



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

"We Care"

4230 Hatwai Road • PO Box 997
Lewiston, ID 83501
(888) 743-1501
(208) 798-5280 (Propane)
www.clearwaterpower.com

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Business Hours

Monday - Thursday

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

Closed Fridays

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ID-1



Clearwater Power has made the decision to temporarily suspend electric disconnections for homes and small businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic. If you are unable to pay your bill, we are asking you to contact our staff to discuss payment deferrals, payment options and financial assistance. (1-888-743-1501) A proactive approach is the best way for us to be equipped to help.

In an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), Clearwater Power and Propane are taking the following steps to protect the health and safety of our employees, customers, contractors, and our communities:

- 1) Our public lobbies are temporarily closed. Payments can be submitted 24/7 at: www.clearwaterpower.com or 1-888-743-1501. Our drive-thru window is open during business hours and there is also a payment drop off point at our office on Hatwai Road.
- 2) Non-critical services will be curtailed. This includes energy audits, new internet installations, new power installations and other non-critical services. (Electric service and propane delivery will not be impeded.) If you experience a power outage, please report it by telephone or SmartHub.
- 3) A number of steps are being taken to isolate and protect employees to ensure that we can maintain safe and reliable electric, propane and internet service.
- 4) If you are financially impacted, please stay in contact with our staff. We have payment options and services to assist our membership through this challenging and unprecedented situation. A proactive approach is the best way for us to be equipped to help.
- 5) All public meetings including town hall meetings and public safety demonstrations are currently cancelled.

If you have further questions, please contact us.



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

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

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Board of Directors

President

Gerry Arnson, Heppner

Vice President

John Qualls, Heppner

Secretary

Roy Carlson, Fossil

Treasurer

Deacon Heideman, Fairview

Lori Anderson, Condon

Todd Lindsay, Sand Hollow

Stacie Ekstrom, Lone

Manager

Andy Fletcher, Heppner

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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.

The Health of Our Members and Employees

Members:

I know you have all read or seen the news regarding COVID-19, or the coronavirus. We all hope the virus passes and doesn't cause more harm than has already taken place. There are a few steps each of us can implement into our daily lives:

- Wash your hands with soap and water regularly.
- Don't expose yourself to large crowds.
- If you feel ill, stay home.

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative has developed a contingency plan to maintain the health and safety of our employees and members. The goal of our plan is to ensure critical electrical operations continue without interruption. The plan is our best attempt to ensure our members, businesses and community continue to have our employees available no matter the event.

The coronavirus pandemic obviously was not planned for, but we have taken steps to help mitigate significant impact to our daily operations. The first focus is on our line crews and having availability if the virus continues to spread. Our goal is to have our line employees and customer service representatives continue to provide our members with the outstanding service they deserve.

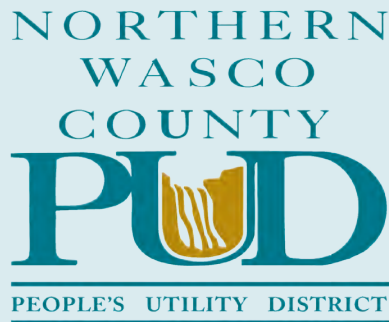
The first step we are taking is to close our front office to all non-employee traffic. We have multiple options available to our members: Call our office in Condon or Heppner, use drop boxes at our offices or in the community, or make payments online using SmartHub. I apologize if this initial step causes any inconvenience. We believe this will help limit exposure to our office staff.

No one knows how long or how severely this virus will affect our nation and our communities. However, I believe every step we can take as individuals to help make a difference does matter. I ask that we all do our part to help stop the spread. I hope you, your family and the ones you care about all stay healthy during this time.

Take care and be healthy!

Andy Fletcher

General Manager



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
Dan Williams, Secretary
Wayne Jacobson, Treasurer
Connie Karp, Director

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.

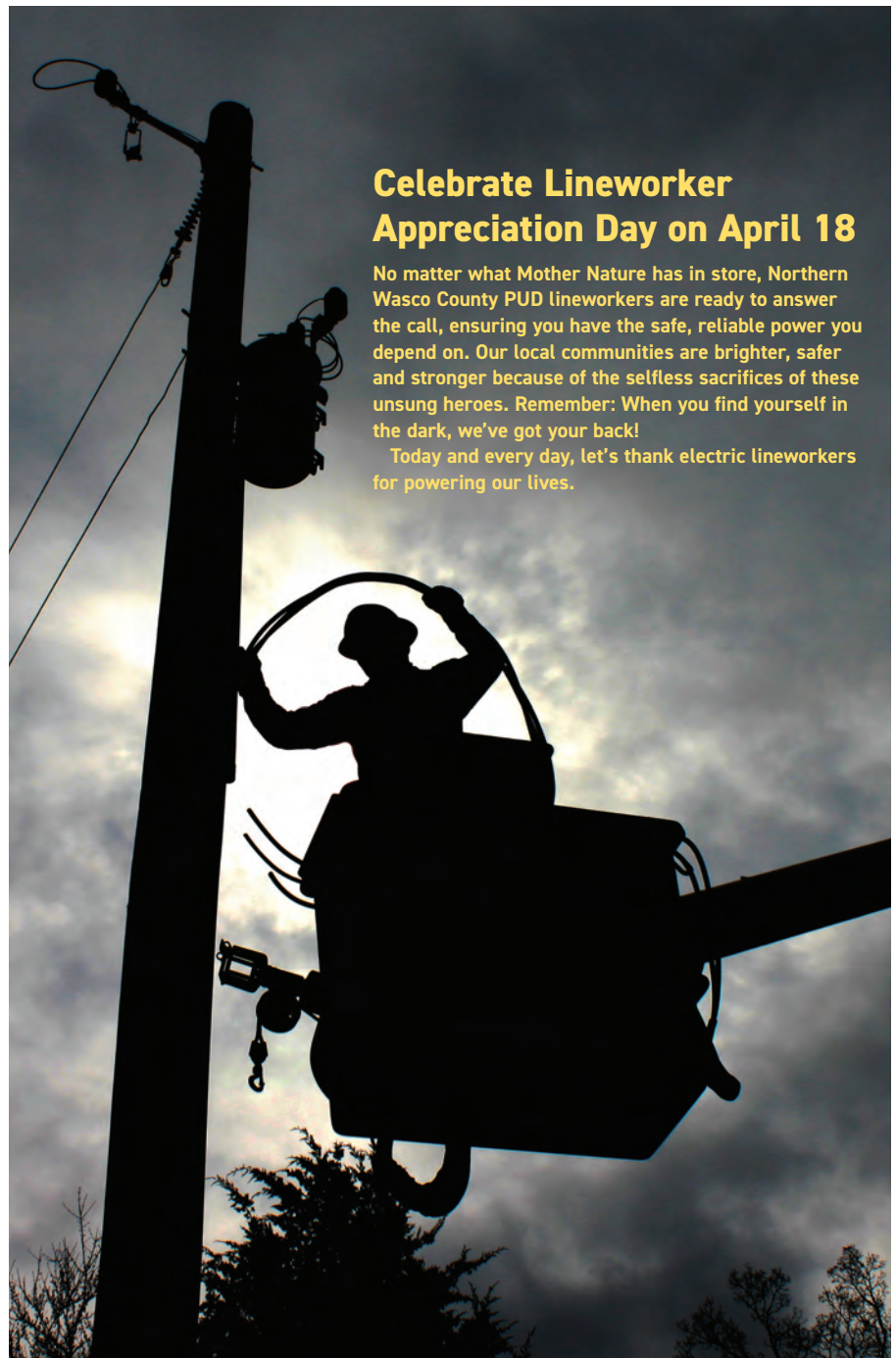
Our Core Values and Beliefs

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



Celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18

No matter what Mother Nature has in store, Northern Wasco County PUD lineworkers are ready to answer the call, ensuring you have the safe, reliable power you depend on. Our local communities are brighter, safer and stronger because of the selfless sacrifices of these unsung heroes. Remember: When you find yourself in the dark, we've got your back!

Today and every day, let's thank electric lineworkers for powering our lives.



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

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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District 2, Elmer City

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Cindy Corpe
District 1, Coulee Dam

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Patrick Morin Jr.
District 6, Nespelem

Ron Heath
District 7, Disautel

Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

Lineworkers know how
to get the job done.
Let's thank them for
powering our lives.



National Lineworker Day
April 13, 2020



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

MAILING ADDRESS

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

LOCAL OFFICES

6990 West Hills Road
Philomath, OR 97370

1900 W Oak St.

Lebanon, OR 97355

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Eric Horning | VICE PRESIDENT
Terry Plagmann | SECRETARY
Kevin Christopher |
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

STAFF

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

www.cpi.coop

President's Report

COVID-19

As the COVID-19 situation develops in the United States and Oregon, we want our members to know CPI is closely monitoring communications on this topic from local, state and federal authorities, and has a plan in place to keep the community and employees safe and maintain reliable electric service.

We have updates posted on our website. We hope you and your families stay safe and healthy during this event.

In February, CPI participated in sending the following message to Gov. Kate Brown from consumer-owned utilities.

Dear Gov. Brown:

On behalf of Oregon's electric cooperatives and people's utility districts, we are writing to express our profound disappointment with your decision to support breaching the four lower Snake River dams. This decision, made without any consultation or prior notice with leaders of consumer-owned utilities, will have severe consequences for the state's economy, environment and our ability to provide affordable, reliable electricity.

The Snake River dams were built to provide several benefits to the region, including a clean, carbon-free renewable source of electricity, navigation, recreation, and irrigation for crops in the Columbia River Basin. The four lower Snake River dams produce more than 1,000 average megawatts of reliable, carbon-free energy—enough energy to power more than 800,000 Northwest homes.

It is particularly confounding that, in the midst of a serious legislative debate on carbon reduction, you are now supporting a course of action that is estimated to increase CO₂ emissions by more than 2 million metric tons every year. This output is approximately equal to the emissions at the Boardman coal plant and the equivalent of adding 421,000 passenger cars

to the region's roads each year. Your decision undermines the integration of renewables onto our transmission grid, as the federal hydro system is flexible and complements intermittent resources such as wind power.

Furthermore, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council—for whom you have appointed two Oregon members—has concluded that the Northwest power supply becomes inadequate as early as next year. This means homes, businesses and emergency services could start to see blackouts. In fact, according to energy consultants at E3, it is estimated the Northwest will need an additional 8,000 MW of baseload power by 2030 to meet our electricity demand. Taking out the lower Snake River dams, which help keep our region's power and transmission systems in balance, is an irresponsible step that increases our region's vulnerability to blackouts and inability to meet consumer and public health demands.

Finally, we disagree with your thesis 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 create safe passage structures at these dams. The juvenile survival performance standard target is 96% for yearling chinook and steelhead. This standard metric was developed through sovereign collaboration. The goal should be to continue to build on these efforts instead of an extreme measure that will harm Oregonians.

We urge you to reconsider this ill-fated decision and engage with consumer-owned utility leaders in a manner that is more consistent with “The Oregon Way” you often espouse.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO



Give a Gift That Keeps on Giving

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



Benton REA

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

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

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

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

Board of Trustees

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

Board Meetings, Agendas & Minutes

The board of trustees will meet April 29 at 6 p.m. in the Prosser office unless otherwise indicated on our website.

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

General Manager

Michael J. Bradshaw

Management Staff

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

THE TIME IS NOW
Take action to save our dams
SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS SUPPORTING THE DAMS
Go to comments.CRSO.info by April 13



There's Still Time to Help Save the Dams

Dear Members,

There's still time to help save the lower Snake River dams. In fact, it's the only time we can have a voice in the debate.

A 45-day public comment period is currently open on the court-ordered draft environmental impact statement. It's critical that supporters of the lower Snake River dams voice their opinions by April 13.

Federal agencies will review all comments and draft the final EIS, scheduled for release in July. It is critical the agencies receive comments supporting the lower Snake River dams, and encouragement not to include dam breaching in their final recommendation.

Without these dams, there's a real threat of blackouts during the hottest days of summer and coldest days of winter, when we need electricity the most. Industries that require large amounts of reliable electric energy could be forced to stop operations without the firm, dispatchable, renewable, hydroelectricity generated by the dams.

Hydropower also makes wind and solar energy possible by filling in the gaps caused by fluctuations in the energy produced by wind and sunshine.

Without the dams, our state cannot reach its carbon reduction goals. They provide low-carbon transportation for Idaho and Washington crops. Putting these crops on trucks or rail will increase our state's carbon output by 53%, according to the study.

Benton REA is concerned for the survival of our salmon and orcas. Yet, improvements in fish passages allow juvenile salmon to pass through the dams as safely as they pass through a free-flowing river. The plight of the orcas is made worse by the dirty waters of the Puget Sound and the warming temperatures of the ocean. Removing the dams will not guarantee their survival.

It's up to us to stand up for the low-cost, renewable and carbon-free electricity the lower Snake River dams provide. Not to mention the transportation, flood control, recreation and tourism they bring to our economy and quality of life.

Last month we mailed a letter encouraging you to comment on the draft EIS on the operations, maintenance and configurations for 14 federal projects in the Columbia River System. The 45-day comment period is open until April 13. Based on the comments they receive, the federal agencies will draft the final EIS, scheduled for release in July. It is critical the federal agencies receive your comments and opinions regarding the lower Snake River dams.

Make your voice heard. Please visit BentonREA.org/SnakeRiverDams for more information on how to comment on the draft EIS.

Cooperatively,

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

Offices

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

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

Hours

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

1-800-452-2273

Report An Outage
1.888.465.5701 day or night

Directors

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

General Manager

Robert Echenrode

www.umatillaelectric.com

OR-8

Annual Meeting Will Take Place Without General Membership Attendance Due to Coronavirus Risk

Due to the coronavirus epidemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has urged a nationwide halt to large gatherings through the end of April.

In concern for our members' health and well-being, UEC's 2020 Annual Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, April 18, will take place without the general membership in attendance.

UEC's bylaws direct the cooperative to hold an annual meeting each spring. In lieu of our traditional event, the UEC Board President will preside at a business meeting to be held at 10 a.m. April 18 at UEC's Hermiston office, 750 W. Elm Ave. At the meeting, board election results for District 5, 6 & 7 will be announced and other business

conducted as necessary.

If you are a member in one of those districts, please watch for your election ballot in the mail, and return it before April 18. Candidate bios and other election details appear on pages 4-5 and pages 28-29 of this Ruralite.

Please watch UmatillaElectric.com and our Facebook page for updates on how our business practices may adapt to changing circumstances in the coming weeks.

With best wishes for you and your families, we will do everything we can to keep our members, employees and communities safe, while providing you with safe and reliable electricity.



Bryan Wolfe
Board President



Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO

La reunión anual se llevará a cabo sin asistencia general de miembros

Debido a la epidemia de coronavirus, los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades han recomendado a detener en todo el país las reuniones grandes hasta finales de abril. En la preocupación por la salud y el bienestar de nuestros miembros, la Reunión Anual 2020 de la Cooperativa Eléctrica de Umatilla se llevará a cabo sin la asistencia general de los miembros para llevar a cabo los negocios según sea necesario en: Oficina de UEC en Hermiston, 750 W. Elm Ave., Hermiston, Oregon, el Sábado 18 de abril de 2020 a las 10:00 a.m.



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

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

Board of Directors

Michael Collins	President
Ron Holmes	Vice President
Mathew Clausen	Secretary
Jerry Duling	Treasurer
Stacy Eakin	Director
Robert Durham	Director
Robert Hammel	Director
Jim McNamee	Director
DeOra Patton	Director

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

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

Mission Statement

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

Manager's Message

Board Member Recognition

In December, Wasco Electric Cooperative Director Stacy Eakin completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director program.

During the past two years, Stacy completed the required courses to earn her CCD certificate. She joins the other eight WEC directors as credentialed board members.

The CCD program consists of five training courses covering director duties and liabilities, understanding the electric business, board roles and relationships, strategic planning and financial decision-making, which are modeled specific to the electric utility industry.

Congratulations to Stacy! I sincerely appreciate the commitment the directors have made in continuing their education to best serve the members of this cooperative, now and in the future.



Stacy Eakin

Oregon Empowers Guatemala Project Postponed

In our March Ruralite, we told members about Oregon Empowers Guatemala—a project to electrify a small village in Aldea Montanita de la Virgen.

It is with great disappointment that the Oregon cooperatives decided to postpone the project. With the impact COVID-19 has had globally and across our country, we feel this is the best decision to keep everyone involved as healthy as possible.

Once a new timeline has been set, we will be sure to keep everyone informed. In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more about this great project, please visit www.oregonempowers.com.

COVID-19

Wasco Electric strives to maintain the health and safety of our employees and members along with ensuring our essential operations continue. During the next few weeks, we will continue to closely monitor the progression of COVID-19 and update our membership with steps we are taking or continuing to take to provide the excellent service you have come to expect from us.

While the office is closed to the public, we will remain available to take debit/credit cards or checks by phone at 541-296-2740. Members also have access to our online portal through our website at www.wascoelectric.com.

Please continue to monitor our website and Facebook page for updated information.

Jeff Davis
General Manager

Owned By Those We Serve

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

Officers

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

General Manager
Keith Brooks

Assistant General Manager
Phil Bigler

Office Manager/CFO
David Western

Superintendent
Todd Sherwood

Member Services
Todd C. Munsey

System Engineer
Jess Dory, PE

Mission Statement

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

DOUGLAS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Annual Meeting Status

Dear Member,

For reasons obvious to all of us at this point, the annual meeting of the Douglas Electric Cooperative membership will not be held April 4th. The Covid-19 outbreak is responsible for the cancellation or postponement of many gatherings across the country. In order to protect many of our members from potential exposure, we are practicing an overabundance of caution.

Making the decision to not hold the meeting was an easy call, especially after the state banned any gathering of 250 or more people.

Not being able to get together and enjoy the event as we all have in the past is disappointing. We are hopeful that this threat will pass quickly and everyone can get on with their normal lives.

Last year we had "Snowmageddon", and this year it's the Corona Virus. Two things, back to back, that have never happened in the 80-year history of this cooperative. I'm not sure what challenge is in store for us next, but I know our members and our staff are up to surviving and conquering it.

Call me if you have any questions. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy.

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**

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DIRECTORS

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

MANAGER

Troy Cox

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

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POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

Rules for Student Grants

Columbia Power Cooperative offers student grants for higher education totaling \$2,000 to be awarded this spring. The awards will be divided as follows:

- First place: \$1,000
- Second place: \$600
- Third place: \$400

The applicant or his/her parents must be active members of the cooperative, or maintain a residence in the cooperative's service area. Applicant must provide proof of residency with either meter number or membership number. He or she must graduate from high school during the current school year.

The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, April 24. Applications need to be at the co-op office by this date.

Selection of Grant Recipients

Judges chosen by Columbia Power Cooperative—not necessarily members of the co-op—will make the selection. The judges will give consideration to the following factors in making their selections:

- Citizenship, motivation, desire, self-improvement, advancement, diligent employment of abilities in and out of school, personal habits, group acceptance and leadership 50%
- Scholarship 25%
- Need 25%

Use of Grant

Grant recipients may use the grant at the school of their choice, including recognized trade or business schools, subject to the approval of the grant committee.

A grant recipient must be enrolled as a full-time student in the approved school, and must provide to the co-op proof of receiving passing grades before receiving grants on a semester or term basis.

Contact Columbia Power Cooperative for an application:
Columbia Power Cooperative
P.O. Box 97
Monument, Oregon 97864
541-934-2311

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

DIRECTORS:

Chairman Boyd Keeton, Tumalo
Vice Chairman Kip Light, Madras
Secretary/Treasurer Kenneth H.
Miltenerberger, Alfalfa
Beverly Clarno, Redmond
William J. Rainey, Sisters
Shirley McCullough, Prineville
Kelly McFarlane, Powell Butte
Dan Steelhammer, Bend
Tom Strand, Terrebonne

Attorney, Thomas M. Grim
Cable Huston LLP, Portland

STAFF:

President and CEO
Dave Markham

Chief Financial Officer
Rawleigh White

Director of Operations & Engineering
Brad Wilson

Corporate Information Officer
Lisa Cutter

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

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

24-HOUR PHONE NUMBERS:

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

Mission Statement

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

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

www.cec.coop

Annual Meeting Postponed

The Central Electric Cooperative Board of Directors announced in late March its decision to postpone the upcoming 79th annual member meeting scheduled for April 10 until further notice due to the rising coronavirus risks and concerns for the safety and health of co-op members and employees.

The decision coincides with a wave of community events canceled throughout Central Oregon following Gov. Kate Brown's announcement prohibiting large gatherings. In response, Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center has shuttered all of its early spring events, including CEC's annual meeting.

Rescheduling the annual meeting postpones the board elections for District 2 (Tumalo), District 3 (Madras) and District 5 (Terrebonne). CEC's bylaws state uncontested elections are to be voted on by voice vote at the annual meeting. A contested election—in this case, District 5—will be conducted by a ballot that can be mailed or physically delivered to one of our service centers or delivered at the annual meeting. Once the annual meeting is rescheduled, the election's protocols and timelines for mailing out the ballots for District 5's election as prescribed by the bylaws will restart.

Central Electric is focused on maintaining a healthy workforce, and has taken precautionary steps to ensure key personnel—such as lineworkers and customer service representatives—are available so we can continue to provide you excellent service.

To help limit unnecessary person-to-person contact, I strongly encourage members to consider options to avoid having to come into our service centers. You can sign up for SmartHub—see pages 4 and 5

in this issue—a web and mobile app that allows you to pay your bills online securely. Should you want to use SmartHub, please go to our website, www.cec.coop, and click

on “Register for Online Access.” You may also download the SmartHub app through the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

The other option is to drop off your payment in our locked drop boxes in front of our Bend, Redmond and Sisters service centers.

Central Electric understands the adverse economic impacts this health crisis is having on some of our members. Therefore, we will temporarily suspend disconnections and late fees for non-payment. If you need to make a payment arrangement, please contact CEC to set up a payment plan.

Should you need additional financial assistance, please inquire about CEC's Project Helping Hand. The program provides bill payment assistance to members who demonstrate need. Donations are raised by fellow co-op members who have agreed to round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar. If you would like to join the 1,800 members who already contribute, please sign up today at www.cec.coop under the community tab, or call CEC to enroll.

If you have any questions about any of the topics discussed, please call 541-548-2144. A CEC customer service representative is ready to assist you.



Dave Markham, President and CEO



Board of Directors

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Daryl C. Robison, Port Orford/Langlois

Daniel Loshbaugh, Northern At-Large

Attorney—Tyler Pepple

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General Manager/CEO

Brent Bischoff

Corporate Services/CFO

Frank Corrales

Engineering Manager

Matt Mjelde

Dan Springer

Chief Information Officer

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

Rate Adjustment Begins May 1

Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative Inc. hasn't had a rate increase since January 2016. Late last fall, as staff worked with our board of directors to develop the 2020 budget, it became clear the rising costs of wholesale power, labor and materials would require a small rate increase in 2020. As a member-owned cooperative, our focus is to provide safe and reliable service at cost. Profit is not a consideration for us like it is for investor-owned utilities. At the same time, the board of directors has given staff clear direction to maintain the co-op's financial integrity, ensuring we can provide continuous quality service into the future. After careful consideration of where we can gain efficiencies and reduce costs, the board has approved a 2.23% average increase beginning with billings on May 1.



As an example of the rising cost pressures CCEC is experiencing, our wholesale power rates from the Bonneville Power Administration increased on average 12.7% from 2016 through 2019, or about 3% annually. CCEC staff has worked hard over this time to implement internal efficiencies that have enabled us to absorb these cost increases and not pass them on to you. One example is our excellent safety record. When we prevent lost-time injuries at work, we protect our workers and also minimize expensive worker compensation claims.

To make sure the average rate adjustment will fairly collect costs across rate classes and within your billing line items, CCEC worked with a consultant to do a cost-of-service analysis. The COSA informed us that the average 2.23% rate increase should not be applied uniformly to each rate class. Also, the COSA recommended the entire increase be put on the basic and demand charges. The board is not obligated to follow the COSA recommendations, so staff prepared a number of options for the board to consider. In selecting the rate option to implement, the board carefully weighed COSA recommendations, member interests and CCEC needs. You can find more detail on the new rates in the article on page 4.

COVID-19 Response

As the April edition of Ruralite goes to press, local, state and federal responses to the COVID-19 outbreak are evolving rapidly. CCEC is committed to following prudent practices issued by state and federal health organizations to prevent continued spread of the disease. Check our website, Facebook page or give us a call to learn how our modified business practices may affect the way you like to interact with us. We will do our part to protect you and our employees to continue to serve you and provide the energy that powers your life.

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.

Resource Adequacy and What That Means to You

The Pacific Northwest is sitting on another time bomb besides the Cascadia Subduction Zone: resource adequacy.

Resource adequacy is a term you may not be familiar with, but it has to do with energy and capacity. As Oregon continues its push toward a 100% bright, clean, renewable energy future, things are looking pretty dark from the utility side of the equation.

The darkness is a lack of capacity. Capacity is the ability to meet the needs of Oregonians 24/7/365 and can only be fulfilled with reliable thermal generation, i.e., coal, gas or nuclear. Wind and solar cannot be counted on 24/7/365 to produce electricity on demand and in the amount needed to keep your lights on. Hydroelectric dams are a more reliable resource of renewable energy and have a lot of capacity to serve the needs of Oregonians, but even they are subject to the whims of nature and man.

Should the Pacific Northwest end up with a low water year, there is less water to produce electricity. Couple that with a mandatory spill order by a federal judge to help juvenile salmon get to the ocean quicker, and there is even less water to produce electricity, which translates into less capacity to serve Oregonians.

Thermal generation plants are retiring ahead of schedule because the economics to run the plants outweigh the return on investment to meet new governmental regulations. Oregon has decided thermal generation is unclean, so thousands of megawatts of capacity are disappearing at an alarming rate, and there is nothing to pick up the slack. Several industry reports indicate the Pacific Northwest could face a capacity shortage as early as this year.

What that means to you is rolling blackouts. This is part of the cost of Oregon's climate policies that will affect not only your wallet, but your quality of life.

Let's hope I'm wrong. If not, at least we can feel good about improving the quality of life for salmon.

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 SVE office.*

"Owned by those we serve."

This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



SVEC Announces Major Initiatives

SEE PAGE 28 for a detailed message regarding upcoming changes in the coming years. These changes will allow us to improve service and reliability for members



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

Lane Electric Cares During Uncharted Times

Dear Co-op Community Members:

These are definitely uncharted times for our community and nation. News of COVID-19 has been extremely dynamic. Suggestions, as well as mandates, are changing daily. At Lane Electric, we care about our members and employees' health and safety. To continue providing service you can count on, it was imperative we adjust our daily procedures.

Main Office

Our main office is closed to the public. We plan to keep the office closed through Tuesday, April 28. This date could be extended or shortened as information changes. We will continue to be available by phone or email during normal business hours.

Phone/Email Hours:

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

Outage Calls: 24/7

Phone: 541-484-1151

Email: comment.question@laneelectric.com

Although our offices are closed, we are still available to provide service and our expertise. If you need assistance with billing, engineering or energy conservation, we are here to help!

Payments

As a member-owned utility, we pride ourselves on doing what is best for all members. Lane Electric does not have a one-size-fits-all approach to our service. Since we aren't able to visit with you in person, we have provided several options to make payments. We are also available

to make necessary arrangements. With the changes and uncertainty around the country, our flexible service remains unchanged.

If you are faced with serious illness or job loss, we help our members when they call. Our team can help avoid disconnect for nonpayment, make arrangements that fit your budget or find resources to help you pay your bill.

Spirit of Giving

During challenging times, there are many members who want to know how they can help. Contributions to our Member Assistance Program help less fortunate members pay their utility bills. Members can round up their monthly bill or make a one-time contribution to this fund.

As we focus on our community's health and safety, we may need to make other temporary adjustments to our business practices. We will continue to keep you updated and informed during this challenging time. Please check our webpage and/or social media sites for updates. We appreciate your patience and understanding. Stay healthy and safe. We look forward to seeing our members in person soon!

Sincerely,
Debi Wilson



Payment Options

Drop Box	At Lane Electric under the flag
Online (one-time and recurring)	www.laneelectric.com
	SmartHub
Mobile	SmartHub app
Phone	877-562-5503
MoneyGram	Walmart
Cash	By arrangement only; call 541-484-1151



**Blachly-Lane
Electric Cooperative**

90680 Highway 99 N,
Eugene, OR 97402
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

Manager's Report

Dear Members,

Knowing that we provide you an essential service, especially in this time of uncertainty, I want to let you know how we are handling the COVID-19 outbreak and share our plans should the situation worsen.

As of Tuesday, March 17, our office is closed to the public. Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative employees are still tending to member needs through telephone and electronic means. We are practicing social distancing and hygiene protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Employees have been educated regarding COVID-19 symptoms, and we've set a clear expectation that they will be sent home if they feel unwell or have had a known exposure to the virus. All business travel has been suspended. Our line crew is working. Our business continuity plan has all employees who are able to work from home doing so.

We are owned by our 2,835 members and are very different from the big utilities who need one-size-fits-all solutions. We will customize our support to members in need during this event. When members experience economic stress, we will work with them to make case-by-case payment arrangements. If you find yourself unable to pay your bill, it is important that you call us and we will work together. We are committed to assist our members in ways that will keep them from owing a big bill they cannot pay when this is over.

At the same time, this is your business, and our 83-year commitment to keeping your co-op financially sound is unwavering. The cooperative principle of equitable member financial contribution guides the fact that each member pays their fair share, if even over time with payment arrangements.

Winter storms and COVID-19 both test our ability to withstand and recover quickly from difficult conditions. At BLEC, that means having the right people doing the right work, with the right tools and equipment, and making the right investments in the electric system so we can bounce back. The safety of our workers and our members comes first. No matter if we're dealing with exposure to downed lines or a virus, we act with professionalism.

At the time of this printing, our annual meeting and election has been changed to May 16. Watch our website, www.blachlylane.coop, and your mailbox for information as those plans come together.

We wish you, your farms and your businesses ease and minimal impact. We are here to help you get to the other side of this historic event.

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



Serving Our Community in Trying Times

I want to express our thanks for your support during what are unprecedented times. By the time you read this, you will all be aware that our buildings are closed to the public. I think you will also understand all our employees are at work, doing our regular jobs, while trying to interact with you remotely. Obviously this has created challenges that we have worked through with you, but there have been and will continue to be issues for us to resolve.

Our primary concern created by the spread of the coronavirus has been to maintain services. We understand providing water, wastewater and electric services is essential. It is not just the services to your homes that are important. Services to our hospitals, police, fire and other first responders, as well as the local grocery stores, gas stations and other critical businesses, are essential to our well-being and safety. We take this responsibility seriously and we are, in essence, critical infrastructure in this regard. We are also a relatively small utility. If we started losing employees to a virus, we would jeopardize our ability to provide these essential services.

These factors are what led to our decision to close the buildings, while keeping employees at work—protected—but working with you remotely.

It is sometimes hard to think about how our world seems to be changing, but I wanted to thank you again for your support. We will endeavor to continue to provide excellent customer service.



Jim Smith
General Manager



NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.

The power of local service

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

For outages:
866-665-4837

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

Outside Sandpoint:
800-326-9594

Board President
Steve Elgar

Board Vice President
Kennon McClintock

Board Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Dolan

General Manager
Annie Terracciano

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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

Thank You to Our Linemen

April 18 marks Lineman Appreciation Day across the U.S. It is our honor to celebrate the hard work, innovation and dedication of electrical lineworkers. Without them, we would not have many of the luxuries we have today because of electricity.

We often take power, and the men and women who provide it, for granted. Many of us were quickly reminded of this on the evening of March 13, when a massive storm came in from the north and wreaked havoc on NLI's infrastructure. With sustained 30 mph winds and gusts of up to 60 mph, many trees were uprooted, tearing down lines and breaking poles. The storm caused more than 12,000 members to be without power, and there were 23 broken poles. NLI linemen, along with numerous contract crews, worked around the clock through the weekend in the worst possible conditions to restore power to these members.

I would like to thank all the members who experienced outages after this massive storm. Being without electricity is never easy, especially in frigid temperatures. Your patience means so much to us during these difficult times. I would also like to give a special thank you to the kind members who brought food to our line crews, and even the ones that gave a friendly wave or a thumbs up. These acts of kindness do not go unnoticed. Lastly, to the Northern Lights employees who worked tirelessly through the weekend, thank you for your hard work and dedication to NLI. It makes me proud to watch our employees come together during these emergency situations and work so diligently to restore power to our members.

National studies consistently rank power line work among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air while wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage, linemen are smart, brave and must always work safely and efficiently. They put their lives on the line 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair electric infrastructure. NLI's linemen maintain more than 2,800 miles of power lines serving more than 20,500 accounts in northern Idaho, western Montana and a small piece of eastern Washington. Although beautiful, this terrain is rugged and remote. Our crews are standing by to serve NLI members around the clock to keep your power on and, if there is an outage, to restore it as soon as possible. Please take a moment to appreciate our local linemen, who go above and beyond, no matter the weather, to keep our lights on.

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

Your Co-op and Its People

Dear Members,

As I write this article in mid-March, things are a bit hectic for all of us. I wonder when this concerning time will be over and we can go back to our normal lives.

I hear many discussions about the various reasons pushing the coronavirus scare across our great county and world. I hear some say this will get more serious and change us forever.

Who's right? Like most of you, I don't know. It's probably somewhere in the middle of both conversations. But I am by no means a person to talk about infectious diseases. Either way, all we can do is take precautions to care for ourselves and those around us. Hopefully things will get better soon.

It seems like containing your cough, washing your hands and not going out while you are sick are fairly obvious suggestions. We are all busy in our lives, and sometimes we have to get the job done one way or another. Sometimes we want to push through and hope things will work out, but we have to take care of one another.

On March 16, we made the decision to protect our members and teammates by closing our office to the public for the foreseeable future. This was a big step for us to keep your dedicated cooperative workers healthy enough to weather this storm and keep the lights on. As you know, we provide electricity 24 hours a day, every day of the week, and our people take great pride in serving you. While we are still working away inside our office and out in the field, we must take precautions. As always, if you need us, we are available by phone for outages or emergencies, or to pay your bills and answer questions. We have a drop box in front of our office, if needed. However, in addition to phone calls, bills can be paid through SmartHub, which is available on our website. We are also updating our Facebook page as new information becomes available and working to make that information available in many formats to reach our diverse membership.

We will continue to monitor the CDC's recommendations and work with local and state entities. As if this was not enough, beware of scams going around. If you ever question the authenticity of a communication or anyone representing Idaho County Light & Power, do not divulge personal information or provide payment. Call us at 208-983-1610.

Before all of this happened, I hoped to talk more about two special days coming up. The first is Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 13. The second is Administrative Professionals Day on April 22. Without each and every one of our teammates who work in the field and in the office, we wouldn't be who we are today. We are blessed to have the team we have. I hope that by the time these dates come around, things will have made a significant turn for the better.

As your local electric cooperative for the past 82 years, we remain committed to serving you and being prepared to weather this storm of events. Please take care of yourself.

Thanks for listening,

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

Greg Knowles, President
Neil Carpenter, Vice President
**Doug Logan, Secretary/
Treasurer**
Patrick Dennis, Director
Jay DeWitt, Director
Dennis Munden, Director
Vic Parks, Director
Glen Shipley, Director
Katie 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 Sneak Peek...and a Well-deserved Thank you

I don't want to spill the beans, but I will share with you here that we have had another successful year at Columbia REA, by all the usual benchmarks, and the credit for that goes to you, our members. Being part of a co-op means having a voice in the direction and decisions made by Columbia REA leadership. And we wouldn't have it any other way. The more our members understand what it means to be part of a co-op...the more we all get involved, the better the outcomes achieved...for you, the Co-op, and our communities.



There are many ways to get involved. And As our community's needs and priorities change over time, local voices and member involvement will become more important than ever to help Columbia REA make choices that serve our communities, the Co-op's, and your best interests.

I'd like to recognize a group of people who have gotten involved in efforts that are fundamental to the Co-op's success and operational integrity, and these are our board candidate nominating committee, the elections and credentials committee and the scholarship evaluation committee. Because of their commitment and service, we are able to meet the responsibilities as set forth in our bylaws.

Each of these committees is comprised of engaged members who may not have the time to serve on the board of directors yet remain interested in shaping the future of the Cooperative. Service on one of these committees is a wonderful opportunity for Cooperative members to be more involved and supportive of the Cooperative. In a democracy, member participation is crucial. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in this process in the future.

Thank you to the following members for your service this past year:

Nominating Committee: David Brock, Barry Chabre, Phil Clouse, Duane Depping, Albert Janke, Jim McEwen, Kerry McEwen

Elections and Credentials Committee: Tom Dean, Alan Mehlenbacher, Charles Reeves, Ruth Rencken, Sue Zimmerman

Scholarship Evaluation Committee: The members on this committee remain anonymous, but to them we are deeply grateful for all of their hard work.

As always if you have any questions that I can answer, please feel free to call the office.

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

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

The Columbia River System Operations Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released February 28. The statement rejects the potentially disastrous removal of the four Lower Snake River dams and recognizes the vital role the dams play in Oregon's clean and reliable energy system.

The CRSO DEIS was completed due to a National Environmental Policy Act review ordered by Federal District Court Judge Michael Simon to specifically study the breaching of the four dams. NEPA requires a balanced look at fish and wildlife, socioeconomics and the environment.

The DEIS found that while salmon would do better without the dams in place, the benefit to fish is uncertain and the societal costs would be extreme.

The study found breaching the Lower Snake River dams would double the risk of regionwide blackouts; add 3 million metric tons of carbon to the atmosphere each year from electricity production (assumes the lost generation is replaced with natural gas-fueled power plants); increase power costs by \$1 billion annually; raise residential utility bills by 25% or more (assumes the lost generation is replaced with a carbon-free portfolio, such as wind, solar and batteries); reduce our ability to safely add new wind and solar power to the grid; and will cost \$457 million in social welfare as the result of lost irrigation and farm laborer jobs.

The 45-day public comment period ends April 13. Midstate Electric Cooperative looks forward to taking part in the comment period to maintain our role in providing clean, reliable and cost-effective hydropower for our members. MEC will

likely need to call on our ORECA-Action grassroots members to help with our message. If you are not an ORECA-Action member, please join today at ORECA-Action.org.

Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

MEC's business continuity plan has been designed to maintain the health and safety of our employees and members and to ensure business critical operations continue without interruption. These measures help ensure MEC continues to provide reliable electricity during a business continuity event.

Although the pandemic is unique to our business continuity planning, we have taken steps to be prepared in the event there is a significant impact from the coronavirus in our communities. Our focus is to maintain a healthy workforce and keep key personnel—such as line workers and member service representatives—available so we can continue to provide the excellent service you expect from us.

We are closely monitoring the progression of COVID-19. In response to the governor's actions to contain the spread of COVID-19, MEC has closed lobby access to the public. The office will remain closed to walk-in traffic until further notice. Employees are available to provide assistance by phone at 541-536-2126.

We offer members various payment methods, such as the drop box, payment kiosk, phone portal at 541-536-2126 option 2 or SmartHub on Midstate's website, www.mse.coop.

Please monitor MEC's social media channels and website for updated information.

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)



Fighting COVID-19

In an age of social distancing, many of us are scrambling to respond to our new normal. Raft River Electric has always been driven to help our communities grow and meet whatever challenges come our way. We will get through this, together.

We are monitoring advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and our state and local governments, and will adjust our practices as needed to follow their guidance. As your community's energy provider, we are committed to keeping energy flowing. At the same time, we've taken several steps to preserve member, employee and community health.

Power On

Many people's jobs are either lost or suffering a drastic drop in income. You have enough things to worry about right now. You shouldn't have to worry about losing electricity, too. If you are having trouble paying your bill as a result of COVID-19, we want to work with you. Please contact our staff. We are here to help and support our membership through this challenging and unprecedented situation. A proactive approach is the best way for us to be equipped to help.

Lobby Closed to the Public

As we work to limit person-to-person contact, we made the tough decision to close our office to the public. But rest assured: We are not closed. Instead of coming into the office to speak to us in person, we encourage you to manage your account from the safety of your home.

Go to www.rrelectric.com and use SmartHub to make payments and track your energy use. You can always call us at 800-342-7732 to pay by phone, auto-pay by credit card and bank account, or pay by mail. Our drop box remains open in Malta, as well.

Energy Audits Suspended

To respect the CDC's guidelines for social distancing, we're suspending our home energy audits program. However, we hope you will still take advantage of our energy-efficiency tools and rebates at www.rrelectric.com. As more people spend long days inside and transition to working from home, we expect many homes will use more energy than usual. This will lead to higher energy bills, but there are steps you can take to limit this impact. For more advice on how to use energy efficiently, visit EnergyStar.gov.

Annual Meeting Postponed/ICUA Youth Rally Canceled

In March, federal and state officials declared a state of emergency, asking everyone to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In the spirit of cooperation, the board of directors decided to postpone our March 17 annual meeting. The health of our community is our top priority. Thanks for your patience as we work together to reduce the risk of this disease spreading in our area. We will reschedule the annual meeting as soon as it is safe to do so. Please regularly check rrelectric.com and our Facebook page for updates.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce cancellation of the 2020 ICUA Youth Rally. At this point, there is simply too much risk for our delegates and chaperones. We will move forward with the planning of the Youth Rally for 2021.

Planning Ahead

Because you need energy around the clock, we always have staff on call, ready to respond to any storms or other challenges that come our way. We are still responding to service calls and our normal daily operations, but where we can do so, we've scaled down our employee's exposure to each other. Business travel has been postponed as we focus on limiting the spread of COVID-19.

I'm not sure what life will look like in the next month, two months, or even a year down the road, but I do know our communities. We are resilient. We will adapt. We will get through this.

We may be apart, but we are still—now more than ever—more powerful together.

Chad Black
General Manager



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.bbcec.org

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Vice President John Harder

Secretary Lanny Hayes

Treasurer Stacy Kniveton

Curtis Dahl

Dan Hille

Lyle Holt

Dennis Swinger Sr.

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Yvette Armstrong

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf



Lineworkers know how
to get the job done.
Let's thank them for
powering our lives.

National Lineworker Appreciation Day April 13, 2020

Linemen, from left, Kyle Vander Malle, Dustin Headley and Trevis George
PHOTO BY KELLY HAUGH



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

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

The health and safety of our staff and community are our top priorities. We are thankful for the patience and flexibility you've shown as we have made some changes to our operations in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Our annual member meeting scheduled for March 12 was postponed. We are developing plans for how we can hold that meeting soon. We will post information on our website and social media pages and send a new meeting notice by mail once those plans are finalized.

On March 16, we closed our lobby to walk-in visitors and temporarily suspended in-home installation of new internet services. These steps are designed to limit contact between our members and our employees to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

We are temporarily waiving late charges. Please keep your account current, but call us if you need more time to pay. If you need to make an in-person cash or credit card payment, you may come to the office and make your payment at the boardroom door without entering our building. There are many other payment options available to you, including mailing a check or leaving a check payment in the drop box near the front door, or setting up online payments. SmartHub is our online payment and account management portal. It's available as an app you can download to your tablet or smartphone, or as a web page on a desktop or laptop computer.

We have a waiting list for members wishing to have new internet services installed. We will work through the list as quickly as possible once we feel comfortable sending our internet technicians into members' homes again.

We are taking extra precautions to keep our linemen healthy so they can be ready to respond to any emergencies that arise. If you see them out working, please keep your distance and avoid stopping to visit or shake hands.

We encourage you to follow us on social media for the latest updates about our operations. We're on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as @HRECCoop. If you sign up for email billing, we will include you in email announcements about these types of changes in operations.

On behalf of everyone at HREC, thank you for your patience during this challenging time. Stay safe, stay home and wash your hands!

Sincerely,

Libby Calnon
General Manager



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

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Rod Hoagland
Hank Dufurrena
Zach Sword

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Fred Flippence

Operations Manager

Jason Hill

Line Superintendent

Jason Radinovich

Electrical Engineer

Shane Sweet

Office Manager

Stephanie Bowen

Attorney

Raymond S. Kindley

Absentee Ballots

Dear Members,

Harney Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is May 2 in Denio, Nevada. We are closely monitoring events and restrictions of the COVID-19 outbreak. By April 1, we will decide to go ahead with or cancel the meeting. If you do not plan to attend the annual meeting or the meeting is canceled, you will still be able to vote by absentee ballot.

Voting will be open to the membership once the nomination process is complete. Notice of the annual meeting will be mailed April 2. Harney Electric bylaws state a member cannot vote or request an absentee ballot until the notice of meeting is mailed.

Absentee ballots are available every year, and you can request to receive them in the mail. As a convenience, we include an absentee ballot request form with the notice of meeting. An absentee ballot is typically mailed to the member the same day the request is received.

Once you receive a ballot, don't just stash it with your bills. According to HEC bylaws, the ballot must be received at the Hines office by 5 p.m. the day before the meeting. Mark your ballot, put it in the privacy envelope and put that in the mailing envelope. Be sure to sign the outside so HEC staff can verify the ballot came from a bona fide member. Then put it in the mail with proper postage or put it in one of the HEC drop boxes at either our Orovada or Hines location.

More information will be communicated in the April 2 mailing, including the board's decision regarding this year's annual meeting.

Your vote is important.

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**

Save the Date Annual Meeting

5 p.m., Pre-meeting Open House
7 p.m., Annual Meeting begins
Challis High School



SREC's Annual Meeting

I hope you all marked your calendars for the Salmon River Electric Cooperative Annual Membership Meeting on April 23 at 7 p.m. at Challis High School. You probably have noticed the annual meeting insert in this month's Ruralite that provides the details of the meeting. Remember, you get a \$20 electric credit and some great gifts just for registering at the meeting.

The annual meeting provides you, the member-owner, the opportunity to participate in the governance of the electric cooperative through the election of board members. The cooperative's board is made up of seven directors from seven districts. This provides broad representation of the members' interests. Each director is elected by the membership as a whole, not by the district they represent. It is the duty of each director to act in the interest of the entire membership, not just the district they were elected from. This year, you will have the opportunity to elect two directors, one each from the Stanley and Pahsimeroi 1 districts.

Directors represent your interests in the cooperative by abiding by its articles of incorporation and bylaws. In addition, your interests are represented through the board's development and implementation of board, member and employee policies. The board also looks after your cooperative through attendance at monthly board meetings; special meetings; and state, regional and national meetings and trainings.

Once again this year, you will be given the opportunity to participate in your cooperative by listening to reports that will be given at the annual meeting. These reports will summarize the financial well-being of the cooperative; provide 2018-2019 operational highlights; and consider state, regional and national issues that will impact the electric cooperative.

Surely the best part of the meeting for me is the opportunity to interact with the SREC membership, which includes employees, family, friends and other acquaintances. There is no better time or place to kick this off than the pre-annual meeting barbecue that starts at 5 p.m. Music is provided by Challis students. SREC's wholly-owned, Salmon River Propane, hosts the barbecue.

Don't miss out on the great prizes to be drawn during the annual meeting! Remember, you have to be present to win. See you there!



Ken Dizes

Ken Dizes
General Manager



United Electric CO-OP INC.

Directors

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

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

General Manager

Jamie Stark

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

2020 CENSUS: FACT SHEET



✓ What is the census?

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

✓ Who counts?

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

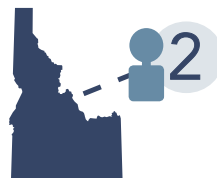


How are census data used?

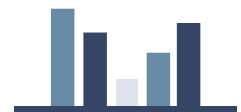
To determine the number of congressional representatives each state will have.

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

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



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



How do I respond to the census?

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



Online



Phone



Mail

Is my information secure?

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

Official Census Day is
APRIL 1, 2020

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





Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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

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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.

Lineworkers know how to get the job done.

Let's thank them for powering our lives.



National Lineworker Appreciation Day

Through the observance of National Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18, 2020, Lost River Electric Cooperative staff, board directors and member-owners express our gratitude for the efforts of our lineworkers to keep our power system safe and reliable.

We realize this safety and reliability doesn't just happen. The lineworkers of our cooperative are at work or on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our lineworkers work to keep the public and each other safe while working in a profession that poses acute dangers. These efforts do not go unnoticed.

Through the years, the LREC outage frequency and duration rate has decreased substantially. This trend can largely be attributed to the foresight and hard work of our operations management and the lineworkers who carry out the construction and maintenance necessary to provide this reliability. Despite extremes in weather, power pole accidents, the occasional misguided excavation scheme or the like, our lineworkers stand ready at a moment's notice to crawl out of bed, miss a child's sporting event or wave goodbye to an anxious family as they leave for another weekend trip without dad. They do this to provide us with the most reliable power service possible. Their sacrifice allows the rest of us to enjoy a better quality of life at home, work and in our community.

So, the next time you see our lineworkers out and about, a tip of the hat or simple, "thank you for keeping the lights on," is greatly appreciated.

Brad J. Gamett
General Manager



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

April

CVEA Board Meeting: The April meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, 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

May

CVEA Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting scheduled for May have been postponed until further notice

CVEA Board Meeting: The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, May 21, 2020, in Valdez

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, May 25, 2020, for Memorial Day

AK-34

CVEA Annual Meeting Postponed Until Further Notice

Message from CVEA CEO Travis Million

The 2020 CVEA Annual Meeting scheduled for May 5, in the Valdez District, and May 7, in the Copper Basin District, has been postponed due to a Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendation posted March 15, 2020, stating that all in-person gatherings expected to be 50 people or more, in the next eight weeks, should be canceled or postponed.

CVEA will continue to closely monitor the situation and will update the members as soon as additional information becomes available.

We encourage all members to stay up to date on CVEA issues, as they relate to COVID-19, by monitoring the CVEA Facebook page and cvea.org. We are in a fast paced, ever-changing environment, but will do our best to ensure you have the most current, accurate information regarding decisions made by the Co-op.

The health and safety of our members and employees are of utmost concern to the Cooperative at this time. We will do our part and follow CDC recommendations and encourage everyone to do the same. We will continue to work hard and provide reliable electric service to our communities.

We are thinking of each of you and know we will get through this difficult time together.

Lineman Appreciation Day - April 18

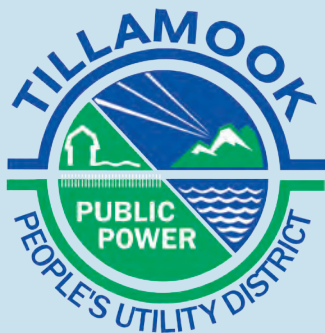
On April 18, electric cooperatives across the nation will celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day.

We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock, often in inclement weather and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

A team of seven linemen maintain over 500 miles of transmission and distribution lines throughout CVEA's service territory. CVEA encourages all members to honor the dedicated co-op employees who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

Please join us! Visit CVEA's Facebook page on April 18 to enter a comment of thanks and show your support for the employees who light up our lives.

Please use #thankalineman



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.



Riding the Technological Wave

Dear Customers,

There is no denying technology plays a significant role in our world today. Technology is in almost every facet of our daily lives. When you think about the many innovations in communications, health care, education and transportation, technology is the driving force behind the progression of these fundamental necessities.

In the electric utility industry and at Tillamook PUD, technology is a key component of our operations. Keeping up to date with technological advancements in our industry is essential to provide our customers and community with exceptionally safe and highly reliable electric service.

When planning system improvement projects, we analyze the current and future needs of our customers and explore advanced utility technologies that could be valuable. Last year, when we replaced the meters in our system, we selected a metering system with advanced capabilities that would quicken our response time, expand efficiency, increase our system safety and identify problems in the system we are able to fix before our customers even recognize there is an issue.

Utility equipment technology has made significant advancements through the years. Automated distribution equipment is incredibly valuable in our system. When overhead power line issues occur, such as a tree limb landing on a line, we can identify the location of the fault and related circuit needing relief or repair. We can isolate the specific section to make repairs or remove the limb, and re-energize customers on the same circuit outside of the damaged section while repairs are being made. In doing this, we can reduce the number of

customers without power and lessen repair time.

In the energy-efficiency realm, technology continues to evolve with the development of devices such as smart thermostats, advanced power strips, LED lighting and home energy monitors. We continue to look at these technologies and think of creative ways we can partner with our customers when using these devices to minimize use at peak times and maximize savings.

Unmanned aircraft—or drones—continue to captivate us with their incredible capabilities. Tillamook PUD is able to use drone technology for several tasks, including remote transmission line safety inspections and fault patrol. Our service territory is a mix of mountains, valleys, rivers and coastal regions with diverse terrain. Using a drone to perform inspections through these areas has been incredibly beneficial from both efficiency and cost perspectives.

Technology is everywhere, and continues to become more advanced as we move into the future. Who would have thought the Jetsons' predictions of technologies such as 3D printers, a variety of robotic assistance and self-driving cars would all become a reality by 2020? It is thrilling to think about what is coming next.

I look forward to the launch of new technologies in renewable energy, smart homes, robotics and beyond, but even more so, I look forward to the positive outcomes these new technologies may bring to the energy-delivery industry.

Sincerely,

General Manager Todd Simmons



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

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Owned By Those We Serve

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Corporate Headquarters

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Fairbanks, AK 99707-1249

907-452-1151

1-800-770-GVEA (4832)

Fax 907-458-6365

Delta Junction Office

1681 Richardson Hwy.

907-452-1151

1-800-770-GVEA (4832)

Fax 907-895-5472

Nenana Office

7259 Parks Hwy.

907-452-1151

1-800-770-GVEA (4832)

Fax 907-832-5438

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907-452-1151

1-800-770-GVEA (4832)

Select: Option 1, Option 1

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. *Esta institución es un proveedor de servicios con igualdad de oportunidades.*

Safety: You Have The Power!



AK-37

The information below is current as of press time (3/19/20). For the most up-to-date information, please visit gvea.com or cdc.gov.

GVEA and COVID-19

Serving our members is what we do best at Golden Valley Electric. GVEA is committed to the safety and well-being of our employees and ensuring that we continue to meet the electrical needs of our members and the communities we serve.

As a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and as a precautionary measure for the safety of our employees, members and the communities we serve, GVEA will be temporarily closing its lobbies to the public until further notice.

Although GVEA's lobbies will be closed, GVEA's Member Service Representatives will still be available during normal business hours to answer member inquiries at (907) 452-1151.

We'll keep the lights on:

GVEA provides an essential service to the communities we serve, and we take that responsibility seriously. GVEA has various emergency preparedness and response plans in place. We are also developing contingency plans based on updated information and will continue to do so. We are prepared to take all steps necessary to ensure continuity of our essential service to the communities we serve.

Stay updated:

GVEA appreciates your cooperation and understanding during these challenging times. GVEA will continue to post updates as needed via our:

- Blog (<http://blog.gvea.com/wordpress/>), which you can subscribe to, so that updates are emailed to you;
- Webpage (<http://www.gvea.com/news/>); and/or
- Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/GoldenValleyElectric>)

Bill paying:

GVEA encourages its members to use GVEA's "My Account" member portal platform at www.gvea.com to pay bills, manage their accounts and track usage. GVEA offers a variety of ways to pay your bill without leaving the comfort of your home:

- Interactive Voice Recognition phone system, simply call 452-1151 (or 800-770-4832) and follow the prompts (you'll need your account number)
- GV E-Bill (pay your bill on-line 24/7)
- GVEA Mobile App
- GVEA has payment kiosks in Fairbanks and Delta Junction. Access to the Fairbanks kiosk has been extended and is now available from 6am to 9pm seven days a week. The Delta Junction kiosk is accessible 24/7.

For a complete list of bill-paying options visit www.gvea.com/rates/payments

► **Need help?** GVEA is urging members who are experiencing financial hardships caused by COVID-19 to contact our Member Services department to address any concerns.

GVEA is closely monitoring the rapidly evolving issues and recommendations related to COVID-19. GVEA is following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), along with local and state directives, to help prevent the spread of the virus in Alaska. For the latest updates on the coronavirus, visit the Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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fnelson@psrec.coop

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dshort@psrec.coop

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Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



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

CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 13. Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative'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 PSREC service territory and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' 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 and serving on local advisory boards.

Monday, April 13, is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of PSREC'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.

Communications

Have you visited PSREC and PST's Facebook pages lately? If you are curious and want the most up-to-date information about your cooperative and its subsidiary, please find us on Facebook under Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative and Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications. Please also take a moment to review us on Google, Yelp and Facebook.

We post systemwide power outage notifications and other useful information, such as updates and tips. If you are not on Facebook, no worries! Check out www.psrec.coop and www.pst.coop to stay informed. You can also receive outage information via text message.

To sign up for text notifications, login to the SmartHub app from your mobile device, or from www.psrec.coop and set your notification preferences.

With the SmartHub app, available for Apple and Android devices, you can pay your bill, view your energy-use history, report outages, view outage information and contact us from the convenience of your smartphone, tablet or other devices.

Telecommunications

Service is now available in new regions! We are able to connect fiber optic to customers in Sierraville, Sattley, Calpine, Chandler Road and some of its side roads, as well as the main part of Quincy south of Highway 70. Speeds of up to 1 gigabyte per second are available to residential and business customers.

In addition, our electric and telecommunications businesses are working together to expand our electric system data control, meaning our telecommunications business is able to sell the surplus capacity on this system to our member-owners.

We have received grants in some parts of our region as well, allowing for further fiber optic expansion. If you are looking for service, or are wondering if you should make a long-term commitment with another provider, please check with us first. We hear again and again that if people knew that our services were about to arrive, they wouldn't have signed up for a long-term contract.

Areas we are working on connecting later in the year include Plumas-Eureka Estates, Johnsville, Lake Davis, Grizzly Road and Wingfield Road.

Continues on Page 25

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 3

Artist's Opening Reception. Main Street Artists Gallery, 436 Main St., Quincy. 5 to 7 p.m. Reception for featured artist, meet the artist and enjoy drinks and nibbles.

For more information, call 530-283-1909.

Artist's Opening Reception. Plumas Arts Gallery, 525 Main St., Quincy. 5 to 7 p.m. Plumas Arts Gallery welcomes a new exhibition.

For more information, call 530-283-3402.

April 4

Easter Egg Hunt. Plumas Sierra County Fairgrounds, 204 Fairground Road., Quincy. 9 a.m. to noon. Meet the Easter Bunny.

For more information, call 530-283-3402.

April 3 – 5

Banff Mountain Film Festival. Yuba Theater, 212 Main St., Downieville. View films from the Banff Mountain Film Festival held each fall in Banff, Alberta, Canada.

For more information, visit www.sierracountyartscouncil.org.

April 4 & 5

"Peter Pan Jr." West End Theatre, 641 Main St., Quincy. 7 to 9 p.m.

For more information, call 530-283-1956.

April 10

Concert and Lost Sierra Chamber Mixer. Diamond S Ranch, 2634 County Road A-23, Beckwourth. Chamber member happy hour at 5 p.m. Doors open to the public at 6 p.m.

For more information, call 800-596-8840 or 530-836-6811.

April 11

Plumas Goes Pops! Concert Series. Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds, Serpilio Hall, 204 Fairgrounds Road., Quincy. Woodwind Fantasy will perform. Tickets on sale at Plumas Bank or the fair office.

For more information, call 530-283-6272.

April 12

Easter Egg Hunt. Lassen County Fairgrounds, 195 Russell Ave., Susanville. 9 to 10 a.m.

For more information, call 530-257-7138.

April 15

Running with the Bears Marathon, Half and 10K. Greenville. Proceeds benefit Mountain Circle Family Services.

For more information, call 530-284-7007.

April 18

Taste of Plumas. Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds, 204 Fairground Road, Quincy. 5:30 to 8 p.m.

For more information, call 530-283-3402.



April 23

Earth Day Event. Town Hall Theatre, 469 Main St., Quincy. Doors open at 6 p.m. with information tables and no-host bar. Sustainability awards at 7 p.m. followed by the screening of documentary film "The Biggest Little Farm."

For more information, call 530-283-0202.

April 25

Spring Show. Lassen County Fairgrounds, 195 Russel Ave., Susanville. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Home, Garden Recreation, and Wedding Showcase. Food and drinks available all day. Free admission.

For more information, call 530-257-4323.

May 2

Quincy Rotary Golf Tournament. Plumas Pines Golf Course, 402 Poplar Valley Road., Graeagle. 10 a.m. Entry fee of \$100 per person includes cart, lunch and appetizer award reception.

For more information, call 530-283-0800 ext. 11.

May 15 & 16

Rhythm and Grace Dance Revue. Plumas Sierra County Fairgrounds, 204 Fairground Road, Quincy. Friday show at 6 p.m. and Saturday show at 3 p.m.

For more information, call 530-258-6792 or email rhythmandgracedancestudio@gmail.com.

May 31

Grizzly Scramble. Grizzly Ranch Golf Course, 250 Club House Road, Portola. Proceeds benefit Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce and Lost Sierra Visitors Center.

For more information call 530-836-6811.

June 6

Gravel Grinder. Portola. On-Site registration and check in, 3 to 7 p.m. Friday and 6 to 8 a.m. Saturday. The longest route is 106 miles with 8,100 feet of elevation gain. Two shorter routes are available. Post event food, beer, live music and dancing in Portola.

For more information, email heather@sierratrails.org.

June 20

Tour de Manure. Cycle the meadows and historic ranching communities in the Sierra Valley. Registration opens at 7 a.m. Start time between 8 and 9 a.m. Sierraville Firehouse, 102 E. Main St. The tour offers a 62-mile loop, a 42-mile loop, and a 30-mile out-and-back route. Post event food, drink and music.

For more information, visit www.tourdemanure.org

Manager's Message

Continued from Page 32

PST's fiber optic services offer speeds up to 1 gigabyte per second, and our coax and wireless broadband services offer download speeds of up to 20 megabytes per second. With these speeds, you can stream videos on multiple devices at the same time without slowing down. You could even eliminate your TV bill with streaming services.

We continue to expand broadband coverage throughout the region, so if you haven't already, get on our interest list or sign up for service by calling us at 800-221-3474 or visiting www.pst.coop.

COVID-19

We would like to encourage our membership to try to conduct as much business as possible with us via email and phone until we know more about the impact of the virus.

Please check our website to see if our office is open for face-to-face transactions. As we go to print with this issue of Ruralite, it is difficult to predict what the impact of the virus will be in early April, so please review the website and our Facebook page for the latest information.

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

Safety is Our Priority

Mt. Wheeler Power has been monitoring the rapidly evolving situation involving the coronavirus or COVID-19. First and foremost, safety is our priority. It's part of our culture. We are taking every precaution to keep our employees safe and protect our members. We are focused on maintaining a healthy workforce while continuing to provide the excellent service you expect from us. Therefore, key cooperative personnel, such as lineworkers and member service representatives, will continue to serve you, our members as needed.



We have told our employees if they are not feeling well, they should stay home and consult their health care providers. We require employees to be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication before returning to work. We also ask our members, if you are sick, please limit exposure to our employees.

We have adopted a no-hand-shake policy. We are asking employees to wash hands for a minimum of 20 seconds, and we have made antibacterial hand sanitizer available to our employees along with disinfectant spray to maintain a clean workspace.

As recommended by health officials, we are practicing social distancing by limiting direct interaction with our employees. We ask members to use the drive-up window for transactions and conduct services over the phone or online as much as possible.

We have limited business travel to only that essential to operating our business, and we encourage conducting meetings by phone or video when possible. Any employee who has traveled for business or personal reasons to any high-risk areas has been asked to self-quarantine at home for 14 days.

While some of our precautionary measures may seem inconvenient, they are being taken out of an abundance of caution to keep our greatest asset—our employees—safe. It is unclear how long these restrictions will remain in place, but we will post regular updates on our social media channels as the situation evolves.

Thank you for your understanding and commitment during this challenging time. We appreciate your assistance as we work diligently to keep our crew and members healthy.

Sincerely,

Kevin Robison, CEO

We
EMPOWER
Safety



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Vice President

M Jonathan Dahl
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Ouida Madison
Fred Montes de Oca
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Bruce Widmer
Bob Wilcox

Director Emeritus

D. Vernon Dalton

Website

www.wrec.coop

Outage Hotline:

800-566-6696
24 hours a day

Carlin office:

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

Wendover office:

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

Wells office:

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

Together, We Shall Overcome

For more than 60 years, Wells Rural Electric Co. has taken pride in fulfilling our mission to provide safe, reliable, affordable and carbon-free electricity to our members. As our lives and society have changed immeasurably in that time, I'm constantly reminded that here, in rural Nevada, we still look out for our neighbors and protect each other, just as we always have.

As the global health emergency presented by COVID-19 affects life in our communities, I want to assure our members that WREC will continue to fulfill our commitment to reliability. Electricity remains at the heart of what drives our day-to-day lives.

These are unprecedented times, and the increased focus on social distancing measures has the potential to overwhelm. Because of modern technology and the devices we use on a daily basis, however, we now have the ability to remain connected to one another even while practicing social distancing. Electricity plays a central role in that process, and we are here to make sure you can still connect with loved ones, stay caught up on the news and enjoy the other conveniences electricity provides even during increasingly difficult circumstances.

I take very seriously WREC's duty to act as a responsible citizen in our communities. We are supporting local, state and federal efforts to flatten the curve and slow the spread of the virus. We each have a responsibility to heed warnings from medical professionals at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and adhere to appropriate social distancing practices. It is our duty to help protect those in our society who are most at risk.

As a result, WREC has closed its offices to in-person transactions. Our commitment to reliability remains unchanged. Please continue to report every outage to our dispatch center by calling 1-800-566-6696.

Our efforts to provide excellent service require healthy employees. Those who are able to work remotely are being asked to work from home. These measures are meant to protect the health of WREC's members and employees. That does not mean you should expect us to be any less responsive to your needs. Our drive-through windows and payment drop boxes remain open, and there are online and phone service payment options for those who wish to contact us or pay remotely.

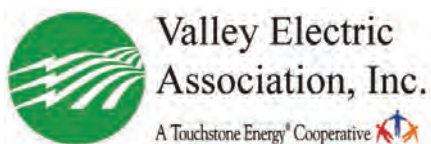
Regardless of the circumstances, we are still actively engaged every day in providing the best possible service to our members. We are here for you.

Now, more than ever, it is important that we all remember the important roles we share in building our communities. Our daily functions may change, but WREC's commitment to you will not. Even in isolation, electricity ensures we remain connected, we remain a community and we remain more powerful together.

We will meet these challenging times just as we always have: together.

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer





LIGHTNING FAST

Internet Service



valleycom.com

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Michelle Caird
775-513-2861

DISTRICT 4

Kathleen Keyes
775-253-4926

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Bonnie Groenert
775-764-0014

DISTRICT 5

Terrie D'Antonio
775-253-4956

DISTRICT 3

Rob Shirley
775-253-4916

DISTRICT 6

Robin Barber
775-253-5743

OFFICE PHONE

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

AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

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

(775) 727-5312

Website: www.vea.coop

Email: wmc@vea.coop

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Rebuilding Trust: **Leading by Example**

Over the last few months, we have shared what being Member Focused and Looking Ahead means in terms of Valley's goal of Rebuilding Trust. **Leading by Example**—the third part of this vision—is a key component in reaching our goal.

To move forward in a positive direction, it is imperative that Valley **leads by example**. In our communities, our behaviors and actions are continuously observed and interpreted. Everything we do reflects our values.

One example of Valley Electric **leading by example** is the formation of board committees. Giving our membership a voice and providing an opportunity for collaboration with directors and staff has allowed us to be proactive and solve issues before they become problems. All four committees—Finance, Member Liaison, Policy, and Charitable Foundation—have put in a ton of work to help us become more transparent.

The Charitable Foundation Committee has been looking for opportunities to help our communities and service areas. The Policy Committee is currently working on revising all board and corporate policies. The Member Liaison Committee is fully engaged in updating our bylaws while the Finance Committee is focused on monitoring our financial position. These are all huge tasks, and we appreciate everyone's dedication and hard work.

Another way we are **leading by example** is our recent response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Protecting the health and welfare of our members and employees is essential to living our values. During this quickly evolving situation, our challenge is to adapt while continuing to best serve our electric members and broadband consumers.

Based on information provided by the Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization and local health agencies, we have taken the following actions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19:

- Closing the lobby
- Encouraging members to use electronic methods for conducting business
- Postponing district and annual meetings
- Livestreaming board meetings rather than holding a large public gathering
- Canceling events and meetings scheduled at the Valley Conference Center
- Canceling employee business travel and participation in public and large meetings
- Implementing an employee work-from-home program

One of the best ways we can **lead by example** is to accept accountability, work as a team, and do what we say we will. Trust is a necessary ingredient required to strengthen our cooperative. There are no shortcuts. Valley is dedicated to becoming a "best-in-class" co-op.

Have a great month and stay safe,

Mark Stallons
Chief Executive



Kittitas PUD's Response to COVID-19: Keeping the Electricity On and Remaining Available for Customers

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



We take seriously our responsibility to contribute to the health and welfare of our community by providing safe, reliable electric service. We are actively monitoring the current pandemic, considering the advice and directives of our state and local government, and making decisions in the interest of our customers to the best of our ability.

On Friday, March 20, our board of commissioners passed Resolution No. 1067—“Declaring a Pandemic Emergency Event”—which will enable us to keep essential personnel on the job, implement measures to support our customers and make necessary decisions quickly.

We will continue to respond to outages and emergencies, and conduct business by phone, email and online. As situations change, we will respond and make necessary adjustments to keep our customers and employees safe and healthy.

Ways we can work together during this time:

- We ask that customers who are able to continue paying their monthly utility bills please do. As a nonprofit, public utility, this will help us continue operating while providing flexibility to those most impacted.

- Our front office, lobby and rental facility will remain closed to the public until further notice, but we offer many options for making payments that maintain social distancing: in our drop boxes or by mail at 1400 Vantage Hwy.; by phone with our office (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday) at 509-933-7200 or 509-674-2790, or our call center (24 hours a day) at 844-755-8423; and online at KittitasPUD.com by creating or logging in to your online account, or by QuickPay, which only requires your name, PUD account number and payment account information.

- If you are able, please consider joining other PUD customers and employees in helping those in need by making a 100% tax-deductible donation to our Helping Hands fund. For more information about the program and how to donate, please visit KittitasPUD.com. Look for the Helping Hands program link under the Customers menu.

- We recognize many customers are or will experience financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. If you have concerns about being able to pay your PUD bill, please contact our office as soon as possible. Employees are available during regular office hours by phone at 509-933-7200 or by email at customerservice@kittitaspud.com to discuss options available to you.

- A number of assistance programs are available in our community to help customers struggling to pay their utility bills, and Kittitas PUD is committed to working closely with all of them. Visit KittitasPUD.com and look for Financial Assistance under the Customers menu for contact information for financial assistance resources.

- Field work will continue to prevent service interruptions. If you experience an outage, please continue to report it by calling 509-933-7200 and selecting option 0 as you always would. Employees in the field will follow recommendations for social distancing and sanitization.

- Anticipate that energy use may increase as you spend more time at home, but don't let energy use add to your worries. Thankfully, we are experiencing mild spring temperatures that should allow you to reduce home heating costs. For more tips on ways to stay comfortable and be energy-smart, please visit KittitasPUD.com. Look for Energy-Saving Tips under the About Us, Conservation Programs menus.

Rest assured that Kittitas PUD employees are still working and available to customers as we have been since 1937 and will continue to be as this crisis evolves. We ask for your patience and understanding as we work to provide the best service possible while protecting employees and customers.

Matt Boast
General Manager



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

District Offices

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

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

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

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

www.otec.coop
communications@otecc.com

Report Outages at

866-430-4265

Find us on 

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



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

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

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

Les Penning, CEO

Ron Williams, Attorney

A Message to OTEC Member-Owners on COVID-19

With the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent national emergency declaration, we are experiencing an event that has taken the country into uncharted territory. This event has impacted and will continue to impact all of us personally and professionally in a myriad of ways.

This message, by nature of the process of a print magazine, was drafted March 23. Although we recognize our social media platforms and online presence are our preferred form of real-time information delivery, we want to leverage every asset we have in our control to communicate with our member-owners. This medium allows us to provide updates and point to appropriate resources that will best guide your interactions with OTEC.

We are monitoring and responding to rapidly changing events, but our activity is focused on several primary areas at this time. We remain diligently focused on the health, safety and well-being of our employees and the public, and are ensuring to the best of our ability the continuity of our top priority of providing energy to our member-owners.

Gov. Kate Brown's recent executive order has mandated closing many businesses. Rest assured, we continue to concentrate on our ability to deliver power to our communities and especially critical resources such as hospitals and other medical facilities.

We have been in close contact and aligned with businesses across the state and nation that are making calculated ongoing decisions, sometimes by mandate and other times by necessity, to ensure we meet our priorities as previously stated.

The cooperative has temporarily closed our four district offices to the public, restricted nonessential employee travel and limited face-to-face interoffice activity to reduce exposure for our employees and the public.

Our operations are fully staffed and

responding to system activity as normal. The health of our team is our No. 1 concern during this time, and we appreciate your patience and support.

Please continue to report outages and outage risks, such as

trees encroaching on power lines, so we can proactively maintain high-quality power.

We have highlighted the availability of many online tools and digital applications for our members to interact and conduct business with the cooperative. Please visit www.otec.coop for a list of options that serve as an alternative to coming to our office. Some of these options will not just reduce exposure, they will reduce your time and cost of transactions and could be beneficial long-term solutions for your future interactions with your cooperative.

Although our future business environment remains volatile, we want to provide you with some comfort that your cooperative has been taking a measured and systematic approach to conditions that impact our core services of providing electricity. For ongoing updates, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and visit our website.

We wish the best for all our members, their families and businesses during these difficult and uncertain times.

Although our offices are closed to the public, we continue to conduct business and we are here to support our communities as best we can. If you have any question or concerns, please call our office at 541-523-3616.

Les Penning
CEO



Scan above for a list of
COVID-19 resources for
OTEC member-owners.



Member-owned since 1921

Ohop Mutual Light Co.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

Fighting COVID-19, We Are More Powerful Together

In an age of social distancing, many of us are scrambling to respond to our new normal. At Ohop Mutual Light Co., we have always been driven to help our community grow and meet whatever challenges come our way.

We will get through this together. The health of our community, our members and our employees are our top priority.

We are monitoring advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization and our state government, and will adjust our practices as needed to follow their guidance. As your community's energy provider, we are committed to keeping energy flowing.

Power On

Many people have lost their jobs. Others are experiencing a drastic drop in income. You have enough things to worry about right now. You shouldn't have to worry about losing electricity, too.

If you are having trouble paying your bill as a result of COVID-19, we want to work with you. Please call us at 253-847-4363 to learn about existing community programs, Operation Roundup and our installment payment options that can help you get back on your feet.

Lobby Closed to the Public

As we work to limit person-to-person contact, we made the tough decision to close our offices to the public. Rest assured: we are not closed. Instead of coming to an office to speak to us in person, we encourage you to manage your account from the safety of your home.

Go to ohop.coop and use SmartHub to make payments and track your energy use. If you haven't done so, download our app, which is packed with tools to help you watch and curb your energy use. If you need to drop off a payment, our drive-thru remains open.

Annual Meeting Cancelled

In March, federal and state officials declared a state of emergency, asking everyone to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In the spirit of cooperation, Ohop Mutual Light Co.'s Board of Directors decided to cancel our annual meeting Friday, April 24. Instead, an informative article will be published in the June edition of Ruralite magazine highlighting the information normally discussed at the meeting.

Planning Ahead

Because you need energy around the clock, we always have staff on call ready to respond to any storms or other challenges that come our way.

We are still responding to service calls and our normal daily operations, but where we can do so, we've scaled down our staff's exposure to each other. We are rotating our line crews and keeping workspaces sanitized.

I'm not sure what life will look like in the next month, two months, or even a year down the road, but I do know this community. We are resilient. We will adapt. We will get through this.

We may be apart, but we are still—now more than ever—more powerful together.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together to reduce the risk of this disease spreading in our area.

Kenneth Klotz
General Manager



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

Chief Executive Officer

Steven Walter

Operations Manager

Nick Himebauch

Controller

Steve Chamberlin

Executive Assistant

Lisa Peabody

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Ed Stephenson, President

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Roger Guay

John Saatela

Paul Bay

Dutch Siedentopf

Steve Nicholes

An electric utility owned
by those we serve in:

North Bend

Ames Lake

Anderson Island

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

TEC Closes Office Access to Prevent Spread of COVID-19

In response to recent reports regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19), Tanner Electric Cooperative closed its North Bend and Anderson Island offices and community rooms to the public effective Monday, March 16, until further notice. The safety of our employees, members and community remains our highest priority.

Tanner Electric personnel will continue to be accessible by phone Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. All departments will continue operating to maintain service and restore outages during the office closure. Power outages can be reported by calling 800-472-0208 or 425-888-0623 and through SmartHub.

"I know that the quality of life of our members is being impacted by the coronavirus," says Tanner Electric Cooperative CEO Steven Walter. "We take our responsibility seriously to provide our communities with the best electric service possible."

Tanner Electric encourages members to use the cooperative's self-service payment options that can be activated from the comfort of home to avoid person-to-person interactions. These include AutoPay, pay-by-phone and SmartHub, our online payment portal. Visit tannerelectric.coop for payment options. Tanner Electric employees are ready to help choose the best payment option for you.

As reports of COVID-19 continue, Tanner Electric is monitoring the threat and taking precautions to prevent the spread of the virus. Your co-op appreciates members' patience and understanding during this difficult situation.

Should Tanner Electric take additional action to protect our employees and members, we will notify members via social media—namely Twitter—and through email and posts on our website.

"Until the risk of the COVID-19 virus threat is mitigated, we apologize for not offering the high level of face-to-face service you have grown to expect," Steven says.

Take care. We're going to get through this **together**.

Tanner Members: If you need assistance finding food, paying bills, accessing free child care or any other essential services, dial 211 to speak to someone who can help, or visit www.211.org/services/covid19



495 E. Columbia River Highway
PO BOX 216

Clatskanie, Oregon 97016
503-728-2163 Office
www.clatskaniepud.com

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

Please call to report outages
503-728-2163

Automated Secure Payment Center
1-844-262-2431

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Don Hooper, Director

GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #14408000

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

Community Calendar

**Most meetings have been canceled due to
COVID-19 recommendations.**

April 12: Happy Easter

April 15: Clatskanie PUD Board Meeting

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

**Clatskanie Bulky Waste Day has been
rescheduled for Saturday, May 9th
8 am to Noon in the Clatskanie City Park**

As I'm preparing this letter, we are in the midst of a pandemic involving the Coronavirus. I wanted you, our customers, to hear from me how we are responding to the situation, and as an essential service what you can expect from us during this pandemic event.

It is vital to the continued operation of our electric utility that we keep our staff healthy and able to fulfill their duties and responsibilities to maintain power to our customers. To this end, we are limiting potential exposure of our staff to the virus. Our staff is instructed to conduct all customer interactions via phone, mail, or email and to restrict travel and personal attendance to outside meetings. Please keep a safe, social distancing appropriate space away from our line crews when they are in the field to limit their exposure.

Since Tuesday, March 17th we have closed our Board/Community room to all public meetings and groups, other than PUD board meetings. While the Board meetings will still be held and open to the public, the Board and Staff have the option to join by conference call to limit exposure. Two staff members will be present to record the meeting and take notes, have the room open to public, and coordinate the conference call. We will continue this procedure until the pandemic is over.

From Monday, March 23rd through April 3rd our office lobby will be closed. Customers may pay bills via SmartHub, phone call to our secure IVR system 844-262-2431, or the drop box outside the office building. All other business will need to be conducted via phone, email, or mail until pandemic restrictions are lifted. We will re-evaluate the situation on April 2nd to determine if an extended closing period is needed. During this difficult time for those customers who are out of work due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact us to make extended payment arrangements. If you contact us to make payment arrangements, you will avoid late fees and negative impacts. Our Share the Warmth energy assistance funds are available to help those in need as well. Communication with our customer service department via phone or email is vital to our being able to assist you: 503-728-2163 or customerservice@clatskaniepud.com.

We have also suspended two programs that would put contract field personnel into customers' homes to make sure both staff and our customers are protected to the extent possible.

Clatskanie PUD will be following and adhering to all State and Federal regulations and requirements as we go through this challenging time. We will keep our website and Facebook account updated to further inform our customers of any changes. We want to express our appreciation for our customers support and understanding as we all unitedly work through these events. Our sincere hope is that you all remain well and safe from the virus.

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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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.

KEA Annual Meeting Canceled

Elections will continue with mail-in ballots only

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the Kotzebue Electric Association Board of Directors voted March 18, 2020, to reduce unnecessary risks to our members and the community by canceling the in-person portion of the annual membership meeting April 7, 2020.

While KEA will not hold the 2020 annual membership meeting in person, the election for the board of directors will continue as a mail-only ballot election. For the mail-only election to be valid, KEA needs a quorum of the membership to cast mail ballots. Please take a moment to cast your ballot by mail. Additionally, KEA will accept ballots in its drop box at the KEA office. Mail-in ballots can be reissued upon request, but if multiple ballots are cast from the same member, only the first ballot received will be counted. The board has extended the deadline for returning ballots because of the cancellation of the in-person portion of the meeting. Please be advised that all ballots must now be received by KEA by 5 p.m. April 30, 2020, to be counted. KEA is offering “door prizes” to members who return a valid ballot.

The reports usually presented at the annual membership meeting will be made available to members on KEA's website as soon as possible and will be mailed to members upon request. We will announce the election results on the website by May 7, 2020.

The board of directors did not take this action lightly. We will continue to look for additional ways to engage with and provide critical electric service and information to our members during this public health emergency. Thank you for your continued understanding and support.



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board@avec.org

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Alakanuk	New Stuyahok
Ambler	Nightmute
Andreafsky	Noatak
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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



We are All in This Together

At this time of so much uncertainty, we reach out with well-wishes for you and your loved ones and to affirm our collective mission to energize rural Alaska with sustainable electricity. I am writing to let you know how we at Alaska Village Electric Cooperative are responding to the COVID-19 virus while keeping you and our staff as safe as possible.

Last month we closed our offices in Anchorage and Bethel to all walk-in traffic. We encourage all our members to take advantage of our payment kiosk in Bethel, payment by phone and payment through our website.

Due to the citywide ban of gatherings of more than 50 people, we will not be holding our Annual Meeting on April 8 in Anchorage as planned. We will soon decide whether to reschedule the meeting or simply cancel it until next year. Your ballots are still due by April 7 and you will determine who will fill the two board seats, depending on when they become officially open.

Our field technicians are operating as normal, traveling around the state to respond to critical issues in our communities. All our staff are working either at their desks (while maintaining safe personal distances per federal guidelines) or remotely from their homes. Employees are available during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) to answer questions, take payments and schedule requests for new services.

Outside of regular working hours, our answering service answers all incoming calls and routes them to the AVEC on-call expert. For the safety and concern of our technicians and members, we will be doing our absolute best to resolve any technical issues that you may have over the phone.

We want to make sure we can all stay connected during these times; we understand hardships happen and as always, will continue to work with our consumers regarding missed or late payments. Please contact Member Services by telephone or email (MemberInfo@AVEC.org) so we can work with you.

We appreciate your loyalty and support and, on behalf of our entire team, please stay healthy and let's take good care of each other!

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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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.*

#ThankALineman

On National Lineman Appreciation Day, Lassen Municipal Utility District thanks all our linemen for the vital role they play in helping us provide our customers with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Our crews are dedicated to the communities they serve, working alongside our community partners for the greater good of Susanville and Lassen County. Please join us on April 18 as we thank all lineworkers. Tag your posts and let us know how you would #ThankALineman.





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

8565 SW Salish Lane #130
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503-585-9988

www.oreca.org

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Columbia Rural Electric Co-op
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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

Case in Point

This is the last column I ever wanted to write. I'd rather use this space to write about anything else related to electric co-ops: what we are doing for our communities, such as providing affordable, reliable, emission-free power or money-saving energy-efficiency programs. Or broadband, economic development and scholarships. I'd rather write about anything other than a global pandemic that has changed life as we know it.

As a movie buff, I've watched a fair number of movies about super-viruses that sweep the globe. The movies follow a familiar formula: Guardrails come off society and there is always a scene of looting in a supermarket as panicked citizens resort to violence to secure common household items.

Hopefully nothing like this occurs, but we have already witnessed some unscrupulous people profiting off this crisis.

Things could get worse. Unlike predictable Hollywood screenplays, we have no idea how this story will end. The shutdown of schools and businesses could go on for a long time and change every aspect of our lives.

One thing I know for sure: Your local electric cooperative is on the job. They'll not pat themselves on the back with self-congratulatory press releases, but I have read their elaborate response plans, and they are ready for the long haul. If you provide a vital service like we do, a national emergency will bring challenges that will break our hearts locally. Our member-owners will get sick, others will lose their jobs. Planning is important, but what may be more important in this crisis is our local connection. We know these people—someone at the co-op invariably went to school with them or they attend the same church or club. They are not an account number on a power bill. They are owners of the co-op.

An Oregon electric co-op CEO reminded me the other day of the mindset that dominates his co-op's every decision. "Profit is never our motive," he told me. "Every day is spent in service to our members, and their well-being is always our primary concern."

We are at our best when things are at their worst, because that is what keeps the guardrails on. Hopefully soon I'm writing about something else.

In the meantime, be safe and take care.



Ted Case
Executive Director

Florida Currents

April 2020 • Volume 9, No. 6

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President's Message

EREC is Going Virtual Due to Coronavirus Pandemic



Sam Walker

For the protection of our members and employees during the coronavirus pandemic, Escambia River Electric Cooperative will conduct our 81st Annual Meeting of the Members virtually on Saturday, April 25, 2020, at 10 a.m. A link will be provided on www.erec.com prior to the start time for members to use to access the meeting.

The virtual meeting will include the usual activities of business conducted during the annual meeting each year, including prize drawings. We will register every member who votes absentee into a prize drawing. Winners will be announced at a later date. If you have new business for the meeting, submit it in writing on or before Friday, April 24, and it will be addressed during the virtual meeting.

We encourage members to vote by absentee ballot. Ballots will be available during regular business hours at EREC offices in Jay and Walnut Hill from April 13 to April 24.

If you are unable to vote by absentee, you can come to the EREC office on April 25, 2020, in Jay and Walnut Hill from 8 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. and vote in person. The office will be open during this timeframe only to accept votes cast in person by members. Please note that to protect our members and minimize the spread of viral disease, we will not offer any activities or entertainment this year. We will not distribute gifts or prizes at the annual meeting as we have done in the past. Those will be available at a later date.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the procedures of the annual meeting this year, please contact our office at 850-675-4521 or 1-800-235-3848.

81ST ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 25
 10 a.m. virtual meeting
 Online at www.erec.com



Photo Hunt	18	Festivals	22
Adventure	20	Gardening	24

Utility Pages: 4-8, 25-26, 28-29, 32

A New Plant for the Panhandle

Up Close, Page 10

Saving the Bees

Spotlight, Page 12

Spring Greens

In the Kitchen, Page 16

Steady as She Goes!

Looking back on 2019, the saying “steady as she goes” comes to mind. With no significant challenges, like a major storm, we maintained a steady course of forward progress.

In comparison to recent years, the past twelve months could be described as quiet, or unremarkable, but that would be overlooking our accomplishments. In 2019, we achieved our highest reliability to date, surpassing the record we set the year before with only 29.97 minutes out (see page 32). Financially, it was also a great year.

Our employees, staff, and board of directors charted a course of success, and once again, we met our goals. We continue to work with FEMA to solidify additional storm hardening projects, while also conducting our annual inspections, routine maintenance, and ongoing system upgrades.

The expansion of our Marathon facility is one example of a large project we started. We also heightened the security at both our offices and worked—as always—to enhance our customer service.

After months of hard work, we recently unveiled a more user-friendly and intuitive website. We also increased the amount offered through our solar loan program, and extended the FKEC residential rebate program to run year-round. Please read more details on the following pages.

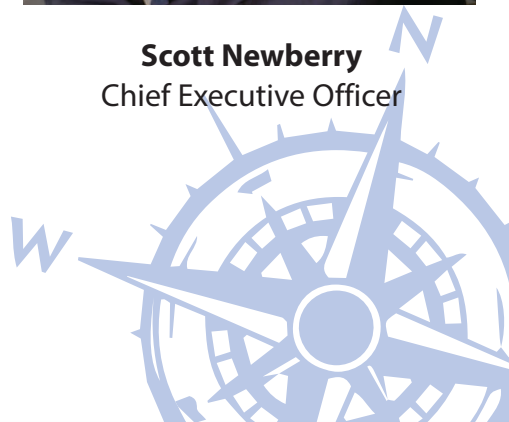
Our employees’ dedication to this co-op and community is also often done quietly, but it is something I value greatly. In their jobs, our team enables FKEC to serve as an influential community partner. But individually, they make even greater contributions to the Upper and Middle Keys communities through their giving and volunteerism.

We are also proud to see you, our member-owners, using our services. From rebates and net metering to our native tree giveaway and photo contest, you never disappoint with your participation and support. It is our goal to anticipate your needs and provide the services and reliability that not only meet, but surpass, those needs.

In 2020, we remain committed to providing high-quality, cost-effective, reliable electricity paired with the superior customer service our members deserve.



Scott Newberry
Chief Executive Officer



Preventative Maintenance Helps Achieve 99.995% Reliability

During FKEC’s annual helicopter-based inspection of our transmission system, potential faults were identified on equipment in the water crossing along Long Key Bridge. Insulators on the poles showed age and damage, so work to replace the critical equipment was scheduled. To access the poles, which range in height from 75 to 120-feet, FKEC loaded a bucket truck with a 100-foot boom onto a barge and set sail for each transmission structure. This project is one example of the work FKEC does to identify potential problems and prevent outages before they occur. **Read more on page 32.**

Photo by Tom Anthony

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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John "Jack" Coxe, President, District 8
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Okeechobee, 863-801-3140

The Board's next meeting is at 9 a.m. April 23 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

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

FL-153

Annual Meeting Message

The week prior to our 75th Annual Meeting, scheduled for March 21, the coronavirus gained a foothold in Florida. Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a public health emergency and recommended large gatherings be canceled due to COVID-19, which the World Health Organization declared a pandemic. Glades Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting draws more than 500 members and guests from the many communities in our service area. Since this event had the potential to facilitate the spread of the virus, we canceled the meeting to avoid contributing to the potential health risk to our members, employees, guests and communities. Unfinished business scheduled for the 2020 Annual Meeting will be completed at the 2021 Annual Meeting. We look forward to our 75th/76th Annual Meeting next year. Here is our report.

Our 75th year of operations ended in successful form, meeting or exceeding all lenders' financial covenant requirements. Once again, the hurricanes spared us. We did, however, have to prepare for that monster Dorian, which was forecast at one time to come right up the heart of our territory. We brought in and staged crews pre-storm from north-east Arkansas at a cost of nearly \$100,000. There's no Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement for that, which in its own way is a blessing. Our battle with FEMA for reimbursements of 2017's Hurricane Irma came to a productive conclusion in 2019, which allowed us to catch up a little on our capital credit retirements.

Checks and account credits were issued to current and past cooperative members in early December, totaling \$1,387,321 for years 1984 through 1986. This achievement marks the fourth consecutive year we've retired members' capital credits. That puts us on a 33-year retirement cycle—closer and closer to our goal of 30 years or better.

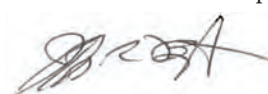
The year's sales volume increased 2% versus 2018, adding \$583,000 to revenues. We've finally recouped our meter count, achieving levels not seen since 2008. The average meter count for 2019 was 16,540. One would expect increased sales volume to equate to higher power costs. However, power costs were down \$754,000 compared to 2018. This is wholly attributable to improved operations at our partner and power supplier, Seminole Electric Cooperative Inc.

Operating costs were held down as a result of Hurricane Irma FEMA reimbursements. The magnitude of Irma's damage across the state led FEMA to increase its reimbursement level to 90% versus the usual 75%. The additional 15% added \$1.2 million to our cost recovery. Bottom line: We realized margins of \$3.4 million. That is a decrease of \$501,000 versus 2018. As a not-for-profit organization, those margins are allocated to cooperative members. Your ownership equity has grown by nearly 2 percentage points to 34.1%. Member equity of that level allows us to continue our trend of capital credit retirements.

Finally, thank you to COPA members. Your support helped us pass national legislation in 2019 that eliminated a tax on health care plans; exempted federal grants, including FEMA reimbursements, from being treated as income to electric cooperatives; and reduced insurance premiums on electric cooperative pensions. Those achievements will help us continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to our entire membership.



John R. Coxe, President



Jeffery R. Brewington, CEO



Gulf Coast
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICES

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

9434 Highway 77
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850-265-3631 or 800-568-3667

www.gcec.com

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John Bartley

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

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

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

FL-154

GCEC President's Message

Join Us for Your Co-op's 72nd Annual Meeting

Your ballot for the 2020 annual meeting should have arrived in your mailbox recently. At one time, members had to attend the annual meeting to vote. Unfortunately, situations arose that made it impossible for some to attend. To afford more members the opportunity to participate in the democratic process part of the annual meeting, members may vote by mail or online.

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

Internet. Follow online instructions at <https://gcec.coopballot.com> to place your vote on the secure website. Make sure you have your voting PIN handy. It is on the paper ballot enclosed in your packet.

Paper. Complete the ballot in your election packet and return it in the included postage-paid envelope. Your ballot is mailed to a third party conducting the voting process on behalf of the cooperative. We do not have access to the completed ballots, and are unable to accept ballots hand-delivered to our offices.

In appreciation of your time to complete the voting process, we will credit \$5 to your electric bill. GCEC also will work with the third party handling the election to randomly select 40 members to receive \$25 gift cards in the mail and 10 members to receive \$100 electric bill credits, which must be redeemed at one of our offices.

The election closes at 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, April 22. The meeting is Saturday, May 2, at 8 a.m. Central at our headquarters office in Wewahitchka. Activities end 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. The grand prize is a 2003 Chevrolet 1500 4x4 pickup truck.

We have made some changes to our scholarship program. Graduating high school seniors who apply by the April 3 deadline and meet the qualifications will be entered to win one of 10 \$1,000 scholarships to be used for college, university or technical school. The drawing is random and takes place "live" during the program. For more information, visit www.gcec.com or see your high school guidance counselor.

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, April 17, to observe Lineman Appreciation Day.

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
850-265-3631
800-568-3667

Wewahitchka
850-639-2216
800-333-9392



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.preco.coop
800-282-3824

TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

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

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

210 Metheny Road
Wauchula, FL 33873

MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

14505 Arbor Green Trail
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

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District 7

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District 8

ELLEN BACHMAN
VICE PRESIDENT

District 9

WILLIE DAWES
PRESIDENT

BOARD MEETINGS

April 21, 2020

May 19, 2020

June 23, 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

How Will You Mark the Day?

Earth Day, which is celebrated on April 22, is a worldwide civic event. We can all be part of this global movement to help the environment.

First, I want to share some things we are doing at Peace River Electric Cooperative to improve our own little corner of the world.

In recent years, we've launched several green initiatives, including:

- Adding more fuel-efficient line trucks to our fleet.
- Installing self-reading meters so an employee isn't required to drive to your location each month.
- Increasing the use of high-efficiency transformers containing environmentally friendly cooling oils.

As individuals, there are many ways we can help the environment. Some are easier than you might think. Here are a few simple areas in which you can take action now to reduce your energy use.

Lightbulbs. Swap out old-style incandescent bulbs with LEDs to make a big difference in home efficiency. It's one of the easiest ways to reduce your energy bill.

HVAC system. Replace your air filter monthly to allow your HVAC system to run more efficiently. Clean filters reduce the strain on your air conditioner by allowing air to move freely, keeping your home cooler in summer and warmer in winter.

Smart or programmable thermostat. Make sure it is programmed for the current season and family schedule. Increase savings by programming it properly and adjusting it periodically to keep pace with changes in your routine.



Windows and doors. Seal leaks with weatherstripping and caulk to keep cool air indoors during warm months and prevent cold air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets also helps increase efficiency.

Want to take your energy savings to the next level? Get a free energy audit from PRECO. We will give your home or business an energy checkup and suggest simple steps you can take to save even more. Call us at 800-282-3824 to schedule an appointment.

As we celebrate Earth Day this April, let's continue to work together and make a positive impact on our local community—and our beautiful planet.

Randy Shaw