, we observe International Women's Day. On this day, we recognize and celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women close to us and around the world. As hard as it is to believe, the fight for women's equality continues. It is crucial to raise awareness to this issue and continue to encourage the women around us so we can make a positive change and a valuable difference.

Sincerely,

Todd Simmons
General Manager



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

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Price E. Brower

Vice President

Roy M. Nageak Sr.

Secretary

Herman L. Ahsoak

Treasurer

Don A. Nungasak

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

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

The 2020 Census and Confidentiality

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics—they cannot be used against you in any way. By law, all responses to U.S. Census Bureau household and business surveys are kept completely confidential.

Respond to the 2020 Census to Shape the Future

Responding to the census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make data-driven decisions that grow the economy. Census data impact our daily lives, informing important decisions about funding for services and infrastructure in your community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, political representation, roads, schools, and businesses. More than \$675 billion in federal funding flows back to states and local communities each year based on census data.

Your Census Responses are Safe and Secure

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information we collect and keep it strictly confidential. The Census Bureau can only use your answers to produce statistics. In fact, every Census Bureau employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life. Your answers cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits.

By Law, Your Responses Cannot be Used Against You

By law, your census responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, not by the Central Intelligence Agency, not by the Department of Homeland Security, and not by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your responses only to produce statistics.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Owned By Those We Serve

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Gary Newman, Vice-Chairman (District 4)
John Sloan, Secretary (District 6)
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David Messier (District 1)
Rick Schikora (District 3)

Corporate Headquarters

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

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

Delta Junction Office

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

Nenana Office

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

Report Outages:

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

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!



AK-37

Check out

My Account GVEA's new Member Portal

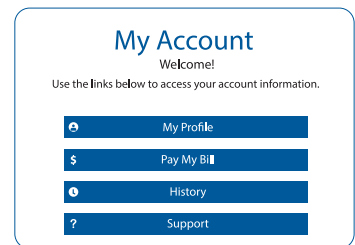
Take a minute to look around My Account. This is a single sign-on point that will give members access to their account information and a variety of useful resources.

Let's get started.

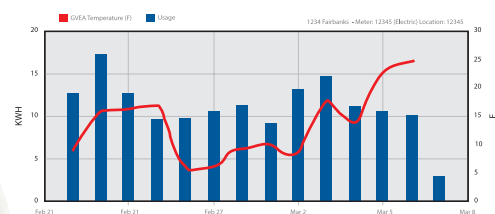
It's easy to sign up or look around.

- To take a tour of the site: Go to GVEA.COM and click on the My Account box in the top right corner. Select "Take the My Account Tour"
To create a new Member Portal account: You'll need to know your GVEA meter and account numbers. Both are listed on your GVEA bill.
Already using GV E-Bill: Simply sign in using your existing User ID and Password.

My Account home page



From the My Account home page, you can select what you'd like to view on your account.




Select History and you can view informative graphs of your electric use!



Supported on all devices





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:

At Plumas-Sierra REC, we strive to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our members.

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages, text messages or email, if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize that many members now use a cellphone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

I want to emphasize that in providing your contact information to the co-op, we will never share this information with any third parties. It is only used by PSREC to send important information to you.

Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by signing into your account at www.psrec.coop, through the SmartHub app or by calling us at 800-555-2207. By doing so, you will help us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op.

Telecommunications

Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications has completed construction of its fiber optic network on Chandler Road, American Way and Hillside, as well as to Sierraville and Sattley. Parts of Calpine will be open for scheduling for new services in the near future, so please sign up now.

This fiber optic expansion provides broadband services with download speeds up to 1 Gbps and unlimited data use.

If you aren't already on our interest list, please visit www.pst.coop or call 800-221-3474 to sign up for service.

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

Sincerely,

Bob Marshall
General Manager



MT. WHEELER POWER

1600 Great Basin Blvd.
Ely, NV 89301

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

Emergency Contacts

Ely Office
775-289-8981

Eureka Office
775-237-5693

Outside Ely / Eureka Area
800-97-POWER

Board of Directors

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

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

Mt. Wheeler Power's winter office hours are in effect. The Ely office will be open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Eureka office's hours remain 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

“Powering Your Future”

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

NV-40

Energy Delivery Charge Explained

“What is this \$16 charge on my billing statement?” A member asked me that question the other day, and it made me think: How many of our members are wondering the same thing?

We call it an Energy Delivery Charge, but some co-ops refer to it as a monthly service charge or customer service charge. No matter the name, this charge helps cover the cost of bringing electricity to homes.

The charge covers, in part, overhead expenses the cooperative incurs regardless of how much electricity is sold, such as the trucks, wire, transformers, meters, power poles and labor needed to build and maintain the electric distribution system that stretches across 16,000 square miles. It covers the cost of insurance, interest and taxes. It contributes to the cost of providing member services, data management systems and the general cost of doing business. This includes costs associated with legislative regulations that would ultimately have a negative impact on member rates.

Because all cooperative members benefit from having reliable electric service when they need it, the delivery charge ensures everyone pays a share of the basic costs.

Mt. Wheeler Power's residential Energy Delivery Charge is just \$16, which is the second lowest in Nevada. Compared to surrounding states, our cooperative sits well below the average charge of \$22.40. The highest charge in the same region is \$36.

The disparity among cooperatives is because the cost is normally correlated to member density. Mt. Wheeler Power serves, on average, two members per mile of line, while other utilities nearby may serve many more members per mile of line.

A recent cost-of-service study recommends the charge be set at \$55 to adequately cover set costs. We're proud that we're able to keep our charge much lower than that. In fact, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation's 2018 Key Ratio Trend Analysis showed Mt. Wheeler Power's rate ranked fourth lowest in the nation.

I applaud the diligence of our co-op's board members, who work hard to negotiate cost-effective contracts from affordable, reliable resources and maintain a do-more-with-less attitude to keep costs low for our not-for-profit utility.

Mt. Wheeler Power serves a diverse membership. Some members use a lot of electricity and some very little. Most fit somewhere in between. Whether you use a lot 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 energy delivery charge, which covers basic costs, and the kilowatt-hour charge for the actual electricity used.

I hope this helps you better understand your billing statements. If you still have questions, don't hesitate to contact us. We are always here to serve our members.

Sincerely,

Shellie Watts, Member Service/HR Manager





Board of Directors

F. Scott Egbert
President

Gerald Anderson
Vice President

M Jonathan Dahl
Secretary/Treasurer

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

Director Emeritus

D. Vernon Dalton

Website

www.wrec.coop

Outage Hotline:

800-566-6696
24 hours a day

Carlin office:

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

Wendover office:

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

Wells office:

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

NV-41

\$883 Billion Is a Lot of Money

Census data helped 55 federal agencies decide where to spend \$883,094,826,042 in 2016. That same year, Nevada received \$6,219,293,623, which funded federal programs including education, rural health care, housing, transportation, Community Development Block Grants, adoption assistance and many, many more. For comparison, total state tax collections in 2016 were \$8,025,046,000.

The decennial census is the once-a-decade population and housing count for all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. The results of the census determine the number of seats for each state in the U.S. House of Representatives and are used to draw Congressional and state legislative districts.

The census also measures the nation's economy providing vital statistics for virtually every industry and geographic area in the country. For instance, census data is used to prove that the members of Wells Rural Electric Co. live in areas with a low population density. As a result, WREC qualifies for the Low Density Discount from our wholesale electricity provider, Bonneville Power Administration, which saves you money on your electricity bill every single month.

Answering the census is safe, easy and important.

The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your information only to produce statistics. To protect your safety, the Census Bureau cannot publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you. Your information will never be shared with law enforcement agencies, such as the FBI or local police, or with immigration agencies such as ICE. Census workers must pass a background check and will always have identification badges. If you have any doubts,

you can contact the Census Bureau to verify their identity.

To make responding easy, households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail in mid-March with detailed information on how to respond to the

2020 census. By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate. You can complete a census questionnaire by mail, by phone or online at 2020census.gov.

The goal of the census is to count every person once, only once and in the right place. An accurate count is so important to our communities that several local governments have formed "Complete Count Committees" to encourage every person to respond to the census.

If you haven't completed a census questionnaire by June, census takers will go door-to-door to ensure everyone is counted. In northeastern Nevada, the Census Bureau has only been able to hire about 30% of the people needed to complete the count. If you are interested in working for the Census Bureau, additional information is available at 2020census.gov/jobs. If you are hired, the Census Bureau will provide all necessary training for free. Beware of any person who promises a job with the Census Bureau but asks you to pay for training.

As the 2020 census approaches, we will continue to share information about how you can make sure our community is fully represented. Visit 2020census.gov anytime to get the latest news.

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer





Valley Electric
Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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or 775-727-5312, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday-Friday, except holidays

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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

NV-107

LETTER FROM THE CEO

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

At Valley Electric, 2020 will be a year to focus on rebuilding trust with our members. Last month, we talked about being Member Focused. This month, we concentrate on **Looking Ahead**.



As we look ahead, our commitment is to continue building financial stability. A major component of **Looking Ahead** involves developing sound budgets, strategy and financial forecasts. To assist in that effort, the Finance Committee was formed last fall to give members a voice and oversight. They work alongside staff and board members to review the financials, and they are dedicated to building a sound financial future for our co-op and its members.

In addition, the Finance Committee analyzes fiscal operations, financial statements, and the annual work plan and budget. The interaction between member-owners, staff and the board provides insight and is invaluable to improving Valley Electric's overall financial picture.

To that end, all levels of staff have been engaged in budget planning, strategy, forecasting and implementing these financial goals. Frankly, it's important that we are all pulling together and focused on moving in the same direction. The bottom line is that most of our employees are members. Like you, all of our employees care about the co-op's future well-being.

A second component of **Looking Ahead** is managing our costs. We just concluded our financial audit for 2019. Preliminary results show that we successfully reduced our cash out the door by over \$10 million. While that is definitely good news, much more work remains. **Looking Ahead**, we must continue to find and implement cost control measures that will improve our financial position.

Fortunately, cost control is not the only tool. We are looking to reduce expenditures by taking advantage of process improvements and technology opportunities.

Prior to my arrival, the employees had already done a lot of **Looking Ahead**. I look forward to working with them, the board and members to continue these efforts.

Next month's column will focus on **Leading By Example** to become a best-in-class co-op.

Have a great month,

Mark Stallons
Chief Executive

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

Don’t Be Surprised!



Know what’s below. Call before you dig.

Before picking up a shovel, pick up the telephone. Electric, water, sewer, natural gas, telephone and cable television lines often are buried underground. One wrong move can cause you and your neighbors to be cut off from vital services—or an electric shock or an explosion can cause death or injury to you and others. At least two business days before you plan to dig, call Washington’s one-call center or call your local utilities. Affected utility companies will come out and use color-coded paint to mark the locations of underground utilities. Calling ahead is not just common sense, it’s the law.

Dial 811 toll free to be connected to Washington’s statewide one-call center.





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

District Offices

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

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


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

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

www.otec.coop
communications@otecc.com

Report Outages at

866-430-4265

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

Les Penning, CEO

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

The Future is Bright

As we move into 2020, I want to share the areas your cooperative is focused on to reduce risk, drive operational efficiency, and prepare for changing market and political conditions.

Regardless of technological advancements in our industry, it remains a dangerous business. The safety of our people and the public remains a top priority. We are advancing our approach to public and first-responder safety through new virtual reality training technology, along with new demonstration training equipment for in-the-field training and education for our youth and communities. We educate about many dangers, such as downed power lines, disaster circumstances and other events that place you in harm's way, such as the recent flooding.

Check out our innovative new virtual reality video on safety, created in partnership with local authorities and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, at www.otec.coop/safety.

Even with the recent wholesale power increase from the Bonneville Power Administration, our rates remain competitive. OTEC's average all-inclusive—delivery and energy charge—residential rate is 9.83 cents per kilowatt-hour, compared to the Oregon average of 11.18 cents and the national average of 13.30 cents.

OTEC continues to leverage technology to improve reliability and response times across the system, including updating the software we use to gather and analyze real-time data for outage response, and driving new technologies and procedures through our dispatch center to manage the health of our system.

With warmer and dryer weather approaching, we remain vigilant to the dangers of fires. We have advanced our mitigation plans to continue the protection of more than 3,000 miles of power lines, as well as private and public lands and assets. We appreciate cooperation from agencies and private landowners allowing us to clear

hazard trees outside of our right-of-way that pose a threat to power lines and the public.

As new markets continue to develop, we have advanced projects in community solar and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. We're installing EV high-capacity charging stations to support local and tourist travel through our territory. We also have extended rebate support for member-owners' EV home-charging units.

OTEC is exploring ways to provide our members the option of solar power in addition to clean, renewable, carbon-free hydroelectric power. We are engineering a community solar project that may leverage grants for portions of construction, pending interest and member participation.

Providing community support is vital for who we are as a cooperative. You formed this cooperative to provide you power, and we must stay focused on that core obligation.

We also have great resources to support our communities. We will continue to partner and leverage your dollars to offer support through work-in-kind capital projects, economic development and charitable sponsorships.

Other programs—such as our scholarships and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program, which now serves more than 1,500 children a month—provide an additional level of support.

We will keep you informed on all these areas of focus as we move forward. Please check our website for updates and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Les Penning
CEO



Member-owned since 1921

Ohop Mutual Light Co.

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

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Frank Hoffman, Sec./Treasurer
Rob Collins
Jerry Walter

General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

Don't Be Surprised!



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Before picking up a shovel, pick up the telephone. Electric, water, sewer, natural gas, telephone and cable television lines often are buried underground. One wrong move can cause you and your neighbors to be cut off from vital services—or an electric shock or an explosion can cause death or injury to you and others. At least two business days before you plan to dig, call Washington's one-call center or call your local utilities. Affected utility companies will come out and use color-coded paint to mark the locations of underground utilities. Calling ahead is not just common sense, it's the law.

**Dial 811 toll free to be connected to
Washington's statewide one-call center.**



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

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Nick Himebauch

Controller

Steve Chamberlin

Executive Assistant

Lisa Peabody

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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

Apply for TEC Scholarships

Local High School Scholarships

Tanner Electric Cooperative has a vested interest in the youth of today because they will determine our nation's tomorrow. This is why we provide learning opportunities and scholarships to our young people, encouraging them however we can.

The TEC board has elected to grant one \$1,000 scholarship annually to a graduating senior in each of the three TEC service areas. To be eligible, applicants must be a graduating senior and a full-time dependent of a current TEC member. More details and an application can be found at www.tannerelectric.coop. All applications must be received in the TEC office by April 1, 2020.

Allan Billett Memorial Lineworker Scholarship

Do you want an exciting and rewarding career? Electrical line work may be for you.

Nearly every American depends on electricity to function in today's society. Lineworkers are the backbone of the electric utility industry.

The TEC Board of Directors authorized and established the Allan Billett Memorial Lineman Scholarship in 2009. TEC offers one \$4,000 scholarship annually to a qualified student or individual interested in pursuing a career in the line construction trade and attending an accredited line college.

To apply, the applicant must be at least 17 years of age and a resident of Anderson Island or the Snoqualmie Valley area. An application, job description and requirements can be found at www.tannerelectric.coop. All applications must be received in the TEC office by April 1, 2020.

Visit our website and apply today!

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT DECISION UPHOLDS KING COUNTY
ORDINANCE TO CHARGE UTILITIES "RENT"
TO USE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY.**

To read the full details please visit:

www.tannerelectric.coop/sites/tanner/files/TannerElec_proof_KingCountyMemo.pdf



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- Elaine Walter - Treasurer
- Mark Mulder - Public Relations

GENERAL MANAGER

Susan Cutrell

Incorporated in 1914—
The country's oldest
mutual cooperative

Elect a Board Trustee at the Annual Meeting

Dr. Mark Mulder was selected from a group of applicants and appointed to fill an open position on the board on May 29, 2019. He has served in the Public Relations Board position and worked on many projects identified in the PL&W Strategic Plan since his appointment. He is running for election to the regular five-year term.

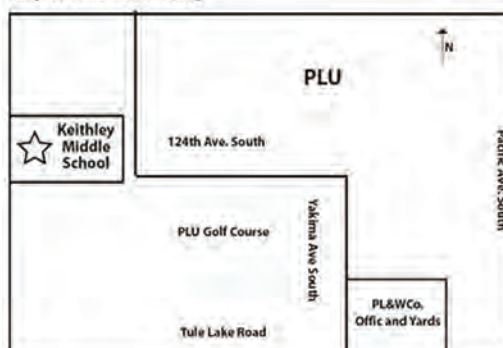


As a proud Parkland resident, Mark brings unique experience in business, education and community leadership to the board. Mark serves as a professor of business administration (marketing) at Pacific Lutheran University and teaches in the MBA, master of science in marketing analytics, innovation, nonprofit and undergraduate business programs. He has been recognized locally and nationally for community leadership, commitment to education, and research projects. Mark also volunteers his skills as a business and marketing educator/consultant with local and global nonprofits and business organizations. An advocate for clean water, he has served to collaborate with communities while completing clean-water well projects in eight rural locations in Nicaragua and Honduras. Offering more than 20 years of experience in Parkland as well as business and research expertise, he welcomes the opportunity to continue to serve our community on the PL&W board.

The open position on the board is for a regular five-year term. Candidates can be nominated from the floor during the annual meeting. Members are encouraged to attend the meeting and vote for the candidate of their choice. PL&W needs member participation to remain a strong, functioning mutual utility.

Please attend your annual meeting Tuesday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m. at Keithley Middle School, 12324 12th Ave. South, Tacoma. A special invitation is extended to those who have never attended. The annual meeting is more than a business meeting. It is a celebration of the membership.

Map to Annual Meeting





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

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

Please call to report outages
503-728-2163

Automated Secure Payment Center
1-844-262-2431

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 #16049010
If this is your account number,
please call the office to claim your
prize. Congratulations!

Community Calendar

March 5: Clatskanie Chamber Meeting
Noon at Colvins
March 12: Rainier Chamber Meeting
Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church
March 13: Keep it Local Columbia County
Job Fair - 555 Commons Drive, St. Helens
9 am - 1 pm
March 18: Clatskanie PUD Board
Meeting - Workshop at 5:30 pm, followed
by regular board meeting at 7 pm.
Save the Date!
Clatskanie Bulky Waste Day will be
Saturday, April 4th 8 am to Noon

OR-60

One of the main focuses of the Clatskanie PUD strategic plan is our system-wide initiative to ensure safe and reliable delivery of electricity. I would like to share with you what we have completed, are currently working on, and will be doing in our ongoing efforts to provide excellent service. We have implemented improvement strategies that include a rotating five-year cycle Pole Inspection/Test/Treatment Program, and a Vegetation Management Program. Both of these programs provide safety and reliability for our system, customers, and staff. We are several years into the rotation and have seen an increase in reliability in the areas that have been completed.



The District conducted an audit of our distribution system in 2017, and will now undertake an audit for pole attachments in 2020. Our contractor, Davey Resource Group, will begin the pole attachments audit in March and should finish by the end of June. Over the next three years we will use the results of the two audits to clean up our system of any identified meter issues, PUC violations that we discover that are by us or communications companies attaching to our poles, or customer issues that resulted in violations. We will then resolve any issues, problems, or violations that are discovered. It is our intent to fulfill the strategic objective of having a system that is as safe and reliable as possible, and free from any problems or violations that would keep us from accomplishing our goals.

We are also constantly upgrading our equipment to maintain the highest standard of safety for our customers and the crew working on the lines. These upgrades will not only increase safety, but will reduce outages and ensure we are providing the level of service our customers deserve. The equipment upgrades include transformers, wire, poles, and meters. The next phase of this undertaking will include replacing our aging meter system, which has exceeded its life expectancy. The majority of our meters are over 40 years old and we are experiencing a significant rise in meter failures. Upgrading our meter system will include replacing our old electric mechanical meters with new solid state digital meters.

In preparation for this three year change-out we will be fixing any meter system issues and resolving any other violations prior to the meter being installed. This will begin in March and will continue through the installation process which will begin this summer. We will send a letter to each customer prior to us visiting your residence or business to make arrangements for repairs, and then notify you of the installation. Installing the meters will require a momentary outage as will pull the old meter and install the new one.

This initiative is part of our continued efforts to provide safer and more reliable electric service to our customers by ensuring that all of our distribution and transmission system infrastructure meets both the District's and Public Utility Commission standards for safety and accessibility. We appreciate your patience and support as we embark on this important upgrade of our system.

Marc Farmer, General Manager



KOTZEBUE
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

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

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Harold Short

General Manager/CEO

Martin Shroyer

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

AK-64

Notice to Members Regarding 2020 KEA Annual Meeting

The Kotzebue Electric Association 2020 Annual Meeting is Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

The George Francis Nominating Committee met February 10 to nominate KEA members to run for the Kotzebue Electric Association Board of Directors.

Ballots were mailed to members on March 1, and are due at the Kotzebue office by April 3 at 5 p.m.



Don't miss the Kotzebue Electric Annual Meeting, where you can learn about what your co-op is doing, enjoy a free meal and possibly win a prize.



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Mountain Village

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Phyllis Clough, Old Harbor
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board@avec.org

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

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



AK-105

Your Ballot is In the Mail!

AVEC's annual meeting is around the corner - April 8, 2020. At this meeting, your votes will be announced and you will elect two candidates to fill the board seats that are currently held by Robert Beans and Robert Hoffman. The nominating committee, which consists of seven of your community delegates, has forwarded the following candidates for your consideration.

Robert Beans, Mt. Village
Neil Furuya, Yakutat
Homer T. Hunter Jr., Scammon Bay
Myron P. Naneng, Sr., Bethel

Darren Cleveland, Quinhagak
Robert Hoffman, Bethel
Fred Tom Hurley, Jr., Ekwok
Dalarie Peters, Bethel

In addition to voting for two candidates, your ballot includes three Bylaw propositions:

No. 1: One Year Terms for Alternate Delegates: Community delegates (primary, first alternate and second alternate) are elected for a term of three years. Alternates attend the AVEC Annual Meeting if the community delegate cannot attend. When alternate delegates are also unavailable or no longer live in the village, communities may not be represented at the annual AVEC meeting. Electing alternates every year makes it more likely that all AVEC communities are represented at the annual meeting.

No. 2: Changes to the Nominating Committee: The Bylaws require a nominating committee of seven community delegates to recommend candidates for the Board of Directors. It has been challenging to find enough individuals willing to serve on the committee. This amendment would allow the appointment of former delegates (including alternates) who attended the AVEC annual meeting in the past three years and also changes the committee size to five to seven members instead of exactly seven members.

No. 3: Village Meeting Quorum: Currently the quorum for annual community meetings is 10% of the members or 10 members, whichever is greater. This amendment would set the quorum at 10% at a minimum of 10 members and a maximum of 50 members. In larger communities with more than 500 members, it is very challenging to get a quorum for the annual community meetings. The annual meeting in Anchorage requires a quorum of 50 members, as do most cooperatives in Alaska, so capping the quorum for community annual meetings at 50 is consistent with our industry and Alaska law.

You have been mailed biographies of the eight board candidates with your ballot and more detail on the proposed Bylaw amendments. The Board urges you to exercise your right to vote and to send your ballot in before the deadline of April 7, 2020. And don't forget to sign the outside of the envelope before dropping it in the mail!

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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Jess Urionaguena, Treasurer
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Karen Rollings

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Cort Cortez

Public Relations Manager

Theresa Phillips

IT Manager

Nick Dominguez

Senior Accountant

Catherine Schroeder

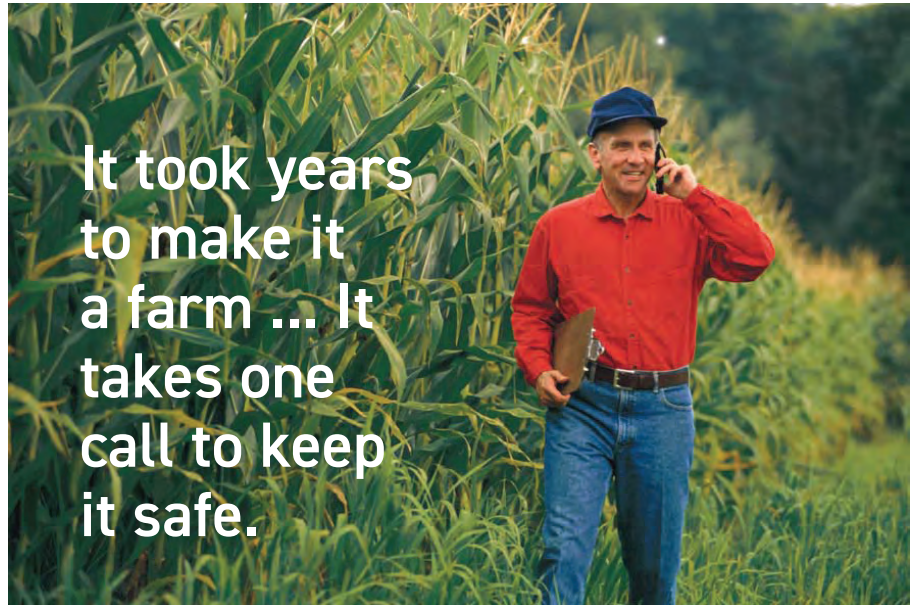
Customer Service Supervisor

Christina M. Nystrom

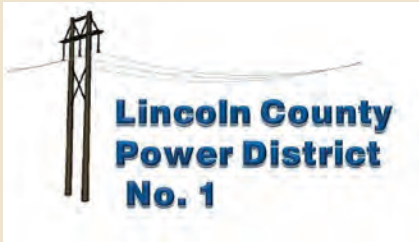
In case of an outage: If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 257-4174. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. After-hours and weekend calls are answered by a local service and immediately forwarded to standby personnel.

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

CA-106



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



Lincoln County Power District No. 1

201 Bullionville Road
Panaca, Nevada 89042

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

Email: lcpd.@lcpd1.com

DIRECTORS

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

General Manager

David Luttrell

Board meets the second Tuesday of each month.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

NV-107

Can Electric Vehicles Work In Lincoln County?

In recent years, Nevada has pushed to “electrify” its highways by installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Gov. Sisolak recently held a ribbon cutting event at a new charging station in Mesquite, declaring I-15—with additional public charging stations in Jean, Las Vegas and Moapa—EV friendly.

Using grant funds from the Governor’s Office of Energy, the Lincoln and Alamo Power Districts installed public charging stations in Panaca and Alamo. Gov. Sisolak and former Gov. Brian Sandoval have pushed to electrify our highways to prepare for the expected increase in electric vehicles. With improvements in battery design, decreased costs, and public charging becoming more available, the number of EVs on the roads keeps increasing.

In 2018, 361,000 electric vehicles were sold in the U.S. That’s a little under 2% of all light vehicle (car and truck) sales in 2018. Some economists predict 20% of vehicle sales being electric by 2030. More conservative economists put the number closer to 12%. Either way, that’s a lot of EVs.

All of this has made us wonder, would an electric vehicle work in Lincoln County? Clearly, if you need a vehicle for long road trips or if you drive more than 200 miles a day, it may not. Who wants to drive to Cedar City, do their shopping and then wait while their vehicle charges so they can drive home? Even at what is called a “DC fast charging station.” The charge time could be 30 minutes to an hour.

But researchers say an electric vehicle can save you money if you drive fewer than 50 miles a day. A 2018 study from the University of Michigan’s Transportation Research Institute found that EVs cost less than half as much to operate as gas-powered cars. The average cost to operate an EV in the United States is \$485 per year, while the average for a gasoline-powered vehicle is \$1,117.

Using our rates for electric energy, the AAA-listed price for gas in Nevada and published information on maintenance costs, we did our own comparison of the 2020 Nissan Rouge and a comparably equipped 2020 Nissan Leaf Plus. The list price of the Rouge is \$25,300, and the Leaf Plus is \$37,500. But the Leaf qualifies for a \$7,500 federal tax rebate. With these variables, we calculated the annual operating cost of driving 10,000 miles a year for each vehicle. The Rouge came in at \$1,242 and the Leaf at \$436.


If you have multiple vehicles and use one mainly to drive around Lincoln County, an EV will save you money. At the Power District, we have a 2007 Expedition with more than 200,000 miles that we use to read meters, drive to local meetings and run errands around town. We plan to replace it this summer with a 2020 Nissan Leaf Plus, which will save our ratepayers money.

We invite our customers to take a ride with us. We want you to learn from our experience so you can decide if one might work for you.

David Luttrell, General Manager





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

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Ted Case

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LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

Rachel Kloor

OREGON ELECTRIC CO-OPS

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

OR-400

Case in Point

Oregon's electric cooperative leaders are some of the friendliest people I have encountered. They are reasonable, courteous to a fault and slow to anger. It takes a lot to rile them up—things such as, well, taking away their clean, affordable power supply. Amazingly, that's been proposed. We are extremely disappointed with Gov. Kate Brown's decision to support breaching the four lower Snake River dams. The Snake River dams are an amazing resource for us, producing more than 1,000 average megawatts of reliable, carbon-free energy—enough energy for more than 800,000 Northwest homes.

Gov. Brown's decision, made without consulting those of us who have paid for these dams, will have severe consequences for our mission of providing affordable, reliable electricity for more than a half-million Oregonians.

It is mind-boggling that during a serious legislative debate on carbon reduction, Gov. Brown supports a course of action that is estimated to increase CO₂ emissions by more than 2 million metric tons every year. This output is approximately the emissions at the Boardman coal plant and the equivalent of adding 421,000 passenger cars to the region's roads each year.

The state of Oregon claims it is serious about addressing climate change. If that is true, it is moving in the wrong direction.

Furthermore, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council—to which Gov. Brown appointed two Oregon members—has concluded the Northwest power supply becomes inadequate as early as next year. Taking out the lower Snake River dams, which help keep our region's power and transmission systems in balance, could lead to blackouts for Oregonians.

Through our rates, we have invested billions of dollars in fish programs. These programs are working, with 96% survival rates through the dams. We should be building on this success story, not tearing down dams.

Electric co-op leaders may disagree with Gov. Brown on this issue, yet throughout this disagreement they will be reasonable and courteous. But I tell you another thing for certain: They will also be heard.



Ted Case

Executive Director

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- Tom Firth, President
- Stephan Lauzier, Vice President
- Steven Silkotch, Secretary
- Harold Burdick, Treasurer
- Chilli Ainsworth
- Ryall Stewart
- Michael Machado

General Manager

Kevin Short

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

March and April
Congratulations!

- ▶ Tami Slusher 29 years
- ▶ Jennifer Williams 6 years
- ▶ Shawn Trento 4 years

IMPORTANT DATES

- ▶ March 8—Daylight saving time begins.
- ▶ May 20—Director petitions due.
- ▶ July 18—Annual Membership Meeting.

Easy Money

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

AZ-56 Postmaster: Send address changes to Currents, 5625 NE Elam Young Pkwy. Ste. 100, Hillsboro, OR 97124

A Message from the Manager

2020: The View From Here

New years are always filled with a sense of anticipation. There's something liberating and even energizing in starting with a clean slate and an empty calendar. It seems liberating to have a whole 12 months of clear schedule ahead. Of course, there are always appointments to be made and meetings to attend, but it still feels fresh and new, at least for a little while.

This newness, along with the onset of spring, can bring a renewed sense of purpose to our lives.

2020 has begun with a sense of renewed purpose for us at Anza Electric. We have several important projects underway, ranging from new substation equipment to the second phase of our SunAnza solar project to substantial completion of our ConnectAnza broadband service installation. The vision that drives these projects from conception toward completion is both simple and clear: better and expanded service for our members. That's what we do.

What about you? What gives you a sense of renewed purpose? Do the approaching warmer months awake your creativity, leading to new fun projects at home? How about finally completing some of those projects that have been unfinished for a long time? This is one of my personal goals. Does nicer weather make you want to get out in the garden and plow through some weeds?

Share your new year stories with us on our Facebook page.

Looking ahead with clear vision, we can see that our shared future, once again, is full of potential. Our community is a vibrant and energetic example of shared experience and involvement. This interaction is a perfect, clear-eyed illustration of how well we can work together.

Happy spring to everyone!



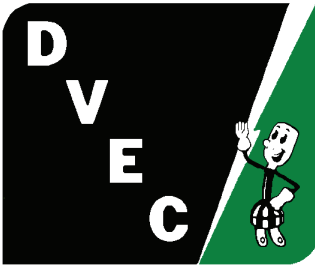
Kevin Short



ANZA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 391909 • Anza, CA 92539

Phone: 951-763-4333 • Fax: 951-763-5297 • aec@anzaelectric.org • www.anzaelectric.org
Our crew is on standby 24 hours a day. To report an outage or other service problem, please call 951-763-4333.



**Duncan Valley
Electric
Cooperative Inc.**

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

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Vance Lee
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Dustie Robinette

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Steven Lunt
CEO

BOARD MEETINGS

March 16
April 20
May 18
*Generally the third Monday
of the month*

Owned By Those We Serve—
Incorporated June 1947



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The power of human connections

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

DVEC 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

Your Energy, Your Future

April 22, 2020

Brubaker Gymnasium, Duncan Elementary School

MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 5PM

DOOR PRIZES

Must be present to win.

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

Registration for Continuing
Education Scholarship accepted at
Annual Meeting Registration! *

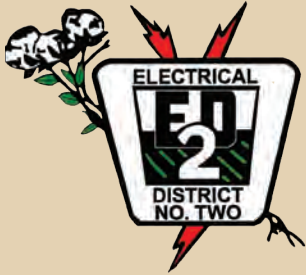
ENTERTAINMENT

Duncan Events Dance Studio

* For more info on the Continuing
Education Scholarship, please see the
DVEC Facebook page!

Registration will begin at 4:00pm and will continue until the drawing for the door prizes begins.

Refreshments will be served.



Electrical District No. 2

P.O. Box 548
Coolidge, AZ 85128

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

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

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

AZ-144 **Postmaster:** Send address changes to Currents, 5625 NE Elam Young Pkwy., Ste 100 Hillsboro, OR 97124

Maintain Your Equipment

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



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

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

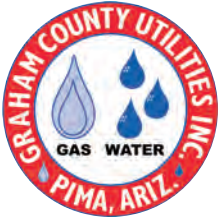
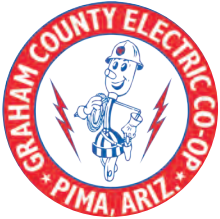
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Kirk Gray



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Manager's Message

Thank You, Members

On December 4, 2019, the Graham County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors approved a staff recommendation to retire patronage capital totaling \$358,793.51. The patronage retirement represents a 100% retirement of 1973 margins and patronage capital of \$180,815.46. The remaining \$177,978.05 represents Arizona Electric Power Cooperative's partial patronage capital retirements for 2015, 2016 and 2017. Watch for your check in the mail. Checks should be sent out by March 31.

GCEC has an equity management policy that requires management to maintain at least a 40% equity position. I am pleased to report that GCEC will maintain the members' equity after the retirement at almost 50%.

Staff's recommendation to the board of directors was to use a hybrid method to retire patronage capital. As AEPCO retires GCEC patronage capital, GCEC in turn retires the G&T patronage allocations listed on your individual allocation notices.

GCEC also retires the earliest whole year eligible for retirement—in this case, 1973. This process is unique to the cooperative business model in that we are a not-for-profit entity designed to serve our members with electric utility service. This concept is incorporated into the third Cooperative Principle: Members' Economic Participation. This principle states, "Members contribute equitably to, and



democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, setting up reserves, benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative, and supporting other activities approved by the membership."

For more information on patronage capital, visit www.gce.coop. Any patronage retirement that remains unclaimed after two years is remitted to Graham County Electric

Cooperative Foundation Inc., which supports several important community programs. GCECF funds the Washington Youth Tour program, the cooperative's high school scholarship program and the cooperative utility assistance program. These are examples of "supporting other activities approved by the membership."

The board of directors and staff of GCEC want to extend a sincere "thank you" to the membership for participating in the cooperative business model and for making it possible to enrich the lives of those we serve. As described in our mission statement, "We are committed to provide safe, reliable and efficient resources to enhance the lives of our members and the communities we serve."

—Kirk Gray

Florida Currents

March 2020 • Volume 9, No. 5

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Message From the CEO

Why Do We Promote Energy Efficiency?

In my career working within the electric cooperative network, there have been several questions I get asked repeatedly. One of the common questions is: “Why would the electric cooperative promote the conservation of electricity when they are in the business of selling electricity?”

Since last month’s message was about conserving energy, I thought I would take this opportunity to explain why that is important to our membership.

There are many reasons to promote energy efficiency, but they all boil down to this: It is good for the members we serve. Saving money on your power bill puts more dollars in your pocket to buy other goods and services you value.

Let’s face it, money spent on electricity to keep your food cold in the refrigerator and to cool your house in the summertime—although important—isn’t nearly as memorable as spending money on dinner at your favorite restaurant and tickets to the latest box office hit. In turn, the purchase of those goods and services helps the local economy, leading to more positives for our membership.

Another reason it is important to promote conservation is because a rise in electricity use requires an expansion of the power grid. These increases may include more power transformers, 7,200-volt distribution lines, substations, 115,000-volt transmission lines and could call for the development of additional sources of power generation. This translates into a higher cost for electricity.

Aside from the benefit of saving money on your power bill, energy conservation also allows us to do our part to conserve natural resources and be good stewards of our environment.

Ultimately, we want you—our members—to have the electricity you need, when you need it and still have more money in your pocket. ■



Ryan C. Campbell, P.E.



Carrying On a Family Tradition

Up Close, Page 10

Life’s a Zoo

Spotlight, Page 12

The Power of Peanuts

In the Kitchen, Page 16

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Adventure	20	Gardening	24
Utility Pages: 4-8, 25-26, 28-29, 32			



FKEC NEWS

MARCH 2020

www.FKEC.com

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Pay by Phone 1-855-385-9912

www.FKEC.com

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 377, Tavernier, FL 33070

MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

FKEC's Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, April 25 at Coral Shores High School. The family fun event is open to all FKEC members.

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

Remembering Our Roots

It is hard to believe, but only eight decades ago there was no centralized electricity in the Upper and Middle Keys. As Florida Keys Electric Cooperative celebrates 80 years in operation, and I proudly serve as the eighth CEO/General Manager, I'd like to share with current generations the vision and persistence it took our founders to bring power to our islands.

In the 1930s, a few privately owned generating plants provided a limited number of homes and businesses with electricity for a few hours a day. However, incorporated service had been deemed impractical by the Florida Emergency Relief Administration.

Luckily, local residents disagreed. After the formation of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) and the 1935 Hurricane (which ultimately led to the creation of the Overseas Highway), there was enough boom in population to prompt Keys residents to start the journey toward reliable power service.

In 1939, it was challenging to obtain the 300 memberships required by the REA to form a cooperative utility. Many residents still believed it was impractical; others hesitated because the organization required a \$5 membership fee, paid in advance. To meet the quota, some eager and dedicated



SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

members purchased multiple memberships.

Thanks to the vision and determination of the founding leaders, on January 22, 1940, the Florida Keys Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. was certified by the Florida Secretary of State with an office address of the "Marathon Grocery, Marathon, Florida."

In April of 1941, Chairperson John A. Russell obtained a partial loan of \$50,000 from the REA to start the construction of lines. A few months later the co-op purchased the generation holdings of FP&L and McKenzie as well as land to construct a plant in Tavernier. With all the equipment in place, FKEC went online on December 1, 1942.

We've come a long way in 80 years. A lot has changed, but we are proud to maintain that same sense of cooperative and community spirit on which we were founded.



Tavernier, 1930s - McKenzie's 50-horsepower generator behind what is now the Tavernier Inn.

GLADES

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

CONTACT US

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

OFFICES

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

214 SR 70 West
Lake Placid, FL 33852

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

POWER INTERRUPTION NUMBER

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

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Lake Josephine, 863-414-3833
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Venus and Hicoria, 239-247-4508
Lee Henderson, Trustee, District 6
Highlands Park, 863-633-9281
Angela Hodges, Trustee, District 9
Okeechobee, 863-801-3140

The Board's next meeting is at 9 a.m. March 24 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

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

FL-153

Join Us Saturday, March 21

We are getting close to our 75th Annual Meeting! I again want to extend an invitation to you to attend on March 21 at Moore Haven Middle-High School. Registration is from 8 to 9:45 a.m.

Hearing your concerns from last year's event, we've made some changes, and I've been reminded to make sure I tell you so. The first on the list is the elimination of the fleet of golf carts. They were one of the most expensive activities of the annual meetings, coupled with the labor required to operate. With our focus on the safety of our members and employees, the golf carts have always been our Achilles heel. We've now eliminated that danger and reduced costs to our membership.

Upon registering for the event, you will receive a \$10 billing credit and a special commemorative item in honor of your cooperative's 75th anniversary. To register and get these valuable gifts along with a coupon for more valuable prizes, you must have a picture ID to verify your membership. Please bring a copy of the QR code found on your monthly bill to make the registration process easier for you.

At the annual meeting, you have the privilege to fulfill the Second Cooperative Principle of Democratic Member Control through your vote in support of the cooperative's Trustees. Can you imagine having that power at Duke Energy or FPL? That privilege is available only in locally owned and locally supported cooperatives. Although you will see we have an uncontested slate of Trustees, I ask you to come out and give them your support.

Serving as a Trustee of a rural electric cooperative is not an easy task. It takes a significant personal sacrifice to devote the time required to meet the demands of the position. Trustees field daily calls from members, take a half day off work each month to attend Board meetings and often attend other meetings throughout the month to represent the co-op. Completing the education requirements to maintain a Trustee's eligibility is tough and time-intensive, too. The cost to educate a Trustee to the minimal level of competence in this field is \$25,000. It benefits the cooperative to have continuity.

I've written a little about voting. I want to encourage you to use this special privilege not only at your annual meeting, but in this year's state and national elections. Four years ago, the members of rural electric cooperatives made their voices heard. Let's do it again. CO-OPS VOTE!

See you March 21.



Jeff Brewington



Gulf Coast
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICES

722 West Highway 22
P. O. Box 220
Wewahitchka, FL 32465

9434 Highway 77
Southport, FL 32409

www.gcec.com

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

John Bartley

TRUSTEES

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

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

ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNT/ REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

Access your account or report a power outage 24 hours a day, seven days a week by visiting www.gcec.com or phoning our automated system:

Southport:
850-265-3634; 800-568-3667

Wewahitchka:
850-639-2216; 800-333-9392

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

72nd Annual Meeting Scheduled for May 2

Your ballot for the 2020 annual meeting will arrive in your mailbox soon. Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative's 72nd Annual Meeting is Saturday, May 2, at our Wewahitchka headquarters.

At one time, a member had to attend the annual meeting to vote. Unfortunately, situations arose that made it impossible for some members to attend. To afford more GCEC members the opportunity to participate in the democratic process part of the annual meeting, members now may vote by mail or online.

It is important that you participate in your cooperative. When your ballot arrives, we encourage you to vote in one of the following ways:

- **Internet.** Vote online at <https://gcec.coopballot.com>. Follow the online instructions to place your vote on the secure website. Please make sure you have your voting PIN handy. That is on the paper ballot enclosed in your packet.
- **Paper.** Vote via the U.S. Postal Service by completing the ballot in your packet and returning it in the postage-paid envelope included with election materials. Your ballot is mailed to a third party, which is conducting the voting process on behalf of the cooperative. We do not have access to completed ballots, and are unable to accept ballots hand-delivered to our offices.

In appreciation of your time, we will credit \$5 to your electric account for participating. The cooperative also will work with the third party handling the election to randomly select 40 ballot PINs. These members will receive \$25 gift cards in the mail. We will randomly select 10 members to receive \$100 electric bill credits. These members need to visit one of our offices to redeem the credit.

The election will close 10 days before the annual meeting on May 2. The meeting begins at 8 a.m. Central and concludes around 11 a.m. We will have complimentary refreshments, children's activities and live music. Don't forget to bring the ticket enclosed in your voting packet so you can register to win prizes given away at the meeting.

I encourage you to take a part in the meeting. Each member has a voice in the operations of GCEC, and those voices need to be heard. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact us.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you.



Doug Birmingham

GCEC's office lobbies will be closed 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, March 6, for Employee Appreciation Day.



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.preco.coop
800-282-3824

TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

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

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Wauchula, FL 33873

MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

14505 Arbor Green Trail
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

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District 7

CHRIS PORTALE

District 8

ELLEN BACHMAN
VICE PRESIDENT

District 9

WILLIE DAWES
PRESIDENT

BOARD MEETINGS

March 24, 2020

April 21, 2020

May 19, 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

You Are Invited to Join Us!

On behalf of Peace River Electric Cooperative, I would like to invite you to attend your annual meeting Saturday, March 21, at PRECO Park in Wauchula. Each year, we look forward to hosting our members because every PRECO member is a VIP in our eyes.

The annual meeting is a place to learn about the many programs PRECO offers and meet co-op employees. Plus, we get to hear from our members and learn how we can better serve them in the future.

During the business meeting, we will update you on several key issues and present a state-of-the-cooperative address.

This year's annual meeting is special. We are celebrating our 80th anniversary.

We got our start in 1940 when a group of local citizens banded together to form its own electric cooperative. Back then, investor-owned utilities wouldn't bring power to rural areas because building miles of new line to a sparse population would have reduced their profits. Still today, PRECO is owned by the members it serves and not by faraway investors like for-profit utilities.

We are governed by a democratically elected board of directors entrusted to serve you. Our directors are members of your community. They are concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them, too. Don't forget: Every member of the board is a PRECO member and receives electric service from PRECO.

For eight decades, PRECO has worked hard to put members first by providing



safe and reliable electric service. We will continue to remain dedicated to putting members first as we look forward to providing service to our community for the next 80 years.

Please make it a point to join us at the annual meeting. Each registered member account receives a \$10 electric bill credit and a chance to win great door prizes.

Randy Shaw

Local Lawmakers Play Key Role to Help Our Rural Communities

Washington 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 lawmakers like our senators and representatives from Louisiana.

I want to personally thank Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-LA-2), Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA-4), Rep. Ralph Lee Abraham (R-LA-5) and Rep. Clay Higgins (R-LA-3) for cosponsoring the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands (RURAL) Act. In addition to these representatives, I also want to thank Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA), Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA-6) and Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA-1) for supporting this bill and helping pass it into law.

These senators and representatives listened to thousands of electric cooperative stakeholders as they fought tirelessly to add important legislation to the 2020 spending bill. The bill was signed into law in December, and included a provision known as the RURAL Act, which solved a central 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. 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



Jeff Arnold

across Louisiana don't have to make those tradeoffs.

This is good news for both co-ops and their members because some co-ops would have had to raise electric rates to pay new taxes.

We at the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives are extremely grateful to our Louisiana senators and representatives for their support of the RURAL Act. In standing up for Louisiana's local communities, they proved 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. 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 for looking out for rural communities across Louisiana, and thank you for working with us to solve this problem.

— ALEC CEO Jeff Arnold

Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc.

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Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative Inc.



You Belong Here, and We Need You

Cooperatives count on their members' participation, page 6

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In the Kitchen 12



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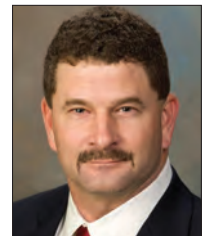
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The Commitment of an Electric Lineworker

National studies consistently rank power line workers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.



Kevin Turner

Beauregard Electric's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires them to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other to get the job done safely.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be even more difficult.

In Southwest Louisiana and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities, serving on local advisory boards and being active members in our local churches.

Monday, April 13, is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Beauregard Electric's lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about town, please offer them a thank you as well.

Kevin Turner
EVP, General Manager



12525 Hwy. 9, Homer, LA 71040
 Phone: 318-927-3504
 www.our.coop

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Manager's Message

Every April, Claiborne Electric's members have the chance to gather and conduct business at our Annual Membership Meeting. At this year's meeting, it is critical to have a quorum in attendance because we have an important vote on proposed bylaw amendments.

One of the most important things about a Co-op is the democratic nature of the business. Decisions are made by you, the members. Please don't take that responsibility lightly. Attend the meeting and participate in the democratic process of voting.

In the January/February edition of Louisiana Country, we presented the proposed amendments and explained how the changes would affect the bylaws. In this edition, we present the information again on pages 20-21, as well as pages 8-9 of the inserted annual report. I urge members to get familiar with these proposals.

I would encourage members to vote yes for these proposed changes. Along with the Board of Directors, I believe these changes will simplify language and processes. We also believe these changes will increase member participation and transparency in Board elections. Because these proposed amendments are interconnected, we are asking members to vote collectively on the changes.

It is important for members to know they need to present photo identification at the meeting to register and vote. Members should understand how their account is listed at the Co-op, because the person who registers and presents ID at the meeting must be the primary member on the account. For instance, if a residential account is listed in a husband's name, the wife will not be able to come in alone and present her ID to register and vote.

If a member cannot attend the meeting and the spouse wants to come register and vote, the Co-op offers joint memberships, where either spouse can present ID and represent that membership at the meeting. To change an account to a joint membership, members can visit a Claiborne Electric office before the Annual Meeting. A joint membership is still one membership—spouses will need to determine jointly how they wish to cast their one vote.

An organization that is a member of the Co-op may designate a person to attend the meeting to register on behalf of that organization and cast a ballot. At registration, that person will need to present a letter on the organization's letterhead signed by the leader of the organization naming them as the representative for the organization.

I look forward to this meeting every year. I enjoy seeing our members face to face and getting the chance to talk with so many of you. I look forward to seeing you there!



Mark Brown

Mark Brown
 CEO, General Manager

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

We are building a database for electronic communication with our members. When we have important news or information, we would like to reach our members quickly through email. We promise not to fill your inbox!

For your chance to win, email the following to Win200@our.coop:

- Name
- Account number
- Email address

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

All members with an email address on file will be entered in each drawing.

Winners will be contacted by email with instructions to claim the credit.

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



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 337-824-8936 (fax)
 Branch office:
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 337-598-5700

www.jdec.org

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We Play a Vital Role, But You Must Guide Us



Michael Heinen

Most consumers would not equate active involvement with their electric company with helping their community. But Jefferson Davis Electric Co-op is not an ordinary utility company. We're a co-op.

Our business model is meant to serve the members and the community in which we operate—not to make a hefty profit for investors five states away.

JDEC's customers are more than consumers, they are members of the cooperative. Herein lies the difference.

As a co-op, we are motivated by service to the community. After meeting our annual expenses, we invest any extra money back into the co-op and the wider community. We depend on the guidance and perspective of our members and board of directors to help set priorities for the co-op and guide governance decisions.

Our longtime director, Claude Breaux, has announced he plans to retire from the board at our annual meeting in July after serving 22 years. As director for District 5, he has made it his mission and purpose to provide JDEC members with safe, reliable and affordable power.

I want to thank Claude for his service and dedication to the membership and employees of Jeff Davis Electric Co-op.

Our board of directors is comprised of members who live and work in our service area. They are in a position to know where community investments are most needed.

At our annual meeting, we raise issues for voting consideration by the general membership. During the annual meeting, you will decide who fills the District 5 seat that will be vacant upon Claude's retirement. I hope you will consider

Please consider running for the soon-to-be vacant District 5 position on the JDEC Board of Directors.

running for the District 5 director's seat for our co-op. Information about how to qualify for the board—based on our bylaws—is on page 5.

Your cooperative has numerous ongoing programs that impact the community. JDEC is controlled by members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. This is why we value your participation in our annual meeting—Monday, July 13, 2020—and in other co-op events.

Every summer we participate in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour program. With guidance from the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, we take local high school students to the nation's capital to meet with lawmakers, enabling students to learn firsthand how our democracy works.

We also participate in community programs and charitable organizations.

The decisions and criteria for determining which programs we are involved with are based on member guidance and feedback.

We recognize the vital role JDEC plays in energizing our local economy. But to continue to innovate and more effectively serve the community, we rely on you, our members, to provide guidance.

We value your perspective, and cannot operate effectively and help our community thrive without you.

Please let your voice be heard. Weigh in at the annual meeting and consider joining our board of directors.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting on July 13.

Michael Heinen
General Manager



**PANOLA-HARRISON
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Kathy Wood

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- District 2: Albert Tiller** | President
- District 3: Jay Goswick** | Treasurer
- District 5: Debbie Burch**
- District 6: Jerry L. Holmes** | Vice President
- District 7: Gene Stough**

Year organized: 1937
Counties and parishes served:
Harrison, Panola, Caddo and Desoto
Connected meters: 19,854
Members: 13,684
Energized line: 2,465 miles distribution;
72 miles transmission

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

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Thank You, Lineworkers



Kathy Wood

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But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Panola-Harrison Electric's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones.

Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers.

The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

To perform their jobs successfully,

lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other to get the job done safely. Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

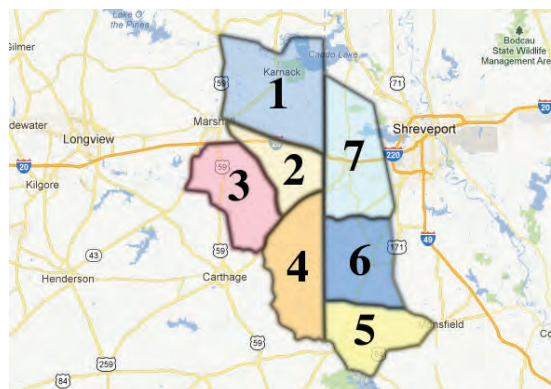
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Across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op.

Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities, serving on local advisory boards and being active in local churches.

Lineworker Appreciation Day is Monday, April 13. Given the dedication of PHEC's lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment to acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in town, please offer them a thank-you as well.

Kathy Wood, General Manager



BILL PAYMENT INFORMATION

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



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Come Visit Friends Old and New at Your Annual Meeting



Joseph A. Ticheli

You likely already know several good reasons to attend SLECA's Annual Membership Meeting April 17 at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center: to hear about the latest developments at

SLECA, receive reports on the organization's financial health, meet with directors and employees, and maybe win a door prize!

Some of the meeting's less tangible benefits may not have occurred to you. In our fast-paced hyperconnected world, casual human interaction has become strikingly unusual. We encounter automated phone menus when accessing many services, schedule appointments online, use apps to order groceries and restaurant deliveries, and even use social media as the primary way to keep up with many loved ones and friends.

While these technological innovations afford modern convenience and bridge gaps in geography—enabling us to maintain ties that otherwise may fray—the increasing relegation of socializing and errand-running to the digital realm can, ironically, leave us feeling disconnected.

We may have more “friends,” but those friendships are perhaps shallower than relationships nurtured in real life.

Here's where SLECA's Annual Meeting comes in. It presents a unique opportunity for neighbors to gather with one another and connect over conversation, coffee, a meal and entertainment.

The idea of a community gathering

like this may seem quaint to some of our younger or newer members, but the face time and fellowship with fellow members are a key part of the cooperative difference. We're not a faceless, monolithic entity you encounter only through a monthly bill. We're neighbors who share in SLECA's success and progress.

Our shared investment in SLECA benefits each of us and enhances our community's quality of life.

Whether you are a longtime attendee, have never attended a SLECA Annual Meeting or fall somewhere in between, I encourage you to pencil in April 17 this year and work with us to make SLECA the best it can be. Your presence and input enable us to do the best we possibly can for our members and our community.

Many things separate SLECA from all the other local electric companies. Our service is second to none. We have some of the lowest electric rates in the state. We are governed by a local board of directors that you, as members, elect to represent your interest and concerns. We even have a real live person who answers our phone lines when you call. [203286001](tel:203286001)

And, of course, there is your Annual Meeting, which is unique to SLECA. No other local electric company has that. So, I think you would agree it's good to be a SLECA member.

We look forward to seeing you April 17 at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center for this year's Annual Meeting.

Joseph A. Ticheli
General Manager

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SLECA Sweepstakes

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





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Co-ops Form Purchasing Group

Five electric distribution cooperatives have joined forces to secure a favorable wholesale power supply contract on behalf of their members. The purchasing group, called 1803 Electric Cooperative Inc., represents more than 130,000 electric cooperative members residing primarily in rural areas in every region of the state.

The coalition formed to gain greater leverage in the wholesale power supply marketplace. Presently, all five electric cooperatives are under contract with Cleco Cajun—formerly Louisiana Generating. Those contracts are set to expire in 2025.

According to 1803 President Charles Hill, also general manager of WSTE, landing an attractive wholesale contract is critical to keeping rates low for electric cooperative consumers. Hill said power supply costs for electric distribution cooperatives represent roughly 75% of a consumer's monthly bill.

"This is a huge percentage of what cooperative consumers pay to their cooperative each month," Hill said. "It's imperative that we get this right for our members and to ensure that we continue to provide power that is safe, affordable, reliable and accessible."

The new cooperative hired ACES to help navigate the wholesale power supply marketplace. ACES is a premier energy management consultant in the power supply industry. It works with electric cooperatives and other utilities across the country to offer expertise on issues such as transmission, legislative and regulatory requirements, renewable portfolio standards, industry trends, risk management and more.

Hill said opportunities abound as Louisiana is part of a regional "power pool" where generation companies add power to the pool, and customers such as 1803 Electric Cooperative extract electricity from the pool as needed under specific contractual terms. The task of ACES, Hill said, is to offer technical expertise and guidance, and to assist in negotiations with suppliers to obtain the best wholesale prices. The purchasing group includes Beauregard Electric, Northeast Louisiana Power, South Louisiana Electric, Claiborne Electric and Washington-St. Tammany Electric.

Hill said average electric utility rates for Louisiana residents are already among the lowest in the country, but preliminary studies show reductions may be possible. The average residential rate in Louisiana is less than 10 cents per kilowatt-hour. By comparison, the average residential rate in states such as Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Alaska is more than 20 cents. The highest cost per kWh is 32.5 cents for residents of Hawaii.

Hill said submarket rates for Louisiana residents are the result of savvy strategic planning in the past by electric cooperative boards, managers and employees. The new group is already hard at work to make sure rates continue to remain as low as possible, he said.

"Low rates have the effect of putting real money in the pockets of our members each and every month," Hill said. "Over the years, our members have had the advantage of keeping hundreds and thousands of dollars to themselves compared to people in other states. The less we have to pay for electricity, that's more money people have to spend on food, education, clothing and other things."

Hill added that low rates foster an attractive environment for new and expanding businesses to come to the state, providing wages and paychecks for families while expanding the tax base. (Account No. 10056400)

He explained the new group's name was inspired by the historic purchase of the Louisiana Territory by the U.S. government in 1803. The deal enabled the U.S. to acquire 828,000 square miles of land for \$15 million—a transaction seen as a pivotal event in the growth, expansion and prosperity of the country.

Hill said the group is working to land a deal that will also prove to be a great advantage for cooperative members.

"It has taken us a lot of work and attention to detail, but it's something we have to get right for our members," Hill said.



Charles Hill



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Ryan Vandersypen, PE

VP, MARKETING AND MEMBER SERVICES

David Latona

DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES

Russchelle Overhultz, CEBS

Mission

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

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

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Did you know the co-op business model is the same for DEMCO as it is for all types of co-ops? Chick-fil-A, Land O'Lakes and ACE Hardware are just a few of the better-known co-ops. Just like us, they are community-focused and exist solely to serve their co-op members.

As a DEMCO electric co-op member, you have access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity. These are the primary benefits of membership. Of note, Louisiana electricity rates have only seen a 3–4% increase in the past 50 years compared to the 1,000% increase in housing and 800% increase in gasoline. In addition to steady rates, DEMCO co-op members enjoy several other benefits.

First and foremost, DEMCO is community-focused. We work to enrich the lives of our members and their communities. Because we are a not-for-profit corporation, we do not have to pay dividends to shareholders. Instead, DEMCO continually invests in the communities we serve. Educating our youth about electrical safety is a great example of our commitment to community. See page 8 for details. (Account No. 03345702002)

DEMCO is guided by a locally elected board of directors. A 13-member board is elected to three-year terms to represent the membership of our seven-parish service area. Each is well-suited to meet the needs of the community because each resides in the parish they serve. They are your neighbors—in your parish—and are members just like you.

We rely on our board of directors to guide us, and we also want and need your input. DEMCO powers 112,000 meters, which serve an estimated half-million people. We want to hear from you—our members—because you each have valuable perspective. This year, I'm excited to announce that we will host an expo in conjunction with our annual membership meeting Saturday, May 9. See page 20 for details.

A new and substantial benefit I am thrilled to share is the DEMCO Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Co-op Connections program. Accessible by website and mobile app, Co-op Connections is an exclusive, free membership program for DEMCO co-op members that will connect you with incredible discounts on everyday expenses. I hope you will take advantage of this free program to enjoy local business deals on dining, retail and more; earn up to 20% cash back when you shop thousands of online retailers; and receive discounts on pharmaceutical, health and insurance. See details on page 5.

Please remember to save the date and join us at the DEMCO annual membership meeting and expo Saturday, May 9. Bring the family and enjoy the morning with us. It's going to be a lot of fun.

*Closed for Good Friday, April 10.
Wishing you all a Happy Easter!*