



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

"We Care"

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

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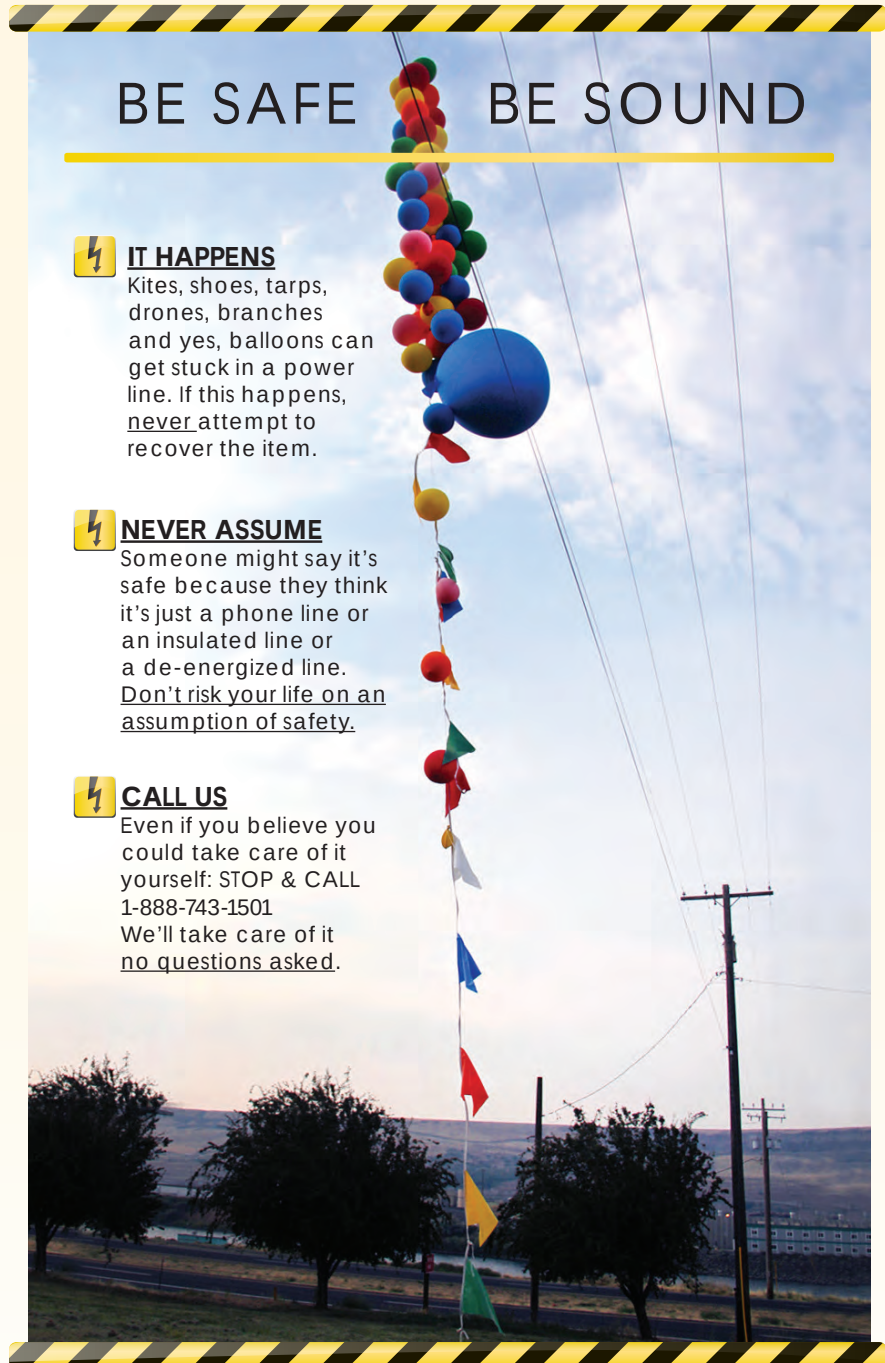
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Manager of Engineering and Operations
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Manager of Member Services
Reed Allen
Director of Member Services
Edwin Ausman
Director of Purchasing and Warehousing
Travis Bailey
Director of Information Systems
Joe Stockard
Director of Operations
Cynthia Tarola
Director of Accounting
Lance Wilson
Director of Engineering

Business Hours

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

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ID-1





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

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

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Vice President

John Qualls, Heppner

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Roy Carlson, Fossil

Treasurer

Deacon Heideman, Fairview

Lori Anderson, Condon

Todd Lindsay, Sand Hollow

Stacie Ekstrom, Ione

Manager

Andy Fletcher, Heppner

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

OR-2

A New Normal

Dear Members:

I know COVID-19 has occupied our time and thoughts for the past few months, and I realize we are a long way from this being behind us. However, we hear about the "new normal" and it makes me wonder what exactly that means for us individually, our families, our friends and our businesses. I then reflect on what the new normal will mean for Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative.

While a few things have changed—our front doors are currently closed—the two things that make CBEC what it is have not changed: members and employees. CBEC still has dedicated and hardworking individuals who show up every day to complete the task at hand.

We have noticed our members using our different options for paying their bills: SmartHub and electronic payments. If you have questions regarding these payment methods, don't hesitate to contact the Condon or Heppner office for assistance.

We are waiting for a vaccine to have our everyday lives back. However, if the new normal means having more understanding and empathy for our fellow citizens, I think I will enjoy this new normal.

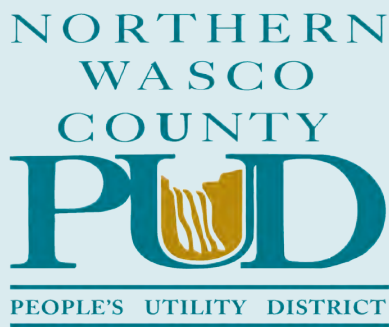
Congratulations to all our graduating seniors. I hope your post-high school dreams come true. I also want to congratulate the residents of Gilliam, Wheeler and Morrow counties for working so hard to help our local businesses and people during this time. Job well done! I hope everyone stays healthy and safe.

Please remember to complete the 2020 U.S. census.

Stay healthy,

Andy Fletcher

CEO/General Manager



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

Board of Directors

Roger Howe, President
Howard Gonser, Vice President
Dan Williams, Secretary
Wayne Jacobson, Treasurer
Connie Karp, Director

Manager

Roger Kline

Board Meetings

Usually the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the PUD offices, 2345 River Road. The public is always welcome.

Our Mission

To provide reliable, competitively priced energy and related services that benefit our customers, in the tradition of public power.

Our Core Values and Beliefs

Local citizens championed and fought to create our People's Utility District. They believed—and we believe—in the public's right to own and control its electric utility.

Today, our values are a legacy from our public power heritage, as well as guideposts for a changing future.

We believe in:

- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Integrity
- ▶ Customer Service
- ▶ Respect
- ▶ Operational Excellence
- ▶ Sustainability

OR-3

Stay Safe at Home

Each year, electrical malfunctions account for thousands of home fires, injuries, death and property damage. The average American home was built in 1977, and many existing homes simply can't handle the demands of today's electrical appliances and devices. Keep safety in mind with these helpful tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

Learn the warning signs of an overloaded electrical system:

- Frequent tripping of circuit breakers or blowing of fuses.
- Dimming of lights when other devices are turned on.
- Buzzing sound from switches or outlets.
- Discolored outlets.
- Appliances that seem underpowered.

Avoid overloading circuits:

- Label your circuit breakers to understand the different circuits in your home.
- Have your home inspected by a qualified electrician if it is more than 40 years old or if you have had a major appliance installed.
- Have a qualified electrician install new circuits for devices that use a lot of energy.
- Reduce your electrical load by using energy-efficient appliances and lighting.

Working from home? Follow these electrical safety tips to keep you and your home safe from electrical hazards:

- Avoid overloading outlets.
- Unplug appliances when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock or fire.
- Regularly inspect electrical cords and extension cords for damage.
- Use extension cords only on a temporary basis.
- Never plug a space heater or fan into an extension cord or power strip.
- Never run cords under rugs, carpets, doors or windows.
- Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.
- Keep papers and other potential combustibles at least 3 feet away from heat sources.
- Make sure you use proper wattage for lamps and lighting.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Test them monthly, change batteries annually and replace the unit every 10 years. ■

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 Wednesday of each month at Wasco County Courthouse.



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

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

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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District 2, Elmer City

Chuck Goldmark, Vice President
District 9, Okanogan

Monte Joseph, Sec./Treasurer
District 5, Nespelem

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District 1, Coulee Dam

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Pete Palmer
District 4, Nespelem

Patrick Morin Jr.
District 6, Nespelem

Ron Heath
District 7, Disautel

Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

Writer/Photographer Wanted

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

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



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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, 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.



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

According to a May 7 water supply forecast by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Northwest River Forecast Center, the Columbia River is expected to have normal to above normal flows this summer, while much of the Snake River will be below normal.

Water supply at Grand Coulee Dam in the upper Columbia is predicted to be 106% of average from April through September. At Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River, predicted flows will be at 89% of average for the same time period. The two rivers merge upstream from The Dalles Dam, where flows are predicted to be 100% of average.

Unfortunately, other river basins are not expected to reach average flows. In the Willamette River basin, water supply is expected to be about 65% of the 30-year average.

Precipitation has registered below normal over the season, but snowpack remains at or above normal throughout Oregon.

In addition to CPI's outage reporting system, there is another reason to make sure CPI has your current phone number. We rely on your current phone number to contact you for needed scheduled outages when we have to make repairs to our system.

It's easy to make sure we have your current phone number, whether it's a cell or traditional landline number. Call CPI at 541-929-3124 or 800-872-9036. Press option 2 at the prompt and then option 3. Be sure to have your CPI account number ready. Enter your phone number and you're all set.

Dial 811

Planning a home improvement project? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck?

Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call—even small projects such as planting trees or shrubs.

The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Call 811 before every digging job to get your underground utility lines marked for free and prevent undesired consequences.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO

Update Your Contact Information

Every time Mother Nature throws us a curve, we want to pinpoint the location of trouble as quickly and accurately as possible. That is why it is important for us to have your current phone number.

CPI's integrated voice response system can take hundreds of incoming phone calls without callers getting busy signals for extended periods.

The phone number for the incoming call is matched to the phone number we have on file for your physical address. An outage ticket is generated immediately so line crews can be dispatched any time, day or night, to start power restoration.



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

Michael Freepons, President, District 2

Connie Krull, Vice President, District 7

Catherine Russell, Secretary/Treasurer,
District 8

Buddy Treadway, District 1

Bob Evans, District 3

Ron Johnson, District 4

Tim Grow, District 5

Scott Fisher, District 6

Board Meetings, Agendas & Minutes

The board of trustees will meet June 24 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

Annual Meeting and COVID-19 Updates

Dear Members,

2020 has brought both challenges and opportunities for Benton REA. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to be more flexible in our operating procedures and in future Benton REA events. But we look forward with hope as we power on.

Annual Meeting Update

Our 2020 Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 18 in Prosser. The Benton REA bylaws state that a quorum of five members must be present to conduct the business portion of the annual meeting.

At this point, we are uncertain if we can host our annual meeting due to Gov. Jay Inslee's "stay home, stay healthy" proclamation extension. If we are able to proceed with the annual meeting, only a limited number of people will be allowed to attend. Sadly, we will not be able to offer our member appreciation meal and family activities at the annual meeting this year.

More information about the 2020 annual meeting will be announced in the July issue of Ruralite and on Benton REA's social media channels.

COVID-19 Update

Benton REA has always placed the safety and health of our employees and members at the top of our priority list. For this reason, our Prosser and West Richland offices will remain closed to foot traffic until further notice. At this time, we cannot accept cash payments. However, there are many ways to pay your bill without coming to our offices, including online, by phone and by mail. Please call if you need more information about these convenient options.

Benton REA employees are maintaining social distancing, and taking extra precautions when working to respond to power outage calls and maintaining the electric system. Our PowerNET personnel are also still working to provide internet and technology services.

You may call Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. to speak with a Benton REA employee about your account, payment options or your electric service needs. Our phone number is 509-786-2913 or 800-221-6987.

We appreciate your patience as we deal with these difficult circumstances. I apologize for any inconvenience you may experience as a result of our temporary operating procedures that are necessary during the COVID-19 pandemic. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to be your electric energy provider, and we all look forward to better days as we all power on.

Cooperatively,

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



For billing questions,
payments or concerns:

✦ Call 800-221-6987

✦ BentonREA.org/Payments

✦ Use SmartHub

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 Wenholz, Vice President
Steve Platt, Secretary-Treasurer
Lee Docken
Phil Hamm
John Otis
Tom Pitzer

General Manager

Robert Echenrode

www.umatillaelectric.com

OR-8

Serving Your Needs as the Pandemic Unfolds

For most of us, the spring of 2020 hasn't been business as usual.

Responding to the governor's order in March to "Stay home, save lives," we arranged for one-third of our workforce, more than 30 employees, to work remotely from home.

For the past two months, from afar, they have been monitoring our IT system, billing our accounts, paying our bills, fielding customer calls, approving energy rebates and loans, building GIS maps, managing vendor contracts and doing the thousand daily tasks to keep our business running smoothly.



In each department, some employees remain in the office – staffing the customer drive-thru lanes, managing engineering, construction and maintenance projects, and overseeing system operations that can't be done remotely.

The reality is that many utility employees can't work from home. Despite the economic disruption, the demand for 24/7 power has not abated. To continue providing you with service, our line workers need to be in the field, maintaining distribution lines, responding to outages, connecting new residential services, and in the spring, supporting our irrigators as they gear up for a new season – all while practicing additional safety precautions to limit the spread of Covid-19.

As events unfold, we have focused on our communities as jobs are lost and businesses and industries suspend operations. With Board of Directors approval:

- We opened a Business Resource Center in Hermiston to help local businesses

navigate the evolving state and federal assistance programs. (See Page 8.)

- We added to our economic development fund, for business loans and working capital for new business needs.
- We suspended service disconnections and waived some requirements of our UCARE bill pay assistance program to help residential members facing challenges due to Covid-19.

We have redirected money saved from cancellation of our events – annual meeting dinner, youth tours to D.C. and Idaho and Hydromania science camp – into the community. In support of restaurants hit hard by restrictions and to further protect our employees' health who are unable to work from home, we have provided lunches in the office each day, and provide a weekly dinner to the local police department. We continue to support our local media through advertising and public awareness with various safety themes.

There is more we can do, and more we have planned. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill, please call us. We can help in ways we have never been able to before.

While no one can ever fully prepare for a crisis like we are experiencing, I am proud of our employees, ever resourceful and resilient, and feel gratitude for your patience and understanding. Everywhere people are rising to the occasion, and we join so many others in looking forward to a better future and wishing you health, safety and comfort.

Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO



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

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

Board of Directors

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

Staff

Jeff Davis	.....	General Manager
Shannon Bessette	.....	Finance Manager
Traci Brock	....	Member Services Manager
Jennifer Lindsey	.	Executive Staff Assistant
Kelsey Lepinski	....	Customer Service Rep.
Keenan Webber	....	Customer Service Rep.
Mackenzie Chukwuyenum	..	Financial Analyst
Casey McCleary	.....	Operations Manager
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	.....	Serviceman
Dan Funkhouser	.....	Grass Valley Foreman
Frank Roeder	.....	Maupin Foreman

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

Mission Statement

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

OR-9

WEC Continues to Respond to COVID-19

During this ongoing health crisis, Wasco Electric Cooperative's priority continues to be the safety and well-being of its members and employees. Keeping our workforce and key personnel—linemen, servicemen, engineers and customer service representatives—healthy and available is imperative to provide safe and reliable electric service.

Following the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and Gov. Kate Brown's stay-at-home order, WEC is doing its part to protect its employees and members from contracting and spreading COVID-19.

We hope that as you read this, we are getting our staff back to the office and field full time. However, whether we are working remotely or rotating staff within the office, we will continue to practice good hygiene by continually washing our hands, covering our cough or sneeze and practicing social distancing.

We have also asked any employees who are feeling sick or taking care of a sick family member to stay home.

To help in our efforts, in addition to our janitorial service disinfecting our office throughout the business week, employees are strongly encouraged to frequently do the same with their workstations. Outside employees—including line crews, servicemen and engineers—are also following social distancing measures, including traveling in separate vehicles to job sites. Preferred communication with members and contractors is by email or phone. Any in-person meeting strictly follows social distancing guidelines.

As a safety precaution, we closed our lobby to members, vendors and public traffic March 23. Although we do not know when we will open to the public, we are still here for members to discuss

accounts, make payments, discuss payment arrangements, plan a new service or reconnect a service, among many other services provided.

With our lobby closed, we encourage members to consider different payment options. See page 8 for various options.

WEC understands and recognizes the financial difficulties the current health crisis imposes on members throughout our communities. To help keep the lights on, WEC is doing everything it can to work with you, including making payment arrangements and providing available resources for assistance.

During this time, we have suspended disconnections and late fees. With these adjustments, it is important to remember you are still responsible for paying your electric bill. We strongly encourage you to set up a payment plan to prevent accumulating an unmanageable balance.

If you are looking for ways to help the many members in need, please consider donating to our WECare program. The program helps our members with their electric bills when they encounter financial difficulties. To donate, you can either send in a check, noting "WECare Donation," or call our customer service representatives and donate with an e-check or debit/credit card. All donations are tax-deductible.

As we navigate these unprecedented times, we want to thank our members for their continued support and patience as we continue to provide safe and reliable electric service.

For more information about the cooperative, visit wascoelectric.com, follow our Facebook page or call 541-296-2740.

Jeff Davis
General Manager

Owned By Those We Serve

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

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.



OR-10

From The Frying Pan...

Dear Member,

I don't have to tell you how the rest of the expression goes... you already know. At this writing, we stand at one confirmed Covid-19 case, and are beginning to open Douglas County businesses and services, guided by state-mandated phases. Our office doors are open again with certain space-related conditions. It has certainly been an interesting and challenging few months. Our number one priority through this event was to keep the lights on and with very few exceptions, that goal continues to be accomplished.



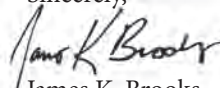
While it's June and we can pause to take a breath, the rest of that "Frying Pan" expression concerns me, and it should concern you. We are heading into wildfire season and certain restrictions may come earlier than usual. No matter which winter weather statistics you look at, they all point to a very serious wildfire threat this summer. The precipitation, snow pack and stream flows are all way below average. On May 13, Douglas County approved an Emergency Drought Order. This opens the way for the governor to approve an emergency drought declaration, which in turn will mean more flexibility and/or restrictions on how water is managed this summer.

What does this mean for our members and our cooperative? It means that once again, it's time to prepare for whatever conditions we have in store. (It does NOT mean we should all run out and stock up on toilet paper!) But having food, supplies and a "go bag" in the event of evacuation continues to be essential. Water conservation is always a good idea. A defensible space around your home is important. And our right-of-way tree and brush clearing program is more crucial than ever.

If you see trees in the powerlines, especially those we refer to as "burners", please call us so we can address any of those situations. Like you, we want to stay ahead of this and will do whatever it takes. If you promise to do that, I promise to write a cheerful back page for you one of these days!

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 Ringering 805-9098
Gary Warner 934-2961
Brian Woodell 934-2260

OR-11



Calvin Bennett



Aubrey Bowlus



Drew Wilburn

2020 Scholarship Awards

Three students from the Columbia Power Co-op service area are recipients of the 2020 scholarship awards. The students are: Calvin Bennett from Mitchell; Aubrey Bowlus from Monument; and Drew Wilburn from Monument.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 statewide restrictions, we were not able to interview the students this year. The Columbia Power Co-op Board of Directors decided to award each student a \$700 scholarship.

Troy Cox
General Manager

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

DIRECTORS:

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

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

Attorney, Thomas M. Grim
Cable Huston LLP, Portland

STAFF

President and CEO
Dave Markham

Chief Financial Officer
Rawleigh White

Director of Operations & Engineering
Brad Wilson

Corporate Information Officer
Lisa Cutter

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

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

24-HOUR PHONE NUMBERS:

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

Mission Statement

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

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

www.cec.coop

OR-12

Members Helping Members

Annual Meeting Rescheduled

In response to COVID-19, the Central Electric Cooperative Board of Directors in late March postponed April's annual meeting. At this writing, Gov. Kate Brown's "Stay safe, stay home" order is still in full effect. Not wanting to push out the meeting too late in the year, the board rescheduled it for Friday, June 12, at 1:30 p.m.

While many states, including Oregon, will have slowly begun to reopen by early June, the board—out of concern for the safety of CEC's employees and members—decided to conduct the annual meeting by teleconference.

To participate in the annual meeting by telephone, I encourage you to visit our website, www.cec.com, to fill out a registration form. You may also call our office at 541-548-2144 to register. During the week before the annual meeting, CEC will email the toll-free call-in number and access code to you.

Two candidates are running to serve as director for District 5, Terrebonne. I encourage members who live in that district to return their ballots by mail in the envelopes provided or drop them off at CEC's Redmond headquarters. District 5 ballots must be received no later than noon on Friday, June 12.

Project Helping Hand

It has been more than two months since Gov. Brown issued her order, and we are getting a clearer picture of the devastating financial impacts incurred by the economic shutdown. Oregon's Employment Department reported more than 362,200 initial claims for unemployment insurance for the end of April. Our region has been hard hit, with nearly 16,000 filing claims. These numbers continue to rise.

CEC sees firsthand the financial impacts COVID-19 has on its members.

One way to gauge that is the number of members assisted through the co-op's Project Helping

Hand program, which provides bill payment assistance to those who demonstrate need. The number of members assisted in April jumped five times this year's monthly average.

To learn more about how PHH has provided much-needed assistance to members who have endured financial difficulties due to COVID-19 and other hardships, turn to pages 28-29 of this issue.

While we remain fully dedicated to helping our members during this disruptive and unpredictable health crisis, the increase in applications has put a strain on Project Helping Hand's coffers. We need your help to bolster its funds so we can continue to carry out the program's mission.

I strongly urge you to consider joining members who contribute. Rounding up your bill to the nearest dollar, adding a fixed amount to your monthly bill or making a one-time donation will help and encourage members in need.

To sign up, go to www.cec.coop under the community tab and enroll, or call our customer service representatives at 541-548-2144. All contributions are tax-deductible.

We are in this together. Members helping members is the co-op way.



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

Chief Information Officer

Dan Springer

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

Hydro, Wind and Solar Power—Apples to Apples

Lower Snake River dam breaching is in the news again. Earlier this year, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Columbia River System Operations was released by the three federal agencies that own and operate the federal hydropower dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers. The DEIS examines six options for operating the Columbia and Snake river hydropower system. One option explored the pros and cons of breaching the four Lower Snake River dams.



Dam breaching advocates argue that wind and solar power are cheap today, so just build wind and solar farms to replace lost power from breaching the four Lower Snake River dams. People will have the power they need and the fish will have a free-flowing section of river. Simple, right? Not so much if you want the microwave to come on when you push start—particularly in the winter. Here's why.

Hydro: Combined, the four Lower Snake River dams produce on average 1,000 megawatts—enough energy for about 800,000 homes. They can produce more than 2,600 MW of power for up to 10 hours a day. That's like saying your car engine is 260 horsepower, but on average you only run it at 100 hp. When you need to, you can put the “pedal to the metal,” but you don't for normal driving. The stored energy in the reservoirs above the dams provides this valuable capability to “throttle up” the dams for several hours at a time. This is important during cold winter nights.

Wind: On average, a wind farm in the Northwest produces about 30% of its rating. A 2,600-MW wind farm will generate about 780 MW, on average. In the winter, when we need the most electricity, the wind blows much less, so the same wind farm generates only 260 MW. There is no stored energy behind a wind turbine, so there is no “pedal” to put to the “metal.” You cannot throttle up a wind farm.

Solar: Solar energy is more like wind than hydro. If the sun is not shining, solar panels are not generating energy. In sunny places like southern California, solar farms produce less than 30% of their rating. That number drops to about 6% during winter in the Northwest. Like wind farms, solar farms don't have stored energy, so you can't throttle them up either.

Improvements in wind and solar technologies are exciting! When grid-scale energy storage solutions become a reality in the years ahead, wind and solar power may compare more similarly to hydropower. Until that day, the Lower Snake River dams remain extremely valuable renewable energy resources. Most of us haven't trashed our gasoline powered cars yet because the electric vehicle manufacturing, service and charging industries aren't mature enough yet. Similarly, we shouldn't consider breaching critical hydroelectric dams before other renewable energy resources are ready to replace the lost hydropower, not only megawatt for megawatt, but apples to apples.

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

Resources Available for Members in Need

Dear Members,

I hope you are all staying healthy and safe as we continue to navigate through this challenging time. We are beginning to see the impact COVID-19 restrictions have had on our members, and we understand the financial hardships many are facing due to these unforeseen circumstances.

There are several ways to seek help if needed or to help others in the community if you are able.



Financial Assistance for Members

If you or someone you know is struggling and in need of assistance, resources are available. Please contact our office for more information. We can help you with payment arrangements to allow time for energy-assistance applications to be processed and funds to be sent.

How to Help Others

If you are wondering how you can help those who are struggling, West Oregon Electric Cooperative's volunteer PowerUp Program is a great option. There are three ways you can participate: Round up your monthly bill to the nearest dollar amount, add a fixed dollar amount to your monthly bill or make a one-time donation.

For more information on how to apply for energy assistance or how to sign up for the PowerUp program, call our office at 503-429-3021.

2020 Nominating Meeting

Postcards have been mailed to members in District 3 and District 7 announcing the 2020 nominating meeting. The meeting is Tuesday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the WOEC office, 652 Rose Ave., Vernonia. This meeting will allow members to nominate director candidates who reside in Districts 3 and 7 to serve three-year terms on the WOEC Board of Directors.

If you are unsure which district you live in, it is printed on your monthly billing statement. You may also call the office for assistance.

Regards,

Bob Perry
General Manager



Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

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

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

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

www.surprisevalleyelectric.org

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

After hours and outages:
Call office numbers above.

STAFF

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

"Owned by those we serve."

This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.

CA-15

Welcome Melissa Royce to SVE

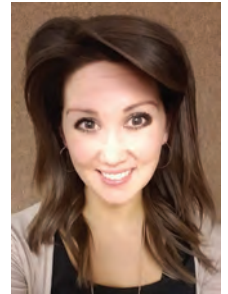
Hello from the new billing administrator at Surprise Valley Electrification Corp. My name is Melissa Royce, and I am blessed to be a part of the SVE team.

I grew up in Yreka, California, earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics education at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff and moved to Alturas in 2008. After 11 years as a high school math teacher, I stumbled upon the job posting for this position. The way everything fell into place proved to me that this was undeniably the right next step for me.

As a new member of the SVE team, I have gained a different perspective as my husband and I travel around Modoc County and surrounding areas doing some of our favorite activities: hunting, backpacking, fishing, cutting firewood or looking for adventure. I now think to myself, "Wow, I get to be a part of the awesome company that provides power to folks all the way out here," and that motivates me to do the best work I can in this position.

Throughout my career in education, I wore many hats and learned to thrive in an environment that was often unpredictable. That experience certainly prepared me for the billing administrator position. While there are many routine things to do, there are also new challenges and exciting opportunities each day. I am responsible for accurately preparing monthly billing statements; maintaining and reconciling member accounts in the manner of corrections, adjustments, refunds, delinquent letters and disconnects; maintaining capital credit records and distributing appropriate retirements and allocations; processing, closing and generating service orders; performing systemwide backups of daily, monthly and annual data; and any other "hat" I am asked to wear on a given day. Each morning, I look forward to what the day will bring—whether it be the basic tasks of address changes and closing service orders or something a little more challenging such as dealing with capital credits, net metering, or printing, inserting and mailing bills for more than 6,000 accounts.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Pam Robbins, the soon-to-be-retired billing manager, for the extensive training she provided me and willingly sharing countless things she learned through many years in this position. I also want to thank the rest of the SVE team for welcoming me, answering my many questions and providing an enjoyable work environment. Finally, I want to thank the SVE Board of Directors and General Manager Bradley Kresge for the opportunity to work for such an outstanding company. I was raised to appreciate the value of hard work and tenacity, to always demonstrate integrity and to treat others with respect. I am excited to incorporate these traits into this new career path, and I am honored to work with many others here at SVE who demonstrate the same values. I look forward to many years with the cooperative, serving our members with intentionality, professionalism and grit.





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

Jonathan Farmer | Member & Public Affairs 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

Coping With COVID-19

As you know, safety is a priority here at Lane Electric. When we think of safety, we tend to think of high-voltage lines, working at the top of a pole, or slips, trips and falls. With COVID-19, safety has taken on a different look.

We now work 6 feet apart. We view documents together by sharing a computer screen via video rather than looking over someone's shoulder. Co-workers are seen by video rather than by passing in the hallway. We sanitize the surfaces we touch, wash our hands more often, and use hand sanitizer. When we can't be 6 feet apart, we wear face masks.

We will be making revisions to the office to add protection for members and employees. Until then, the lobby is closed to the public until further notice.

With new Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidance, linemen will be back to work maintaining and improving the system. Rest assured; we are here to serve you!

We all look forward to the day when we are able again to see you face to face. I hope it's soon.

Annual Meeting

You will soon receive an annual meeting packet in the mail. It will contain information about voting and how to access the annual meeting Monday, June 22, at 4 p.m.

Due to Gov. Kate Brown's restrictions on public gatherings, we will hold the business meeting via an online webinar this year. You may participate by video or telephone. Please visit Laneelectric.com/annualmeeting for more information.



District Meetings

We hope to hold district meetings in some fashion later this fall. We value the time spent at those meetings sharing information and gathering feedback from you all, so stay tuned.

Thank You

I would like to thank our incredible staff for everything they are doing under these unusual circumstances. I also want to thank all of you for your understanding and support. We know it hasn't been easy, but together we can get through it. That spirit is what makes us a co-op. We are truly more powerful together. Our future remains bright.

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

OR-17

Safety Is Our Mission

Dear Members,

Blachly-Lane Electric Co-op's mission is to provide safe and reliable electric service to our members. In this month's edition of Ruralite is a feature story about Safety Director Greg Pierce. Greg helped us achieve a first-place safety award in 2018 and a second-place award in 2019 in the annual Northwest Public Power Association safety contest. More importantly, he has helped us focus our efforts to keep our employees and members safe month in and month out. We all know it only takes a brief lapse in attention or one wrong move to result in a serious accident.

The challenge for us during the past few months has been to keep our employees and members safe from contracting COVID-19. Closing our office to the public, having employees work or be dispatched from home, maintaining social distancing when we are together and holding virtual meetings are not things we have experienced before. With essentially one full crew and a handful of other field workers, to have a single employee become infected with the virus would be extremely disruptive to our ability to serve our members.

Electric service is essential to the health and well-being of our members, and we regard it as such. Our employees are doing everything they can to maintain the safe and reliable service you expect, and they do so with great pride and self-sacrifice. If the lights go off, they will be there to fix the problem. We have grown to understand how complex a problem this is. How we come out of it and return to business as usual will take time. We are grateful for the support of our community as we work through this historic time together. We are here for you, always.

Greg Gardner

General Manager



Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative 2020 Board of Directors Election Results

District No. 2: Curtis Short	378
Wayne Lemler	195
District No. 4: Marlene Northrup	310
Mary Beckman	263



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.klickitapud.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

Renewable Natural Gas Agreement Brings Long-Term Value and Stability

You may have seen the recent press release that we signed a 20-year renewable natural gas (RNG) agreement with Puget Sound Energy. If you haven't seen it, check out Page 4. I am really excited about this deal.

We will continue to supply British Petroleum a fixed volume of our production under the original fixed-price contract for 3 ½ more years. That will pay off our RNG debt. The deal with Puget Sound Energy is for the RNG not sold to British Petroleum in the next 3 ½ years, and all of the RNG produced thereafter until 2041.

We estimate the value of this contract to exceed \$400 million during the 20-year term. The actual value will depend on the landfill gas output from Republic Service's Roosevelt landfill and the reliability of our plant. Republic Services remains an extremely important partner to the PUD. We have put great trust in them and value their support.

This is the single-largest contract executed by Klickitat PUD in its 80-year history. For perspective, our current Bonneville Power Administration wholesale power contract will cost about \$300 million over its 20-year term, which ends in 2028. The contract with PSE and the operation of the H.W. Hill Renewable Natural Gas Facility allows Klickitat PUD to reduce our long-term debt at an accelerated rate. It also provides long-term value and rate stability to our communities and our customers for many, many years.

Our original interest in a long-term contract was to reduce our market risk so that we could extend our planning horizon to keep our rates stabilized. It turned out that we increased our revenues and reduced our risk at the same time, which does not happen very often. The contract is for the RNG "as produced," so if we cannot or do not produce, we do not have to deliver. There is also no exposure to regulatory or legislative changes. The price is fixed regardless of the value of RNG in the future.

I encourage you to read more about our facility and our partnerships and watch a YouTube video of the plant. All of this can be found on the KPUD website at www.klickitapud.com/yourPUD/projects/rng.

I am extremely proud of the many PUD employees who made this project a reality. I would like to specifically mention Kevin Ricks, who led an experienced team of engineers and local plant operators to get the plant designed, built and operating. I would also like to mention Mike DeMott and his team, which completed the contracts with both British Petroleum and Puget Sound Energy. Congratulations, everyone.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us. In the meantime, stay safe everyone and I hope to actually be able to see you soon.



Jim Smith
General Manager



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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

As our community continues to heal from the effects of COVID-19, many of our neighbors may be struggling to pay their monthly bills. Powering your homes and feeding your families doesn't always come easy. With this in mind, I would like to remind you that Northern Lights has three programs where neighbors can help neighbors.

Since 2005, NLI members and employees have given \$100,000 to Operation Round-up. Overseen by the NLI Community Trust, these donations are used to help fund our local food banks. Program participants donate an average of \$6 a year when their bill is rounded up to the next whole dollar. This monthly contribution is just pennies for those who join, but makes a significant difference in the lives of many families.

NLI also has a program called Helping Hand, which helps struggling members with their power bills.

NLI participates in the Project Share program as well, which provides home heating assistance to local families. This program is a collaboration between local utility companies, community action agencies and fuel vendors.

To donate to any of these programs, call our toll-free number or let us know how much you would like to donate by filling in the amount on the donation section of your power bill. Your contributions help in a tremendous way, so please consider giving to those who need assistance.

As we move into June, I am eager for summer to arrive, which is just around the corner. However, we are still dealing with the effects of COVID-19, so let us still think of those who need our help, and give just a little of ourselves to make a huge difference and warm the hearts and homes of families in need.



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

Don't Be Surprised!



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Before picking up a shovel, pick up the telephone. Electric, water, sewer, natural gas, telephone and TV lines often are buried underground. One wrong move can cause you and your neighbors to be cut off from vital services—or cause death or injury to you, from an electric shock or an explosion. At least two business days before you plan to dig, call Idaho's one-call center or visit call811.com. Affected utility companies will come out and use color-coded paint to mark the locations of underground utilities. Calling ahead not only is common sense, it's the law.

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



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

Big Job Ahead - Baby Steps Required

As we move closer to Phase 2 of our State's plan to re-open Washington, it's a good time to remember that "normal" is still several phases away...well beyond any schedule that may be in place right now, and that, as we know, is subject to change almost daily. And when we do get there, "normal" may even look a bit different than what we were used to.

What we can be certain of right now is that a lot of people are fearful of what the future may hold, especially for the small businesses in our communities. To many business owners, and even consumers, tip-toeing into these uncharted waters seems the prudent way forward, rather than jumping in with both feet. Because the prospect of "getting back out there" brings a mixed bag of feelings, ranging from anxious frustration to long-awaited freedom. But when the time comes, we'll go. We just need to put our best foot forward.

This is not a lecture about social distancing and mask wearing (though we do need to stay vigilant and take care of each other). It's about supporting our friends and neighbors and local businesses, who will need our support now more than ever.

Why shop local? There are many reasons. Here are just a few.

- ▶ For every dollar you spend locally, 68 cents will stay in the community. For every dollar spent at a national chain, only 43 cents will remain here.
- ▶ When you shop locally, you help create and sustain jobs for a wide range of essential, living-wage jobs in your community.
- ▶ Studies have shown that local businesses support community causes at more than twice the rate of national chains.

At Columbia REA, we have always believed in supporting our local business partners. We recently made the decision to support our front-line health care workers through a donation to the St. Mary Medical Center Foundation that will keep the Community Health Care Worker program up and running for the foreseeable future. On a more organic, and fun, and delicious level, we provided the entire staff of St. Mary Medical Center with calzones from Big Cheese Pizza a few weeks ago. Thank you, Big Cheese! And thank you to all of our brave and hard-working health care professionals for doing what you do every day.

"Commitment to Community" is one of the 7 Guiding Principles of our Co-op. You are the community. We are the community. Your favorite local shop or restaurant is the community. It's going to be a long journey back, but keeping our dollars local as much as possible would be a big step in the right direction.



Be safe, stay healthy.
Best,
Scott Peters, CEO





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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

Departments

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

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

OFFICE HOURS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Vice President

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Secretary/Treasurer

Vic Russell, Fall River
Diana Cox, Christmas Valley
Bud Kendall, La Pine
Robert Reed, La Pine
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:

As I write this, we are finishing our ninth week of operating under our pandemic plan, which calls for the closure of the office lobby to the public and separation of our employees. While operating under these conditions has been challenging, the dedication of the hardworking Midstate Electric Cooperative employees to continue providing you—our members—with the best service possible has not changed.

It was disappointing for all of us to have to cancel our in-person annual meeting of the members for the first time in the history of the co-op. We value and miss the one-on-one engagement the day brings.

Gov. Kate Brown released seven prerequisites for a Phase 1 reopening of Oregon. Counties that met the prerequisites could enter Phase 1 on May 15. The specifics of the plan were recently released, and we are reviewing the details to determine how it impacts MEC operations. It is uncertain when we will bring our employees who are working from home back to the office and reopen the lobby to the public. It will be at least two weeks, maybe longer, as we analyze the reopening requirements.

When the time is right—and following guidance from the state, county and Centers for Disease Control—we will gradually transition employees back to the office. The lobby will open to the public when appropriate.

In preparation of opening the lobby, we will put temporary plexiglass barriers at the counters to separate employees from the public. In addition, as many other businesses have done, MEC will rope off and place marks on the floor to indicate the required 6 feet of social distancing.

Precautionary signage will be in place and there will be limited access.

We do not know when operations will be back to normal, but we are preparing for and looking forward to that day.

The employees and I thank you for your patience and understanding during these uncertain times. Rest assured, we will continue doing our part to provide services and to keep your lights on.



Passing of Director Lee Smith

It is with heavy hearts that Midstate Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors and staff announce the death of Director Lee Smith. MEC has lost a great friend and leader. Lee had been on MEC's board since 2006.

Lee was active in cooperative programs at the local, state and national levels. He was a Credentialed Cooperative Director and held a Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He served as chairman of the government affairs committee of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association and represented electric cooperatives in both Salem and Washington, D.C., supporting beneficial legislation while lobbying against proposals that would increase rates or compromise services.

Lee's leadership left a mark both at MEC and industrywide that will not be forgotten.

Dave Schneider
General Manager



155 N. Main St. | P.O. Box 617
Malta, ID 83342

Phone: 208-645-2211
Toll free: 800-342-7732

www.rrelectric.com

After hours or to report outages
800-342-7732

Automated secure pay by phone
844-244-1497

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Jones, District 2 | President
Larry Henson, At-large | Secretary
John Campbell, District 1
Blaine Tanner, District 3
Krinn McCoy, District 4
Lindsey Manning, District 5
Jason Harper, At-large

Board meetings typically are the
fourth Wednesday of each month.

Chad Black | General Manager

Mission Statement

Our members are our mission.
We deliver safe, reliable, cost-
effective services to energize our
communities.



ID-24



Supporting Our Members

We continue to do all we can to support our members during this unprecedented time. Since every little bit helps, we will be sending a box of free LEDs to each residential member to help lower your energy bill and brighten your day.

We may be apart, but we'll get through this

TOGETHER!



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

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

- Install a programmable thermostat and save an estimated 10% a year on heating and cooling costs.
- Close drapes and blinds during the day to help keep out the sun's rays and keep your house cool.
- Choose energy-saving lighting. Replacing five of your home's most frequently used lights with energy-efficient LED bulbs could save you \$75 a year in energy costs.
- Use an electronic power strip for your electronics. Save money by plugging electronic devices into a power strip and turn it off when not in use.
- Reduce energy for water heating. Take simple steps such as lowering your water heater's temperature and installing low-flow showerheads to reduce your water heating bills.
- Hire a professional to maintain and tune up your heating and cooling system.
- Seal holes and cracks around doors and windows with foam insulation or weatherstripping.
- Switch to Energy Star appliances, fans and electronics. Using Energy Star certified products throughout your home could save nearly \$750 over the lifetime of the products.





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,

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to our employees for their dedicated service and to you, our members, for your patience and flexibility during this challenging time. The COVID-19 pandemic has required us to change how we do things, but our commitment to serving you safely, affordably and reliably remains unwavering.

As of this writing, Hood River County has been approved to begin Phase 1 of Gov. Kate Brown's reopening plan. At Hood River Electric Cooperative, we are monitoring the pandemic to determine how quickly to ease back into more normal operations.

Our lobby will remain closed to walk-in visitors until we are confident we can keep employees and members safe. Our employees will continue to maintain social distancing at work, use personal protective equipment and disinfect surfaces as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

We know you rely on us for safe, reliable and affordable electric and internet service. Equally important is the safety and well-being of our employees. Thank you for your patience as we work to balance these priorities. Our team has done an admirable job of adjusting to this new environment. We miss being together and we miss seeing those of you who are regular visitors to our office, but we know this is necessary for now.

As always, if you need to report an outage or other emergency related to your electric or internet service, please call 541-354-1233 for assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can also email nonemergency requests to us at info@hrec.coop. Our internet service department is available at support@hrec.coop.

We encourage you to follow us on social media for the 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.

The spread of COVID-19 has changed how we interact, but it will not change our commitment to serving you. Thank you for your understanding and support.

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,

Harney Electric Cooperative employees missed the opportunity to interact with members last month with cancellation of the annual meeting in Denio. I would like to thank the members who participated in the absentee voting process. Joe Cronin and Frank Albisu were reelected to three-year terms on the board of directors.

Those of you who returned absentee ballots were entered into a drawing for a television. We held that drawing live on Facebook on May 5. Brandon Canaday was the lucky winner.

Irrigation members may have noticed a survey included with their April billing statement. HEC works with the Bonneville Power Administration to develop and maintain energy-efficiency rebate programs. Please return your survey to be included in a future drawing for a \$500 credit on your irrigation bill.

Capital credit allocation notices were sent out in May for members who bought power in 2019. At year-end, if Harney Electric Cooperative has collected revenue in excess of expenses, it is posted as margins. Margins are allocated to each member in proportion to the amount of electricity that member bought during the year. The more electricity purchased, the greater the share of margins allocated to the member's capital credit account.

The cooperative maintains a capital credit account for all members, past and present. Capital credits accumulate for each member until it becomes financially feasible to return them. When the cooperative disburses capital credits, it is referred to as a retirement. Be sure to keep us updated with your current address.

Capital credits provide a major source of equity to the cooperative. Our lenders require us to maintain a certain level of equity to borrow money. Capital credits are also used to minimize debt financing and reduce your cost of service to help keep electric bills affordable.

For more information about capital credits, visit our website at www.harneyelectric.org or call us at 541-573-2061.

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

Our Post-2028 Power Plan

Planning for future power supply is a priority for the Salmon River Electric Cooperative board and me. SREC's 20-year power supply contract with the Bonneville Power Administration is set to expire September 30, 2028. BPA likely will offer new power supply contracts for execution in 2025-2026, which will become effective October 1, 2028. These contracts will likely be for another 20-year term.

BPA has been an excellent power supplier. It has helped us fulfill our mission of providing safe, reliable and cost-effective electric power to our member-owners since we energized our system in 1953.



Ken Dizes

The electric utility landscape has changed much since we began purchasing power from BPA. This is especially evident looking at the past 10 years. Renewable power has taken center stage and has begun to compete with traditional central station service. Traditional baseload electric generating resources such as coal, hydro and nuclear that provide central station service have been fighting to stay relevant in this new landscape. Often overlooked is the fact that intermittent nondispatchable renewable power resources would not be possible without dispatchable baseload resources.

Pairing generation resources with the load requirements of utilities is a complex process. This pairing includes delivering the resource and ensuring there is an emergency supply of electric power to back up lost generation. The electric power has to be available 24 hours a day and on demand. The electric power grid has to be kept in balance. That is accomplished by dispatchable baseload electric power generating facilities like hydro, coal, nuclear and natural gas quickly ramping up and down to meet demand and keep the system balanced. These services are termed ancillary and transmission services, and are critical to our ability to deliver electric power reliably and cost-effectively. Evaluating generation resources includes the pairing, pricing and availability of these overlooked critical services.

SREC continues to look at how renewables can be part of our power supply portfolio. Small modular nuclear reactors could be part of our cooperative's power supply resource mix, as well as electric power market purchases. SREC is considering all options for future power supply.

Northwest Requirements Utilities—a trade organization representing many BPA customers—is helping SREC analyze options. Each surely has its societal considerations, which are being factored into our decision-making. Large hydro the BPA markets and the central station service model SREC uses is hard to replace. It likely will continue to be our predominant electric power resource and delivery model of choice for at least the foreseeable future.



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

Why Membership Matters

The next time you meet one of your United Electric Cooperative board members, say "THANKS!" No handshake, high-five or fist bump ... remember social distancing.

Why thank them?

At its April meeting, the UEC board unanimously approved a unique capital credit retirement for you, the members. Normally, we would have retired a sizable portion of capital credits from 1990 and 1991, and a smaller portion from 2019. However, the board chose to retire a larger portion of the 2019 capital credits this year.

They did this because the members on our system last year are most likely you, the members on the system now. Your board understands COVID-19 may have created some financial hurdles. These extra capital credits showed up on your May bill statement as a credit.

This is just one example of why the cooperative business model works. You, the members, elect your own board. The control is local. The benefits are local.

This same principle benefits our members in other ways. UEC is a member of several other cooperative-based organizations.

One is General Pacific Inc., a wholesale distributor for many Northwest cooperatives and public power utilities. Like a cooperative, GenPac has a board of directors elected from its membership. The company is directed by those it serves. GenPac stepped up its game during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing face masks, hand sanitizer and other protective equipment to its members at cost. GenPac also returned dividends to its members. UEC took GenPac's check and devoted it to helping our members during this pandemic.

I hope you agree being a member is better than being a customer. When this pandemic has passed, high-five your local board member.

Cooperatively yours,

M. Jamie Stark
General Manager



M. Jamie Stark

For more information about UEC, please check out our website at www.uec.coop, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



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

Helping the Desert Bloom

Agriculture has been a vital part of the Big Lost River Valley economy since the first settlers homesteaded the upper reaches of the valley in the 1860s. Throughout the generations, trends in technology and crop varieties have changed, yet an undying commitment to efficiently harness the natural resources of the land to provide a livelihood has guided many individuals and families in the harsh environment of our high-altitude desert.

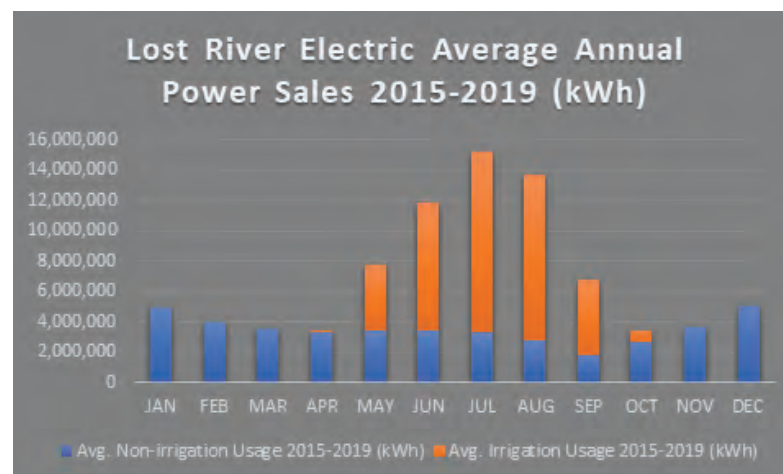
Irrigation has been the key to the success of these endeavors. Increased efficiencies with the finite water resources of the “Lost River” have provided the opportunity to increase acreage and yields for growers throughout the years.

Affordable, abundant electrical power has helped revolutionize farming here in the Northwest and beyond. Locally, within the Lost River Electric Cooperative service territory, irrigation accounts for about half of our total electrical consumption. As illustrated below, peak demand for electricity coincides with irrigation season.

Wholesale power bought from the Bonneville Power Administration serves the needs of our cooperative. BPA markets hydroelectric power generated from the Federal Columbia River Power System, whose generation peaks due to spring runoff within the Columbia Basin watershed. This increased generation coincides with the needs of our irrigators. BPA provides a substantial irrigation rate discount to help market this abundant spring/early summer energy, further supporting agricultural enterprises here at home.

The Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc. Board of Directors and staff appreciate our members who farm and, in doing so, support the cooperative and the community while feeding the world in the process.

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

June

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

July

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Thursday, July 2, 2020, for Independence Day

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

AK-34

Copper Valley Electric 2020 Election Results

The 2020 Board of Director election results were announced via a Facebook video on CVEA's Facebook page and cvea.org on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. CEO Travis Million and Credentials and Election Committee Chairmen, Anita Fannin (Valdez) and Shannon Saavedra (Copper Basin) were on hand to share the results. To date, this video has been viewed 857 times.

The Copper Basin District elected Mark Shorten (left) and the Valdez District re-elected Jeff Saxe (right), each to a three-year term.



The Credentials and Election Committees reported voting results for the director election as follows:

<u>Copper Basin</u>		<u>Valdez</u>	
Ballots Received	283	Ballots Received	246
Ballots Counted	272	Ballots Counted	227
Tod Hand	114	Jeff Saxe	227
Mark Shorten	158		

CVEA welcomes returning directors and appreciates the participation of everyone involved in the election.

Special thanks to the 2020 Credentials and Election Committee members: (Copper Basin) Shannon Saavedra, Jan Maslen, Sue Roscovius, Karen Hoeft, Milt Peters, and Jamie Cooley.

(Valdez) Anita Fannin, Mary Ellen Murphy, Lorisa MacDonald, Bobby Gibbs, and Colette Loftin.

Winners of the ballot drawing for a \$50 energy credit were: Ashley Hicks in the Copper Basin, and Ryan Ambacher, in Valdez.



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

Summer Safety

Summer solstice, the first official day of summer, falls on June 20. This season comes as a welcome change. I am looking forward to the longer days, warmer weather and increased opportunities to be outdoors.

As enthusiastic as I am, I recognize this summer will be different for many of us. Even though some summer activities may get put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions, we can still make the most of this summer and be safe.

Tillamook PUD also looks forward to the summer. It is an important time for our operations. The longer days of summer equate to more daylight hours spent working out in the field, which gives our crews more time to complete projects.

We take advantage of the change in climate. The dry and mild weather allows us to work on projects that can only be done safely in dry weather. "Hot work"—where linemen work on energized lines with hot stick tools—is safest in dry conditions. Doing hot work allows us to complete projects, such as infrastructure improvements, without having multiple lengthy customer outages. Completing this work during summer is not only safer, but also less impactful on our customers.

Our plans to work on capital improvement projects must continue, though modified slightly to accommodate current health and safety considerations.

We have several projects to tackle this summer. Projects in the North Tillamook County area include continuing the reconductoring of our system from Wheeler to Rockaway Beach, and converting the primary voltage in the Nehalem area system to 24.9 kilovolts to align with most of our system's operating voltage.

In the South Tillamook County area, we

plan to work on a project connected to construction of the new Farmer Creek Bridge. Work includes rerouting overhead lines in the area to feed the underground lines and reconductoring work.

As with all the work we do, safety is a priority. During summer, we have different safety considerations. With the current pandemic, we have additional concerns.

Being out in the field for an extended period can often attract people to check out what is going on. To protect the health of our community, our crews will remain a minimum of 6 feet from members of the public while working in the field. We encourage our customers and community members to do the same should they encounter working crews.

Road traffic is another concern. We occasionally work alongside roadways, which can be challenging and require flagging assistance. We appreciate drivers exercising caution when passing by TPUD worksites along roadways.

Even though summer may look a little different than in years past, we can still look forward to the season. I encourage you to enjoy whatever elements of summer you can. Think about modifying summer family traditions or making new ones, get outside often and stay connected to others.



Have a safe summer,

General Manager Todd Simmons



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

Board of Directors

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Price E. Brower

Vice President

Roy M. Nageak Sr.

Secretary

Herman L. Ahsoak

Treasurer

Don A. Nungasak

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

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

Stay Safe at Home

Each year, electrical malfunctions account for thousands of home fires, injuries, death and property damage. The average American home was built in 1977, and many existing homes simply can't handle the demands of today's electrical appliances and devices. Keep safety in mind with these helpful tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

Learn the warning signs of an overloaded electrical system:

- Frequent tripping of circuit breakers or blowing of fuses.
- Dimming of lights when other devices are turned on.
- Buzzing sound from switches or outlets.
- Discolored outlets.
- Appliances that seem underpowered.

Avoid overloading circuits:

- Label your circuit breakers to understand the different circuits in your home.
- Have your home inspected by a qualified electrician if it is more than 40 years old or if you have had a major appliance installed.
- Have a qualified electrician install new circuits for devices that use a lot of energy.
- Reduce your electrical load by using energy-efficient appliances and lighting.

Working from home? Follow these electrical safety tips to keep you and your home safe from electrical hazards:

- Avoid overloading outlets.
- Unplug appliances when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock or fire.
- Regularly inspect electrical cords and extension cords for damage.
- Use extension cords only on a temporary basis.
- Never plug a space heater or fan into an extension cord or power strip.
- Never run cords under rugs, carpets, doors or windows.
- Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.
- Keep papers and other potential combustibles at least 3 feet away from heat sources.
- Make sure you use proper wattage for lamps and lighting.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Test them monthly, change batteries annually and replace the unit every 10 years. ■



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

Lobby Closures Update

As of press time (5/15/20), GVEA expects to continue with our lobby closures for the time being. However, we wanted to provide a glimpse into what our members can expect when that reopening day comes. Once we feel comfortable taking the initial steps of our reopening efforts, the Fairbanks lobby will be the first to reopen. Our Delta Junction and Nenana offices will reopen at a later date.

The reopening of our Fairbanks lobby will involve appointments on an as-needed basis. Members will be asked to limit entry into our lobby to one member per household. Upon entry being granted, members will be asked to follow mandates of social-distancing and hygiene practices.

In the meantime:

Members can continue to initiate contact with the Member Services Section telephonically (452-1151, M-F, 8am-5pm) or by email (ms@gvea.com).

Accounts can be accessed and managed 24/7 via the "My Account" member portal found at www.gvea.com. For a detailed list of the variety of payment methods available, visit: <http://gvea.com/rates/payments>.

GVEA and COVID-19 Financial Hardship Update

Effective March 19, 2020, GVEA temporarily suspended residential disconnects due to non-payment, as well as 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 members who are experiencing a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 situation, steps are in place to help manage unpaid electric bills. To begin with, two forms must be submitted to GVEA before the disaster ends:

- COVID-19 Moratorium Certification, *and*
- 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 entryway 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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Fred Nelson, *Clio*
fnelson@psrec.coop

Vice President

Dick Short, *Graeagle*
dshort@psrec.coop

Secretary/Treasurer

David Hansen, *Doyle*
dhansen@psrec.coop

Larry Price, *Quincy*
lprice@psrec.coop

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

Tom Hammond, *Herlong*
thammond@psrec.coop

Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



Our subsidiary,
**Plumas-Sierra
Telecommunications**
offers a variety of high-quality
internet solutions.

To learn more, please visit
www.pst.coop or call
800-221-3474

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

CA-39

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

As wildfire season rapidly approaches, we all need to be prepared. Learn how to protect your home and family at www.preventwildfire.ca.org. Part of being prepared includes being ready for public safety power shutoffs. PG&E plans to turn off portions of its grid during extreme fire danger, high wind events and other critical situations. PG&E has notified us it intends to disconnect lines in medium- to high-risk areas in the Sierras. This could affect our primary power supply that comes through the Feather River Canyon.

The outages that happened at around 10 p.m. on April 28 and 29, and May 5 and 6 were due to PG&E work for fire mitigation upgrades on their system. Unfortunately, they did not give us enough notice to publish information in Ruralite, but we were able to put notices on our website and social media feeds, and send email and text notifications through the SmartHub app.

When PG&E notifies us it intends to shut off our transmission feed, we will provide as much notice as possible to members. PSREC will post information to www.psrec.coop, Facebook and Twitter, our SmartHub app, and via email and text message. To sign up for text message and email notifications, login to the SmartHub app from your mobile device or from www.psrec.coop and set your notification preferences. If you need assistance, please contact us at 800-555-2207.

During PG&E shutoff events, we will switch to our backup transmission feed from NV Energy. There is a limit to how much energy we can bring through that line, so members need to be prepared for outages and rolling blackouts. During a power outage, please disconnect all nonessential electrical loads. Every light and appliance turned off will help PSREC re-energize more of our system. If our power transmission system is constrained, conservation helps keep

our electrical system stable and enables us to serve you and your neighbors.

Preparing for power outages can help make the best of a bad situation. Equip your home with a power outage kit that includes a flashlight, battery-powered lamp or lantern, and extra batteries; candles and matches; a battery-powered radio with extra batteries; easily accessible emergency phone numbers for your utility, doctor, fire and police; a telephone connected directly to the phone jack (cordless phones need electricity to operate); a one-week supply of drinking water and nonperishable food; and a cooler for storing frequently used foods. Food spoils more quickly if the refrigerator door is opened. Keep these items on hand to make an outage more tolerable: a manual can opener; an alternative cooking source; and a deck of cards, board games and books.

If someone in your home depends on electric-powered, life-sustaining equipment, make a plan for backup power.

If you are going to install a generator and connect to your home's electrical system, please make sure it is done to code using an automated system such as a Generac switch, or a manual double-pull double-throw switch that separates your house from the grid. Failure to do so could cause injury or fire, leading to potentially massive liability on your part and disconnection from the grid, if discovered. For more information on a double-pull double-throw switch, please talk to a licensed electrician.

Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane or charcoal-burning device inside a home or garage. Locate the unit away from doors, windows and vents to prevent exposure to carbon monoxide.

Continues on page 25

Manager's Message

Continued from page 32

Please install surge protectors on any sensitive electronics and appliances. Be sure to buy surge protectors that have a warranty for your connected load.

COVID-19

At Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative and Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications, the health and safety of our members and employees is a priority. We remain committed to meeting the needs of our members, local businesses and communities. We continue to provide power and internet services to our members. If outages occur, our crews are ready to respond.

To continue to limit person-to-person contact and encourage social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, our lobby will remain closed at least through June 30. While PSREC and PST's lobby is closed, you can use fee-free options available on our websites, www.psrec.coop and www.pst.coop, through the SmartHub app or by calling our office at 530-832-4261 to pay your electric and internet bills or manage your account.

If you have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact our billing department at 530-832-4261 or billing@psrec.coop as soon as possible to make arrangements for paying your bills. Our website also has a list of assistance resources available.

Telecommunications

PST has submitted applications to the California Public Utilities Commission's California Advanced Services Fund for grants to fund expansion of broadband in many of the hardest-to-reach areas of our service territory. We will find out about funding for those grants at the end of the year. We are continuing the expansion of our system in easier-to-reach areas in real time.

PST's coax and wireless broadband services offer download speeds of up to 20 Mbps. Our fiber optic services can go up to 1 gigabyte per second, with even faster speeds available, if needed. With these speeds, you can stream videos on multiple devices at the same time without slowing down. You could even eliminate your cable bill with streaming services. For more

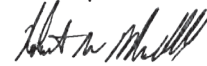
information and to sign up for service, call us at 800-221-3474 or visit www.pst.coop.

At PST, we are taking a number of steps to limit the opportunity for exposure to illness for our customers and employees. This means we had to limit where we install service. We can safely install internet services in an attached garage under certain circumstances. We are examining ways to be able to install service in homes again; hopefully, with expanded testing, in the future we can safely install services in more homes.

We are placing customers who we cannot install right now on a list to schedule installation at a later date. Installation criteria can be found at www.psrec.coop/covid-19-information.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 800-555-2207 ext. 6076 or email me at bmarshall@psrec.coop.

Sincerely



Bob Marshall
General Manager



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MT. WHEELER POWER

1600 Great Basin Blvd.
Ely, NV 89301

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

Emergency Contacts

Ely Office
775-289-8981

Eureka Office
775-237-5693

Outside Ely / Eureka Area
800-97-POWER

Board of Directors

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

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

Mt. Wheeler Power's summer office hours are in effect. The Ely office is 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

NV-40

Energy Conservation Loans Available

Summer is a great time to rethink energy-conservation measures for your home or business. Energy-efficiency measures can increase your property values, reduce your electric bills and create a more comfortable environment. Energy-efficiency improvements can be expensive. Luckily, your cooperative has financial options to help.

Mt. Wheeler Power's Energy Conservation Loans can finance the upfront costs of efficiency upgrades.

Loans are available for residential, commercial, industrial, public building facilities and agriculture systems. Loans are available to all qualifying Mt. Wheeler Power members.

Applicants must be the owner of or have a legally recognized ownership interest in the structure where the energy-saving materials or systems are being installed. Loans can be made to finance the cost of the purchase and installation of approved energy-saving materials and systems. Call us for a list of approved items.

If your project will make the home more energy efficient, it probably qualifies for a loan. Examples include replacing heating and cooling systems, windows and insulation.

Members will need to complete a credit application and project description page and provide an estimate from the contractor doing the job. If a member completes the energy-saving job on their own, only supplies and materials qualify for a loan.

Applicants must pass a credit check, sign a deed of trust and/or other security agreements. One- to 5-year terms are available. Interest rates are based on current nondiscounted rate plus .5%. Some fees are required.

If you are considering an energy-efficiency project but have been deterred by the cost, put your cooperative to work for you. Apply for a loan today and make your home or business more energy efficient. We would love to hear about your project and see if we can help.

Call us at 800-977-6937 or 775-289-8981 and ask for Lynn at extension 103. Let us help you get those summer projects started.

Sincerely,

Shellie Watts, Member Services/HR Manager





Board of Directors

F. Scott Egbert
President

Gerald Anderson
Vice President

M Jonathan Dahl
Secretary/Treasurer

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

Director Emeritus

D. Vernon Dalton

Website

www.wrec.coop

Outage Hotline:

800-566-6696
24 hours a day

Carlin office:

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

Wendover office:

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

Wells office:

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

NV-41

Nominations for Board of Directors to Open

Nominations for four seats on the Wells Rural Electric Co. Board of Directors open Monday, June 8. Director seats subject to election are held by incumbents Gerald (Jerry) Anderson, Lois Nannini, Bruce Widmer and Kirk Dahl.

Nominations must be made on the 2020 Board of Directors Election Nomination Form available at all WREC offices and www.wrec.coop. All mandatory questions must be answered for the nomination to be valid.

Completed nomination forms must be received by Lauren Landa, general counsel, by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time Monday, June 22. Mail the completed form to Lauren Landa, 530 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801 or P.O. Box 1358, Elko, NV 89803; email to laurenlanda@gmail.com; or fax to 775-738-4220. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure receipt of the nomination. Late nominations will not be placed on the ballot.

Any member in good standing for a minimum of one year as of June 22, 2020, may nominate another eligible member, himself or herself, using the approved form. The nomination form must be signed and dated by both the nominee and the person making the nomination, if other than the nominee. Nominees must verify their membership by providing their name and contact information.

To be eligible for election to the Board of Directors, nonincumbent nominees must attend a mandatory informational workshop held electronically and/or telephonically on Tuesday, June 30, at 1 p.m. Pacific Time.

Nominees must not have any felony convictions within seven years prior to June 8, 2020. The nominee must be of legal voting age prior to June 8, 2020.

The nominee must be a member or spouse

of a member, or a local officer, director, partner, official or manager of an entity that is a member. An entity is a partnership, corporation, limited liability company, firm, association, business trust, personal trust, body politic or subdivision thereof, or other multiple ownership-type business structure. No more than one person may serve on the board based upon any one membership.

The nominee, or his/her entity, must not have an unpaid account with WREC that is outstanding for more than 90 days. The nominee, or his/her entity, must not have an account written-off as a bad debt by WREC within seven years prior to June 8, 2020.

The nominee must not be a current employee of WREC or a former employee of WREC within five years prior to June 22, 2020.

The nominee, or his/her entity, must not have been the subject of a Ruralite feature story since February 19, 2020.

Additional voluntary information, including years of WREC membership, occupation and years on WREC board may be included. Education and training credentials—not more than 300 characters and spaces—may also be included. WREC reserves the right to edit.

The nomination should be accompanied by a photograph of the nominee suitable for use in preparing the ballot package.

General counsel shall determine the eligibility of each nominee.



Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer



**Valley Electric
Association, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



LIGHTNING FAST

Internet Service



valleycom.com

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

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775-513-2861

DISTRICT 4

Kathleen Keyes
775-253-4926

DISTRICT 2

Bonnie Groenert
775-764-0014

DISTRICT 5

Terrie D'Antonio
775-253-4956

DISTRICT 3

Rob Shirley
775-253-4916

DISTRICT 6

Robin Barber
775-253-5743

OFFICE PHONE

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

AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

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

775-727-5312

Website: www.vea.coop
Email: wmc@vea.coop

NV-42

LETTER FROM THE CEO

A Message to Our Membership

Recent events provide the ability to reflect on our lives and realize what is important. It makes us slow down, take a breath and enjoy things we have not had the opportunity to do. This pandemic has affected all of us.

Although it has come with heartache, it has also brought hope. Communities have joined efforts to support neighbors and help others. This pandemic has given many people extra time to enjoy their families, find new ways to communicate with friends and venture out more into nature.

The pandemic has forced some businesses to close their doors, and others have had to change the way they conduct business. In the midst of all this, Valley continues to redefine the way we do business. We are focused on becoming a better cooperative by building trust.

We will listen to the needs of our members and forge ahead with integrity, honesty and positivity. Valley will be reliable, authentic and transparent, continuing to be good stewards for our co-op and our communities.

Valley aspires to be the trusted energy and technology leader in the communities we serve. Providing safe, reliable, quality service remains our focus. As we grow, we will continue to demonstrate our commitment to those we serve, nurturing relationships with our neighbors and communities.

We will improve the transparency of the co-op. Our website will continue to offer a wealth of information. Our goal is to provide best-in-class service to our members.

We will lead by example by maintaining integrity, accepting accountability and working as a team for the benefit of our cooperative. Valley resolves to gain good financial footing while building trust with our members. The member-led board committees will help us keep our priorities straight. Our values—safety, integrity, community and engagement—drive us to live by our mission and vision statements.

We will improve the lives of the people and communities we serve by being member-focused, looking ahead and leading by example. As we grow, we will maintain authentic and transparent practices, focusing on integrity, communication and sound financial practices. As the organization evolves into a best-in-class cooperative, we will continue to be good stewards of Valley Electric and the communities this co-op serves.

Stay safe,

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

Stay Safe at Home

Each year, electrical malfunctions account for thousands of home fires, injuries, deaths and property damage. The average American home was built in 1977. Many existing homes simply can't handle the demands of today's electrical appliances and devices.

Keep safety in mind with these helpful tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

Learn the warning signs of an overloaded electrical system:

- Frequent tripping of circuit breakers or blowing of fuses.
- Dimming of lights when other devices are turned on.
- Buzzing sound from switches or outlets.
- Discolored outlets.
- Appliances that seem underpowered.

Avoid overloading circuits:

- Label your circuit breakers to understand the different circuits in your home.
- Have your home inspected by a qualified electrician if it is more than 40 years old or if you have had a major appliance installed.
- Have a qualified electrician install new circuits for devices that use a lot of energy.
- Reduce your electrical load by using energy-efficient appliances and lighting.

Working from home? Follow these tips to keep you and your home safe:

- Avoid overloading outlets.
- Unplug appliances when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock or fire.
- Regularly inspect electrical cords and extension cords for damage.
- Use extension cords only on a temporary basis.
- Never plug a space heater or fan into an extension cord or power strip.
- Never run cords under rugs, carpets, doors or windows.
- Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.
- Keep paper and other potential combustibles at least 3 feet away from heat sources.
- Make sure you use the proper wattage for lamps and lighting.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Test them monthly, change batteries annually and replace the unit every 10 years. ■





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

District Offices

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

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

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

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

www.otec.coop

communications@otecc.com

Report Outages at

866-430-4265

Find us on 

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



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[otec_coop](https://www.instagram.com/otec_coop)



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

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Baker County

Vice President Wayne
Overton, Baker County

Secretary-Treasurer Aletha
Bonebrake, Baker County

George "Austin" Bingham,
Union County

David Baum, Union County
Robert Cargill, Harney County
George Galloway, Union
County

Greg Howard, Union County
Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, CEO

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48



Smoke from the 2015 Canyon Creek Complex Fire outside of John Day rises into the sky. The fire destroyed 43 homes and nearly 100 other structures. The fire burned through 110,000 acres of private and federal forest, and cost \$31.5 million to extinguish.

Don't Lose Focus of Wildfire Dangers During Pandemic

As some communities begin to reopen and try to return to life as normal as can be, the impacts of COVID-19 continue to affect our daily lives.

Unfortunately, as we continue to deal with the high risk of COVID-19, we also must deal with the familiar risk of wildfires.

State officials believe we are in for a dry summer in Eastern Oregon. The National Interagency Fire Center reports that more than half of Oregon is already in a moderate drought. By July, most of the state is projected to see above-normal wildland fire potential.

As we enter the dry summer season, we must remain vigilant to the threat of wildfires, especially as the pandemic continues. Fire agencies on the state and federal levels are working on comprehensive mitigation plans, but we know there will be additional pressures and changes because of the pandemic.

First responders have played a vital role in the community's preparations and response to the pandemic. They are also vital during wildfire season.

OTEC remains focused on our own wildfire

mitigation efforts. You can read more about what we're doing to protect our service territory and communities on page 25 of this issue.

Your cooperative can only do so much to help protect our four-county service territory. In addition to the work your cooperative is doing directly, we're calling on our members to help us by keeping your radar on to potential hazards that may cause a fire. We know you're vigilant for fire mitigation.

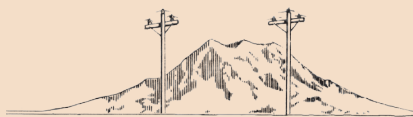
If you see a tree hanging on a line or vegetation growing close to one of our lines that could potentially spark a fire, call us as soon as possible and we'll take care of it.

Remember, we're all in this together. Together we can help stop the spread of COVID-19 and stop the spread of wildfires.

For more information on fire mitigation best practices, please visit <https://otec.coop/fire-prevention>.

Thank you. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Les Penning
CEO



Member-owned since 1921

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

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Mel Cox, President

Rob Collins, Vice President

Jerry Walter, Sec./Treasurer

Isabella Deditch

Frank Hoffman

General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

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- Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.
- Keep paper and other potential combustibles at least 3 feet away from heat sources.
- Make sure you use the proper wattage for lamps and lighting.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Test them monthly, change batteries annually and replace the unit every 10 years. ■



45715 SE 140th ST
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: mail@tannerelectric.coop

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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
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employer*

WA-50

Stay Safe at Home

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- Make sure you use the proper wattage for lamps and lighting.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Test them monthly, change batteries annually and replace the unit every 10 years. ■

Anderson Island Board of Directors Election

David McGoldrick won the Anderson Island Board of Directors election on May 16.

High School Scholarship Recipients

The 2020 winners are Dora Hues, North Bend; Cooper Joy, Anderson Island; and David Lyn, Ames Lake.



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253-531-5666

www.plw.coop

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Susan Cutrell

Incorporated in 1914—
The country's oldest
mutual cooperative

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

- Install a programmable thermostat and save an estimated 10% a year on heating and cooling costs.
- Close drapes and blinds during the day to help keep out the sun's rays and keep your house cool.
- Choose energy-saving lighting. Replacing five of your home's most frequently used lights with energy-efficient LED bulbs could save you \$75 a year in energy costs.
- Use an electronic power strip for your electronics. Save money by plugging electronic devices into a power strip and turning it off when not in use.
- Reduce energy for water heating.

Take simple steps such as lowering your water heater's temperature and installing low-flow showerheads to reduce your water heating bills.

- Hire a professional to maintain and tune up your heating and cooling system.
- Seal holes and cracks around doors and windows with foam insulation or weatherstripping.
- Switch to Energy Star appliances, fans and electronics. Using Energy Star-certified products throughout your home could save nearly \$750 over the lifetime of the products.





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

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

Please call to report outages
503-728-2163

Automated Secure Payment Center
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Linda A. Hooper, Vice President
Merle Gillespie, Secretary
Stephen D. Petersen, Treasurer
Don Hooper, Director

GENERAL MANAGER
Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing
Account #1110900
If this is your account number,
please call the office to claim your
prize. Congratulations!

Community Calendar

June 4: Clatskanie Chamber - Zoom meeting noon. See the Clatskanie Chamber Facebook page for more information.

June 11: Rainier Chamber - Zoom meeting at noon. See the Rainier Chamber Facebook page for more information.

June 17: Clatskanie PUD Board Meeting Workshop at 5:30 pm, followed by regular board meeting at 7 pm.

All Clatskanie Heritage Days events and Rainier Days in the Park have been canceled due to COVID 19.

OR-60

We have several items to update you on this month as things continue to evolve during the pandemic. First is to let you know that the lobby of the PUD office will look a bit different when we reopen. We installed plexiglass over the Customer Service counters, which will remain in place from here on out. This was installed for the protection of both staff and customers. It also provides another level of security for the office. We will announce on our website, social media, and in the Chief when we will be ready to safely reopen the office lobby. At this point it will be dependent on when the Governor gives approval, and when we are successfully able to implement whatever restrictions may be required to do so. We appreciate your patience during this challenging time.



We have begun working on projects in the field, but have stipulated that any staff member who exits their vehicle must be wearing a mask or face shield to protect themselves and our customers. They will be allowed on customer's property either with the permission of the customer or in case of emergency, and then only if wearing a mask until further notice.

This is also the case with contractors who will begin field work for us on June 15th to conduct a Joint Use Audit of our system. We have tasked them with the inspection of all of our poles. This includes providing us with data on which communications companies are attached to our poles, identifying which lines belong to what company on each pole, note if they are properly spaced to meet current code requirements, and document any code violations.

Our staff continues to operate at what we call Level 2 status. That means our staff is split into two groups, Red Team and Blue Team. The teams are equally staffed to make sure that all essential functions are covered during the work week. One team works in the office while the other works from home, and they switch the following week. We can better maintain social distancing while in the office, and make sure one crew is available in case the other becomes sick. Each team has access during their week to all of the equipment, resources, and interaction they need to fulfil their responsibilities. It has also been good for their mental and emotional wellbeing to have social interaction every other week, and get out of the house. It has been working very well. There are a few staff members who we call Team Purple, as their job requirements demand they be here each week as they can't be accomplished from home. How long we stay at Level 2 will depend on the status of the virus and instructions from the Governor's office. The safety of both our staff and customers is our priority in making that determination.

Marc Farmer
General Manager



KOTZEBUE
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

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

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Vice President

Dominic Ivanoff

Secretary

Pierre Lonewolf

Treasurer

Allen Jessup Sr.

Allen Beaver

Tom Atkinson

Wally Carter Sr.

Dood Lincoln-Carr

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

KEA Election Results

The 2020 Kotzebue Electric Annual Meeting was canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Director elections were still held.

The board seats for Charlie Gregg, Wally Carter Sr. and Allen Jessup Sr. were up for election this year. Charlie decided to retire this year and did not run.

Wally Carter Sr. and Allen Jessup Sr. were reelected along with new board member Allen Beaver.

The 2020 KEA board is comprised of the following:

Harold Lambert, president

Dominic Ivanoff, vice president

Pierre Lonewolf, secretary

Allen Jessup Sr., treasurer

Tom Atkinson

Allen Beaver

Wally Carter Sr.

Dood Lincoln-Carr

Harold Short



Allen Beaver was elected to the KEA board this year.



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Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



AK-105

A Message from Meera

Will the fuel charge on your electric bill go away?

With the recent historic drop in crude oil prices, communities across the state are hoping to see fuel costs in their communities come down dramatically. Many members have asked us why they still have a fuel charge when surely our cost of fuel has gone down to next to nothing! It would be helpful to understand what the components of local fuel cost are and when and how changes occur.

Most of AVEC's fuel was ordered in February and is now underway to rural Alaska. Deliveries will begin in early June. We have locked in fuel pricing at about \$1 per gallon below 2019 prices, but the cost to bring the fuel to Alaska and then to deliver it to the villages adds about 1.25 - \$1.75 per gallon, depending on how far upriver the fuel must travel and how many times it must be handled.

Once the fuel is delivered, the new lower cost fuel mingles with last year's fuel and an average cost per gallon is computed. That cost in turn determines what the fuel charge will be and what the PCE rate is, which must then be approved by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. The earliest that the RCA would review and provide a new fuel charge is likely to be September or October since the first fuel delivery for all the villages is not complete until August.

Why doesn't the cost of heating fuel or gas in the village reflect the lower crude oil price? The raw cost of crude oil is a significant component of the cost of wholesale retail fuel but the cost of refining that fuel does not go down when crude oil prices fall. Local fuel dealers also have the additional cost of transporting the fuel and owning, operating and maintaining their tank farm, which can add up to \$3 per gallon, depending on how much fuel they sell in a year.

The world is in a strange situation right now. With COVID-19 restrictions, discretionary travel has plummeted. Private vehicles and air travel are using minimal amounts of fuel. Alaska Airlines, for example, has cancelled 70% of its flights. The average American used to drive 12,000 miles a year and is probably now doing 10% of that. It's spring (and warm) in the Lower 48, so there's no need for heating fuel either. So there is literally no demand for oil and nowhere to put the oil that continues to be pumped around the world. At one point last April, crude oil producers were willing to pay refiners to take their product because they had nowhere to store it.

In the meantime, we continue to work with our communities to keep the lights on while keeping you all and our own employees safe. Remember, if you are having difficulty paying your electric bill because of the pandemic, please contact us for a deferred payment arrangement.

Until next time,

Meera Kohler
President and CEO





65 S. Roop St.
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Fax 530-257-2558
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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

Finding the New Normal—LMUD's Lobby Modifications

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we interact with each other and the way we go about our daily lives. Normal, as we knew it, no longer exists.

As we continue to navigate these uncharted waters, the one thing that remains clear is LMUD's commitment to safety: the safety of our customers, our employees and the community we serve.

Due to the statewide stay-at-home order, LMUD closed our lobby to the public on March 18. By the time this issue of Ruralite reaches your mailbox, we hope the LMUD lobby will once again be open to the public. As we welcome customers back into our lobby, we have instituted some simple but effective safety measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

- Customers should continue to observe social distancing guidelines:
 - Customers should stay a minimum of 6 feet apart. There will be markings on the floor as a guide.
 - No more than six customers are allowed in the lobby at one time.
 - If there is a customer on the last floor marker, please remain outside until after a customer exits the lobby.
- Only one customer at a service window at a time.
- Please follow proper sanitation guidelines:
 - These include washing/sanitizing hands, wearing a mask, and covering a cough or sneeze. Disposable face masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance to our lobby.
- Customers should use contactless options when possible.
 - SmartHub, online bill pay and our secured phone payment line are all free to our customers. If you need more information on any of these options, please visit lmud.org or call us at 530-257-4174.

As a reminder, if you have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, LMUD has programs in place that can help keep the power flowing to your home. We have partnered with the Susanville Salvation Army to provide a helping hand to those who are in need. Please contact them at 530-257-0314.

If you need to make a payment arrangement on your electric bill, please reach out to our customer service department at 530-257-4174. Our goal is to make sure everyone has the power they need when they need it. We can work together to make sure that happens.

In an age where everything seems to be changing, you can count on Lassen Municipal Utility District. We have provided safe, reliable, reasonably priced energy to our community since 1988.



Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc.

www.MarlboroElectric.coop

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

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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.

Ordinary Heroes

In many ways, my father, James Sr., was just a regular guy.

He worked at Delta Mills for 45 years. Later in life, he worked as a handyman at Lakeside Apartments near Lake Paul Wallace, while Mama managed the units for the owner.

That wasn't much of a career change, as he'd been a handyman on the side all his life.

Dad used to do stuff for people and never charge them. Along with teaching children at the apartments how to swim, he would find old vacuum cleaners, fix them up and give them away. Often, he'd work on someone's house and not charge a dime. He always tried to help. I suppose that's a lot of why I turned out the way I am.

A naturally gifted football player, he was a wide receiver for Bennettsville High. Dad was No. 33. I still remember wearing that jersey—10 or 20 times too big for my small frame—as a little boy.

My mother was homecoming queen. They were high school sweethearts. One winter day, they slipped off to Chesterfield with another couple and got married. They came back and didn't tell anybody. He went home and she went home, and that was that. Well, until word got out about two or three weeks later when my grandparents found out. Dad and Mama got married in January, and I was born in October.

My dad and I loved to fish and golf together. That was our thing. Once, when I was maybe 4 or 5 years old, he came home from work and took me out fishing at Henegan's Lake, off the Pee Dee River. But he forgot to tell Mama about it. We were coming into the landing in our wooden two-man fishing boat, and there was a deputy standing there on the shore. As it turns out, Mama had the entire sheriff's department out searching for me. The deputy said, "I'm looking for Jamie Grant," and Dad pointed and said, "That's him right there. That's my son." Even though I was alright, I imagine that evening didn't turn out too well for Dad.

All the same, my parents were very similar in that they were always trying to help people, do what was right, and put a smile on someone's face. Dad's big thing was to get all the stocking stuffers for everybody in the whole family at Christmas. He'd go to the dime store and buy armloads of silly, occasionally embarrassing, gag gifts and fill the stockings to the top.

My dad passed away about 10 years ago. He was just a regular guy, but I loved him so much and I miss him every single day.

With that in mind, I want to honor all the members of the Marlboro Electric Cooperative who are fathers. Thank you to the expectant fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers or anyone acting as a surrogate father to a young person who needs them.

No matter your career, your status or the size of your bank account, raising a child is some of the most important work there is. Fathers are ordinary men transformed by love into treasure hunters, storytellers, coaches and heroes.

JAMIE GRANT

Trustee



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



Florida Currents

June 2020 • Volume 9, No. 8

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Message From the CEO

EREC Is Fiscally Responsible

Recent announcements about giving discounts on power bills because of COVID-19 have created some community discussion. I want to explain what this means and what we are doing to keep our members' best interests in mind.

The kilowatt-hour charge on your power bill consists of two parts. A portion of the charge pays PowerSouth Energy Cooperative for the generation and transmission of your electricity. The other part of the kilowatt-hour charge covers EREC's cost to distribute power to your homes. The generation/transmission and the distribution funds are separate line items in EREC's budget. When there is an overage—that is, we collect more money than it costs to generate, transmit and distribute power—we return the difference to our members. A surplus in the distribution cost is in the form of a capital credit allocation. Generation and transmission excess cost is returned to you on a month-by-month basis as a purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA).

Many factors determine the cost we pay to PowerSouth for energy generation and transmission. We perform a cost analysis monthly and adjust the PPCA accordingly based on the amount we pay PowerSouth. This analysis helps us determine when and how much we can return to members as a credit. Many factors, including falling natural gas prices, allowed us to adjust the PPCA to provide a credit to members in December. We were also able to issue a credit through the PPCA in May.

During the pandemic, some for-profit electric utilities chose to take all the savings their customers would normally receive through the course of the year and give them back all at once. That means customers will not receive a discount or credit at any other time during the year. EREC chose to continue to spread the savings throughout the year. This system of continual assessment is our standard.

As a member-owned cooperative, we do not feel it would be fiscally responsible to spend your money on advertising to tell you how we are reducing your energy costs. It is our responsibility to ensure we manage your cooperative with fidelity and consistency. Continually monitoring funds and making gradual adjustments as necessary ensures you receive the most affordable power possible.



Ryan C. Campbell, P.E.



Volunteers Answer SOS

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Embrace the Gulf

Spotlight, Page 12

Grilling Gone Wild

In the Kitchen, Page 16

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FKEC NEWS

JUNE 2020

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You can find the latest FKEC news 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

The Power of Positivity and Fluidity

While the last few months have thrown us all into a world of unknowns and new circumstances, I attribute our ability to persevere to two factors: positivity and fluidity. Thanks to our employees and members staying positive and rolling with the punches, we have remained able to serve you, and stay healthy and safe.

Lobbies Reopening

As this magazine goes to print, we are planning to open our office lobbies to the public. While we miss seeing our members, we are still encouraging you to conduct FKEC business online at www.FKEC.com or by phone at (305) 852-2431. For the health and safety of our members and employees, please only visit our lobbies if it is absolutely necessary.

Thank You

I'm incredibly proud of our employees for adapting to our new circumstances. They have embraced the many challenges and made it work. Supervisors have found new ways to "meet" with their departments, employees learned to work in masks, and no one has wavered in their commitment to serving our members.

I must give special appreciation to our

#PoweredByPositivity

Read more about our employees spreading the power of positivity on page 6.



SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

employees who continued to interact with our members, whether it was through our drive-through windows or out in the field — at an appropriate social distance of course.

I also thank our members for your constant support and understanding. Your words of appreciation and community spirit have fueled our efforts.

Thank you for continuing our 80-year tradition of working together for the betterment of our community.

The Future

We can't be sure what the future holds, but we will face it together with smiles on our faces, even if they are hidden under masks. As things continue to unfold, please visit www.FKEC.com and follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest FKEC news.

GLADES

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The Board's next meeting is at 9 a.m. June 25 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

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Chief Communications Officer
Jennifer Koukos
Dir. of Safety Pedro Navarro

FL-153

Prepare Now for What Is Forecast As a Busy 2020 Hurricane Season

As I write this column, one of the biggest and oddest storms we've faced—COVID-19—still looms large. Now here we are, preparing for our "normal" hurricane storm season.

Don't let the former distract you from the latter. Current indications point to a busier-than-normal season. Seasonal forecasts are far from certain, but we must prepare for the worst. So should you. Think about what you've gone through with your food and supplies during the COVID-19 lockdown. If we were to get hit by a big one, assume you could be without power for two weeks or longer and plan accordingly.

I suspect getting outside help to recover from a devastating blow will be more difficult than ever.

If you've traveled our territory much, you may have seen GEC crews and our contracted Pike crews changing out poles. In most cases, the old wooden ones are being replaced with ductile iron poles. This is part of our storm hardening program.

Wooden poles are susceptible to weathering, ground rot, woodpeckers, fires and automobiles. Ductile iron poles overcome these issues. In fact, we did not have a single one fall during Hurricane Irma. During 2019 and into 2020, we have replaced 403 wooden poles with ductile iron. As a result, we expect to fare much better in another Irma-type storm, where we had more than 850 wooden poles on the ground.

Our hardening program is a year-round process aimed at improving service reliability to you.

Another way to prepare is to modernize how you complete business with the cooperative. In your June billings, you will find an insert describing how to do so with paperless billing. This move will provide greater account security, faster service and an exact replica of your bill, along with 35 months of previous bills, all easily accessible on your smartphone or computer. The SmartHub app also provides you with a simple way to report and monitor outages at any time and especially during storm recovery. Make the change by July 30, 2020, and we'll award you with a one-time \$10 bill credit. So, save a tree, earn cash and be better prepared for the next storm recovery.

Be safe and be ready.



Jeff Brewington

Is Solar *Really* Cheaper Than Natural Gas?

By Gary Smith
President and CEO
PowerSouth Energy Cooperative



I apologize upfront for all the numbers I'm going to throw at you. They are geeky but important if you are interested in the true cost of electricity. If you aren't, you can stop reading now or skip to the fifth-from-

the-last paragraph and see the answer.

A few weeks ago, environmental protesters argued the Alabama Public Service Commission should mandate that Alabama Power build solar generation instead of its proposed natural gas combined-cycle plant because solar power is cheaper. The Rocky Mountain Institute reports that clean renewable solar power is now cheaper than natural gas-fired generation. Bloomberg Energy, USA Today and other media outlets also report solar power is cheaper than fossil fuel generation.

PowerSouth has had recent experience with both natural gas and utility-scale solar power. The price of solar power—especially utility-scale solar power—has declined dramatically the past few years. The International Renewable Energy Agency states the price of solar power has dropped 84% in the past eight years.

I have discussed PowerSouth's generation plans in these articles a number of times. We will close our coal-fired Lowman Plant in Leroy, Alabama, in October and build in its place a state-of-the-art 693-megawatt natural gas combined cycle plant.

The new plant will cost more than \$500 million to build. We expect it to

operate at a capacity factor of at least 85%, which means on average it will produce its stated 693 MW output 85% of the time. At that capacity factor, the fixed cost (or capacity cost) of owning the combined cycle plant will be approximately \$8.90 per megawatt hour. The energy cost (or variable cost) to operate the plant will depend on the price of natural gas and its transportation cost to the plant. At \$2 per one million British thermal units (when I wrote this article, daily gas was \$1.68/MMBTU), plus operations and maintenance costs, the variable cost of energy from the combined cycle plant will be approximately \$20.63 per MWH. Therefore, the total generation cost of electricity from the combined cycle plant (with \$2/MMBTU natural gas) will be approximately \$29.53 per MWH.

We also recently signed a contract to buy solar power from an 80-MW solar generation facility starting in 2022. The solar facility will operate at a capacity factor of about 25%, which means it will provide its promised 80 MW about 25% of the time. We will buy the output of the solar facility on a dollar-per-MWH fixed-cost basis. The cost of energy under our solar contract is attractive at a generation cost of about \$22 per MWH.

The cost of this solar-generated electricity at \$22 per MWH is cheaper than the cost of electricity from our natural gas combined-cycle plant at \$29.53 per MWH. However, that comparison doesn't tell the whole story.

Electric consumers in developed countries demand power to be available whenever they need or want it, not just when the sun is shining. The combined-cycle plant is fully dispatchable, meaning it will provide electricity when people need it, whether the sun shines or not.

Solar power doesn't generate at night

and is limited on cloudy days. Solar power must be paired with something else before it is as reliable as natural gas. The solution most often offered is battery storage.

Batteries can be deployed at utility scale, but additional solar generation must be installed to charge the batteries while the sun is shining so the batteries can provide power at nights and on cloudy days.

Batteries are designed for specific discharge cycles. Most utility-scale batteries have four-hour discharge cycles; therefore, at least three sets of batteries will be needed to cover the nighttime hours and provide a reserve for cloudy days.

Battery cost is decreasing, but based on recent proposals of \$1.5 million per MW, the total cost of battery storage is about \$92.33 per MWH, in addition to the \$22 per MWH cost of the solar power to charge the battery.

Conservatively, the total cost of the solar power with battery storage will be an average of \$56.63 per MWH, assuming solar 15 hours a day and batteries 9 hours. With natural gas at \$2/MMBTU, the cost for solar is thus about 92% higher than the cost of electricity from our planned combined cycle plant.

Why then do many statements that solar is cheaper than natural gas go unchallenged? The information is hard to find, and calculations are difficult.

Too often the cost of pure solar when the sun is shining is offered as the comparison to natural gas. That is not a true comparison. Electricity must be available on demand, not just when the sun is shining.

And, finally some people aren't truthful, even to themselves.

Given a choice, most people will choose the lowest cost and most reliable source of electricity. Today, that is clearly natural gas. ■



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

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

FL-154

GCEC President's Message

Updates Regarding COVID-19

At the time I am writing this message, we are still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. While our drive-thrus are open and you can still talk to a "live" person during regular business hours, our lobbies remain closed to foot traffic. We made this decision out of concern for the health and safety of our members and of our employees. We will continue to evaluate the situation as we make a decision about when to reopen our office lobbies.

We have a payment drop box at each office, and our website (www.gcec.com) and automated phone system are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to access your account, make payments and report power outages.

When you see our employees working out in the community, you may notice signs placed around their job sites asking people to please maintain a safe distance. We are practicing social distancing as we provide an essential service. We appreciate everyone's understanding as we provide continuity of service.

At this time, we continue to suspend disconnects for nonpayment and are waiving late fees. However, members should realize the suspended disconnects and temporary waived fees are not bill waivers. We encourage members to pay what they can, when they can, to avoid a large multi-month bill down the road. Members having difficulty paying their bills are encouraged to contact our offices so we may work with them on payment arrangements or refer qualifying members to agencies for assistance. We realize many of our members are spending more time at home these days, and this can lead to increased energy use. Please don't hesitate to let us know if you would like information on energy-saving tips.

A big change this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic was our Annual Members' Meeting. Unfortunately, due to recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state Department of Health, we were unable to hold our in-person meeting in Wewahitchka. Instead, we held a virtual meeting by phone May 2. We greatly appreciate everyone who took the time to register, vote and enter the door prize drawings. We had 4,095 members—about 25% of our membership—return their paper ballot or vote online. Those members who called in May 2 were able to listen to the business portion of the meeting, which included the scholarship and prize winner announcements. A recap of the meeting starts on page 4.

We appreciate our members' patience and understanding as we move through this challenging time together. We are dedicated to finding the best solutions for our membership and our communities.



Doug Birmingham

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

Southport 850-265-3631 or 800-568-3667
Wewahitchka 850-639-2216 or 800-333-9392
Panama City 850-481-1188



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.preco.coop
800-282-3824

TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

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

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

210 Metheny Road
Wauchula, FL 33873

MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

14505 Arbor Green Trail
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1

LEONARD CRAWLEY

District 2

KENNETH ODEN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY/TREASURER

District 3

BRUCE VICKERS
VICE PRESIDENT

District 4

HOLLIS ALBRITTON

District 5

MAURICE HENDERSON

District 6

JOHN MARTIN
SECRETARY/TREASURER

District 7

CHRIS PORTALE

District 8

ELLEN BACHMAN
PRESIDENT

District 9

WILLIE DAWES

BOARD MEETINGS

June 23, 2020

July 28, 2020

August 25, 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

To Aid Members, PRECO Retires \$1.6 Million in Capital Credits Early

We hope this helps our members stretch their budgets during a turbulent financial time

For more information about the capital credits process, see page 4.

Peace River Electric Cooperative—a member-owned, not-for-profit electric distribution utility—is retiring more than \$1.6 million in capital credits to help relieve the financial pinch many people and businesses are feeling due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Usually, the cooperative retires capital credits once a year in December. Due to the financial impact the coronavirus is having on every community in the 10 counties we serve, PRECO is moving the timetable up to June this year.

A cornerstone of the cooperative business model is the allocation and retirement of patronage capital—a two-step process that ultimately returns margins to members as capital credits.

Each year, PRECO calculates margins—revenues left at the end of the year after all expenses are paid. We allocate margins to each member's capital credits account based on their electricity purchases that year. Retaining capital credits for a time allows PRECO to obtain low-cost loans, reduces the amount of funds we must borrow and helps us meet financial obligations as we maintain the electric system.

As COVID-19 began affecting the local community, we quickly took appropriate steps to reduce its effect on members. Along with waiving late fees, PRECO is giving members the ability to set up payment arrangements on their own through their online or mobile app account.

The board of directors, management team and staff continued discussing additional ways to assist our members. As a result, capital credits will be retired—or paid out—this month either as a bill credit or as a check for members receiving service in 1998 and 1999.

We hope this will help stretch our members' budgets when it is needed the most.

We want our members to know PRECO stands with them and the communities we serve during this difficult time. Our board of directors and employees all live in the local community.

Once this crisis passes, you'll once again see us shopping at the grocery, attending ballgames and eating at the same restaurants you do.

Randy Shaw



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

**8565 SW Salish Lane #130
Wilsonville, OR 97070**

**503-585-9988
www.oreca.org**

OFFICERS

Bob Durham, President
Fred Flippence, Vice President
Shirley Cairns, Secretary-
Treasurer
Peter Radabaugh,
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

OREGON ELECTRIC CO-OPS

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

OR-400

Case in Point

OK, I was wrong. A few months ago, we published my column expressing hope that I would soon be writing about some topic other than the coronavirus. I wish I could write about “The Last Dance”—the stellar 10-part documentary about Michael Jordan, the greatest basketball player who ever lived. But that would be ignoring what is going on around me.

According to the experts, this pandemic is going to last a long, long time—perhaps years. Already, the death toll is hard to fathom, and the economic dislocation is staggering. Electric co-op leaders have pledged to do their part to help turn the corner, even if the corner seems far away. So, our feature stories and my columns going forward—like this month’s—will focus on electric co-ops that are, like Jordan, exceptional at their craft.

These co-ops are creating new energy-assistance programs for consumers struggling to pay their bills, hooking up free internet for low-income families whose children are in danger of falling behind at school, and helping businesses access loans and grants to stay afloat. Perhaps the least I can do in a time of tragedy and hardship is highlight co-ops that are trying to make a difference.

We did not envision this pandemic, but the electric co-op business model is ideal for the time. We have no profit motive. The well-being of the members who own their cooperatives is our focus. And we are meeting the moment because the moment demands it.

As noted, I have been wrong before, but I strongly believe that out of this painful ordeal will come stories as inspiring and iconic as when our forefathers turned on the lights in rural America. In fact, it’s a slam-dunk.



Ted Case

Executive Director