



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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Director of Accounting
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Director of Engineering

Business Hours

Monday - Thursday
7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Closed Fridays

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

ID-1

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

- 1) If you are spending more time at home, you may be using more energy than usual. Monitor your daily electric usage with SmartHub or at www.clearwaterpower.com. Heating, water heating, cooking and laundry are usually your biggest costs.
- 2) For those who have been financially impacted by this pandemic, contact us to learn about payment assistance, temporary payment deferral and debt arrangement plans.
- 3) Support local businesses wherever and whenever you can.
- 4) If you are in a position to help, remember our non-profit assistance agencies. They are facing their greatest challenge! Energy assistance, food banks, blood banks, senior care and temporary shelters are needed now more than ever.



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

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

Board of Directors

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Stacie Ekstrom, Ione

Manager

Andy Fletcher, Heppner

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

OR-2

#ThankATeacher

Show appreciation for those who teach your kids

Every day in schools across the country, teachers touch the lives of millions of children.

Their work and impact extends far beyond the classroom. They inspire a lifelong love of learning and discovery, and make a difference in the well-being and long-term success of children.

Unlike other careers in which the same method can be applied time and again, teaching requires an individualized approach because each student learns differently and has a different set of circumstances.

Parents have gained a better understanding of those challenges in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has shut down schools across the nation.

Since 1984, National PTA has designated one week in May as a special time to honor the men and women who lend their passion and skills to educating our children. This year's celebration is May 4-8.

While we should thank our teachers every day, we encourage you to pause during Teacher Appreciation Week and really show your love for the teachers in our lives. Take to social media and use the official hashtag, #ThankATeacher, to tell them how much you:

- Love how they encourage you in special ways.
- Like what's happening in their classroom.
- Celebrate their achievements with students.
- Care about their commitment to students and families.

Although schools are not in session now, you can thank a teacher by sending heartfelt letters, cards, messages of appreciation, artwork, poems and video messages. When school resumes, consider other ways you can recognize teachers. One of the best ways is to volunteer in classrooms.

National PTA offers these tips to help families partner with and support teachers:

- Develop a relationship with your child's teacher and keep in touch.
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- Review your child's data to ensure he or she is on track.
- Look in your child's backpack every day.
- Frequently view the parent portal or whichever tool your child's school uses.
- Actively participate at school when possible.

Thank you, teachers!

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

OR-3

Manager's Report

Stay Safe

"Stay safe" is one of the core values in the utility and energy sector. It is integral to our work and a tenet stitched into the fabric of what we do. Today, that message means so much more than it may have for any of us in recent memory.

More than 90% of Americans are under statewide stay-at-home orders, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has advised all Americans to stay home as much as possible to reduce your risk of being exposed.

Here in Oregon, we "Stay home, stay safe." As we all adhere to and process the day-to-day effects of this new reality, it is increasingly important that people have seamless access to electricity—the essence of almost all modern activities.

Here at Northern Wasco County PUD, we are monitoring this situation closely. We are powering the lights, phones, televisions, computers, refrigerators, heating and cooling systems that we all depend on to get our information, communicate with loved ones and live our lives. We also are powering essential businesses such as the hospital, grocery stores, communications centers and other critical infrastructure. We are embedded in the regional unified incident command system to ensure we can support the communities we serve in the best possible manner. We are here to help.

Thankfully, we already had taken steps to modernize our critical infrastructure to ensure the safe provision of electric service. Maintaining the operational integrity of our systems is vital to safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare during this time.

Your board of directors has postponed the previously approved 3.8% rate increase for one year. The board has supported

the suspension of service disconnects for nonpayment and the nonassessment of late charges for the duration of this emergency. NWCPUD is committed to working with everyone to ensure the safe and reliable provision of electric service. We want you to stay home and stay safe with electric service.

None of this work happens without the excellent staff and contractor community that support the PUD. I am thankful for the dedicated professionals we have here. They are the motivation and energy that keeps the PUD working behind the scenes. Thank them yourself when you get the chance—from a safe distance.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all persevere through the COVID-19 pandemic together.

As always, stay safe!

Roger Kline
General Manager



Community Calendar

Public meetings continue electronically.

- ▶ The Dalles City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m., with the exception of August and holidays, at City Hall.
- ▶ The Board of County Commissioners meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Wasco County Courthouse.



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

OR-6

President's Report

COVID-19 Update

Thank you to our first responders! All of the doctors, nurses, police and sheriff, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics and military personnel are on the front lines, putting themselves in danger to help the general public. This includes the truck drivers and store employees who continue to work so we can buy the staples we need for our families. For all of them, we are extremely grateful and wish you and your families the safety and security you deserve. As a business providing an essential service, we know firsthand what you are going through.

We are prepared, and our teams continue to monitor the situation and reassess our plans as needed. As a part of your community, and as a provider of an essential service, we are determined to continue delivering the reliable power you need while helping to protect the health and safety of our employees, neighbors and everyone around us.

We're taking steps to ensure the stability and continuity of our operations, including resource and supply chain planning. Delivering reliable power is our responsibility—and it's our commitment to you.

We're implementing preventive measures to help keep our employees as safe as possible. All those who are able to perform their work without being in an office or facility are working remotely. Employees whose work requires in-person customer interaction may cancel or reschedule nonurgent appointments and services. When employees must be on-site, they have been directed to not shake hands, remain at least 6 feet away from other individuals and use electronic forms of communication where possible.

As part of our efforts to help reduce the

spread of COVID-19, we're taking extra steps before having any direct interactions with our members or others in the public. If an in-person meeting is necessary, our employees may ask a series of questions before entering a home or facility. They may also wear special protective clothing and ask that you help them maintain a distance of at least 6 feet. We will try to resolve issues by phone or other communication methods to avoid the need for direct interactions.

To prevent the spread of coronavirus to our community and employees, CPI has closed our offices in Philomath and Lebanon to walk-in traffic. Public use of the community room at our Philomath office is suspended until further notice.

Members will continue to be able to do business using our online and telephone options, or you may leave your payment in one of the locked drop boxes at both office locations. All member services, including outage restoration and bill payment, remain available at www.cpi.coop, on our SmartHub app, or by calling 800-872-9036.

Electric Safety Month

This month, Consumers Power joins with Electric Safety Foundation International and electric utilities across the nation to kick off its annual effort to increase awareness of electrical safety. The National Electric Safety Month 2020 campaign features a comprehensive collection of new and updated resources regarding effective electrical safety awareness for communities, organizations, schools and families. Visit www.esfi.org for information on these subjects.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO



Give a Gift That Keeps on Giving

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



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

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

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

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

Board of Trustees

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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 May 27 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

#POWERON

COVID-19 Response and New Bill Design

Dear Members,

We're living in unprecedented times right now. Benton REA remains committed to providing reliable electricity and internet services during the COVID-19 outbreak.

We are working hard for you. We know many of you can't work right now, and your jobs or businesses have been hit hard. I want you to know that we're still your source of power and information. We're here for you, as always.

Financial Assistance

We encourage all members who have been economically affected by the COVID-19 outbreak to work with Benton REA by using our member assistance programs such as payment agreements. Benton REA member representatives are ready to help between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday by calling 800-221-6987.

There are resources available to help with paying power bills, either locally or through the state of Washington. We'll help you find the right one for you. Just give us a call.

Until further notice, the Benton REA Prosser and West Richland offices are closed to the public to implement necessary health protection practices. Members are encouraged to use our self-service payment options from the comfort of home to encourage social distancing. These include AutoPay, pay-by-phone and SmartHub, and our online payment portal. Visit www.BentonREA.org/payment for a list of payment options or give us a call.

Members have called with questions about how Benton REA is responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. I want to assure you that we will Power On, just like you are doing. You can read our answers to your frequently asked questions on page 25 of this magazine.

New Bill Design

Many Benton REA departments have worked hard to implement the new and improved billing statement you received this month. The new design is the result of our desire to provide Benton REA members and PowerNET customers with excellent customer service and more information in an easy-to-read format.

A helpful guide to your new bill is included with your statement that was mailed May 1st, as well as on your SmartHub account and on pages 28-29 of this magazine.

Your feedback is welcome. We're always looking to improve our service to you, our member-owners.

Power On,

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

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

Offices

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

400 N.E. Eldridge 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 Wenholtz, Vice President
Steve Platt, Secretary-Treasurer
Lee Docken
Phil Hamm
John Otis
Tom Pitzer

General Manager

Robert Echenrode

www.umatillaelectric.com

OR-8

A Bright Horizon for Our Cooperative and Communities

Within this edition of *Ruralite*, on pages 4, 5, 8, 28 and 29, we report on our financial results and accomplishments of 2019, a year focused on building a strong foundation for the future of our cooperative and communities.

As our economy expanded in technology, transportation, farming and food processing, we delivered more than 3 billion kilowatt hours in our core mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members.



Our power sales rose nearly 20 percent from the previous year. Operating revenues rose to \$151.5 million, up from \$126.5 million the previous year. UEC's total assets reached \$243 million and total utility plant surpassed \$229 million, assets that are owned collectively by the membership. In support of our membership, our activities focused on:

Promoting Member Services. In seeking to improve the quality of life for our members, we increased our community giving in donations and scholarships, distributed \$8 million in Capital Credits refunds, began a low-interest loan program for residential heat pumps and paid out more than \$1 million in energy efficiency rebates.

Upgrading the Existing System. Rebuilding the Hermiston Butte Substation and doubling the capacity of the Hermiston East Substation topped a list of projects to maintain and upgrade our existing system.

Building New Infrastructure. We

continued to support industrial expansion in the Hermiston-Boardman areas, strengthen our irrigation infrastructure by building the Oregon Trail and Juniper Canyon West substations, and improve capacity, reliability and resiliency with new transmission lines serving the Hermiston and northern Morrow County areas.

Improving Outage Response. In a first for UEC, all substations have been connected to an upgraded Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) network that allows us to remotely monitor and better control our entire power grid. This provides more information to diagnose the impact or extent of an outage and put our response in action.

Meeting our Region's Energy Needs. In helping create a Green Energy Corridor in Morrow County (a model for statewide transmission line planning) and advocating for cap-and-trade measures that don't place an unjust burden on rural Oregonians, we strive to be a key player in collaborative solutions to meet our region's energy and renewable needs.

As we continue on in 2020, we wish health, happiness and blessings upon you, your families and friends. We are proud to continue working on your behalf to secure a stronger energy future.

Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

Office Hours:

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

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Robert Durham		Director
Robert Hammel		Director
Jim McNamee		Director
DeOra Patton		Director

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Traci Brock		Member Services Manager
Jennifer Lindsey		Executive Staff Assistant
Kelsey Lepinski	.....	Customer Service Rep.
Keenan Webber	.....	Customer Service Rep.
Mackenzie Chukwuyenum	.....	Financial Analyst
Casey McCleary	.....	Operations Manager
Brian Vosburgh	.....	Systems Engineer
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	.....	Service Man
Dan Funkhouser	.....	Grass Valley Foreman
Frank Roeder	.....	Maupin Foreman

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

Mission Statement

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

OR-9

Manager's Message

The changes in our day-to-day activities have made life a little different for all of us since the COVID-19 outbreak. I want to thank all of you for your patience and support as we work through the constraints that have been put into place to try to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Most of our workforce is working completely or partially remotely. All field personnel are taking unique measures to maintain separation and avoid an internal outbreak that could cripple our core resources. We have implemented such measures, along with closing our office, for the safety of our employees and members, and to protect the critical operations of the utility, ensuring the essential flow of power is maintained.

During this time, you certainly have shifted—by choice or by necessity, in some cases—your habits of interactions with your community and businesses that are still able to operate. Here at the cooperative, we want to ensure we can help minimize these disruptions and ease the potential frustration often felt by such changes. To that end, I want to share a few ways you can continue interaction with your cooperative.

Whether you need to pay your power bill, have questions regarding your account or are a new member wanting to sign up for power, you can still call the office during this closure. When calling the office, it will ring through to our answering service, which will pass along your name and phone number to one of our customer service representatives, who will return your call shortly thereafter. Other options for paying your bill include our online portal on our webpage or signing up for our monthly recurring auto-pay program.

Again, I thank you for your patience during these difficult times. I would also like to say how proud I am of our employees. They have remained positive throughout this change and have helped make the situation as smooth as possible. I am thankful for all utility industry employees who are still working to make sure power is generated and delivered to your homes. We sometimes take for granted the miracle that happens each time we flip a switch.

I hope you and your families stay well, and our communities and businesses can work through this unprecedented event together, coming out stronger than ever.



Jeff Davis

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 | Suzi Armstrong
Director | Bill Jackson
Director | Terry Nelson
Director | Carey Weatherly

General Manager
Keith Brooks

Assistant General Manager
Phil Bigler

Office Manager/CFO
David Western

Superintendent
Todd Sherwood

Member Services
Todd C. Munsey

System Engineer
Jess Dory, PE

Mission Statement

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

DOUGLAS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OR-10

Weathering Another Storm

Dear Member,

My first two winters here as your general manager have been interesting to say the least. Hopefully we are seeing some sense of normalcy return as we head into May.

Last winter it was a disadvantage living in rural Douglas County. Everyone was so far apart and servicing our system was a monumental task. This winter it was an advantage.

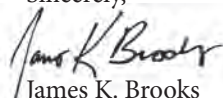
As of this writing, of the 120,000+ citizens in Douglas County, we had 14 reported cases out of 500 sick individuals who were tested. Four of the twelve had recovered and four were in Reedsport. Our hospital here was operating at about 50% capacity, seeing a mostly typical flu season level of activity. This however, did not minimize the importance of going above and beyond normal sanitary standards,

We took extreme measures to protect both our members and employees. The priorities, such as keeping your lights on, remained the same. With an average of 6 members for every mile of power line, our members have built-in social distancing. We got creative with the employees who serve you, and hope you saw no difference in the service they provide.

From a weather perspective, it has been a very sunny winter. Unfortunately it could mean a very dry summer. As we jump into fire season, there will be a whole new set of challenges. But like last year's storm and this year's virus, our members and your employees will endure. I must tell you however, I am a little concerned about what's in store for my third winter of orientation here in Douglas County!

As always, please feel free call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


James K. Brooks
General Manager



Columbia Power Co-op



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

DIRECTORS

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

MANAGER

Troy Cox

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

POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

OR-11

#ThankATeacher

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- Actively participate at school when possible.

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Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

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Brad Wilson

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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

OR-12

Annual Meeting Postponed

As we continue to navigate the evolving coronavirus pandemic, Central Electric Cooperative has implemented measures to protect its employees and members while continuing to deliver safe and reliable electricity. This mission proves even more critical as many Central Oregonians must stay home, telecommute and conduct school for their children. To learn more about our efforts to maintain a healthy workforce, protect the well-being of our members and assist those who are financially struggling, I direct your attention to pages 28 and 29.

Despite the disruptions the coronavirus has imposed on us all, some things must carry on. In last month's Ruralite article "Federal Agencies Recognize Value of Lower Snake River Dams," we shared how the co-lead federal agencies released their long-awaited draft environmental impact statement for the Columbia River System Operations (DEIS). The Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation examined a range of alternatives for long-term system operations, before settling on a preferred alternative (PA). Public comments on the DEIS were due last month.

The DEIS abandoned the idea to remove the four lower Snake River dams. Such a drastic step would have adversely impacted our members, the reliability of the Northwest energy grid and the global environment. The report also rejected another extreme measure calling for significant increases in water spills at the dams that would dramatically decrease power production, requiring a carbon-emitting resource for replacement power.

How the federal agencies manage the Columbia River System Operations is critical to how CEC can continue to provide members with clean, reliable and affordable

electricity. For example, the co-lead agencies reported removing the Snake River dams would have "long-term, major, adverse effects on power costs and rates," and the "rate pressure could be up to 50% on wholesale power rates." Increasing spills at dams throughout the Columbia River system would also have a chilling effect, driving costs up 41%.

The DEIS recommended adopting the preferred alternative, which would carry out the 2019-2021 spill operation agreement reached in December 2018. Also known as the flexible spill agreement, it tries to thread the needle between achieving improved salmon survival while managing hydropower generation costs.

CEC submitted comments expressing cautious support for the PA, but insisted the principles in the flexible spill agreement remain intact. Specifically, the PA continues to provide additional fish benefits by increasing spills, manage power system costs while preserving hydro system flexibility and retain operational feasibility. CEC also stressed the need for the co-lead agencies to rigorously analyze the PA's impacts on endangered species through the development of a robust monitoring approach, transparency and opportunities for public feedback.

Through constructive collaboration, we can work toward ensuring the Columbia River hydroelectric system continues to achieve the greatest benefits for the collective good throughout the Northwest.



Dave Markham, President and CEO



Board of Directors

President

John G. Herzog, Brookings/Harbor

Vice President

Georgia A. Cockerham, Brookings/Harbor

Secretary/ Treasurer

Jim Kolen, Gold Beach

Cheryl L. McMahan, Southern At-Large

Peter C. Radabaugh, Bandon/Coquille

Daryl C. Robison, Port Orford/Langlois

Daniel Loshbaugh, Northern At-Large

Attorney—Tyler Pepple

Staff

General Manager/CEO

Brent Bischoff

Corporate Services/CFO

Frank Corrales

Engineering Manager

Matt Mjelde

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

OR-13

Some Relief From the Distress

We've all had our lives turned on end by the COVID-19 outbreak and governmental restrictions imposed to combat the spread of the disease. Last month, as Ruralite was going to press, the extent of governmental restrictions was still unknown. In the April Ruralite, Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative announced a modest 2.23% rate increase to offset rising costs. Our last increase was January 2016. The increase, planned since last fall when the 2020 budget was developed, was to be effective May 1, 2020.



By the time the CCEC Board of Directors met March 26, the pending economic impact of governmental restrictions was becoming clear. At that board meeting, the directors unanimously voted to provide economic relief to our members by postponing the effective date of the rate increase to July 1, 2020. A press release announcing the delay was issued about the same time the April Ruralite arrived in your mailbox.

Good fortune enabled CCEC to delay this rate increase. Here on the south Oregon Coast, we usually experience two or three significant winter storms between November and March. Damage repair from these storms is expensive. CCEC includes storm recovery costs in the annual budget. Fortunately, we had no winter storms during the first quarter of the year, so we can use those budgeted dollars to delay the rate increase. Delaying the rate increase for two months results in about \$121,000 of forgone revenue that will remain collectively in members' pockets during the COVID-19-induced economic difficulty.

Coos-Curry Electric is deeply concerned for our members' well-being, particularly during this health and economic crisis. We have implemented tools to provide relief to those having difficulty paying their electric bill due to COVID-19-related sickness or loss of income. We are also searching out state and federal aid programs to find benefits we can pass on to our members in need. If you are having trouble making ends meet due to the COVID-19 crisis, please call and speak to one of our member service representatives to find out how CCEC can help you.

CCEC will provide continued quality service throughout the pandemic, although we have modified our work practices significantly to comply with Gov. Kate Brown's "Stay Home, Save Lives" executive order. Our office doors are closed except by appointment only. However, our member services representatives are still on the phones to meet your needs. Having implemented social distancing practices, our crews are out working to keep the electric system in good order. Thank you for your patience with our modified work practices.

Brent Bischoff

General Manager and CEO



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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Brett Costley
(Dist. 4 – Vernonia)

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

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

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

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

Rosemary Lohrke
(Dist. 6 – Chapman, Scappoose)

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Bob Perry

Contact the board:
directors@westoregon.org

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

OR-14

We Want to Help You Keep the Lights On

It's extraordinary times, and we're all in this together. As we continue to work through this unprecedented time, I want you to know we're here to help.

There has been a lot of talk lately about passing legislation prohibiting utilities from doing disconnects for nonpayment during this pandemic. During the past few years, we have worked hard with our members to ensure their lights stay on.

We typically start each month by sending shutoff notices to 200 members. For the past six months, by the time we roll a truck to disconnect, the number of shutoffs is down to one or maybe two at the most. That's how hard our front office works with you to keep your lights on.

While we will work with each of you to pull through this difficult time, as a cooperative, we do not have the resources to allow us to forgive members' nonpayment debt. That cost would be passed on to other members as a higher bad debt allowance. However, we can forgive the \$50 collection fees and make payment arrangements during this time.

We encourage you to keep a close eye on your account and reach out to local energy assistance groups if you find yourself in a situation where you cannot pay your bill.

As many utilities have opted to forgo disconnects during this time, it is crucial that members keep in mind the debt will not go away and you will continue to be billed for your use. Our staff will continue to monitor accounts with a delinquent balance and work with those members to keep the lights on.

As I said earlier, we often have zero accounts disconnected for nonpayment. The most common cause of a disconnected account is the inability to reach the member and/or the home is vacant.

Now more than ever, it is important to make sure we have your current contact information. We will make every effort to reach you before any scheduled service interruption occurs, but we are only as good as the information we have on record. A great way to update your information or monitor your use is through SmartHub. If you are not already registered, you can easily do so through our website or on your mobile device by downloading the SmartHub app.



Regards,

Billi Kohler
Administrative Services 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.

CA-15

Pam Robbins Ends 32-Year Career

Pam Robbins started with Surprise Valley Electrification Corp. on April 11, 1988. Through the years, Pam has worn many hats: from data entry clerk to administrative secretary to system operator and finishing her 32-year career as our billing manager. She has been a part of handling capital credits during her time here.

Pam has been a huge asset to the cooperative with her vast knowledge of multiple departments and her strong work ethic.

Pam loved giving back to the community in many ways. You may have seen Pam and her husband, Chris, dressed up for the Juniper Berry Parade in Davis Creek every year. They loved to make the youth smile with outfits ranging from Whoville characters to the Flintstones.

Pam always suggested Surprise Valley Electric have a float for the Fourth of July and Christmas parades. She spent hours of her own time making them just right. She welcomed competition amongst other local businesses when it came to the scarecrow exhibit at the Modoc County Fair.



Pam Robbins

Through the years with the cooperative, Pam has never missed an annual meeting. That dedication shows her commitment to Surprise Valley Electric.

Thirty-two years is a long time. You've worked hard, Pam. Now it's time to enjoy that wonderful retirement you've planned.

From all of us here at Surprise Valley Electric, we want to thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the cooperative.

Congratulations!



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Knudsen Obermeyer, Oakridge District | **President**

Kathy Keable, McKenzie District | **Vice President**

Hugh Buermann, Row River District | **Treasurer**

Jerry Shorey, Oakridge District | **Secretary**

Jack Billings, Central District

J. Ingrid Kessler, Central District

Chris Seubert, Central District

MANAGEMENT

Debi Wilson | General Manager

Susan Carter | Finance & Administration Manager

Tony Toncray | Operations Manager

Sean Krause | Engineering Manager

Andy Cave | IT Manager

BOARD MEETINGS

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

OR-16

We Continue to Adapt Through COVID-19

Dear Co-op Community Members:

This past month has definitely been a time of change and adaptations. At Lane Electric, our staff continues to balance the executive orders from Gov. Kate Brown while also ensuring our members have electricity to work, learn and continue daily life from home.

Our main office will remain closed through May 15, due to updated orders from Gov. Brown. Please continue to contact us via phone or email, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

If you experience an outage, we are here to answer your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We continue to respond to outages and ask that if you see our linemen working, please do not approach them. If they need to talk with you, they will maintain a safe 6-foot distance away from you. They are restricted on the work they can do, but we appreciate their efforts to keep our members' lights on.

Meter Reading

Our communication to our meters is not always perfect, and accurate bills are important. If we are unable get a read, we may contact you to help us. If you are unable to help with a meter read, we will estimate your bill and adjust it when we can obtain a good read. Thank you, Lane Electric members, for your help!

Payments

We pride ourselves on being able to do

what is best for all members. Lane Electric does not have a one-size-fits-all approach to our service. If you are faced with serious illness or job loss, we help our members when they call. Please contact us so we can work with you!



Annual Meeting

Each year, we look forward to the opportunity to get out and visit members throughout our district. Sadly, this year needs to look a little different.

Our annual meeting is Monday, June 22, but our district meetings will be postponed. The details of this meeting are still in the planning stages, due to restrictions that may still be in effect on our scheduled date. We will keep members up to date on the logistics of this meeting. We may be required to video the meeting this year. We hope to get out and see you all this fall, when we will schedule our district meetings.

Please continue to stay safe and check our website for any updates. We look forward to seeing you in person soon!

Sincerely,

Debi Wilson



**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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

OR-17

Manager's Report

Dear Members,

I frequently talk about individual, organizational and community resiliency. COVID-19 has certainly given us all a chance to practice our flexibility and endurance. Like many other businesses and services, we have adapted our work practices to keep ourselves and our community safe. Our efforts to keep our system strong and working for you has not changed.

Our crews have temporarily set aside our capital work projects to do work they can achieve while socially distancing, focusing on our annual Public Utility Commission inspections and right-of-way work. Each worker is driving in separate vehicles, and we're staggering our shifts slightly to keep people from being in close contact. This work plan ensures we have a healthy crew ready to roll to assist our members at all times during this challenge.

We have taken a few steps to reduce stress and provide our families and businesses with certainty during an uncertain time. Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative has temporarily suspended disconnection for nonpayment and is waiving late payment fees to support our members during the pandemic.

Please remember: These disconnect suspensions are not bill waivers. To help you avoid a large balance when the pandemic is over, we encourage members to pay at least a small portion of your bill as you are able. We are also working with members on payment plans and other assistance to ease the transition once the pandemic has passed.

Members have generously adapted to our lobby closure and are doing a good job keeping a safe distance from crews out in the field. In some cases, members have made changes to how they make their payments, using one of our many alternate payment methods. We greatly appreciate this show of resiliency on your parts.

Likewise, your board of directors has made changes in how it functions. Your annual meeting of the members that would have been in April is replaced by a virtual special meeting Saturday, May 16 at 6 p.m. for the purposes of certifying the board election. Monthly board meetings are happening virtually by phone conference call and internet. We are finding ways to allow greater access for members to attend these meetings virtually. We are learning and adapting as we go.

Being resilient means we will bounce back. We had a plan in place to modify our work at the beginning of the pandemic, and we are creating a plan for ramping back up when the time comes to do so. Our back-to-work priority is two-fold: the health and safety of our employees and community, and providing you with safe, reliable electric service every day.

Sincerely,

**Greg Gardner
General Manager**





Board of Commissioners

Dan G. Gunkel
President

Douglas B. Miller
Vice President

Randy L. Knowles
Secretary

.....
Jim Smith
General Manager

Gwyn Miller
Assistant General Manager

Kevin Ricks
Renewable Energy Asset Manager

Mike DeMott
*Director of Finance
and Power Management*

Mark Pritchard
Operations Manager

Ron Schultz
Engineering Manager

Brandy Myers
Customer Service Supervisor

.....
www.klickitatpud.com

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

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



WA-18

Adjusting Beyond the Normal and Serving Our Community

I want to use this space to thank our employees directly and give our customers, friends and families an opportunity to read this as well. Many times my thanks are quiet and between “us.” This time, however, is a bit different.

I know many of you in our communities are severely impacted by the effects of social distancing and other efforts to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. I have seen the changes in your business plans and witnessed your efforts to continue to find new ways to serve our local residents and care for your families. I have seen many of you continue to provide service to our communities in challenging jobs and do it with a smile on your face. Many of you have tried, and there is too much to overcome. I am truly sorry for the impacts you are weathering.

At your PUD, we are very, very grateful to have our jobs and to be needed as an essential service. That comes with responsibility though, and your PUD employees have not backed away from that responsibility. I have reiterated to them that we need to be at work to ensure that we provide a service to you that is sustainable—however long this situation lasts.

Our employees and their families have the same health concerns you do. Even with that, I am very, very impressed with their efforts to revise their work schedules and adjust family commitments and lifestyles to continue to provide you with the service you need. We have folks working 10-hour days, we have staff starting early or starting late, we have some critical staff working from their homes. They have adjusted how we work to be able to practice social distancing and remain safe. This has not been easy, but I have seen our employees step up with ideas and take on work that is just not “normal.” True, we are lucky to be able to have an opportunity to be at work to tackle these challenges, but it still takes an effort to do things differently and safely.

So to our employees: Thank you. Your efforts positively impact your community and I hope others appreciate that. I know you all acknowledge how lucky you are to be in the position you have. I know you will continue to be thankful for the job you have. You earned that job, and I am proud of you and your dedication.

To our customers: We will continue to endeavor to provide the levels of service you all expect and to support your efforts in our community. Please call us if we can help.



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

Board of Directors by District
District No. 1
Mike Dolan, Nordman, ID
208-610-3853

District No. 2
Vacant

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

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

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

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

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

ID-19

Fighting COVID-19, We Are More Powerful Together

As a locally owned electric cooperative, we've always been driven to help our community grow and meet whatever challenges come our way. We have been here for 85 years and will get through this together.

Northern Lights Inc. is closely monitoring COVID-19 and its impact to our region. The safety of our employees, members and community remains our highest priority. NLI has implemented a mitigation plan aimed at reducing the spread of illness while ensuring our ability to continue providing exceptional member service.

We are monitoring advice from 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 community and employee health.

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. But 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 www.nli.coop and use SmartHub to make payments and track your energy use. You can always call us at 208-263-5141.

If you need to drop off a payment, our payment drop box remains open in the parking lot of our Sagle headquarters at 421 Chevy St.

Annual Meeting Postponed

The NLI Board of Directors decided to postpone our 2020 annual meeting that was scheduled for May. We will reschedule the meeting as soon as it is safe to do so.

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 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.

Annie Terracciano
General Manager





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

DIRECTORS

Jim Poxleitner | President
Cottonwood

Ernie Robinson | Vice President
White Bird

Gerald Frei | Secretary-Treasurer
Grangeville

Frank McIntire
Kamiah

Martin Poxleitner
Grangeville

Greg M. Smith
Syringa

Bruce Nuxoll
Kooskia

Attorney
J.A. Wright

General Manager
Max Beach

c-21

Fighting for the Survival of Northwest Dams

In February, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration released the Columbia River System Operations draft environmental impact statement and opened a 45-day public review and comment period. The draft discussed many topics, including operations, maintenance and configuration of the 14 federal dam and reservoir projects that comprise the Columbia River System. The draft also studied five alternatives ranging from “no action” to removing dams.

While the removal study was the most controversial, the DEIS found that while salmon might do better without the dams in place, the benefit to fish was uncertain, while societal costs would be extreme. The study found breaching the lower Snake River dams would double the risk of a regionwide blackout and increase pollution significantly. Other dam removal effects include raising power costs to each of you by up to 25% and reducing the ability to add new wind and solar power to the grid in the future. The study also determined the impact to shipping, irrigation, loss of jobs and other benefits of the dams to be extreme.

After looking at all alternatives, the agencies’ recommendations focused on a preferred alternative that keeps the dams, but increases “spill”—that is water going over dams instead of through turbines—across the eight dams on the lower Columbia and Snake rivers. The idea is to help more juvenile migrating salmon avoid turbines. However, there is reputable science that indicates the nitrogen trapped in the water by spill may kill more fish than it helps. This preferred alternative likely will increase wholesale power rates by 3% and equate to roughly a 1.5% rate increase for our members. We will see where this ends up.

In April, ICL&P submitted comments on the Columbia River System Operations DEIS. These comments were due by April 13. The final EIS will be issued by June 30. Since we buy our power from BPA, this will affect all of our members and most of the Northwest.

While I believe everyone is concerned about the salmon in the rivers and wants to make sure they remain here for our children and grandchildren, we must look further because other rivers up and down the coast see the same declines in salmon. These other rivers don’t have dams, but show the same decline in salmon. When you take that into account, the ocean becomes more apparent as a larger problem than the dams. More than 80% of a salmon’s life is spent in the ocean.

While the dams are not perfect, they do have a 96% survival rate for fish making it through dams, whether they go through the turbine, bypass, spillway or surface weir. This is the direct result of nearly \$18 billion spent since 1980 to improve fish passage routes. To get to this \$18 billion, on average, about \$15 of your monthly bill goes to fish and wildlife projects in the Northwest. While we cannot control this amount—which is applied to our power bill—we do our best to ensure our voice is heard on issues that will affect our members.

Hydropower provides a clean energy resource, and it benefits many people and industries all around us. Decisions being made today will affect us for many years to come.

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

First - and Hopefully Last - Online Annual Meeting

These are strange and uncertain times. That strangeness extended itself to our Annual Meeting a couple weeks ago, as the distancing protocols in place in our state turned our yearly gathering into an online virtual meeting. I'd like to thank everyone who attended the meeting via the Columbia REA website. We appreciate your understanding and support of our efforts to keep ourselves in good standing with Cooperative bylaws, and to keep you, our members, up to date on the important events and business that continue at the Cooperative, even in the midst of this temporary new normal.



It was a short meeting, with the primary intent of sharing the results of our Board of Directors election, and announcing the recipients of our 2020 Columbia REA Scholarships. For more information...usually covered a bit more in-depth at our Annual Meeting, please read our 2019 Annual Report, which you should have received with the April issue of *Ruralite* magazine. I'd also like to thank Chris Drake of Walla Walla University, for his technical expertise, and for making our virtual Annual Meeting possible.

And I want to thank everyone who voted in our Board Elections. For the second year in a row, we had a record number of votes cast...732 total votes! Member engagement is more important than ever right now and we appreciate each of you who took a personal interest in helping us set the course for the continued success of our Cooperative by voting.

For complete election results, see page 4 of this issue of *Ruralite*. But congratulations are definitely in order for our 2020 Board of Directors election winners: Greg Knowles, Vic Parks and Neil Carpenter.

And a big shout-out to our Annual scholarship recipients! Ethan Haugen of DeSales High School is our 2020 Clark Brewington Memorial Scholarship winner. He will receive a \$1,500 annual scholarship to a 4-year college yet to be determined. Madison Case of Walla Walla High School and Noah Beechinor of DeSales also won \$1,000 annual scholarships. We wish them all every success going forward and we are proud to be able to play a small part in their continued education.

We also promise to continue to educate you, our members about ongoing developments relating to the Coronavirus pandemic as it relates to the work we do for you. But rest assured, our commitment to personal safety, system security and keeping your lights on, has always been foremost, and nothing has changed in that regard.

Be safe, stay healthy.
Best,
Scott Peters



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
Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist
Ken Wilson, Chemult

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

STAFF

General Manager

Dave Schneider

Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Steinhauer

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

Midstate Electric Cooperative continues to monitor and follow the advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and our state and local government in protecting one another from contracting and spreading COVID-19. We are implementing lessons learned from others to slow the spread of the virus.

Lobby Closed to the Public

In response to Gov. Kate Brown's directives to contain the spread of COVID-19, our office lobby is closed to the public. Rest assured, we are still open for business.

COVID-19 may necessitate changes in how we interact, but it will not change what we do. Line crews still respond to outages, service order work continues, bills will be processed and mailed, and you can still speak with our employees about your bill or service by calling 541-536-2126.

Although our payment kiosk and drop box are available at the office, I encourage you to consider other payment options to avoid leaving the safety of your home. Payments can be made by calling 541-536-2126 option 2 or by managing your account via SmartHub (standard billing) or MyUsage (prepaid billing) on our website, www.mse.coop. If you need help, call and speak to one of our member service representatives.

Payment Assistance

MEC is working with federal and state assistance programs to secure funding for members who are having difficulty paying their bills. If you are in that situation, call us at 541-536-2126 for available options, including community assistance programs.

In the spirit of the community working together, members who want to help those affected financially by COVID-19 can contribute to MEC's relief fund by calling us.

Keeping the Lights On

The key to keeping the lights on is healthy employees. We are thankful no one at MEC has tested positive for COVID-19. We continue to follow preventive measures to decrease the risk.

The line crews have been separated from other employees and even from each other to limit possible spread of the virus. Crewmen have been assigned to permanent crews and report to separate locations at the headquarters facility or take trucks home at night and report directly to the job site. When not enough company vehicles are available to ensure the CDC recommended social spacing, crewmen are paid mileage to use personal vehicles.

Separation of the office employees has taken place. To the extent possible, employees are working from home. For employees unable to work from home due to technical and corporal limitations, we have established working areas per CDC guidelines, and have increased cleaning and sanitizing procedures.

Please take care, stay well and know we will continue to operate and provide the highest-quality service possible.

Thank you for your continued support through this difficult time. We will keep your lights on.

In-person Annual Meeting Canceled

Please see page 8 for additional information.

Dave Schneider
General Manager



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)



ID-24

#POWERON

Be safe, stay home, stay healthy

Amidst the uncertainty and challenges caused by COVID-19, May brings many things to remember, appreciate and be aware of.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. With so many people staying home these days, it's the perfect time to evaluate the safety of your home's electrical system. Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires.

Working on or have any outdoor projects planned? Dial 811 before you dig. Safety remains a priority at Raft River Electric for our employees and members. See page 25 for some electrical safety tips.

Mother's Day is a day to celebrate and honor our mothers. Where would we be without them? Thank you to all the hardworking, loving and supporting mothers out there. Happy Mother's Day!

May is also National Military Appreciation Month. Please take a moment to express your appreciation for those who serve our country in all branches of the military so we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us.

Finally, this Memorial Day, let's not forget the heroes and their families who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Today and every day, please help us celebrate their extraordinary service, commitment and courage.

During these unprecedented times, as our lives and communities have been altered dramatically, some things haven't changed: Our communities and members who still look out for and help each other, and Raft River Electric's commitment to our members. Please stay safe and know that Raft River Electric will continue to operate and provide the highest-quality service possible for you, our members.

The spread of COVID-19 may necessitate changes in our daily functions and how we interact, but it will not change what we do. Thank you for your understanding and support during these difficult times. We will get through this 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.bbec.org

TRUSTEES

President Ken Story

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

WA-25

Service Will Continue Responsibly

Safety is the culture of Big Bend Electric Cooperative. In joining the efforts of CDC and the Washington State emergency management energy division in protecting one another from contracting and spreading COVID-19, we are implementing lessons learned from others to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Currently, our offices are closed to the public. We will continue evaluating the pandemic status to determine when to reopen. We know you rely on safe, reliable electric service, and we will continue doing our best to serve you.

Equally important is the well-being of our employees. We are using best practices, good judgment and safety precautions to better serve you. We are also utilizing innovative ways to work together from safe spaces, including video conferencing, teleconferencing and more.

To help your cooperative and area communities reduce spreading the virus and encourage social distancing, please follow these guidelines:

- Contact our support staff and report power outages by calling 866-844-2363. General communications may be emailed to admin@bbec.org.
- Keep up with our latest updates by following us on Facebook and our website at www.bbec.org.
- Conveniently pay your energy bill online at www.bbec.org or call our secure phone line at 844-255-3682.
- If you are unable to pay your bill on time, we ask that you contact our staff to discuss payment deferrals, payment options and financial assistance at 866-844-2363. A proactive approach is the best way for us to be equipped to help.

We are taking additional steps to mitigate unnecessary risk:

- Minimizing work-related travel and participation in group gatherings.
- Preparing offices and staff to work from home as needed.

Please stay safe and know that Big Bend Electric Cooperative will continue to operate and provide the highest-quality service possible for you, the members we serve. The spread of COVID-19 may necessitate changes in how we interact, but it will not change what we do.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yvette Armstrong
General Manager/CEO



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

541-354-1233
www.hrec.coop

www.facebook.com/HRECCoop

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

.....

DIRECTORS

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Libby Calnon

.....

Serving rural
Hood River County
since 1945

OR-26

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

Spring has arrived and the valley is in bloom, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, few other things are business as usual. Rest assured, although our office is closed to walk-in visitors and many of our staff are working remotely, we remain committed to providing you the safe, reliable service you've come to expect.

Here are a few items to note:

- We recommend using SmartHub to view or pay your bill online. SmartHub can be viewed from a desktop or laptop web browser at <https://hrec.smarthub.coop> or is available for download from the app store for your tablet or smartphone.
- We have a walk-up payment window at our office for those who prefer to pay in person.
- We are available to answer your questions at 541-354-1233 or info@hrec.coop.
- We take new signups for Budget Billing this month. If you have 12 months of energy use history with us and would like to pay the same amount each month, year-round, call 541-354-1233 or email billing@hrec.coop to request Budget Billing.
- We have temporarily waived late charges and suspended disconnections for nonpayment. Please keep your account current, but call us if you need more time to pay. The Mid-Columbia Community Action Council can also tell you about assistance programs. They can be reached at 541-386-4027.
- We've resumed installations of new internet services and are working through our waiting list. We upgraded our equipment to handle the increased internet use. Evening hours are high-use times. If you need to download large files, please do so in the middle of the night.
- We have not yet rescheduled our annual meeting. We will post information on our website and social media pages and send a new meeting notice by mail once those plans are finalized.
- We encourage you to follow us on social media for our latest updates. We're on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as @HRECCoop. If you sign up for email billing, we will include you in email announcements about changes in operations.

I would like to thank our employees for the excellent work they are doing in these challenging conditions. We're all adjusting to new ways of working, but remain committed to serving you, our members, safely, affordably and reliably.

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

Find us on 

Board of Directors

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

General Manager

Fred Flippence

Operations Manager

Jason Hill

Line Superintendent

Jason Radinovich

Electrical Engineer

Shane Sweet

Office Manager

Stephanie Bowen

Attorney

Raymond S. Kindley

OR-27

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

The changes in our day-to-day activities have made life a little different for all of us since the COVID-19 outbreak.

Oregon and Nevada governors each issued stay-at-home orders in March. As you work toward adjusting your routines, rest assured your cooperative is working hard to ensure we continue to deliver power to your home or business.

We have closed the lobbies at Hines and Orovada, but have drop boxes at both to receive your payments if you are not able to mail your payment. About half of the office staff is set up with connections to the office so they are working from home. Our linemen are still in the field and working as much as possible using social distancing. Our goal is to provide service to our members while keeping our employees safe.

We canceled the annual meeting, but many of you still voted by absentee ballot. I thank you for your support of the cooperative process. We also donated to the Denio Community Club because it was not able to host the 2020 meeting. We always appreciate the members of the communities that help us put on our annual meeting.

We are still able to process requests for new services and connections. Sometimes this requires a little more time and use of email or regular mail. We ask our members to work through any obstacles with us.

We have been working under the new procedures for about four weeks. By the time this magazine reaches you, it will be closer to six weeks. I would like to say how proud I am of our employees. They have remained positive throughout this change and have helped make the situation as smooth as possible.

I have seen a lot of well-deserved thanks in the media for essential workers, but I have not seen the utility industry recognized. Personally, I am thankful to all of employees in the utility industry who are still working to make sure the power is generated and delivered to me in my home. Just imagine how other essential industries would be faring without power! We sometimes take for granted the miracle that happens each time we flip a switch.

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

Dig, Plant and Install Safely

I typically devote May's Ruralite back page to a safety message. This May's edition is no exception.

Safety seems quite relevant this year, as all of us have had to embrace measures to stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether we are exercising social distancing, avoiding meeting in large groups, washing our hands often, disinfecting surfaces, wearing masks or self-isolating, each practice is designed to keep us safe.

Each May, I remind our members of electric hazards and steps we can each take to stay safe around electricity. Electricity can be a quiet killer if we aren't aware it is near and we don't take precautions to protect ourselves. While any amount of electric current more than 10 milliamperes is capable of producing painful to severe shock, electric currents between 100 and 200 mA—0.1 to 0.2 amp—are lethal. For perspective, approximately 1 amp of electric current flows to light a 100-watt incandescent lightbulb.

Last month was Safe Digging Month—an annual campaign to remind homeowners and contractors to call 811 before starting a home project that involves digging. Whether you're a DIYer installing a fence, adding a mailbox or planting a tree, or a contractor working on a larger project, call 811—the universal dig line—and your local utilities will be notified to mark buried services including electric, gas, communications, water and sewer with painted lines or flagging installed along the buried utility location. Locates typically are completed within a couple of days of calling 811. If you are in doubt whether the locate has been completed, contact the utility directly.

Overhead electric lines are more visible, but can pose a different danger than a buried electric line. Typically, a buried electric line has to be dug into or in some other way damaged to cause electric current to flow. An overhead electric line sometimes only needs proximity to start an electric arc and cause current to flow. For this reason, it is critical that objects are not lifted near overhead electric lines. It is best to call your electric cooperative if items must be moved or lifted near overhead electric lines.

Trees that have grown too close to overhead electric lines can become energized. A person touching the tree can complete the electric current path to ground, causing an electric shock and possibly electrocution. Typically, insulated overhead electric service lines aren't a concern, but bare, noninsulated electric lines pose a real threat when trees or other objects are too close to them. Please contact Salmon River Electric Cooperative if you notice trees or other objects too close to electric lines. Typically, 10 feet of clearance is needed around uninsulated overhead electric lines.

Please stay safe around electricity and contact your electric cooperative if you suspect an electric hazard.



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

M. 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

ID-29

Staying Strong When Disaster Strikes

December 2004. August 2005. April 2008. January 2010. These dates all have something in common: Lives were lost and societies changed because of disaster. In 2004, the Indian Ocean produced a tsunami of devastating proportions. Hurricane Katrina roared through the Gulf Coast of American in 2005. Sri Lanka suffered from a cyclone in 2008. Centered near the capital city of Port-Au-Prince, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake crumbled Haiti in 2010.



M. Jamie Stark

Our world is no stranger to tragedy and hardship in the 21st century. Now, 2020 has COVID-19. Hopefully by the time this magazine comes to your mailbox, the pandemic has subsided. Regardless, the coronavirus has changed lives worldwide. Social distancing and quarantine are the new normal as we adjust to working and learning from home to help slow down the spread of this deadly disease.

As an electric cooperative, serving our members is always the goal. This pandemic has created extra challenges for United Electric employees. As “critical infrastructure,” UEC must always keep power flowing. We staggered our work schedules to maintain safe work zones. Many employees perform their daily tasks from home using remote and mobile technologies. Just like any other storm or crisis, our crews and staff are committed to excellent customer service while maintaining a healthy and safe work environment.

Like all our neighboring utilities and businesses, we had to close our doors to the public. Thank you to everyone using our drive-up window or kiosk at the office to pay your bill. Many of you never left the comfort of home by using our SmartHub app. If you do not have SmartHub, now is a grand time to start. This online application allows you to access everything about your electric account and pay your bill from your computer or mobile device. Please call one of our friendly member service representatives if you want to set up your SmartHub access.

There are some other important things 2004, 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2020 share: kindness and courage. Every time tragedy struck, ordinary people stepped out of their comfort zone to help their neighbors, family and friends. Amazing stories are coming to light of how people are spreading compassion and kindness through this pandemic. I hope more will come.

United Electric employees and board members are working with other regional utilities so we can better serve our communities through the COVID-19 crisis. Thanks to all of you doing your part to help curb the spread. As dark as this seems, we should all hope for a brighter tomorrow together. To quote the Rev. Billy Graham, “Without dark clouds in our lives, we would never know the joy of sunshine.”

Cooperatively yours,

M. Jamie Stark
General Manager



Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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

DIRECTORS

Randy R. Purser, President

Susan M. Harris, Vice President

Bret L. Zollinger, Sec./Treasurer

Chad H. Angell
James D. McKelvey
Maddie Mocettini-Hansen
Dean L. Myler
Lynn O. Rothwell
Merlin A. Waddoups

MANAGER/CEO

Brad J. Gamett

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

ID-30

LREC's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Many uncertainties and challenges face individuals and families as society deals with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Lost River Electric Cooperative (LREC) board of directors and staff recognize that these impacts have reached families in our own service territory.

We are actively working to identify specific needs of individual members who are struggling financially due to the impacts of this crisis. If you or another member is in need of financial assistance to pay residential power bills, LREC asks that you contact staff to evaluate assistance options.

To protect members and our employees, LREC has temporarily closed our office, and altered work schedules and assignments to adapt to health protection standards. We hope conditions prompting these changes will subside in the near future. LREC employees have had to adapt how we read meters and provide new construction and other power supply services. We hope the alterations have been as seamless as possible for our members, as this has been our goal. All programs and services offered through LREC continue to be available.

Your cooperative remains in a healthy financial condition and will limit discretionary spending to maintain this status as we deal with economic uncertainties. We welcome member inquiries and feedback as we chart our course through these trying times.

Brad J. Gamett
General Manager



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Board of Directors

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

May

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

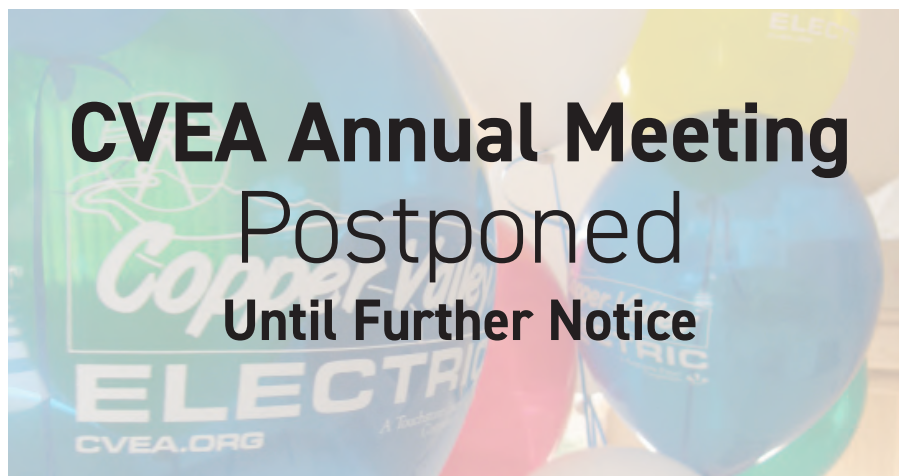
CVEA Board Meeting: The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, May 21, 2020, in Valdez

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

June

CVEA Board Meeting: The June meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, June 18, 2020, in Glennallen

AK-34



Offices Remain Closed to the Public

CVEA offices remain closed to the public as of this time, but we continue to work hard for you. If you have important CVEA business, please contact either office Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Safe, Convenient Payment Options

CVEA has many great options for paying your bill that support your efforts to stay home and stay safe. Use SmartHub via cvea.org or the SmartHub app on your computer, phone, or tablet, call 833-890-7728 to make a phone payment 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through a secure third party phone pay system, drop your payment in the convenient dropbox located outside each office, or call the local office for assistance.

COVID-19 Information Page at CVEA.ORG

It is CVEA's goal to provide members important, timely updates on the COVID-19 situation as it relates to your Cooperative. A single web page, organized by date and topic, was created to consolidate all notices so they are easy to find and reference. Just look for the COVID-19 feature at cvea.org.

Economic Hardship

CVEA urges members who are experiencing financial hardship caused by COVID-19 to contact Customer Service. Evaluations will be made on a case-by-case basis. Please reach out by calling 822-3211 in the Copper Basin, and 835-4301 in Valdez. Someone will be able to assist you during normal business hours.

The health and safety of our members and employees are of utmost concern to the Cooperative at this time. We are thinking of each of you and know we will get through this difficult time together.



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

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

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

Board of Directors

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

General Manager

Todd Simmons

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

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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



OR-35

The Basics of Safety

Dear Customers,

When my children were small, we had a unique method to alert them to stop if something was not safe. We would say, “Abunai,” which means dangerous or risky in Japanese. It didn’t matter what they were doing. This word always caught their attention and helped them consider safety first.

Just as my children were, many of us are also taught at a young age to stop and think, “Safety first.” Basic safety practices such as looking both ways before crossing the street and always wearing a seat belt become ingrained safety habits.

These behaviors continue to evolve and help us develop a solid safety foundation. It’s a foundation on which to build so we are equipped for more complex or unusual situations.

At Tillamook PUD, the element of safety is present in all the work we perform. We talk about safety often and continually train on a diverse mix of safety practices. We have a robust safety culture and a rigorous set of safety standards to which we must adhere. Working around electricity is dangerous. Our lives—and the lives of others—depend on how we implement and maintain our safe practices. If we don’t constantly keep safety in the forefront of all the things we do, the potential impacts could be devastating.

Our overarching concept of safety at Tillamook PUD encompasses a range of factors, including health safety. Mitigating the potential for health hazards is just as important to our work as any of our general safety practices.

The importance of health safety has been apparent the past several months as

we face the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Tillamook PUD, this uncommon situation has brought challenges and added an additional layer of safety practices to our daily operations. Components such as social distancing, sanitation, hygiene protocols and adjustments to staff personal protective equipment have become basic safety measures that we have incorporated into our daily work to help keep our staff and community safe from contracting and spreading the virus.

One thing I have found during these strange and uncertain times is that it is important to continue to support one another, even if from a safe distance.

Our community is a perfect example of what it looks like to come together in support of each other. Individuals have banded together through a variety of virtual and social media support groups and continue to work hard to support our local businesses in any way they can. Our continued support of essential workers on the front lines—such as first responders, health care professionals and grocery store attendants—is also important. The work they do helps keep us safe and allows us to continue to function.

The Tillamook PUD Board of Directors and staff are committed to supporting our community. We continue to focus on providing safe and highly reliable electric service, and working closely with all of our customers to provide as much support as possible during these challenging times. We are all here for you.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

General Manager Todd Simmons



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

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Vice President

Roy M. Nageak Sr.

Secretary

Herman L. Ahsoak

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Don A. Nungasak

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

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

#ThankATeacher

Show appreciation for those who teach your kids

Every day in schools across the country, teachers touch the lives of millions of children.

Their work and impact extends far beyond the classroom. They inspire a lifelong love of learning and discovery, and make a difference in the well-being and long-term success of children.

Unlike other careers in which the same method can be applied time and again, teaching requires an individualized approach because each student learns differently and has a different set of circumstances.

Parents have gained a better understanding of those challenges in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has shut down schools across the nation.

Since 1984, National PTA has designated one week in May as a special time to honor the men and women who lend their passion and skills to educating our children. This year's celebration is May 4-8.

While we should thank our teachers every day, we encourage you to pause during Teacher Appreciation Week and really show your love for the teachers in our lives. Take to social media and use the official hashtag, #ThankATeacher, to tell them how much you:

- Love how they encourage you in special ways.
- Like what's happening in their classroom.
- Celebrate their achievements with students.
- Care about their commitment to students and families.

Although schools are not in session now, you can thank a teacher by sending heartfelt letters, cards, messages of appreciation, artwork, poems and video messages. When school resumes, consider other ways you can recognize teachers. One of the best ways is to volunteer in classrooms.

National PTA offers these tips to help families partner with and support teachers:

- Develop a relationship with your child's teacher and keep in touch.
- Ask the right questions.
- Set goals with your child and his or her teacher.
- Review your child's data to ensure he or she is on track.
- Look in your child's backpack every day.
- Frequently view the parent portal or whichever tool your child's school uses.
- Actively participate at school when possible.

Thank you, teachers!





Owned By Those We Serve

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Corporate Headquarters

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

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

Delta Junction Office

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

Nenana Office

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

Report Outages:

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

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!

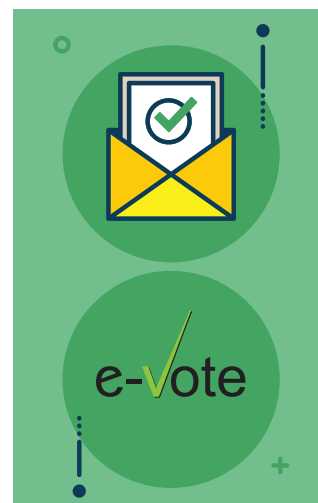


AK-37

Don't forget to vote

On May 15, ballots will be mailed to all members in **Districts 1, 2 and 3**. Voting is one of the most important actions you can take as a member-owner of Golden Valley Electric. You help set the direction of your local electric Co-op through the representative you elect to the board of directors for the next three years. Serving on the board requires dedication, commitment and willingness to take responsibility for setting the policies and direction for the Co-op. Electing good directors is the best way you can ensure excellent performance from your Co-op. Please take a few minutes to learn about the candidates and cast your vote.

Learn more at
gvea.com/inside/directors/elections



May 15: Ballots mailed
June 9: Ballots must be received by 5pm – electronically or by mail

GVEA and COVID-19 Financial Hardship Update

Effective March 19, 2020, GVEA temporarily suspended disconnects due to non-payment, as well as the accrual of late payment fees. These suspensions are a result of the COVID-19 situation and will remain in effect until Alaska's public health disaster ends.

To assist those residential accounts that remain unpaid due to financial hardships encountered as a result of the COVID-19 situation, steps are in place to help manage those unpaid electric bills. To begin with, two forms need to be submitted to GVEA before the disaster ends:

- COVID-19 Moratorium Certification
- COVID-19 Deferred Payment Agreement

GVEA has set up an informational webpage with a compilation of documents and websites that our members may find helpful. Our residential members can visit www.gvea.com/resources/covid-19 to learn more. If you are unable to print those forms, simply contact GVEA's Member Services Dept. to have them mailed to you or pick up a set in the entry way of our Fairbanks lobby.

While the above information is specific to GVEA's residential accounts, the website noted above also has information that may be helpful to our commercial members.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

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Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



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800-221-3474

For information about any
of our products, please
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visit our website at
www.psrec.coop

CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

I hope all of you and your family members are safe and getting through these unprecedented times as best as possible, given the circumstances. The pandemic has forced many changes on all of us, and it has had a huge impact on the economic vitality of our region.

Our lobby is still closed to the public and we suspect it will stay closed through the month of June. Having said that, you can still easily reach us by phone or online at www.psrec.coop.

We are still keeping the lights on and expanding our fiber-optic broadband internet service. I will mention more about that a bit later, but I wanted to make a few suggestions that will help get our community through these tough times.

Please Give Big Tips for To-Go Orders

Restaurants in our region are hanging on by their fingernails. Everyone I have seen is taking precautions and working hard to make sure your food is safe. In these times, the lack of table service and beverage sales is extremely difficult for them. Generous tips now will help the local restaurants we all love keep their employees and stay open through these tough times.

Now is the Time to Donate Locally

Unemployment is sky high in our region; we all know people who have been laid off or had to close their business. People are struggling with paying the rent, utility bills and buying food.

Many of our second-home owners came up to our region to wait out all this.

That is great, especially if you are keeping the restaurants busy and tipping generously, but please remember many of the full-time residents of our region are in dire straits.

Here are some of the better-known entities offering assistance and taking donations — there are more listed at the end of my column:

• Lassen-Plumas-Sierra Community Action Agency, plumascdc.org/lpscaa.html

• Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center, 530-283-5515, www.pcirc1.org

• Fort Sage Family Resource Center, 530-827-3007, fortsagefamilyresourcecenter.yolasite.com

• Lassen Family Services, 530-257-4599, www.lassenfamilyservices.org

• High Sierra Family Resource Services, 530-993-1110, www.hightsierrasfrc.org

The nonprofit sector of our region is also hurting, from arts programs to land trusts to animal rescue. We don't have space to list them all, but if you are in a position to donate, please consider it.

PST Internet Hot Spots Available

Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications is on a rapid expansion path through our region. With our own funds, and grant funds from the California Public Utility Commission, we have been building as fast as we can and are continuing that effort.

For safety reasons, we cannot install service inside living quarters of homes.

As I write this, we are still installing in some garages and commercial buildings, if there is appropriate access and safe conditions.

We hope to get back to normal installations this year, but we just don't know what the future holds at this point.

We are also increasing the hot spots where people can obtain free PST broadband internet access, as many people are trying to work from home, upload schoolwork, take classes and hang on to some semblance of normalcy.

Our hot spots are listed on our website at: www.plumassiatelecommunications.com/about/community/hotspots.

Continues on Page 25

Manager's Message

Continued from Page 32

In a few areas, we have placed outdoor wireless access points to increase coverage and encourage proper social distancing by being able to work in your car.

If You Are Struggling

Our staff is working with everyone struggling to pay their bills. Please talk with us to make payment arrangements. We are working hard with our own lenders to get maximum flexibility for our electric members and telecommunications customers.

As always, we are here for you, our member-owners. Please contact us at 530-832-4261 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Bob Marshall
General Manager

Below is a list of additional organizations in Plumas, Lassen, Sierra and Washoe counties where members can get and give resources to keep our communities strong during these trying times.

- Plumas County Community Development Commission, 530-283-2466, www.plumascdc.org
- Lassen Economic Development Corporation, 530-251-8309, www.lassencounty.org/dept/community-social-services/
- Nevada Home Energy Assistance and Crisis Intervention Program, 775-684-0730, www.dwss.nv.gov
- Portola Family Resource Center, 530-832-1827, www.pcirc1.org/locations
- The Salvation Army Social Service Center, 530-257-0314, deloro.salvationarmy.org
- Loyalton Senior Center and Commodities, 530-384-5718 or

530-993-4770

- California Tribal TANF Partnership, 530-252-4112, cttp.net
- Community Assistance Network, 530-283-0262
- Eastern Plumas County Assistance Network Food Bank, 530-832-4570
- Faith Family Church Food Mission, 530-832-8499
- Portola Wellness Center, 530-283-6307, www.plumascounty.us/2498/Locations-and-Services
- Salvation Army, Portola, 530-832-1827
- Western Sierra Food Bank, 530-289-3644 or 530-289-3632
- Crossroads Ministries, 530-251-0701, www.crossroadssusanville.org
- Lassen WORKS and Social Services, 530-251-8152
- Alliance for Workforce Development, 530-283-1606, afwd.org
- Lassen Career Network, 530-257-5057, afwd.org/index.php/lassen-county

More Time At Home? Here Are Ways to Save

- Program your thermostat to maximize energy savings. Setting your thermostat one degree lower when heating or one degree higher when cooling can reduce energy use by up to 5%.

- Do full loads of laundry and wash with cold water. Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more.

- Air dry dishes. This step can cut your dishwasher's energy use by up to 50%.

- Substitute LEDs for conventional lightbulbs. Lighting can amount to up to 12% of monthly energy use. LED bulbs can cut lighting costs by 75%.

- Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use. Small appliances and electronics use energy even when not in

use. When powered on, game consoles, televisions and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12 percent of energy use.

- Avoid placing items such as lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

- Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

- Laundry tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You will spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

- Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7% to 16% annually on water

heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

- Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

- Look for LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway step and porch lights. Many include features such as automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces.

- Ensure your refrigerator door seals are tight. Eliminate any unnecessary refrigerators or freezers.

- Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.



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

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District 6 – Jerald Anderson
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Proudly serving more than 10,000 residents and businesses throughout Nevada and Utah.

Mt. Wheeler Power's summer office hours start May 4. The Ely office will be open Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 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

Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month and the perfect time to evaluate the safety of your home's electrical system. Did you know outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires? The following four areas should be checked frequently to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.

1. Electrical outlets: Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.

2. Electrical wiring: Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.

3. Overloaded cords and outlets: Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.

4. Old appliances: Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.

See page 6 of this issue for more information on electrical safety. Electrical fires are among the most dangerous forms of combustion due to how quickly they can spread and grow out of control. This information can help reduce the chances of an electrical fire occurring in your home.

Stay safe,

Bill Ricci, Operations Manager



We
EMPOWER
Safety



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D. Vernon Dalton

Website

www.wrec.coop

Outage Hotline:

800-566-6696
24 hours a day

Carlin office:

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

Wendover office:

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

Wells office:

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

NV-41

Taking Care of Our Community

Metropolis wasn't always a ghost town. At its peak in 1912, Metropolis boasted 700 residents, a brick high school, a railroad depot, and the finest hotel between Salt Lake City and Reno.

Eleanor Hasenkamp Holland was a schoolteacher who left behind a wonderful collection of photographs detailing life in that once-bustling community just 12 miles north of Wells.

On the back of the photograph to the right, she wrote, "Do you remember the flu masks? We didn't use them in Metropolis, but Elko required them so Gertrude Hunt and I had to manufacture some before we took off for the weekend. We laughed over them, but it didn't seem so funny when I came down with the flu and nearly died. Fortunately, none of the other teachers took ill, though they all helped take care of me."

Eleanor was one of about 500 million people worldwide sickened by the influenza pandemic of 1918. Eleanor recovered, but about 50 million people died.

Even though this story is 102 years old, I suspect it sounds eerily familiar. But the part of her story that resonates with me is the final phrase: "They all helped take care of me."

I have written many times about Wells Rural Electric Co. being created by neighbors working together to help each other get safe, reliable, affordable, carbon-free electricity. That sense of community still guides every decision made by your locally elected Board of Directors and your employees at WREC, including our strategies to help all of our members get through this pandemic together.

Your cooperative has made many changes to address the impacts of COVID-19, but the most significant is the creation of a new position called Member Advocate. Several existing employees are putting aside their usual responsibilities to focus on helping individual members deal with the financial hardships caused by COVID-19. If you are having difficulty making ends meet, please call your local office as soon as you can so your member advocates can help you access the range of tools we have available to help you manage your account and, hopefully, some of your other financial burdens. Those tools include the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), SmartHub, energy efficiency, Commitment to Community vouchers, payment arrangements, budget billing and more.

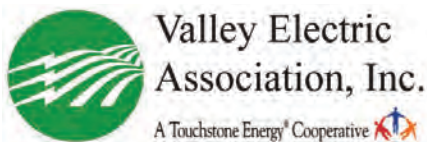
Other employees and your Board of Directors are working to develop more tools member advocates can use to help you and your family get through this very trying time.

Stay home, stay safe, stay positive and stay connected.

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer



Eleanor Hasenkamp Holland



LIGHTNING FAST

Internet Service



valleycom.com

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

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775-513-2861

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775-253-4926

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775-253-4956

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775-253-4916

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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

NV-42

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Time to Pause and Give Thanks

While enjoying Memorial Day festivities this month, I hope you will join me in pausing to reflect on the sacrifices of our country's veterans and their families, especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us in this great country of ours.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and in the words of John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

At Valley, we are grateful to have veterans on our team of employees and proud to serve veterans and their families in our local communities. In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable services, we care for the veteran community and show our appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to them and their families.

We are not alone in our efforts to honor and serve veterans. Valley is part of a network of more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country that support and honor our nation's veterans of all generations. As part of our national association of electric cooperatives, spanning 48 states and serving 13% of U.S. consumers, our family of electric co-ops has initiated countless programs.

The Department of Defense is one of the largest energy consumers worldwide and the single-largest energy consumer in the U.S. We, like other electric co-ops, work closely with military installations, providing electricity and partnering on various projects.

Not only do we pause on Memorial Day to remember the sacrifice and service of those who gave all, but the month holds several other military anniversaries and events, including Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 8 and Armed Forces Day on May 16.

Valley is proud to be a part of the electric cooperative network that honors and supports veterans and military members. Due to the pandemic, and for the safety of our members and employees, we find ourselves not able to participate in normal activities to honor such a heroic holiday. Nonetheless, Valley supports our veterans and our troops year-round. We proudly display our flag and are grateful for the service provided by all branches of our military. Please join us in taking a moment to show appreciation to a veteran—not just this month, but always.

To all of you, we thank you for your sacrifice and your bravery.

I would like to close by thanking our first responders, doctors, nurses, grocery store workers, education staffs and all of you who are doing your best to provide essential services. You have been the strength of our communities in this unprecedented time. I encourage everyone to stay positive and active while practicing social distancing. Enjoy time with your families, and please stay safe and healthy.

Stay strong,

Mark Stallons, Chief Executive



COMMISSIONERS

Joe O'Leary

Paul Rogers

Shan Rowbotham

GENERAL MANAGER

Matt Boast

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

Need Help With Your Utility Bills?

The following organizations may be able to help.

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

Committed to Our Customers

Kittitas PUD is working hard to maintain business continuity while complying with recent orders from the Kittitas County Public Health Department and Gov. Jay Inslee. As an essential industry, Kittitas PUD employees remain on the job to maintain normal operations. For the health and safety of our employees and customers, however, we have made a few changes to how and where we're working at this time.

Most employees have been assigned to work from home until further notice. A limited number of employees have been designated to essential responsibilities and continue to report to the office, where they are practicing "workplace isolation" to prevent the spread of germs.

This change in operations may immediately affect customers:

- Employees may be affected by inconsistent internet service, but will do everything in their power to remain connected to the systems required to help customers.
- Employees may not be able to answer phone calls as quickly as usual but are receiving your voicemails. Please leave a message and you will be called back as soon as possible.
- Employees may be making outbound calls from blocked or private phone numbers. If you aren't sure the call is legitimate, please either don't answer or hang up, then call us directly.
- Please be cautious and protect yourself against coronavirus scams. Kittitas PUD employees will not call and demand immediate payment to avoid disconnect during this time. If you are unsure, please hang up and call us directly. Check www.ftc.gov/coronavirus for more information about known scams.

Rest assured—we will always have personnel in place to respond to outages and emergencies as quickly as possible.

During this time, Kittitas PUD will focus our limited in-person workforce on customer projects already in process, and PUD maintenance and restoration projects. We will continue to accept new service applications online and by mail, but applications will not be processed until further notice. New applications will be processed in the order they were received, following restoration of business as usual.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding. We will continue to evaluate and adjust processes as necessary to limit customer impact as much as possible during this time.

Matt Boast, Kittitas PUD 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

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George Galloway, Union
County

Greg Howard, Union County

Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, CEO

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

Update on Annual Meeting and OTEC's Response to Pandemic

As COVID-19 continues to impact many aspects of our communities, it also impacts upcoming events that require preplanning and engagement by Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative and our member-owners. The uncertainty that exists with this pandemic has set the stage for OTEC positioning for our first-ever virtual annual meeting.

The Board of Directors decided to keep the planned date of the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Membership Saturday, May 30, to ensure the election process is not disrupted with a date change. The good news is the Board has positioned the cooperative bylaws to accommodate this option. Voting is conducted by mail, so this change still allows our members to participate in the democratic control of their cooperative, regardless of social distancing recommendations. There is more information regarding the annual meeting on page 3 and on our website, www.otec.coop.

I want to thank all of you for your patience and support as we work through constraints that have been put into place to try to limit the spread of COVID-19. Across the OTEC service territory, more than 50% of our workforce is working completely or partially remotely. All field personnel are taking unique measures to maintain separation and avoid an internal outbreak that could cripple our core resources. We have implemented such measures, along with closing our offices to the public, for the safety of our employees and members and to protect the critical operations of the utility, ensuring the essential flow of power is maintained.

During this time, you certainly have shifted—by choice or by necessity, in some cases—your habits of interactions with your community and businesses that are still able to operate. Here at the cooperative, we want to ensure we can help minimize these disruptions and ease the potential frustration often felt by such changes.

I want to encourage you to use our online tools to interact with your cooperative. Questions or concerns may be communicated through our website by clicking on "Contact Us." An OTEC representative will be more than happy to help you.

There are many other tools available for your convenience when you visit otec.coop. These tools include help with energy-efficiency programs and service options, payment options and our outage map. You are always welcome to call us directly at 541-523-3616 if you need immediate assistance.

I hope you and your families stay well, and our communities and businesses can work through this unprecedented event together, coming out stronger than ever.

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

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

General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

A Simple Hello

Every day we are reminded of the devastation COVID-19 has brought to our country and the world. Every day our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Every day seems to drag on as we hope and pray for an end to this pandemic.

F. Scott Fitzgerald once said “The loneliest moment in someone’s life is when they are watching their whole world fall apart, and all they can do is stare blankly.”

Many of our members, especially our senior citizens, are feeling the loneliness and the lack of connection brought on by the virus and stay-at-home order. They are longing to see family and friends—but, because of their age and physical health, the dangers of interaction and risk of infection are too high. For many, even when the order is lifted, the fear will remain until the pandemic is eradicated.

Now is the time for all of us to be proactive in telephoning our loved ones, our friends, our colleagues and our neighbors and reminding them that we are thinking about and checking on them. For some, a simple HELLO can brighten a very lonely day.

Power On

On a different note, if you are having trouble paying your bill as a result of the coronavirus, 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.

#ThankATeacher

Every day in schools across the country, teachers touch the lives of millions of children. They inspire a lifelong love of learning and discovery, and make a difference in the well-being and long-term success of children. Parents have gained a better understanding of those challenges as schools have shut down across the nation.

The National Parent Teacher Association has designated one week in May as a special time to honor the men and women who lend their passion and skills to educating our children. We encourage you to pause during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, and really show your love for the teachers in our lives. Thank you teachers!

As we work to limit person-to-person contact, entrance to our office will not be available to outside visitors until further notice. But 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. If you need to drop off a payment, our drive-thru remains open.

At Ohop Mutual Light Co., we have always been driven to help our community grow and meet whatever challenges come our way. Our employees, with a strong sense of conviction and quiet courage, work very hard to keep the power on for our members.

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.

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

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

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Operations Manager

Nick Himebauch

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An electric utility owned
by those we serve in:

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Ames Lake

Anderson Island

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

WA-50

Board of Director Ballot Instructions

Please select the candidate that applies to your service area and cast your vote. If the director in your area is running unopposed, no vote is required.

Anderson Island members will need to vote by mail only for the candidate of your choice due to COVID-19 and the restrictions of large gatherings. Remember to sign the outside of the envelope and **MAIL YOUR BALLOTS BY MAY 13** to the Tanner office.

A return envelope is provided inside the middle of this magazine.

Anderson Island Ballot

May 2020 Board of Director Election

(Vote by mail only due to COVID-19)

☐

David McGoldrick

☐

Tom Krueger

Ames Lake Ballot

May 2020 Board of Director Election

Susan Serrette-Egan (*No vote is necessary—running unopposed*)

North Bend Ballot

May 2020 Board of Director Election

Dutch Seidentopf (*No vote is necessary—running unopposed*)



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www.plw.coop

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Elaine Walter - Secretary
Mark Mulder - Treasurer
Gary Hauenstein - Public Relations

GENERAL MANAGER

Susan Cutrell

Incorporated in 1914—
The country's oldest
mutual cooperative

#ThankATeacher

Show appreciation for those who teach your kids

Every day in schools across the country, teachers touch the lives of millions of children.

Their work and impact extends far beyond the classroom. They inspire a lifelong love of learning and discovery, and make a difference in the well-being and long-term success of children.

Unlike other careers in which the same method can be applied time and again, teaching requires an individualized approach because each student learns differently and has a different set of circumstances.

Parents have gained a better understanding of those challenges in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has shut down schools across the nation.

Since 1984, National PTA has designated one week in May as a special time to honor the men and women who lend their passion and skills to educating our children. This year's celebration is May 4-8.

While we should thank our teachers every day, we encourage you to pause during Teacher Appreciation Week and really show your love for the teachers in our lives. Take to social media and use the official hashtag, #ThankATeacher, to tell them how much you:

- Love how they encourage you in special ways.
- Like what's happening in their classroom.
- Celebrate their achievements with students.
- Care about their commitment to students and families.

National PTA offers these tips to help families partner with and support teachers:

- Develop a relationship with your child's teacher and keep in touch.
- Ask the right questions.
- Review your child's data to ensure he or she is on track.
- Look in your child's backpack every day.
- Frequently view the parent portal or whichever tool your child's school uses.
- Actively participate at school when possible.

Thank you, teachers!



Board of Directors

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

General Manager

Kevin Short

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

May and June
Congratulations!

- Betsy Hansen 3 years
- Scott Wallace. 3 years

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 20—Director petitions due.
- May 25—Office closed, Memorial Day.

Easy Money

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



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

A Message from the Manager Strange Days Indeed

John Lennon—of Beatles fame—had a hit in 1984 with a song named “Nobody Told Me.” The song’s lyrics were an ode to life’s ironies and paradoxes at the time, with lines such as “Everyone’s a winner and nothing left to lose.” The iconic line from the song was “Strange days indeed!” Lately, it seems as if the storyteller was, after all, a prophet.

Here we are, nearly 40 years after John’s hit, wondering at the level of weirdness and outright terror the world has served up. We’ve all been stuck in the news whirlwind that is the COVID-19 pandemic, not knowing from one day to the next where this invisible attacker would strike next. I won’t go into the numbers here; suffice it to say that we have been devastated worldwide.

Instead, what I’d like to do is let you know what Anza Electric is doing. As I write this in early April, wearing a homemade face mask at my desk, I am struck by the oddity of it all. So here is a brief list of abnormal things we’re engaged in at your cooperative. We have:

- Split our employee team in half to help ensure reliability in case of infection.
- Instituted face mask, glove and social-distancing protocols for employees.
- Suspended all disconnects for nonpayment of electric and ConnectAnza accounts.
- Installed a free Wi-Fi hotspot for member use in our front parking lot.
- Escalated Cooperative Care Program financial assistance payments for our members.
- Recruited community talent to donate masks and surgical gowns to Temecula Valley Hospital.
- Maintained the FIND Food Bank mobile pantry.

Additionally, we’ve been working closely with our elected officials regarding all the unknowns surrounding the health and economic impacts of this disaster. Our office remains open, although we must, by necessity, transact business through our drop box, telephone and online.

As of now, we’re still in front of the peak. The forecast is grim, but we stand ready to respond with the full capacity of the cooperative to continue providing the highest possible service reliability. That’s the one normal part of this disaster for us; we have always and will continue to provide the utmost level of service to our members. I sincerely hope that the tide turns soon.

As always, please feel free to contact us at the office with any questions. Please be safe!



Kevin Short

ANZA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 391909 • Anza, CA 92539

Phone: 951-763-433 • Fax: 951-763-5297 • aec@anzaelectric.org • www.anzaelectric.org
Our crew is on standby 24 hours a day. To report an outage or other service problem, please call 951-763-4333.



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

GENERAL MANAGER
Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing
Account #1508800
If this is your account number,
please call the office to claim your
prize. Congratulations!

Community Calendar

May 2: Bark Dust Sale - Chamber
Sponsored Heritage Days Fundraiser - 9
am to 4 pm at the City Park in the parking
lot by the pool. Pre-order for delivery - call
503-338-8436.

May 20: 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 the fall - It will be held
Saturday, September 19.

OR-60

Recently the Clatskanie PUD Board approved the staff recommended "COVID-19 Emergency Bill Relief Program" to provide assistance for CPUD customers during this challenging time. The Board authorized the utilization of up to \$600,000 in emergency funds through the end of the year for this new program to help those affected by the COVID-19 economic hardships.

In addition, 100% of the Clatskanie PUD staff and board participated in an internal fundraiser for the two local food banks, Turning Point in Clatskanie and HOPE in Rainier. They personally donated \$11,400 which will be divided equally between the two organizations. This is the largest fundraiser we have ever achieved, more than doubling our highest amount for our food bank donations. We wanted to find a way to give back in a big way to support those we serve, and the staff and board really stepped up to make the food drive a success!

As we continued to hear, see, and experience the challenges the coronavirus has created for our customers, we worked to develop a way to help and provide some temporary bill relief to help our communities. The bill relief program has multiple levels, and begins with the immediate suspension of late fees and disconnects for non-payment. Extended payment arrangements, beyond what are normally allowed, are also authorized for both residential and business customers.

Our Clatskanie PUD Share the Warmth energy assistance program has been expanded. Additional emergency funds will now cover those who were not income qualified before, but have recently experienced unemployment or under employment due to COVID-19. If your employment has been impacted, please call the office to talk to our Customer Service Representatives to make payment arrangements and qualify for bill relief through our Share the Warmth program.

For our small business customers, we are providing a bill credit for their base charge from April through July, and possibly longer if the social distancing/ stay at home orders continue for an extended amount of time. We will make special payment arrangements to put payments on hold to allow more time for the other assistance programs to help provide relief. Please call the office to discuss the options with a Customer Service Representative.

We are available by phone and email Monday – Thursday 7:00 am to 5:30 pm. As always, outage calls are answered 24/7 everyday by our afterhours service by calling our office line: 503-728-2163. Payments may be made by mail, drop box at the office or the Rainier City Hall, secure phone line 844-262-2431, online at clatskaniepud.com, and using the SmartHub App.

As things evolve with this unprecedented challenge for the communities we serve, we will reevaluate the situation and be responsive to the needs of our customers. Please continue to be diligent in following social distancing recommendations, and stay healthy.

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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Wally Carter Sr.

Dood Lincoln-Carr

Pierre Lonewolf

Harold Short

General Manager/CEO

Martin Shroyer

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

AK-64

#ThankATeacher

Show appreciation for those who teach your kids

Every day in schools across the country, teachers touch the lives of millions of children.

Their work and impact extends far beyond the classroom. They inspire a lifelong love of learning and discovery, and make a difference in the well-being and long-term success of children.

Unlike other careers in which the same method can be applied time and again, teaching requires an individualized approach because each student learns differently and has a different set of circumstances.

Parents have gained a better understanding of those challenges in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has shut down schools across the nation.

Since 1984, National PTA has designated one week in May as a special time to honor the men and women who lend their passion and skills to educating our children. This year's celebration is May 4-8.

While we should thank our teachers every day, we encourage you to pause during Teacher Appreciation Week and really show your love for the teachers in our lives. Take to social media and use the official hashtag, #ThankATeacher, to tell them how much you:

- Love how they encourage you in special ways.
- Like what's happening in their classroom.
- Celebrate their achievements with students.
- Care about their commitment to students and families.

Although schools are not in session now, you can thank a teacher by sending heartfelt letters, cards, messages of appreciation, artwork, poems and video messages. When school resumes, consider other ways you can recognize teachers. One of the best ways is to volunteer in classrooms.

National PTA offers these tips to help families partner with and support teachers:

- Develop a relationship with your child's teacher and keep in touch.
- Ask the right questions.
- Set goals with your child and his or her teacher.
- Review your child's data to ensure he or she is on track.
- Look in your child's backpack every day.
- Frequently view the parent portal or whichever tool your child's school uses.
- Actively participate at school when possible.

Thank you, teachers!





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Peter Demoski, Nulato

Directors

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

Communities Served

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

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



AK-105

Top-Ten Power Plant Operators of 2019

Every year, during the annual meeting, we announce our Top 10 Operators of the year. Selected from a field of more than 100 PPOs, these individuals demonstrate dedication and creativity as they work hard to keep the lights on in our villages. Many of them have achieved this honor more than once. Please thank these PPOs for the fine job they are doing for you!

Rick Andrews, Emmonak - Second time
Brian Epchook, New Stuyahok - First time
Rudy Hamilton, Shageluk - Sixth time
Evan Hunt, Kotlik - Third time
Walter Joshua, Eek - Second time
Francis Nollner, Huslia - Sixth time
Alfred Olanna, Shishmaref - First time
William Parks, Gambell - Second time
David W. Peterson, Mt. Village - Eleventh time
William Peterson, Kasigluk - First time

Board Election

Robert Beans and Robert Hoffman won re-election to the AVEC board in results announced on April 8, 2020. The three Bylaw propositions were also adopted. Detailed results are posted on our website www.AVEC.org and on our Facebook page.

Pandemic update

Both AVEC offices in Bethel and Anchorage are closed to anyone other than AVEC staff in order to maintain social distancing per state mandates. We are, however, open for business and are receiving phone calls, service requests, payments and all other normal activities remotely. Our field technicians are traveling to villages to respond to outages and other emergency needs and are abiding by state and local requirements to minimize contact with others.

Residential consumers who are experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for a Deferred Payment Arrangement for as long as the state of emergency is in place. Details are on our website and forms are available via fax, email or to download.

These are difficult times for all of us and we are here for you, no matter what. Please stay safe.

Until next time,

Meera Kohler
President and CEO





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

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Fred Nagel, Treasurer
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General Manager

Doug C. Smith

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Administrative Services Manager

Karen Rollings

Electric Operations Manager

Cort Cortez

Public Relations Manager

Theresa Phillips

IT Manager

Nick Dominguez

Senior Accountant

Catherine Schroeder

Customer Service Supervisor

Christina M. Nystrom

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

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

CA-106

May is Electrical Safety Month

At Lassen Municipal Utility District, safety is something we take seriously. The safety of our employees and the public is our No. 1 priority.

LMUD employees log hundreds of hours of safety training—everything from workplace safety to emergency pole-top rescue. In addition to our own employee safety training, LMUD staff take the high-voltage safety demonstration to schools, organizations and groups throughout our service territory.

It's easy to take electricity for granted. Electricity makes our lives convenient, comfortable and efficient. But electricity can become deadly if used improperly or carelessly.

As spring progresses and summer approaches, the chances for an electrical accident increase. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (www.esfi.org), each year an estimated 150 accidental electrocutions are attributed to consumer products and nearly 300 people are electrocuted during outdoor activities.

Residents must be aware of overhead and underground lines as they perform their spring cleaning, planting or construction projects. A simple look around or a call to 811, the national underground locating service, can avoid disaster. An everyday activity—such as cleaning rain gutters, tree trimming or digging a trench—can pose an electrical hazard if safety concerns are not heeded.

Ranchers and farmers must be diligent in their safety precautions. Moving irrigation pipes can result in tragedy if a pipe comes in contact with an overhead power line. The person holding the pipe can be shocked or electrocuted.

Another common safety hazard occurs when agricultural burning gets out of hand. Utility poles are often in the same area being burned. Poles that are dry and full of creosote are easily ignited. The flames and smoke can cause lines to arc, resulting in power outages or permanent damage to the pole and lines.

If you are burning and cause damage to LMUD property, you may be held liable for the cost of repairs. Make sure you have sufficient safety precautions in place before you begin this type of project.

LMUD employees are already preparing our lines and rights-of-way for summer safety. Crews will clear vegetation from around poles and lines. Tree trimmers will eliminate the danger of limbs coming in contact with lines, and line crews will visually inspect lines and utility poles for damage.

You can help us keep our facilities hazard free by reporting damaged lines or poles. Our customer service line, 257-4174, is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

As you go about your spring and summer activities, please keep these tips in mind:

- Plant trees an acceptable distance from power lines.
- Keep landscaping away from pad-mount transformers. LMUD crews need access to these facilities. Shrubs and bushes can get in the way.
- Be aware of the location of overhead lines, especially when cleaning rain gutters or performing similar activities.
- Never attempt to trim trees that have come in contact with power lines.
- Summertime is yard sale season, but utility poles are not advertising space. Never attach flyers to poles. Nails, screws and staples pose a hazard to our crews.



201 Bullionville Road
Panaca, Nevada 89042

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

Email: lcpcd@lcpcd1.com

DIRECTORS

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

General Manager

David Luttrell

Board meets the second Tuesday of each month.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

NV-107

Relief from the Pandemic's Economic Impacts

By the time you read this, I hope and pray that the coronavirus global pandemic is starting to move into our rearview mirrors.

In dealing with this crisis, our primary focus has been to protect the health of our employees and customers, so the pandemic has completely disrupted our day-to-day activities. We've had to close our offices to the public and conduct all meetings via teleconference or video. All of us at Lincoln County Power are looking forward to the day when we are back to normal and serving our customers in-person with a friendly smile and a handshake. Until then, thank you for your patience and understanding.

Even if the worst of the pandemic is over as you read this, the economic impacts will undoubtedly continue. We know many individuals and businesses in Lincoln County have been impacted by operating restrictions issued to control the virus. For those impacted, there are many programs available to help.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)—administered through the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services—helps individuals pay their utility bills. We encourage anyone who has had their income impacted by coronavirus to look into LIHEAP. Information is available at www.dhhs.nv.gov, or you can contact us and we can help you with the process. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, Congress increased funding for LIHEAP by \$900 million.

There is also financial help available for businesses. The Paycheck Protection Program—administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration—provides federal government loan forgiveness for small businesses to pay up to eight weeks of their utility bills (including electric, telephone and internet), mortgage interest and rent, and payroll costs.

The Small Business Administration has also been authorized to provide grants of up to \$10,000 to small businesses with no more than 500 employees to maintain payroll and pay rent or mortgages, among other uses. More information on these programs can be found at sba.gov. Although we aren't experts on these programs, the bank you use for your business will be a great source of information for these SBA business options.

Lincoln County Power is well prepared to respond to disasters. Over the years, we have dealt with fires and severe weather. In every situation, we have responded and worked diligently until electric service was restored. The coronavirus pandemic is a disaster of a different kind. Mobilizing our manpower and equipment isn't the solution.

As your locally governed, community-based electric utility, the only solution we can offer is our commitment to stand with you during this crisis. If your income has been directly affected by the coronavirus, let us know. Together, we can discuss electric service payment options to get us through this difficult period.

I hope when you next hear from me in Ruralite, I will be back to reporting on our many projects and activities, including construction of our new shop and warehouse building. Until then, please stay safe.



David Luttrell, General Manager



Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc.

www.MarlboroElectric.coop

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

843-479-3855
800-922-9174

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Monday–Friday

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Sam P. “Bo” McInnis Jr.

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ATTORNEYS

Doug Jennings
Paul Conway

CO-OP NEWS EDITOR

Matt Haynie
email: mhaynie@marlboro.coop

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Let's Weather This Storm Together

During the past month, toilet paper has been stockpiled, kitchen tables have been converted into home offices and parents have suddenly found themselves in the challenging role of schoolteacher. As we adjust to this unprecedented time of uncertainty, it's understandable to have moments of stress, downheartedness and even fear.

However, here in Marlboro and Dillon counties, we are strong.

We survived and overcame a series of devastating tornados in 1984. In 2016, we were challenged to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Matthew. We came together again in 2018 to rebuild after enduring the raging floodwaters of Hurricane Florence.

Through all this, we have prevailed. We at Marlboro Electric Cooperative have stood by you, our members, throughout. Although the coronavirus pandemic is a different type of storm, I know we will weather it just as courageously.

We understand some of our members are facing unexpected hardships. In response, we decreased our residential rates by 8% in March and April. We hope this helps ease some financial challenges. We are committed to all our members during this trying time, regardless of their current ability to pay.

On March 15, MEC suspended all disconnects for nonpayment so every member, regardless of circumstance, continues to have power as we get through this together.

Please note that while we are committed to ensuring everyone maintains electric service throughout this crisis, the balances will not be forgiven, and late fees will still apply. Please pay what you can to avoid accruing large bills that will likely be more difficult to address later.

MEC is grateful to all members working to serve the community as they restock grocery stores, prepare curbside pickup meals and make deliveries. We are particularly indebted to our first responders and everyone working in our hospitals and other medical facilities.

I want to thank those members who are remaining at home to protect the health and well-being of the medically fragile and other vulnerable populations. At MEC, we will continue to do all we can to ensure our members and employees stay safe during this worldwide crisis.

Together, we have weathered many storms. And together, we will get through this one too. Take comfort in your solace, your family and your faith, and we will emerge stronger on the other side.

In closing, I leave you with this Bible passage:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

—John 14:27

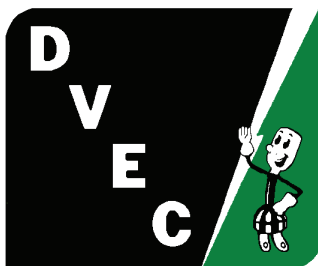
WILLIAM L. FLEMING JR.

President/CEO



Willie Wiredhand is the longtime mascot and spokesplug of electric cooperatives around the country. He was adopted in 1951 by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Here's your task: Willie is hidden somewhere in every issue of Currents. See if you can find this friendly face among the news and stories as you read!





Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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Dustie Robinette

ADMINISTRATION

Steven Lunt
CEO

BOARD MEETINGS

May 18
June 15
July 13

*Generally the third Monday
of the month*

Owned By Those We Serve—
Incorporated June 1947



AZ-143 **Postmaster:** Send address changes to Currents, 5625 NE Elam Young Pkwy. Ste. 100, Hillsboro, OR 97124

CEO's Message

Thank a Lineman, They Deserve It

We celebrate a number of holidays and appreciation days, some more important than others. We don't observe National Golf Day or National Donut Day like we do Memorial Day.

Sometimes it's difficult to pin down the exact date we celebrate an event. Christmas is easy to remember, but for Easter, we go back to a formula determined in 325 A.D. The date of Easter is usually the Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the March equinox.

Last month, electric cooperatives celebrated Linemen Appreciation Day on April 13. This is one of those days that is difficult to pin down, so you might see other dates set aside to recognize these courageous workers.

Some quick background: In 2013, the U.S. Senate declared April 18 as Linemen Appreciation Day. This was a one-time resolution that applied only to that specific year, with many cooperatives planning to use that date the following year.

However, April 18, 2014, fell on Good Friday—not the

best day for an appreciation day. Many utilities used another date.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board of Directors decided that for subsequent years, the second Monday of April would be Linemen Appreciation Day. The board took this action to ensure it always falls on a weekday and never on Good Friday.

No matter what is recognized as the official date, the recognition is well-deserved. Linemen are truly first responders during storms and other catastrophes, often working to make a scene safe for other public personnel. It's a dangerous job that doesn't respect family time, distance from home or hour of the day.

Our linemen leave the comforts of their homes to brave the elements, even crossing co-op boundaries to help neighboring cooperatives. They do this without expectation or fanfare. Once, one of our linemen was called



Steven Lunt

out for a microburst that took down several poles. It was his son's high school graduation. He went without hesitation because that's what linemen do.

They don't wait until it's convenient before beginning to restore power. No matter the conditions, if they can safely perform the work, linemen stay on the job until your electricity is back on.

Back to Linemen Appreciation Day, what day does it really land on? The answer lies in the words of Senate Resolution 95 from 2013. "Linemen work with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep electricity flowing."

So, the next time you see one of our linemen, take the time to say hi and let them know how much reliable electricity means to you.

No matter the official date, Linemen Appreciation Day is every day.



Electrical District No. 2

P.O. Box 548
Coolidge, AZ 85128

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

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

DIRECTORS

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Jacob Roberts

VICE CHAIRMAN
Jack K. Henness

SECRETARY
David Wuertz

TREASURER
Eugene Anderson

AUDITOR
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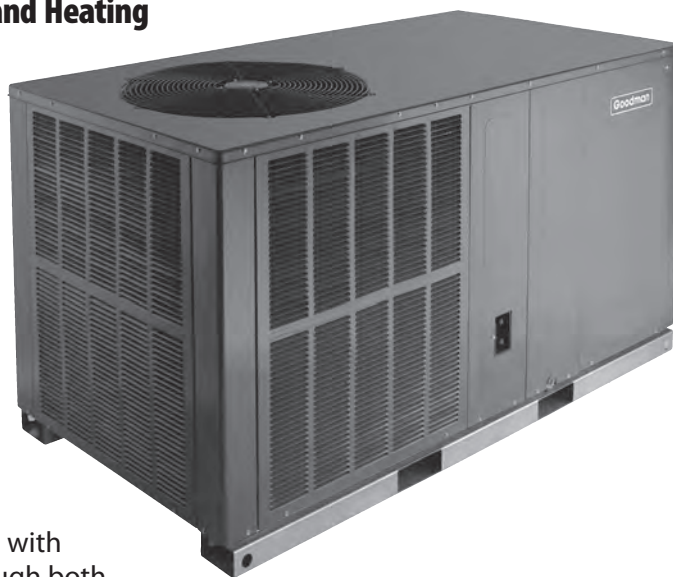
GENERAL MANAGER
Kenneth W. Robbins

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

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

Maintain Your Equipment

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



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

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

Tri-Cor Air Conditioning & Heating

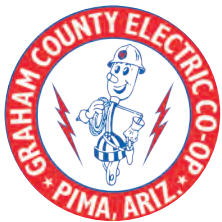
a division of Electrical District No. 2

520-836-4820 or 520-723-8566

ROC 143626

ROC 143627





P.O. Drawer B
Pima, AZ 85543

928-485-2451
Toll free: 800-577-9266
Fax: 928-485-9491
www.gce.coop

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Tommy Clonts
Stephen Hooper
Dennis Jacob
Gene R. Larson
Gerald Schmidt

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Jim Bryce
Tommy Clonts
Dennis Jacob
Gene R. Larson
Larry H. Morris
Gerald Schmidt

CEO and General Manager:
Kirk Gray



AZ-145 **Postmaster:** Send address changes to Currents, 5625 NE Elam Young Pkwy. Ste. 100, Hillsboro, OR 97124

Manager's Message

Concern for Community

During this particularly difficult time in our local communities, state and nation, Graham County Electric Cooperative Inc. and Graham County Utilities Inc. have temporarily suspended disconnecting utility services for nonpayment. Late payment penalties and interest have been suspended as well.

It should be noted that suspending payment **does not** relieve our members of the responsibility to pay their utility bills, but is intended to defer payment until economic conditions improve. GCEC/GCU staff highly recommends that, if possible, members pay something toward their utility bill balance. This will help reduce large deferred payment arrangements once conditions improve and the payment suspension is lifted.

GCEC/GCU has taken additional steps to reduce potential spread of the COVID-19 virus. GCEC/GCU has closed our Pima office lobby to all in-person contact. Our night drop box and drive-thru window are great alternatives for payments or member services at our office in Pima. Members may still pay utility bills online or by phone using a credit or debit card. Of course, you can still pay by mail or use bill payment services provided by your bank.

The easiest, safest and most cost-effective way to pay your bill is with the SurePay electronic funds transfer. When you sign up for SurePay, GCEC/GCU will withdraw from the account you designate the exact amount of your bill on or about the 10th of each month. With SurePay, there are no checks to write, no need for stamps to mail your payment, no convenience charges,



no need to remember utility bill due dates and no waiting in line to pay your utility bill. You can sign up for SurePay by going to www.gce.coop. Click on the "Member Services" tab and select "Payment Options."

GCEC/GCU supports local businesses during these difficult times. Several major pieces of federal legislation were passed to aid small businesses. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act are two of the most substantial laws passed to help small businesses survive the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These economic aid packages are briefly explained on our website. Go to www.gce.coop, click on "About Us," click on "News and Events," then click on "Current News and Press Releases."

The programs, activities and decisions incorporated above in response to the COVID-19 pandemic highlight the Seventh Cooperative Principle, which states, "While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their membership."

Observe physical distancing but stay socially connected with your co-op by visiting our website or Facebook page. We will get through this pandemic together because that is what rural communities and their cooperatives do during trying times.

Kirk Gray

Florida Currents

May 2020 • Volume 9, No. 7

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Members acknowledge that \$4.56 a year, plus postage, is the cost to publish 12 issues a year of **FLORIDA CURRENTS** (USPS 8300). Published by Pioneer Utility Resources Inc., 5625 NE Elam Young Pkwy. Ste. 100, Hillsboro, OR 97124—a not-for-profit Oregon cooperative corporation—the magazine serves the communication needs of consumer-owned electric utilities in Florida. Preferred Periodicals postage paid at Hillsboro, OR 97123 and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to 5625 NE Elam Young Pkwy. Ste. 100, Hillsboro, OR 97124-6422.

HOW TO CONTACT FLORIDA CURRENTS

Subscription services:
 Nonmember subscriptions \$15 U.S. a year; \$25 foreign a year. Prepayment required. Allow 4-8 weeks for first issue. Identify local edition desired. Have a problem receiving your magazine? Utility members should contact their utility office. Nonmembers call 503-718-3717.

Back issues:
 Back issues and extra copies are \$3 each, prepayment required. Supply is limited. Identify edition, month and year. Call first to check availability. Contact Pioneer Utility Resources: 5625 NE Elam Young Pkwy. Ste. 100, Hillsboro, OR 97124; 503-357-2105; email: info@pur.coop.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

American MainStreet Publications 611 S. Congress Ave. Ste. 504 Austin, TX 78704-1714; 800-626-1181 or 512-441-5200; www.amp.coop.

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Message From the CEO

Safety Amid a Pandemic

May is National Safety Month. As I write this message during the COVID-19 pandemic, safety for our cooperative has taken on a new form. We stress electrical safety every day, but because of this medical emergency, workplace and community safety has a new set of rules.

We made some modifications in the way we do business to protect our members, employees and communities from the spread of viral disease during the pandemic. We closed our lobbies and encouraged alternate methods of service, such as online at www.erec.com or by email or phone. Our annual meeting has been postponed, and board meetings are by teleconference to ensure social distancing while taking care of business.

We have an emergency plan that has served us well in a variety of circumstances, from hurricanes to tornadoes to ice storms. Early in this crisis, the staff and I updated that plan with an emphasis on ensuring we continue to provide the reliable electric service you have come to expect from your electric cooperative. The staff and I are in a constant state of fine-tuning operations with the ongoing situation. We have been working closely with other electric cooperatives in Florida and with the Florida Electric Cooperative Association, which has been collaborating with our national association and the state legislature—all in an effort to provide the best service possible to our electric cooperative members.

We have stressed compliance with the Centers for Disease Control's recommendations to protect our community and the public at large. Although the spread of COVID-19 may have necessitated changes in how we interact, it has not changed what we do. Our priority to keep the power flowing is steadfast.

When you receive this publication, I hope our lives are getting back to normal with the threat of viral disease behind us. However, this is a novel situation, and I don't know how long social distancing and quarantines will last. But I do know this: Escambia River Electric Cooperative will continue to operate and provide the highest-quality service possible for you, the members we serve.



Ryan C. Campbell, P.E.



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FKEC NEWS

MAY 2020

www.FKEC.com

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Pay by Phone 1-855-385-9912

www.FKEC.com

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 377, Tavernier, FL 33070

MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

The latest FKEC news can be accessed at www.FKEC.com or by following us on Facebook and Twitter.

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

Since my last CEO report, COVID-19 has impacted all of our lives. However, I am happy to report it has not dampened FKEC's spirit or commitment to serving the Upper and Middle Keys. I am extremely proud of our employees, staff and board for facing this crisis head on, and working quickly to adjust our operations to keep our employees and members safe. And we are not done yet.

As we move forward, your co-op staff and board continue to work on ways to help our members navigate this health emergency. While we are modifying our daily operations to do our part to keep our community healthy, we are also meeting (virtually) with cooperative leaders throughout the country and state to brainstorm ways to assist our members who are financially impacted by this pandemic. We hope to have more news about this coming soon.



SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

Assisting Members with Bill Payments

As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative utility, we are in this together. At FKEC we are fully aware the Coronavirus outbreak is affecting some of our members financially due to disruption of work, quarantine, or illness. As a committed community partner, we are working with members during this unique time, and have temporarily suspended disconnection of electric service for nonpayment.

FKEC members who find themselves unable to partially or completely pay their electric bill should call Member Service at (305) 852-2431 to customize a payment plan to manage their balance and maintain electric service. FKEC is working to help impacted members make payments to the best of their ability to prevent the accumulation of a larger balance.

All members who can pay some or all of their electric bill are encouraged to do so as you are more than an electric consumer,

you are also a co-op owner. Utility bills and/or debt will not be forgiven or erased, and normal disconnect practices will resume within a reasonable period. Meanwhile, members will continue to receive monthly electric bills and past due notifications.

Payments can be made at www.FKEC.com via FKEC's SmartHub bill pay service; by secure phone payment at (855) 385-9912; or during regular business hours at our Tavernier or Marathon drive-throughs. If you have questions or concerns about your bill, please call (305) 852-2431, Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Our member service team is here to help you.

FKEC Lobbies Closed

Following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to limit the spread of COVID-19, FKEC closed its office doors to the public on March 23. Our phone, online, and night-drops will remain available, as well as our drive-through services at this time.

Coping with COVID-19

Staffing Levels Adjusted

To further limit the spread of the virus, FKEC is rotating employees within each department or having them on standby at home.

In the field, FKEC has suspended routine maintenance and construction for the next few weeks. Linemen are also taking bucket trucks home and responding to calls from there as directed by our System Operators. FKEC line crews remain on-call 24/7 to restore power should an outage occur. If you see crews working in the field, please keep a safe distance to protect yourself from dangers associated with electrical repairs and the spread of COVID-19.

Our office employees are generally working in two-week rotating shifts per department. All employees that are at home are required to remain available during business hours to respond if needed.

The safety of our workforce and members remains our number one priority. By rotating personnel, we can continue serving the community but also help limit the spread of COVID-19. I am proud of our staff for quickly devising a plan that is safe, fair, and equitable to our 115 employees.

Our Commitment

Since our inception in 1940, together we've overcome any challenge that has faced our community, and this situation will be no different. Please know, during times of concern and crisis, we remain dedicated to serving this community. The safety of our members and employees is paramount.



How FKEC Can Safely Serve Members

Online www.FKEC.com

We highly recommend FKEC members use our health-safe online services. Almost any service you can do in person you can do online at www.FKEC.com. For example:

- ▶ Pay your bill
- ▶ Manage your account
- ▶ Check our live outage map
- ▶ File a tree trim request
- ▶ Update your contact info
- ▶ Learn about FKEC's solar loan and rebate programs
- ▶ Read the latest Co-op news
- ▶ And much more!

By Phone

Our office staff is available Monday – Friday, 8:00AM – 5:00PM and an emergency operator is on call 24/7 at (305) 852-2431.

Our Secure Phone Payment System is available 24/7 at (855) 385-9912

Drive-Throughs

At the time of press, drive-throughs at both FKEC offices are open during normal working hours. However, we are only able to accept checks or cash in the drive-through to remain Payment Card Industry compliant. **DO NOT USE an FKEC drive-through if you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have any symptoms!**

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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The Board's next meeting is at 9 a.m. May 28 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 Safety Pedro Navarro

FL-153

At Glades Electric, We Are Truly Neighbors Working for Neighbors

What uncertain and unusual times we have faced this spring! We've been thinking of you, our members, more than ever.

Managing our employees and keeping them well so they may continue to serve you through this crisis is also high on our priority list. So far, we've been able to keep everyone employed, well and working, although we have made adaptations to achieve this goal. Lobbies are closed, which we know can be a major inconvenience for you. Thank you for tolerating it to keep both you and our employees well.

Thank goodness we have the internet, through which nearly all our office work can be completed. I hope in this time of confinement, you have tried our SmartHub app or visited our recently updated website. Through these two tools, you can take care of cooperative business from wherever you find yourself.

We have taken other extraordinary measures to help our members. The Board suspended penalties on past due accounts effective March 24 and postponed all disconnects to April 15. Plans were laid out to further delay disconnects depending on how the COVID-19 crisis unfolds. At the March 24 meeting, the Board also approved a decrease in energy rates of more than 2.5% effective April 1 and approved the early retirement of 1987 members' capital credits totaling \$927,202. The checks and billing credits will be disbursed in May rather than December, as planned.

We are not alone in responding to this crisis. Our power supplier and partner, Seminole Electric Cooperative, is looking at ways to push future anticipated fuel cost savings to us now so we can pass those savings on to you sooner rather than later.

We know meals are getting harder for some families to put on the table at this time, so we gave away 100 hams in Moore Haven on Good Friday to spread some joy and help people with their Easter dinners. In April, Glades Electric also sponsored a Golden Corral meal night in Lake Placid to provide 200 meals for those in need in the northern portion of our service area.

I would be remiss not to mention the extraordinary activities of the Glades Electric Charitable Trust, which is supported by 57% of you. Normally, the Trust distributes funds based on application requests. Seeing the great need during this crisis, members of the Trust have been proactive. In April, they donated Operation Round Up contributions to five food banks serving our area, providing \$10,000 in assistance. That's Neighbors Working for Neighbors, and that's directly from the 57% of you who contribute. Thank you so much.

Keep yourselves safe, stay well and know we are continually working on how to best get through this together.



Jeff Brewington

GCEC President's Message

In-Person Annual Meeting Shifts to Virtual Gathering

Valued GCEC Member:

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative members have witnessed the overwhelming reach and devastation of COVID-19. As a cooperative, we look to best practices from the Centers for Disease Control, State Department of Health and other agencies for guidance as we face the novel coronavirus. Those best practices have forced the board of trustees to make a difficult decision: We will not be able to hold an in-person annual meeting this year. Instead, we will hold a virtual annual meeting.

This was a decision we had to make because of our concern for our members' safety, health and overall well-being. Some of our loyal members could be considered the most vulnerable during this pandemic. We are doing our part to help where we can. At this time, so many of us feel uncertain about what we have known as "normal."

We hope you find these answers to frequently asked questions helpful as we transition to our first-ever virtual annual meeting.

How do I register and vote on the election items on the ballot?

You can still vote for your trustees and approve the board actions for the past year. You should have already received your election packet in the mail. Detailed instructions are in the packet.

There are two ways to register and vote:

- Use the prepaid envelope to return your ballot.
- Vote online at gcec.coopballot.com using the PIN provided in your election packet.

Please remember the deadline to register and vote is 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, 2020. If you choose to register and vote by mail, please allow sufficient time for mail processing.

In appreciation of your time, we will credit \$5 to your account just for registering and voting!

I love the prize drawings! Will there be a way to win this year?

We love awarding prizes to our members. Yes, the prize drawings will still take place. But make sure you take the time to register and vote, either by mail or online (see instructions above). Your returned ballot serves as your prize ticket.

Once the election ends on April 22, we will have the third party that is conducting the election on our behalf randomly select members to win the following:

- \$1,000 in gift cards (40 \$25 winners).
- \$1,000 in free electricity (10 \$100 bill credit winners).
- A 2003 Chevrolet 1500 4x4 pickup truck (one winner).

Gift card winners will be notified by mail. Bill credit winners will be notified by telephone (please make sure we have your correct



Doug Birmingham

number). The pickup truck winner will be notified by telephone. Arrangements will be made for the winner of the truck to come to the office to pick it up.

My high school senior entered the scholarship drawing. Will the cooperative still award the scholarships?

Yes. GCEC will award 10 \$1,000 scholarships to be used for college, university or vocational/technical training. We will be in touch with the students who applied and find a way to draw for the awards that complies with CDC guidelines for social distancing.

How do I attend the virtual meeting?

The revised meeting is on the same date the in-person meeting was scheduled, which is Saturday, May 2, 2020. At 10 a.m. Central Time, you may call a dedicated line to listen in on the business portion of the meeting. The toll-free number is **833-420-0339**.

To make or second the motion to approve the minutes from last year's (2019) annual meeting, as printed on pages 28 and 29 of this edition of Florida Currents magazine, and then to adjourn the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Membership at the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, you may email Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative Inc. at annualmeeting@gcec.com prior to the start of the meeting on May 2 stating: "I (list your member name and address) make or second the motions to approve the 2019 annual meeting minutes and to adjourn the 2020 meeting at the conclusion of the business part of the meeting." Please indicate if you are in favor of or against the motions.

I have questions. How can I ask?

From now until May 2, if you have any questions, please feel free to email them to annualmeeting@gcec.com. We will select a few questions to address during the virtual meeting.

What is the best source for up-to-date information?

A full report of the election results and the scholarship recipients will be provided in a future edition of our monthly Florida Currents magazine. You can stay engaged with GCEC by visiting our website, www.gcec.com, by reading our monthly Florida Currents magazine and by following us on Facebook.

We hope you agree that being diligent on our part to help prevent the spread of this virus is warranted at this time. We will miss seeing our members in Wewahitchka, but remember that we're all still here and ready to provide you with the best service around. Your lights will stay on in this dark time. ■

—GCEC President Doug Birmingham



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.preco.coop
800-282-3824

TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

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

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BOARD MEETINGS

May 19, 2020

June 23, 2020

July 28, 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

A Road Map to Readiness

COVID-19 pandemic prompts PRECO to initiate an element of its Emergency Response Plan.

Through the years, Peace River Electric Cooperative has developed and maintained an emergency response plan. The ERP serves as a road map to navigate through emergencies and extraordinary events. In early March, we initiated the ERP's pandemic response plan.

Two of the goals of the pandemic response plan are to:

- Protect the safety and well-being of our community, members and employees.
- Serve as a business continuity plan.

We evaluate best practices developed by leading health organizations, including the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Florida Department of Health. The pandemic response plan documents these best practices so they are readily available, if needed.

Upon initiation of the pandemic response plan, our daily work processes change dramatically. These changes help prevent the spread of a virus and protect you and our employees.

PRECO understands the service we provide is essential to you and our community. Without electric service, our society does not function properly.

For PRECO, business continuity during a pandemic event is critical to all of us. The



**PRECO'S COMMITMENT TO
PROVIDING SAFE AND RELIABLE
ELECTRIC SERVICE HAS
NEVER BEEN STRONGER.**

ERP guides us through these difficult times to make sure our power grid is operational and a pandemic event does not cause service interruptions.

Every time PRECO initiates the ERP, we learn something new. I don't believe we could develop a plan that covers every possible scenario. Therefore, we are continually improving the ERP based on our experiences.

COVID-19 has provided new insights into the challenges of a pandemic event. PRECO has and will continue to update the pandemic response plan to improve our readiness if future pandemic events arise.

PRECO's commitment to providing safe and reliable electric service has never been stronger. We stand ready to serve you and our community through these difficult times. In closing, I wish you and your family good health during and after the COVID-19 event.

Randy Shaw

Comings and Goings at Your Statewide

The retirement earlier this year of Mike Bergeaux, longtime director of loss control for the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, prompted a promotion and new hiring by your statewide.

Mike spent nearly 40 years working for Louisiana electric cooperatives. He began his career as a lineman at Jeff Davis Electric Co-op Inc. before joining ALEC.

With a passion for safety, he educated cooperative employees to make sure they went home safe every day. Mike made a tremendous impact on the culture of safety at electric cooperatives around the state.

He earned respect from employees and in the boardroom, serving on national and regional committees. He was a chairman on the boards of the National Utility Training and Safety Education Association and Southern Area Instructors Association. He also led Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program team inspections across the state.

A certified loss control professional, Mike earned continuing education credits from the National Rural Electric



Mike Bergeaux



Aaron Graham



Derek Seal

Cooperative Association and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.

Mike battled in the trenches alongside his fellow cooperative employees through hurricanes, storms and natural disasters.

Most electric cooperative employees mark time by major events such as hurricanes, natural disasters, equipment upgrades and incidents, but Mike is unique because he also can quantify his career by the number of lives saved. Mike was truly his brother's keeper throughout his career.

Aaron Graham, ALEC's safety coordinator, was promoted to director of loss control upon Mike's retirement. He has been with ALEC for 14 years.

Prior to joining the statewide, Aaron spent eight years as a lineman at DEMCO.

He is a certified loss control professional,

accredited by NRECA. Aaron has logged many hours traveling to Louisiana electric cooperatives to train employees, attend safety meetings and conduct safety presentations. He is vice chairman for NUTSEA, has served as chairman on the SAIA and is on the RESAP team.

Aaron worked closely with Mike during disasters to coordinate mutual-aid relief for cooperatives in our state and cooperatives that are part of our mutual-aid agreement.

To fill Aaron's safety coordinator position, ALEC hired Derek Seal.

Derek has 19 years of experience with Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative. Derek will work primarily with safety and operations departments, teaching safety rules and regulations adopted by ALEC's electric cooperatives.

We wish Mike the best in his retirement, look forward to Aaron carrying on his legacy and welcome Derek to the team.

—CEO Jeff Arnold

Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc.

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Jeff Arnold

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Mike Bergeaux

SAFETY COORDINATOR

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 Phone: 800-367-0275

Moss Bluff

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New Llano

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 Leesville, LA 71446
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Louisiana Country (USPS 473-180) is published bimonthly by the Association of Louisiana Electric Co-ops Inc., 10725 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, in partnership with Pioneer Utility Resources.

Annual Subscriptions: Members \$2.64, Nonmembers \$5.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to 10725 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA 70816.

Periodicals postage paid at Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821 and additional mailing offices.

#ThankATeacher

Show appreciation for those who teach your kids

Every day in schools across the country, teachers touch the lives of millions of children.

Their work and impact extends far beyond the classroom. They inspire a lifelong love of learning and discovery, and make a difference in the well-being and long-term success of children.

Unlike other careers in which the same method can be applied time and again, teaching requires an individualized approach because each student learns differently and has a different set of circumstances.

Parents have gained a better understanding of those challenges in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has shut down schools across the nation.

Since 1984, National PTA has designated one week in May as a special time to honor the men and women who lend their passion and skills to educating our children. This year's celebration is May 4-8.

While we should thank our teachers every day, we encourage you to pause during Teacher Appreciation Week and really show your love for the teachers in our lives. Take to social media and use the official hashtag, #ThankATeacher, to tell them how much you:

- Love how they encourage you in special ways.
- Like what's happening in their classroom.
- Celebrate their achievements with students.
- Care about their commitment to students and families.

Although schools are not in session now, you can thank a teacher by sending heartfelt letters, cards, messages of appreciation, artwork, poems and video messages. When school resumes, consider other ways you can recognize teachers. One of the best ways is to volunteer in classrooms.

National PTA offers these tips to help families partner with and support teachers:

- Develop a relationship with your child's teacher and keep in touch.
- Ask the right questions.
- Set goals with your child and his or her teacher, and foster the achievement of those goals.
- Review your child's data to ensure he or she is on track.
- Look in your child's backpack every day.
- Frequently view the parent portal or whichever tool your child's school uses.
- Actively participate at school when possible.

Thank you, teachers!

Kevin Turner
 General Manager





12525 Hwy. 9, Homer, LA 71040

Phone: 318-927-3504

www.our.coop

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Richard Noles | Secretary/Treasurer

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Phillip Fincher

Scott Jones

Rand Killgore

Leroy Perritt

Willie Sensley

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Bill Dye | Chief Financial Officer

Joey White | Manager of Member Relations & Marketing

EmmaLee Tingle | Communications and Marketing Specialist

Stephen Faulk | Homer General Foreman

Candy Hicks | Homer Office Manager

Stacy Jones | Farmerville Office Manager

George Upshaw | Farmerville General Foreman

Louisiana Country (USPS 473-180) is published bimonthly by the Association of Louisiana Electric Co-ops Inc., 10725 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, in partnership with Pioneer Utility Resources.

Annual Subscriptions: Members \$2.64, Nonmembers \$5.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to 10725 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA 70816.

Periodicals postage paid at Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821 and additional mailing offices.

Manager's Message

As you are all aware by now, we made the decision to postpone our 2020 Annual Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have rescheduled the meeting for July 25.

Please put the new meeting date on your calendar and make plans to attend. It is critical to have a quorum in attendance in July because we have an important vote on proposed bylaw amendments.

We have presented the proposed amendments and explanations in the last two editions of Louisiana Country, as well as in the annual report. We present the information again on pages 20-21 of this issue. If you haven't already done so, please make yourself familiar with these proposals.

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

Official registration cards will be mailed in mid-July, so remember to bring that card with you to the meeting. Members will need to present photo identification at the meeting to register and vote. The person presenting ID must be the primary member on the account. For joint memberships, either listed member can present ID and represent that membership at the meeting. Please make sure you understand how your membership is listed before the meeting.

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

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

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

Mark Brown
CEO, General Manager



Mark Brown

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

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

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

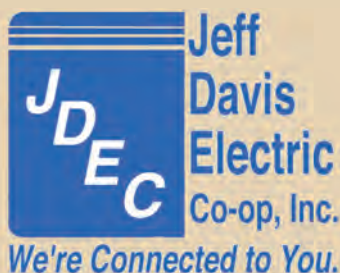
- **Name**
- **Account number**
- **Email address**

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

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

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

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



906 N. Lake Arthur Ave.
P.O. Box 1229
Jennings, LA 70546
337-824-4330
337-824-8936 (fax)

Branch office:
815 Hwy. 27, Bell City, LA 70630
337-598-5700

www.jdec.org

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Winnie L. Farris | Administrative Assistant/
Insurance Benefits/HR
Eric Gautreaux | Director of Safety/
Member Services
Sharla Prejean | Manager of Office Services/IT
Anya Killmer | Manager of Finance
Clayton Jinks | Operations Manager
Heath Lemieux | Superintendent, Jennings
Kain Miller | Superintendent, Hackett
Brennon LaBouve | Engineering Services/
Substation & Metering

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Reggie Murphy
Thomas Precht III
Denny Primeaux
Kirk Weldon

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Mark the Date!

JEFFERSON DAVIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Annual Meeting of the Membership
Monday, July 13, 2020



Registration opens at 8 a.m.
Meeting begins at 10 a.m.

Jennings High School
2310 N. Sherman St.
Jennings, LA 70546

Hear reports about your cooperative, elect directors, see informational presentations and have the chance to win prizes. We look forward to seeing you there.

Help Speed Meeting Registration

To better facilitate your registration at the Jefferson Davis Electric Co-op Annual Meeting, please take a few minutes ahead of the meeting to help us ensure you are properly listed in our records.

Check the name or names listed on the mailing label on the front of this magazine. This is how your account is listed in our records. If any changes have occurred, you need to contact us to find out how to make corrections.

Your registration is important in the event of voting and for the prize drawing at the end of the business session.

Only members may register at the meeting. The c/o name listed on the mailing label is not the member. A joint membership of husband and wife counts as one registration. A tenant may not register if the account is in the landlord's name, nor may a landlord register if the account is in the tenant's name.

In some cases, consumers have failed to update their accounts or have left an account in the name of a deceased parent, spouse or a former tenant.

Be sure your account is listed in your current, legal name. If not, it should be changed immediately.

A qualified representative of a church, business or organization may register if proper documentation is presented. Only the president, officer or manager of a corporation may vote on behalf of the corporation at a meeting of the members.

However, by corporate resolution of the organization's board of directors, any employee of the corporation may be designated to vote on behalf of the corporation. This resolution must be adopted at least 90 days before the annual meeting.

Please contact us as soon as possible with any changes or corrections. ■



PANOLA-HARRISON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Kathy Wood

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1: Paul Fortune

District 2: Albert Tiller | President

District 3: Jay Goswick | Treasurer

District 5: Debbie Burch

District 6: Jerry L. Holmes | Vice President

District 7: Gene Stough

Year organized: 1937

Counties and parishes served:

Harrison, Panola, Caddo and Desoto

Connected meters: 19,854

Members: 13,684

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

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

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Don't Wait: Prepare Before the Storms



Kathy Wood

Another hurricane season is upon us. As always, I encourage you to make plans and be prepared. Not only should we prepare for hurricane season—which is June 1 through November 30—

but we need to be prepared year-round for other storms and natural disasters.

The Department of Homeland Security offers resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. Visit www.ready.gov/make-a-plan.

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If using a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy, yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates, or check



Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

Panola Harrison Electric Cooperative's website for restoration updates.

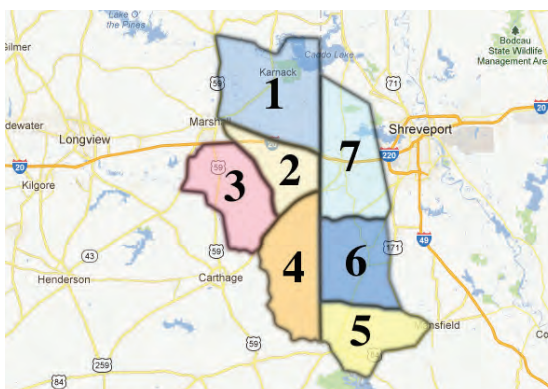
After the storm, avoid downed power lines. Do not walk through flooded areas, where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress caused by the weather event. It also can lessen the impacts you experience from the storm.

Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings. Tune in to our local media or follow us on our social media pages to stay informed about Panola Harrison Electric Cooperative's restoration efforts.

Act today, because there is power in planning.

Kathy Wood, General Manager



BILL PAYMENT INFORMATION

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



Low Rates. High Expectations.

**SOUTH LOUISIANA ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**

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

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

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David Luke | Vice President
Brian Rivet | Secretary
Terry Trahan | Treasurer
Eroy Acosta
Julien "J.D." Boudreaux III
Larry Daigle
Roger DeHart
Lloyd Gibson | Board Adviser

**SLECA offices are closed Friday, July 3,
in observance of Independence Day.
Standby crews will be on call to respond.**

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Unprecedented Situation Calls for Historic Actions



Joseph A. Ticheli

the health situation will be as it relates to the coronavirus pandemic when Louisiana Country is delivered to your mailboxes. I can only pray that the worst will be over and some degree of normalcy will have returned to our lives.

One thing is clear: The world has been turned upside down. I am 66 years old. During my time on this earth, I have lived through some terrible disasters. There were wars, terrorist attacks, a presidential assassination, a presidential resignation, two impeachments, the Challenger explosion, oil spills in the Gulf, enough hurricanes to last two lifetimes and, of course, the worst economic depression South Louisiana has seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s. As bad as those events were, nothing compares to this one-of-kind worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

Here at SLECA, your board of directors and management had to make some tough decisions. Please know these decisions were not made casually. A great deal of thought, discussion and prayer went into them. **76654001**

Out of an abundance of caution and for the well-being of our members and employees, we had to cancel, for the first time ever, SLECA's Annual Membership

Meeting scheduled for April 17 at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center. This decision was really made FOR us since public gatherings of 10 people or more were banned by the governor's declaration of emergency. We never would want to put you, our members, at any kind of health risk. Even though the meeting was canceled, we did mail to all members the Annual Manager's Message and the President's Message so you are kept abreast of the financial condition of SLECA and activities undertaken in 2019.

Other measures had to be taken as well. For example, we felt it necessary to close the lobbies in our Houma and Amelia offices to reduce the possible exposure and spread of the virus. Only the lobbies closed. We stayed open, conducting business as usual via the drive-thru window, night deposit, SLECA website, fax, phone and phone app. This may seem like a drastic measure, but we had to do our part and follow the advice of the president, the governor and parish leaders. Many other internal controls were put in place as well for the protection of our employees. Our job is to keep the lights on through good times and bad so you will have reliable, safe and uninterrupted power. To accomplish this, we need a healthy and strong workforce.

If the coronavirus pandemic has not diminished by the time you read this message, I urge you to stay vigilant and use every precaution to keep you and your family safe. As with any disaster, crisis or calamity, this too shall pass—and we will all be stronger because of it.

Meeting scheduled for April 17 at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center. This decision was really made FOR us since public gatherings of 10 people or more were banned by the governor's declaration of emergency. We never would want to put you, our members, at any kind of health risk. Even though the meeting was canceled, we did mail to all members the Annual Manager's Message and the President's Message so you are kept abreast of the financial condition of SLECA and activities undertaken in 2019.

Joseph A. Ticheli
General Manager

SLECA Sweepstakes

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



WST Electric

WASHINGTON-ST TAMMANY ELECTRIC OFFICES

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950 Pearl St (P.O. Box 697)
Franklinton, LA 70438
Phone: 985-839-3562
www.wste.coop

Additional offices

21504 Mire Drive
Abita Springs, LA 70420

13526 Hwy. 40
Folsom, LA 70437

2081 E. Gause Blvd.
Slidell, LA 70459

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Charles Hill

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Carey Bateman | Secretary

Glenn Magee

Chris Graves

Billy Wayne Rester

Olander Smith

Charles Singletary

Joe Jarrell

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Tips To Help You Save While Working From Home

As American families and businesses transition to working remotely, they may see a surge in home energy use—and in upcoming electric bills. Simple money-saving steps can help lower monthly bills without jeopardizing safety or comfort.

“America’s electric cooperatives understand the increased financial hardships facing families and businesses due to the economic impact of COVID-19,” says National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Jim Matheson. “While many electric cooperatives have suspended disconnections for nonpayment and are waiving late fees, consumers will still be responsible for those bills when the pandemic has passed. It’s important for families to be mindful of their energy use and consider adjusting certain habits to avoid higher costs later on.”

Recommended energy-saving tips include:

- **Program your thermostat to maximize energy savings.** Setting your thermostat 1 degree lower when heating

or 1 degree higher when cooling can reduce energy use by up to 5%.

- **Do full loads of laundry and wash with cold water.** Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load’s energy use in half. Using cold water will save even more. (Account No. 70522801)

- **Air-dry dishes.** This step can cut your dishwasher’s energy use by up to 50%.

- **Substitute LEDs for conventional lightbulbs.** Lighting can amount to up to 12% of monthly energy use. LED bulbs can cut lighting costs by 75%.

- **Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use.** Small appliances and electronics use energy even when not in use. When powered on, game consoles, televisions and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12% of energy use. ■

For more information on energy-saving tips, visit Touchstone Energy, the national brand affiliated with NRECA that is dedicated to helping many electric cooperatives better engage and serve their members: www.electric.coop/tips-for-managing-energy-use-during-covid-19.



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EAST FELICIANA

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Glenn DeLee

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Dennis Lott, Secretary-Treasurer

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Tresa Byrd

Richard Sitman

TANGIPAHOA

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VP, ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS

Ryan Vandersypen, PE

VP, MARKETING AND MEMBER SERVICES

David Latona

DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES

Russchelle Overhultz, CEBS

Mission

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

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

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Manager's Report

Randy Pierce
CEO & General Manager



At a time when there is a lot of uncertainty and anxiety for us all, I want to reassure you that your electric cooperative is on solid ground. You can count on us to continue to provide the essential service of electric power.

Every day, whether we are responding to a weather event or facing the COVID-19 pandemic, DEMCO is focused on our mission, which is to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power to our co-op members.

"When nothing is certain, everything is possible" is a quote that I think fits this time well. It reminds us that there are things within our power—things we can control from where we sit, which for most of us has been at home.

In the spirit of optimistic thinking, this issue lays out some great tips on saving electricity. You see, to some extent, you can control the energy you use, and this can save you money—and having control over your budget is important, especially during challenging situations.

In "Knowledge is Power: Small Changes Add Up," several energy efficiency tips are provided that can be implemented by anyone and everyone. Learn what you can do at home to reduce your energy use, and the money saved can add up in a big way. (story on page 5)

And while you're in the mindset of becoming more energy efficient, read "Make Your Yard Work For You," for a birds eye view of how to make changes in your yard to help you save money by saving energy. (story on page 17)

The cover story, "Stewards of Power," highlights the value of DEMCO—your electric cooperative—a \$700 million corporation owned by the members we serve. Each year, the system improvements made result in better service—quicker response time, fewer outages and more reliability—to name a few. (story on pages 20-21)

Over the past few months, we've been planning for an annual meeting and expo, but as a public health and safety precaution, the expo event is canceled, and the annual meeting will be postponed until later in the year. We look forward to getting together in 2021 to celebrate our co-op community with food, family and fun.

I want to conclude by talking a moment about the DEMCO Board of Directors—comprised of 13 locally elected members—charged with representing the membership of their respective district. In all matters pertaining to the electric cooperative, the board is a conduit of your voice.

I am pleased to announce and welcome two new board members: Ms. Tresa Byrd, serving St. Helena Parish; and Mr. Mike Anderson, serving East Feliciana Parish. I also congratulate three existing board members: Steve Irving, serving East Baton Rouge Parish; Dennis Lott, serving Livingston Parish; and Richard Sitman, serving St. Helena Parish, who were reelected without opposition.

Keep your hopes up, your mind at ease and take one step at a time, and DEMCO will keep you in power and help light the path forward.

2020 Annual Meeting Postponed

Dear DEMCO Member,

I'm writing to you today to inform you that the 2020 DEMCO Annual Membership Meeting has been postponed indefinitely.

This is the place in the Along These Lines magazine that normally would contain the official meeting notice that announces the date and time of our annual meeting. It was originally scheduled to be held at DEMCO headquarters May 9 at 10 a.m. However, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainty surrounding group meetings of any size, the DEMCO Board of Directors has postponed the Annual Membership Meeting. The meeting will be rescheduled later this year. Once we know the details of the rescheduled Annual Membership Meeting, we will inform you.

Please stay safe. We look forward to better and brighter days ahead.

Randy Pierce, DEMCO CEO and General Manager



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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Fred Flippence, Vice President
Shirley Cairns, Secretary-
Treasurer
Alicia Bonesteele,
Exec. Committee At-Large
Russ Sapp,
Exec. Committee At-Large
Dave Schneider,
Immediate Past President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ted Case

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Maureen Kuhlman

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

Rachel Kloor

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

OR-400

Case in Point

I run the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association under the watchful eye of Charlton Heston. He's glaring down in my new home office from the poster of 1973's *The Omega Man*—one of my all-time favorite movies. Heston plays a scientist who believes he is the last man on Earth after a virus wipes out the globe and turns others into dangerous mutants intent on killing him. Any trip outside his heavily forfeited home is fraught with peril.

It's an unsettling story we can all relate to. We've been uprooted from our offices and forced inside the safety of our four walls. Countless people have lost their jobs and too many have lost their lives. Trips to the supermarket are dangerous excursions.

In the meantime, we make the best of it, collecting memories of a time we would otherwise never have had together. My teenage daughter, who normally would be with her friends, enthusiastically watches *Jeopardy* each night with me. My son's Little League season is postponed, so he's become the MVP of our backyard.

I sit in my small office and work with electric co-ops that are keeping the lights on in the darkest of times. But they are doing much more than selling electricity. Many Oregon co-ops have invested in broadband, keeping people connected in the most unconnected of times. They are helping their members who struggle to pay their bills, enhancing energy assistance programs and, in some cases, setting up new programs. Co-op employees are donating money to help their neighbors and friends in need—because that is the cooperative way.

We will do our part knowing that so many have sacrificed so much during this global pandemic. No one knows when this will end and what life will be like afterward—other than people will be obsessively washing their hands. However, I have faith that, in a time of extreme loss, we will have gained a new level of humanity. Perhaps the Great Pause of 2020 gave us a chance to slow down and reflect on what truly was important. Only time will tell.

While we wait out this pandemic, I will continue to do my job and occasionally glance up to see Charlton Heston on my wall. He gives me hope, too. It turns out his character wasn't the last man on Earth, but in a bittersweet ending, he dies in the movie's final scene.

But not before he's found a cure to the virus.



Ted Case

Executive Director