



"We Care"

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

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Director of Member Services
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

GIVE HELP. GET HELP.

HELPING HANDS FUND



Helping Hands was created to assist families with unexpected emergencies. The program helps members in need who have exhausted all other resources to pay their energy bill. Helping Hands funds come from member donations. The funds stay in our service area and are disbursed only to qualified recipients by the Community Action Partnership. Clearwater Power does not retain any of the funds and contributions are tax deductible.

This year, Clearwater Power was able to make a donation to Helping Hands in the amount of \$10,000. In addition, CoBank (a lender to Clearwater Power) donated \$10,000 in matching funds bringing the total to \$20,000!

Many people just round up their payment to the nearest dollar and indicate they'd like that portion to go to Helping Hands, that's all you need to do. You can do this on your paper bills or when paying online.

Please call 1-888-743-1501 for more information.



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

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

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Board of Directors

President

Gerry Arnson, Heppner

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Secretary

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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



Keep Fireworks Clear of Power Lines

Can't wait for the professional fireworks display—the one local firefighters supervise so nobody gets hurt? You are taking a risk by lighting your own.

Even legal fireworks can be dangerous. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, Fourth of July revelers report 9,300 fireworks-related injuries a year. Firecrackers are responsible for 1,600 of those. Next-worst are bottle rockets and sparklers, which burn at about 2,000 degrees.

If you put on your own backyard show, stay away from power lines. Light fireworks in open areas where you cannot even see any power lines. If your fireworks get tangled in an overhead wire or create a spark on one, call 911 immediately. Do not try to solve the problem yourself.

Here are additional fireworks safety tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Keep a bucket of water nearby in case of fire.
- Children should be spectators, not participants, in the show. Never give children fireworks or sparklers.
- Read and carefully follow directions and warning labels. Most injuries result from improper use.
- Keep spectators at least 20 feet away and not downwind from where fireworks will be set off.
- Light fireworks only on a smooth, flat surface away from all flammable materials, including dry leaves.
- Never attempt to relight malfunctioning fireworks. ■



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

Respecting Each Other

I have had many conversations as of late with community members and district staff. Those conversations centered around our community, as well as the country and the world. Clearly, there are differing opinions on what a public organization such as Northern Wasco County PUD's responsibility is during times of struggle and strife.

As the executive responsible for this organization and its people, I want to restate our core organizational values and beliefs, as well as our philosophy and mission. These are our guideposts, and I feel fortunate the board of directors supported me in updating them in 2018. I believe they are relevant and appropriate for the time.

Philosophy/Mission

Our philosophy: We value our public power traditions, while seeking new and better ways to preserve the benefits of that heritage. We believe that with innovation, teamwork and commitment, we can compete effectively in a changing environment.

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

Core Values and Beliefs

Safety: Working safely and protecting the public, our employees and the assets we manage is nonnegotiable.

Integrity: Being ethical and holding

ourselves accountable to conduct business in a fair, honest, open, compliant and environmentally responsible manner is at the core of what we do.

Customer service: Providing quality service at a competitive price while being responsible to our customers' needs creates added value and improves customer satisfaction.

Respect: Encouraging constructive dialogue that promotes a culture of inclusiveness, recognizes our differences and accepts varying viewpoints will lead us to optimal solutions for even the most difficult challenges.

Operational excellence: Engaging employees to strive for excellence and continuous improvement ensures we provide reliable service while managing costs and creating a rewarding work environment.

Sustainability: Maintaining financial integrity, minimizing our environmental impact and supporting responsible economic development in our communities ensures the long-term viability of the organization and the communities we serve.

Part of my commitment to the organization and our community is to continue to listen and to learn. I will do so while ensuring the safe and reliable provision of electric service for you.

Most sincerely,

General Manager Roger Kline

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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Ron Heath
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Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5



Stay Safe Around Fireworks

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- Never attempt to relight malfunctioning fireworks. ■



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

Last month, the Bonneville Power Administration announced that due to the economic impact of COVID-19, it proposed suspending BPA's Financial Reserves Surcharge through September 30, 2021.

The Financial Reserves Surcharge policy was established to strengthen BPA's financial health, in keeping with the agency's strategic and financial plans. It is designed to enable BPA to maintain at least 60 days' cash on hand for both its power and transmission business lines. The surcharge can result in up to \$30 million a year, or a 1.5% average increase to wholesale power rates.

CPI thanks BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer and his staff for their decision to suspend the surcharge during this time of economic distress in the region.

Lower Snake River Dams

Despite the many disruptions triggered by COVID-19, we continue to focus our attention on Gov. Kate Brown's stated support for breaching the four Lower Snake River dams. Breaching would have grim consequences for the state's economy, environment and the ability to continue providing clean, affordable and reliable electricity.

While these dams are essential for flood control, agricultural irrigation, shipping navigation and recreation, they also produce 1,000 average megawatts of affordable carbon-free electricity. That's enough to power 800,000 Pacific Northwest homes.

At a time when the Northwest power supply becomes inadequate as early as next year—and studies suggest the region will need an additional

8,000 MW of baseload power by 2030—this is a disturbing option, to say the least.

It is also mystifying that in the midst of serious legislative debate on carbon reduction, the governor supports a course of action that is estimated to increase CO₂ emissions by a staggering 2,000 metric tons annually. That's the equivalent of adding 421,000 cars to our roads each year.

Ratepayers have made significant investments in large-scale structural and operational changes to improve existing fish passage at these dams, which has now surpassed a 96% survival rate. The goal should be to continue to build on these efforts instead of supporting an extreme measure that will harm Oregonians and the region.

Annual Meeting

As you can imagine, our planning for September's annual meeting is complicated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As of now, we intend to have the meeting in person at our Philomath headquarters. We will follow all state guidelines and protocols for large gatherings. This could include limited attendance and pre-registration requirements. Social distancing and face covering rules will be in effect. The board of director elections will proceed normally, with ballots mailed during the second half of August.

The safety of our employees and members is always our No. 1 concern, and we are planning accordingly. More information on the details of the September 12 event will be in the August edition of Ruralite.

Roman Gillen
President and CEO



Give a Gift That Keeps on Giving

When you sign up for Operation Round Up, your bill will be rounded up each month to the nearest dollar. That difference helps support our local communities. The average cost per customer is \$6 a year. To sign up or for more information, please call us 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 July 29 at 6 p.m. in the Prosser office unless otherwise indicated on our website.

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

General Manager

Michael J. Bradshaw

Management Staff

- Derek Miller, Engineering Manager
- Jeff Ekruat, 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

Practice Electrical Safety This Summer

Dear Members,

Electrical safety is immensely important to me and to Benton REA. As you enjoy the beautiful summer weather, please remember and follow these simple, life-saving tips:

- Look up and live! Be aware of overhead power lines—especially when carrying long items like ladders or irrigation pipes.
- Stay away from downed power lines. Always assume they are still electrified.
- Call 811 before you dig to locate underground power lines and other utilities.
- Never use electrical equipment or tools near a pool or other wet areas.
- Fly kites and drones in open areas well away from trees and power lines.
- Inspect power tools and electric lawnmowers for frayed power cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housings. If necessary, ensure appropriate repairs are made.
- Do not plant vegetation or build any permanent structures directly in front of underground electrical equipment devices or pad mount transformers.

Please visit BentonREA.org/safety to watch videos about what to do if power lines are on your car, how safety equipment protects lineworkers and more summertime electrical safety tips. Our website also provides information about Benton REA's latest COVID-19 updates, including office closures to walk-in traffic.

In 2019, Benton REA employees experienced a total of zero job-related lost-time accidents or injuries. We hope to maintain this safety record for years to come. We hope our members will also embrace this high standard of safety in their daily lives, especially with regard to electrical safety.

Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Annual Meeting Postponed

The 83rd Benton REA Annual Meeting of Members was originally scheduled to take place on July 18, 2020. Due to the Washington State Governor's continued restrictions under the "Safe Start Plan" associated with the COVID-19 virus pandemic, the Benton REA Annual Meeting has been postponed and will be rescheduled to take place on a future date.

We will continue to monitor the restrictions mandated by the State of Washington and will notify you when the revised Benton REA Annual Meeting date, time, and location has been established. Thank you for your patience during these challenging times.

Cooperatively,

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

Offices

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

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

Hours

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

1-800-452-2273

Report An Outage
1.888.465.5701 day or night

Directors

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

General Manager

Robert Echenrode

www.umatillaelectric.com

OR-8

A Surprising Friendship Stands the Test of Time

I was 24, an engineering grad from Ohio, working at my first electric cooperative in Cleveland, Okla.

With my wire-rimmed glasses, mop of hair and white shirt and slacks – working in the field, soaked in sweat because of the humidity – I imagined myself as a polished young professional.

Rick Davis was a serviceman who joined the cooperative nearly 20 years before, right out of high school. In his years as a lineman, involving physical hardship, danger and the daily drama of working in any profession, Rick had developed a crusty personality.



Soaked in sweat and dirt from his labors, Rick was a rule breaker who did what he needed to do to get a job done. To me, Rick was someone you didn't question. Someone you steered a wide berth around.

As Rick tells it, describing me to others, "He was a computer guy. You know the type I mean: 'I'm an engineer...I know it all.'"

Yet, as we worked on projects together, I couldn't help notice Rick's knowledge, common sense and ability to work with people was shining through. I could learn from that, be a better engineer from that.

Eventually I was off to grad school, and to other jobs. I left behind Cleveland, Okla., but not Rick Davis.

Over several states and decades, Rick and I have kept in touch, relied on each other, learned from each other.

Rick helped my career by tipping me to an opening for a general manager job at another Oklahoma cooperative. Later, when there was a disastrous ice storm at the co-op in

Oklahoma, I called on Rick to come offer his steady knowledge and guidance to our staff as they restored our system over the following weeks.

At his hometown co-op, straight out of high school, Rick worked his way up – right-of-way crew, journeyman lineman, foreman, superintendent and then 20 years as Manager of Operations – until being named General Manager in 2018 for a co-op that serves 18,000 homes and businesses. This path to leadership is impressive and uncommon.

At Indian Electric Cooperative, Rick has seen generations of change in the industry and the value is priceless. He has created a world class right-of-way tree clearing program and smoothly navigated the complex software and hardware installations needed to keep pace with the times. At times Rick has to lead his co-op through heavy damage by tornadoes or ice.

After three decades of sharing knowledge, advice and war stories with each other, Rick is gracious to me in summing it up: "Whatever you got from me, I got more out of it."

At a June 19 dinner, Rick was celebrated for 50 years at the same co-op. I was honored to be able to attend in person and say how much he has meant to me.

If you are well along in your career, you may be blessed with your own Rick Davis. To those just starting out, you may find your Rick Davis in a surprising time and place. Keep your eyes, ears and heart open to that.

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
- Brian Vosburgh Operations Manager
- Jim Green. Engineering Technician
- Brewster Whitmire E&O Assistant
- Robert Gridley The Dalles Foreman
- BJ Ayres The Dalles Lineman
- Andy Gardipee The Dalles Lineman
- Gabe Red Cloud The Dalles Lineman
- Wesley Woods Serviceman
- Dan Funkhouser Grass Valley Foreman
- Frank Roeder Maupin Foreman

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

Mission Statement

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

OR-9

Manager’s Message

Casey McCleary Retires

Wasco Electric Cooperative employee Casey McCleary retires this month after nearly 37 years of service.

Casey began his career with the co-op in 1983 as a journeyman lineman in The Dalles. He advanced to manager of operations, a position he has held since 1994.

During his years at WEC, Casey created many friendships, both in the cooperative as well as with the cooperative membership and contractors he worked with.

In addition to his work with the cooperative, Casey and his wife, Shawn, have been active in The Dalles community. They raised three children, all who graduated from The Dalles High School.

Casey’s plans for retirement will surely center around spending time with his family, camping, fishing and tending to his immaculate yard.

The staff and I will miss Casey’s dedication to his job and the knowledge he has acquired, as well as the friendship we developed while working together. We all wish him the very best in his retirement years.



New Manager of Operations

I am pleased to announce that Brian Vosburgh has been named the new manager of operations.

Brian has been in the engineering and operations side of the utility business for more than 35 years. Prior to his position as systems engineer with WEC, Brian was distribution engineering supervisor at Tillamook PUD. Prior to Tillamook, he spent 18 years at Kittitas PUD, where he was the operations manager for six years, overseeing the line crews, tree-trimming crews and fleet management, as well as many other position duties.

Brian begins his new position July 1. I look forward to his leadership overseeing the operations side of the cooperative.

Summer Safety

With the arrival of summer comes an increase in outdoor activities. Whether you are out and about for work or pleasure, please be aware of where overhead power lines are in relation to your activities.

If you come across a downed power line, stay away from it, protect the area and call the cooperative immediately.

In addition to increased outdoor activities, summer also brings fire season. In the event of a fire that may threaten the cooperative’s distribution or transmission lines, please call the office immediately.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

**Jeff Davis
General Manager**

Owned By Those We Serve

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

Officers

President | Evan Barnes
Vice President | Robert Poage
Secretary | Shirley Cairns
Director | Suzi Armstrong
Director | Bill Jackson
Director | Terry Nelson
Director | Carey Weatherly

General Manager

Keith Brooks

Assistant General Manager

Phil Bigler

Office Manager/CFO

David Western

Superintendent

Todd Sherwood

Member Services

Todd C. Munsey

System Engineer

Jess Dory, PE

Mission Statement

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

DOUGLAS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OR-10

Catching Up - Looking Ahead

Dear Member,

Our hope is that every time you flip a switch, the power comes on to energize your lights, heat, appliances and every other electrically-powered item in your home, shop or business. The network of transmission lines, substations and distribution delivers 85% renewable and 96% carbon-free electricity to you. That part of our business has pretty much stayed the same since your cooperative was formed in 1939. Behind the scenes however, it's a much different story. There is a lot going on, and a lot more coming down the pike.

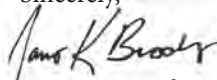


- We just welcomed two new board members, Suzi Armstrong and Bill Jackson with a day-long orientation, introducing them to the basics of every single department. They are excited to serve and will do a great job for you.
- The board continues discussions about replacing our 70-year-old facility. It has served members and employees well, but the integrity of the structure is visibly inadequate. Again, with efficiency and security in mind, the board, inside staff and outside crews will contribute to the design process.
- We are continuing to grow our right-of-way program. If reliability isn't reason enough, the impending fire season and potential liability that comes along with starting a wildfire makes it a huge priority.

It's going to be a busy summer, and we don't want you to worry about anything except having electricity when you flip the switch! We'll do our best to keep the power flowing, and handle all the "behind the scenes" stuff.

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



Keep Fireworks Clear of Power Lines

Can't wait for the professional fireworks display—the one local firefighters supervise so nobody gets hurt? You are taking a risk by lighting your own.

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- Never attempt to relight malfunctioning fireworks. ■

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

DIRECTORS:

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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

CEC Reopens Lobbies to Members

Four months have passed since Central Electric Cooperative closed its lobbies out of concern for the health and safety of our members and employees. No one could fully anticipate or understand then how disruptive and threatening COVID-19 would be to everyone's day-to-day lives.

Daily routines took on a new look. Many people had to work remotely, safely quarantined within their homes. Countless people lost their jobs and continue to struggle to make ends meet. Trips to grocery stores created anxiety for many, while frontline service workers faced an unseen danger. Sadly, the coronavirus has taken too many lives.

Throughout these unprecedented events, Central Electric has diligently focused on delivering you the safe and reliable service you expect. We have faced our share of challenges, but CEC and its employees have shown ingenuity and adaptability to overcome them.

I take enormous pride in how our employees execute their daily responsibilities despite the disruptions and how we continue to help members who need financial aid to pay their electric bills. As a not-for-profit business, our success cannot happen without you—the members and owners of the cooperative. Many have stepped up to participate in CEC's Project Helping Hand program, either by signing up or by making a one-time donation to assist fellow members. Words cannot accurately convey my appreciation for these acts of kindness and generosity.

We have passed a significant milestone in this saga. With approval from the state, Central Oregon has begun to reopen its businesses, parks, churches and outdoor venues. As for us, Central Electric is preparing to open its lobbies Monday, July 6.

As I shared with members who participated in CEC's first-ever annual meeting conducted by teleconference last month, we have undertaken the following precautions, with the health and well-being of employees and members in mind:

- One member in the lobby at a time.
- Standing floor sign with guidelines on precautions to reduce risk to members and employees when entering the lobbies.
- Reconfiguration of the lobbies, including the installation of plexiglass protective shielding at the front counters.
- Available face masks at the lobbies' entrances for members who would like to wear one.
- Hand sanitizing stations for members' use before and after meeting with a customer service representative.
- Frequent sanitization of the front counter where members conduct transactions.

I hope we have turned the corner with reopening the Central Oregon economy. However, I suspect we still have a long road ahead of us due to the continuing unpredictability and vulnerability of COVID-19.

CEC continues to monitor updates and new guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on COVID-19. We will continue to adapt as needed to provide you with the best service possible.

On behalf of CEC and its employees, it is a privilege to serve you.



Dave Markham
President and CEO



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Attorney—Tyler Pepple

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Corporate Services/CFO

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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

The Coos-Curry Energy Portfolio

When you press START on your microwave, what is the energy source heating your meal? You might think that is like asking what cow served up the glass of milk you just poured. But for electric energy, we have the answer to that question. In fact, every electric utility is required to report its fuel mix annually to state and federal agencies.

Coos-Curry Electric gets 100% of its electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration, which just reported its 2019 fuel mix. See chart below.

BPA's nonspecified purchases are the only parts of the fuel mix containing any fossil fuel (coal or natural gas generation). Think about that! Coos-Curry serves you electricity that is on average more than 85% renewable and more than 95% carbon free.

How does that compare to some of our neighboring utilities? Nearby consumer-owned utilities Douglas Electric Co-op, Lane Electric Co-op and Bandon Power are 100% BPA customers, too, so they have the same fuel mix as Coos-Curry. The story changes drastically for Pacific Power, our neighboring investor-owned utility. Have a look at its fuel mix.

The chart to the right shows Pacific Power serves about 75% fossil fuel-generated, carbon-emitting electricity and less than 20% renewable, carbon-free energy. Pacific Power has set aggressive goals to transition its portfolio from fossil fuels to clean renewable sources.

Why doesn't CCEC have similar goals? Because we already provide electricity that is more than 95% clean and 85% renewable. It's been that way for more than 60 years.

Until other renewable energy sources are less expensive than existing hydroelectric energy, CCEC will serve you clean, renewable hydropower. #OurPowerIsWater



BPA Fuel Mix 2019

Large Hydroelectric	82.3%
Nuclear	11.5%
Nonspecified Purchases	4.8%
Small Hydroelectric	0.8%
Wind	0.6%

Pacific Power Basic Fuel Mix 2019

Coal	56.4%
Natural Gas	18.4%
Wind	8.0%
Hydroelectric	4.5%
Solar	4.5%
Geothermal & Biomass	0.5%
Miscellaneous	7.7%

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

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Mark Kaminski
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Birkenfeld)

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(Dist. 6 – Chapman, Scappoose)

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Bob Perry

Contact the board:
directors@westoregon.org

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

OR-14

Director's Message

Dear Members,

West Oregon Electric Cooperative has implemented many practices to mitigate COVID-19 impacts.

Crews are working with social distancing to the maximum extent possible to maintain service. Staff has locked the front office doors and only allows members in when necessary and with a mask. If you have questions for WOEC staff, please call first to see if we can work out your concern by phone before visiting the office.



WOEC Business Update

We have two major commercial members engaged in energy rebate/conservation programs. We will share more information when the details have been worked out.

Since January 1, 2020, we have sold 4.96 million kilowatt-hours of power. This is on track with budget, but down from this time last year by 0.2 million kWh. WOEC is seeing electric power consumption drop as our commercial and residential members are reducing demand for energy during these difficult times. This means less revenue to cover our fixed costs, repairs and upgrades.

The operations and maintenance outlays/expenditures are normally in the range of slightly less than \$1 million a month. For May, it was \$805,000, which was \$85,000 below budget. Please keep in mind that operations and maintenance change greatly based on outage/overtime, contractor billing cycles, construction and purchases for the month.

At end of April, we had 222 accounts in nonpayment status, which is slightly higher than the norm in previous years. By the first week of May, staff had contacted 184 of the nonpayment account members. During the second week of May, staff reduced nonpayments to 71 accounts. During the following two weeks, staff reduced nonpayment/potential shutoff accounts to 10, or close to \$8,000 in nonpayment to WOEC for April's billing cycle. This amount is considerably higher than normal at this stage of the process.

Planning for the WOEC annual meeting as required by our bylaws is underway. It is likely we will opt for an online conference call due to COVID-19 guidelines. Stay tuned.

Crews are boring an underground service line along Highway 26 by Red Bluff Road to improve service in the area due to outage issues. They are replacing 45 poles from the Highway 26 junction along Timber Road to Timber as a joint venture/cost sharing with Frontier and WOEC. Crews are also replacing cables and wire along Keasey Road. The co-op addressed 14 outages in May; 8,000 customer hours were impacted.

Best Regards,

Mark Kaminski
WOEC Director District 2



Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

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

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

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

www.surprisevalleyelectric.org

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

After hours and outages:
Call office numbers above.

STAFF

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

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John Erquiaga
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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

Inspect Your Home For Electrical Risks

Just like any man-made product, electrical systems become outdated.

As rooms, appliances and electronics are added, electrical systems can become overburdened.

"Many homeowners don't understand the dangerous effect age has on their home's electrical system," says Michael G. Clendenin, the former executive director of the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

The ESFI recommends electrical inspections for any house more than 40 years old; any house 10 years or older that has had major renovations or appliances added; and any previously owned house at the time of resale.

"If your home has dim or flickering lights, loose receptacles, circuit breakers that frequently trip or fuses that frequently pop, hot or discolored outlets and light switch covers, or damaged wire insulation, your home may well be a fire waiting to happen," Clendenin warns. "That is your home's way of telling you that you have a problem."

Depending on the size of your home, an inspection could take between 30 minutes and an hour. The ESFI recommends checking for the following:

- The condition of the electrical service entrance and all exposed wiring.
- Proper grounding and polarity in receptacles.
- The condition of the panel and its connections.
- The operation of and need for ground and arc-fault circuit

interrupters.

- Voltage drop on a couple of circuits and a load analysis to determine if service is adequate to meet present demand.

- Proper lamp wattage.
- Overloaded outlets and the improper use of extension cords.
- Proper installation of smoke alarms.

Homeowners are urged to develop a detailed map of their home's circuitry, showing the outlets and fixtures served by each circuit and how much power is demanded of each.

You may find your total demand exceeds the service to your home, requiring an upgrade to a higher level of electrical service.

Repairs could be minor and nominal in cost, such as cleaning and tightening of connections or adding outlets, or more involved and costly, such as adding circuits and subpanels or replacing degraded wiring.

Making repairs could save you money on your homeowners' insurance.

"You have a good chance of identifying and correcting hazards with an inspection, but very little chance of avoiding eventual property loss, traumatic injury and even death without one," says Clendenin. ■



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

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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.

A Different Kind of Annual Meeting

By the time this message reaches you, we will have conducted our first digital annual meeting. While certainly not our ideal channel of communications, the fact that during this pandemic we can still hold this meeting and conduct the business of the co-op is exciting.

Many of the reports that would typically be shared at our annual meeting will be included in future editions of this magazine. Please take a moment to look at that information when it arrives. We would, of course, still appreciate hearing your questions, comments and concerns.

Speaking of concerns, there have been many during this time of pandemic and pandemonium in the world. Your cooperative, however, has been running smoothly and efficiently.

We have taken great care to keep our members and employees safe as we follow the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and state guidelines for doing so. Our ability to keep the power on is truly a life-or-death situation in some cases, and we take this pandemic seriously. We have had zero cases of the virus thus far and plan to keep it that way.

We are relieved to have recently been granted the expanded ability to perform preventive maintenance and storm hardening measures on our system. The summer months are when we perform many of the tasks that increase system reliability during the fall and winter.

System reliability is important, but so is the ability to fund that extremely important work. In these trying times, we are aware of the financial difficulties of many of our members. Our office staff has done its best to stay current on all the options available to those finding

themselves in need. Please call us sooner rather than later if you think you need assistance or payment extension.

Financially speaking, Lane Electric is in great shape. That is not necessarily the case for other power companies in the state. Our revenue largely comes from residential energy use, which has seen far less interruption than business or industrial energy use. This often is a double-edged sword, but currently it is working in our favor.

Also working in our favor are the recent new hires we have welcomed to our team. We reported in the annual meeting packet that we have hired 10 new staff members this past year. These are not additions to our overall numbers, but rather replacements for retirements and people who have moved on to other opportunities. Three of those new hires are management staff who were hired after national searches. I couldn't be happier with the team we have assembled and the work of our staff.

Most importantly, these hires have increased our capacity to offer exceptional customer service and ensure sustainable energy sources for our members.

We are proud to serve you and proud to be owned by those we serve!

Debi Wilson
General Manager





**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, Chairman
541-927-3466
jacksche@blec.coop

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

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

District 4
Marlene Northrup
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

The Value of Electricity

Dear Members,

Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative delivers electricity to your home, farm or business 24 hours a day, seven days a week as reliably, safely and at as low-cost as possible. Most members don't give much thought to that these days, because electricity isn't just a commodity. Most people consider it a necessity. When you flip the switch, you expect the lights to come on.

More than half the cost of running your co-op is the commodity cost of power, including the generation and transmission of that electricity that originates from hundreds of miles away along the Columbia River to delivery points designated by the Bonneville Power Administration at our key substations. Once here, we are tasked with delivering the power over BLEC-owned lines. Those lines are operated and maintained by our crews and contractors at standards set by the Public Utility Commission for safety and reliability. Sometimes that means our crews respond to outages caused by storms or failing infrastructure, or sometimes the planned replacement of aged or substandard infrastructure.

Service is the value proposition we have to offer our members. Our employees cheerfully strive to provide you with the best possible service, using the resources they have to do so and always keeping the bottom line in mind. They know members appreciate the work they do and how responsively they do it. We know this because of the kind words of praise and gratitude many of you send us each month. When we're not meeting your needs, you let us know that, too. From the mighty Columbia River to your meter, we have one mission: safe, reliable electric service at the lowest possible costs.

In your service,

Greg Gardner
General Manager





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Vice President

Randy L. Knowles
Secretary

.....
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General Manager

Gwyn Miller
Assistant General Manager

Kevin Ricks
Renewable Energy Asset Manager

Mike DeMott
*Director of Finance
and Power Management*

Mark Pritchard
Operations Manager

Ron Schultz
Engineering Manager

Brandy Myers
Customer Service Supervisor

.....
www.klickitatpud.com

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

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



WA-18

Klickitat PUD Offices Remain Closed

I wanted to update customers on several topics that have been discussed on this page the last several months.

Klickitat PUD's offices remain closed to the public due to COVID-19 risks, but we are all still working. Customer interaction is taking place via telephone, or in the field with social distancing. My guess is this method of interacting will be in effect for at least a couple more months. We are responding to all new construction as outlined by Washington state. With Klickitat County moving into Phase 2, we have begun reaching out to customers who are in arrears so they can put repayment plans in place.



Roosevelt Landfill Update

We are working with Republic Services at the Roosevelt landfill to optimize the methane collection system that provides fuel for Klickitat PUD's renewable natural gas production facility. As of this writing, some new wells are being drilled to increase well density. KPUD employees Jonah Humphreys and Phillip McMillen are trying out some new ideas to develop geographic information system analysis tools. Our thanks to Art Mains and the Republic Services staff for their support on this project.

Preparing for Fire Season

The Klickitat PUD staff is planning for the upcoming fire season. We are not implementing power shutoffs, but we plan to adjust settings on protection equipment to not reenergize on a faulted circuit. This proactive approach may help prevent fire ignition due to a downed line or other abnormal condition. The Bonneville Power Administration implemented this last year on one of our transmission circuits, and we expect them to do the same this year.

Goldendale Energy Pumped Storage Facility Update

Lastly, National Grid and Rye Development are planning to submit their final Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license application for the Goldendale Energy Pumped Storage Facility this month. We continue to support the project, including processing \$1.1 million in state funds appropriated by Sen. Jim Honeyford that are being used to assist the developers with filing the final application.

We look forward to interacting with our customers again soon. Stay safe and healthy.

Jim Smith
General Manager



NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.

The power of local service

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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

Outside Sandpoint:
800-326-9594

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Steve Elgar

Board Vice President
Kennon McClintock

Board Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Dolan

General Manager
Annie Terracciano

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208-610-3853

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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

Sign Up for SmartHub

Have you signed up for our new online account management program called SmartHub yet? SmartHub allows you to easily view your current electric bill, make a payment, report outages and view your use history on a computer, tablet or smartphone. It takes only minutes to sign up and makes accessing your account easier than ever. Visit www.nli.coop and click on “Register for Online Access” within the “Manage Your Account” box to sign up today.



Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels

Summer is here! It is my favorite season and the time to get out on the lake to fish, water ski or enjoy a leisurely boat ride in the sun. If you take your boat out of state, be careful before returning. Invasive quagga and zebra mussels are looking to hitch a ride to our pristine Idaho and Montana waterways.

These invasive mussels wreak havoc wherever they call home. They deplete the nutrients in the water and upset the ecosystem. They also colonize on hulls of boats, recreational equipment, irrigation equipment and hydroelectric power plant equipment. Once they move in, they are pretty much a permanent house guest.

How do you go about keeping those pesky creatures from moving in? Clean. Drain. Dry. Clean any visible mud, plants or animals from your boat. Drain all water from the motor, bilge, livewell and other water-containing devices. Dry all areas of your boat and equipment. You should also never dump live fish or organisms from one water body into another.

To protect our waterways, the state has set up a watercraft inspection station program focused on inspecting boats from affected states as they come across the state line. Inspections are free, but the cost of mussels is not. According to the Idaho Department of Agriculture, the estimated cost to Idaho alone would be \$100 million annually if attempts fail to prevent an infestation. Inspection stations in Idaho have already intercepted 15 boats in 2020 carrying the invasive mussels.

I hope you are enjoying your summer in the beautiful inland Northwest! And remember: Clean. Drain. Dry.

Annie Terracciano
General Manager



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

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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

ICL&P Announcements

Capital Credits

Thank you for being a member of Idaho County Light & Power. One of the many benefits of being a member of your locally run cooperative is capital credits. As a locally owned not-for-profit cooperative, when we collect more money than we spend, we return these funds to members through capital credits.

This year, we are returning credits for members who bought electricity in 1987, 1988 and 1989. This totals a little more than \$517,000. If you were a member during these years, please take a look at the ICL&P bill you received this month for your credit. Members who are no longer on the system will receive a check.

With this retirement, ICL&P has returned more than \$4 million dollars to its members.

Pay by Phone 24 Hours a Day, 365 Days a Year

Here at Idaho County Light & Power, we strive to provide safe, reliable and uninterrupted service to our members. To ensure this, we continually look for ways to improve our daily processes, procedures, and security when it comes to personal information. Furthermore, the recent COVID-19 pandemic required us to reevaluate certain processes and search for better options. We heard from many of you as well.

As a result, we are excited to announce our new Pay-by-Phone service! You can pay your bill, sign up for autopay, update your phone number and check your account status 24 hours a day, seven days a week at no extra charge. The toll-free number for this service is 1-833-368-2468. This process also keeps ICL&P compliant with the PCI Data Security Standards. These worldwide requirements are designed to prevent credit card fraud through increased data controls. More information is available on our website. Check your August statement for a magnet with this phone number.

Beginning October 1, 2020, if you want to make a payment by phone using your debit or credit card, you can call the above number or we will forward you to that number if you call the office. This is for your protection. I believe this is a great new addition to our current methods of payment.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for more updates!

Meter Changeouts

We are starting to change out meters throughout the system. We plan to replace every meter during the next two years.

The last time this was done was in 2007-2008. Like anything involving technology, there comes a time when equipment needs to be replaced. These meters still read safely over the power lines and allow two-way communication to get the kilowatt-hours read off the front, check the voltage and read the peak demand. With better efficiency overall and increased reliability for you, our members, we are able to detect outages quicker and trace them back to the closest protective device so crews have a general location to start looking for the cause of the outage. This saves time and cost, and allows us to serve you better.

Thanks for listening,

Max Beach, General Manager



Columbia REA

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

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

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

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

Staff

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

WA-22

The Beat Goes On



Someone once said, “Adversity does not build character, it reveals it.” We’ve all learned something about ourselves over the last several months. I’ve been reminded of something that I already knew, that Columbia REA is blessed with a staff that has character.

In the face of the Coronavirus pandemic, our staff has not missed a beat. Adapting to new policies regarding personal safety, and new guidelines on workplace management, everyone from our line crews to our front office personnel has stepped up to serve you, our members. I couldn’t be more proud of our whole team.

As Washington moves into Phase 3, we will move toward re-opening our office to staff, but not to the public just yet. But judging from the amount of work still getting done out in the field, and from home, you’d never know our offices have been closed. Our line crews have been hard at work putting in new services and performing regular system maintenance. You will see in this issue that we have redesigned our monthly billing statement to increase readability and highlight the most pertinent information. We are also continuing to study residential demand charges and the best way to implement a fair and equitable accounting of residential peak usage. On a related note, we are continuing to look into the development of an EV charging rebate.

Unfortunately, we received word from Walla Walla County recently that the Walla Walla Fair will be cancelled this year. We have always been a proud supporter of all the fairs in the area, and we will continue to support those efforts in whatever form they may take. In fact, we also heard recently that the Columbia County Fair will carry on, and we are excited to be a part of the fun in Dayton again this year!


There is still a lot more to reckon with in terms of this Coronavirus bug, but one thing you do not have to worry about is your power. Our team has you covered. We are still on the phones during regular hours, and still ready to go on a moment’s notice 24/7 if you have an outage, just like normal...and these last few months have been anything but normal.

So I’d just like to give a big shout-out to our team here at Columbia REA, for staying the course and working hard under very unusual conditions. I’d also like to say thanks to you, our members, for your support and understanding during these strange times. We’re inching closer to something that feels more normal every day, together.

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

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Vice President

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

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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:

In accordance with recent steps taken by the state of Oregon, Midstate Electric Cooperative will begin a measured and gradual approach as we look to return to normal work and business practices. Our employees have been working throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in the field, office and remotely to continue providing you with safe and reliable service.

We reopened our lobby to the public June 15, resuming our normal office hours of Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. We are taking special measures to protect members and employees. There are clear barriers installed at the counters and social-distancing indicators posted in the lobby. Visitors are encouraged to adhere to Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

The health and safety of our members and employees remain MEC's top priority. We will continue to closely monitor the latest developments regarding COVID-19 to ensure we follow the latest recommendations from local and state officials and CDC.

Remember, most services can be handled remotely. Please continue to use these services rather than visiting the MEC office. Accounts can be managed on SmartHub (standard billing) and MyUsage (prepaid billing) programs on our website, www.mse.coop. You can make payments at the payment drop box, payment kiosk or by phone at 541-536-2126 option 2. For more information or if you have concerns about your service, call 541-536-2126.

To provide financial assistance to members negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, MEC temporarily suspended service disconnections. MEC

will not discount, excuse or in any other way relieve a member of their energy bill amounts owed before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

We urge all members to make every effort to keep their accounts current. If you anticipate problems paying your electric bill, please contact our member services representatives at 541-536-2126 option 3 as soon as possible. Several energy-assistance programs are available, and we can work with you on a payment plan.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

MEC Annual Meeting

In compliance with Gov. Kate Brown's mandate limiting travel and meetings to protect citizens from the COVID-19 virus, MEC held a limited annual meeting on May 26. MEC's bylaws require a meeting of the membership in April or May and an election of the board of directors. For purposes of the election, MEC held a limited meeting before the regular board of directors meeting. Board elections took place by mailed-in ballot only. No other business matters or actions were taken at the limited annual meeting other than those necessary for the election of the directors.

Ken Wilson (District 5) and Alan Parks (District 7) were unopposed and reelected to serve the members for three-year terms. Board officers for 2020 are Parks, president; Gordon DeArmond, vice president; and Vic Russell, secretary/treasurer. Other directors on the board are Diana Cox, Bud Kendall, Robert Reed and Ron Sommerfeldt.

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



81st ANNUAL MEETING ONLINE SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

NO IN-PERSON MEETING DUE TO COVID-19

In this issue:

- Official notice of meeting 1
- Board president and GM messages 4
- Application for absentee ballot..... 5
- 2019 financial statements..... 8
- Summary of 2019 meeting minutes25
- Board candidate resumes.....28-29
- Proposed bylaw amendment29



BIG BEND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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

Ritzville office 659-1700

Toll free 866-844-2363

Pay by phone 844-255-3682

For after-hours emergencies

866-844-2363

www.bbcec.org

TRUSTEES

President Ken Story

Vice President John Harder

Secretary Lanny Hayes

Treasurer Stacy Kniveton

Curtis Dahl

Greg Galbreath

Dan Hille

Lyle Holt

Dennis Swinger Sr.

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Yvette Armstrong

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf

WA-25

COVID-19 Financial Support Available

Gov. Jay Inslee's Proclamation 20-23 has now been extended through 7/28/20. If you are experiencing hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be eligible for support, including bill assistance from the state or long-term payment arrangements through Big Bend Electric. This proclamation does not relieve customers from the obligation to pay for utility services.

To find out if you qualify for bill assistance, contact the following agencies:

- **ADAMS COUNTY RESIDENTS:** Contact OIC of Washington at 509-765-9206.
 - **FRANKLIN COUNTY RESIDENTS:** Contact Benton/Franklin CAC at 509-545-4065.
- To make a long-term credit arrangements, contact Big Bend Electric at 866-844-2363.

Lobby Now Open To Public

Big Bend Electric Cooperative's Ritzville office lobby is now open to the public. The Mesa office is open by appointment only.

Offices are open Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Power outages can be reported 24/7 by calling 866-844-2363.

Ayuda Económica Disponible Durante la Pandemia de COVID-19

La Proclamación 20-23 del Gobernador Jay Inslee se ha ampliado hasta el 28 de julio de 2020. Si usted está teniendo dificultades (apuros) como resultado de la pandemia de COVID-19, tal vez reúna los requisitos para recibir apoyo, lo cual incluye ayuda del Estado para el pago de su factura o acuerdos de pagos a largo plazo por medio de Big Bend Electric. Esta Proclamación no libra a los clientes de la obligación de pagar los servicios públicos.

Si desea saber si califica para recibir ayuda para el pago de su factura, contacte a las siguientes agencias:

- **RESIDENTES DEL CONDADO DE ADAMS:** Contacten a "OIC of Washington", al 509-765-9206.
- **RESIDENTES DEL CONDADO DE FRANKLIN:** Contacten a "Benton/Franklin CAC", al 509-545-4065.

Para hacer un acuerdo de crédito a largo plazo, contacte a Big Bend Electric, al 866-844-2363.

El lobby ya está abierto al público

El lobby de la oficina de Big Bend Electric Cooperative de Ritzville está ahora abierto al público (desde el 1.º de junio de 2020). La oficina de Mesa se abre sólo con cita previa.

Abierto de lunes a jueves, de 7 a.m. a 5:30 p.m.

Los cortes de energía (apagones) se pueden reportar las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana, al 866-844-2363.



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,



It's mid-June as I write this. With any luck, we will have opened our office to limited walk-in traffic by the time this reaches your mailbox. We will announce our reopening on our website—www.hrec.coop—and on our social media channels.

If you visit us, you will see these changes:

- We have installed plexiglass barriers at the front counter to protect our office staff.
- We have limited visitor access to the lobby only.
- We have a hand sanitizer station in the lobby.
- We are limiting visitors to one person/couple in the lobby

at a time.

We look forward to seeing you, but please stay home if you are sick!

We continue to waive late fees and disconnects for nonpayment. However, please be aware that you are responsible for paying for the services you use. If you are facing additional financial hardships because of COVID-19, please contact us to discuss payment arrangements and to pay what you can so you don't build up a large past-due balance.

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 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.

Help Support our Farmers

As this issue's feature story demonstrates, the Hood River Valley thrums with agriculture. From orchards to wineries, farms and processing operations, our local farmers are connected not just to us, but to the world beyond our valley.

Let's do our part to support our dedicated farmers and welcome the thousands of workers who come to the region for harvest.


How can you help strengthen our local food system? Shop at fruit and veggie stands, subscribe to weekly veggies boxes, drink local wine and cider, and order produce from the newly formed Gorge Farmer Collective—an online farmers market connecting local farms directly to customers.

Wishing you a safe and happy summer,

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,

I want to update you about our current operating procedures. We are still in phase 2 in Oregon and in a similar phase in Nevada. This means our lobbies are open to one member at a time as we process new services and memberships, service transfers and payment arrangements.

We are limited to one member at a time because our small offices do not allow us to maintain the physical distance required by the guidelines. We ask that you adhere to social-distancing guidelines while visiting our lobbies and continue to mail and/or use the drop boxes in Hines or Orovada for payments.

We have been told we will remain in the current phase until a cure or vaccine is available.

I would like to commend our members for working with us under the new guidelines. I know it has been inconvenient, but you have made it work. All our changes have been put in place to protect the health of our members and employees.

I would like to remind everyone that fire season is here. Please make sure you have a defensible space around your homes and buildings. Be safe with fireworks as you celebrate the Fourth of July.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me 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

2020 Annual Meeting Update

A few months back I was writing my Ruralite magazine column inviting all of you to the SREC annual meeting. Then COVID-19 happened and the board had to cancel the annual meeting scheduled for April 23 to abide by Idaho's orders regarding the pandemic.

As the country slowly opens back up, the board has been considering options for the 2020 annual meeting and elections. After reviewing the cooperative bylaws, member policies, legal counsel, state statutes and guidelines for meetings involving hundreds of attendees, the board has decided not to have an annual meeting or director election in 2020.

The board took action at its May board meeting to appoint Jeff Bitton from the Stanley District and Doug Parkinson from Pahsimeroi District 1 to serve as SREC board directors until elections are once again held at the April 2021 SREC annual meeting. Both directors were nominated by the Nominating Committee in 2020 and were running uncontested for director seats to be elected at the 2020 annual meeting elections.

According to SREC bylaws, both directors could continue to serve until an election is held to replace them. The board opted to appoint them to serve until the next annual meeting—more for transparency purposes than because of a legal obligation. SREC bylaws allow the SREC board to appoint a director if a vacancy occurs prior to an election. If reelected in 2021, both directors would serve for two years to satisfy the three-year term they could have been reelected to in 2020.

Therefore, the 2021 SREC annual meeting will have five director positions up for election. In addition to Pahsimeroi District 1 and Stanley director positions being up for election, the Round Valley, Clayton and Pahsimeroi District 2 director positions also will be up for election. Director positions typically are staggered so the majority of director positions are not potentially replaced at one time, which can cause disruptions to institutional knowledge and governance efficiency.

Events such as COVID-19 are not considered in the current SREC bylaws. This is something we will look at and perhaps recommend revisions to the bylaws so the membership will be better served. I do miss the opportunity to meet with the membership, but I remain hopeful we will all be able to meet together again in April. In the meantime, don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have about your cooperative. Check out the SREC website at www.srec.org and the financial information tab for the 2019 year-end financial summary.



Ken Dizes



United Electric

CO-OP INC.

Directors

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

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

General Manager

M. Jamie Stark

Engineering and Operations

Trevor Parke

Line Superintendent

Kay Hill

Executive Assistant/Billing Specialist

Trisha Moultrie

Member Services Manager

Chris Seibold

Mailing address:

1330 21st St.
Heyburn, ID 83336
Phone: 208-679-2222

Fax: 208-679-3333

Email: uec@uec.coop

Website: www.uec.coop

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

Friday, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

After Hours: 208-679-4444

ID-29

New World, Same Great Service

Things are different. I took my first trip by plane since the COVID-19 pandemic started. As I walked through the airports, I noticed the new “normals”—everyone with face masks, separation markers on the floor, glass screens at the counters and hand sanitizer at every corner. These are just a few changes we can expect for a long time coming out of the pandemic.

It made me thankful to be living in Southern Idaho, as many other states are still enforcing harsher restrictions.

A few weeks ago, United Electric opened its front doors for the first time in many weeks. Yes, you will find markers on the floor, hand sanitizer and a glass screen at the counter.

The pandemic presented many challenges for United Electric. However, one theme prevailed: reliable service. All plans revolved around keeping the power flowing, safety for the public and our employees, with ongoing communication through any pandemic scenario. That will not change as Idaho reopens. We will always strive to deliver excellent service to you, our members, through pandemics, storms or any adverse circumstance.

When you come to the office and see all the new social distancing precautions, you will also see something familiar: a welcome smile. We look forward to serving you again face to face.

Speaking of opening our doors ... are you an aspiring artist? United Electric would like to meet you! We want to try something new by setting aside a section of our lobby to showcase an “Artist of the Month.” If you or a family member would like to show off your art, please contact me or any of our front office staff for more details. We hope to host a new artist every month!

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

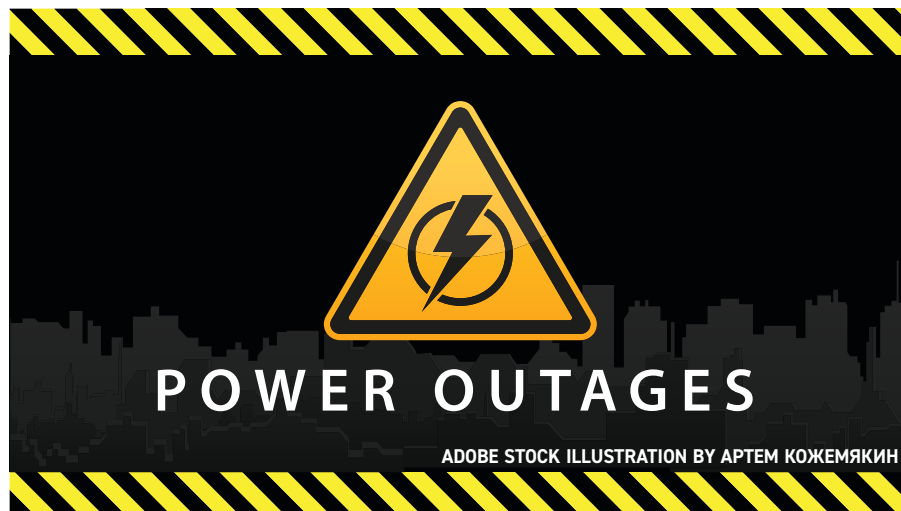
Chad H. Angell
James D. McKelvey
Maddie Mocettini-Hansen
Dean L. Myler
Lynn O. Rothwell
Merlin A. Waddoups

MANAGER/CEO

Brad J. Gamett

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

ID-30



Power Outage Response

Outages

With several major weather events wreaking havoc within the Lost River Electric Cooperative service territory recently, the staff reminds you to stay safe around downed lines and call in power outages as soon as possible.

For after-hours outages, please call our on-call phone number: **208-588-2625**.

This number will connect you directly to our lineworkers on call for outages and will reduce response times.

Line Location

LREC reminds anyone planning to dig to call the LREC office well ahead of time for line location services. Co-op employees provide these services locally for our members, so the most direct route for assistance is to contact our office. For line locate services, call **208-588-3311**.

Please stay safe and help us help you!

Brad J. Gamett
General Manager



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Board of Directors

Lon Rake, President
Yvette Delaquito, Vice President
Dan Stowe, Secretary
Will Stark, Treasurer
Paul Kildal, 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

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

August

CVEA Board Meeting: The August meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, August 20, 2020, in Glennallen

AK-34



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



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

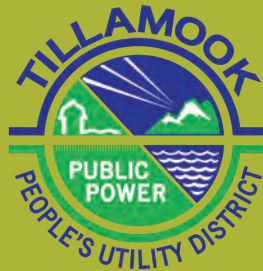
Tillamook PUD provides safe, reliable
and competitively priced power to our
customers.

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 has arrived!
Whether you are
relaxing at home,
heading into the great
outdoors, or spending
time with family, be
sure to enjoy your
summer and be safe.

*Have a Fun &
Safe Summer!*





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

Board of Directors

President

Price E. Brower

Vice President

Roy M. Nageak Sr.

Secretary

Herman L. Ahoak

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

BUECI and COVID-19 Financial Hardship Update

Since March, Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative Inc. has temporarily suspended disconnects due to nonpayment, as well as the accrual of late payment fees. These suspensions are a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and will remain in effect until Alaska's public health disaster ends.

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

- COVID-19 Residential Customer Notice and Sworn Statement.
- COVID-19 Deferred Payment Arrangement.

Our residential members can visit www.bueci.org/covidhardship to learn more. If you are unable to print these forms, contact BUECI's Member Services Department to have them mailed to you, or call to arrange a pickup in our lobby.

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

For bill payment options and more about the annual meeting, see page 8.



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 2)
- Rick Solie (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

GVEA Lobby Update

GVEA lobbies are now open, with a few restrictions. There will be a limited number of members allowed into the lobby at any time. We're asking all members to practice CDC's recommendations of maintaining a distance of six feet from others, wearing a face covering and using hand sanitizer. Thank you for keeping us all safe and healthy!

Lobby Hours:

- Fairbanks: 9am - 5pm, Mon. - Fri.
- Nenana: 8:30am - 4:30pm Mon. - Fri.
- Delta: 8:30am - 4:30pm (closed 10:30am - noon) Mon. - Fri.

Go to <http://blog.gvea.com> to see a detailed listing of hours of operation for various sections of GVEA.

Other ways to reach us:

Members can still 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:

Due to the unprecedented impacts of COVID-19 and Plumas-Sierra's goals of protecting members and staff, this year's annual meeting is being reviewed for both location and for exact structure. It may have a limited physical presence or it may be completely virtual. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 3. The August issue of Ruralite will have all the details of the meeting, so please be sure to look for that information.

Up for election are District 6 (North Doyle, Milford and Herlong areas) served by Tom Hammond, and District 7 (Edgemont and Levitt areas) served by Nancy Miller.

If you are interested in running for the PSREC Board of Directors and live in one of those districts, please contact me as soon as possible. The deadline for nominations by petition is July 20.

If you are unsure of your district, please visit our website to view the map, or call the office at 800-555-2207.

A copy of the PSREC Qualifications and Nomination Procedures is available on our website at www.psrec.coop.

Public Safety Power Shutoffs

We know that some of you were frustrated with the repeated outages that tended to occur at 10 p.m. and last a few minutes. We were also frustrated but, as we shared last month, Pacific Gas and Electric needed the changes in our system that would allow them to install new switches that will reduce the number of outages, speed up restoration of power to their customers, and reduce the number of customers off during an outage. This is key for our region's economic health, even if the improvements are not necessarily on our own power grid.

PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs could affect Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative's

transmission feed. PSREC will use backup resources as much as possible to keep the impact of these shutoffs as minimal as possible, but members need to be prepared for outages and possible rolling blackouts.

We will provide as much notice as possible, and will post information at www.psrec.coop, on social media and via text message. To sign up for text message notifications, login to SmartHub from www.psrec.coop or the SmartHub app and set your notification preferences. If you need assistance signing up for notifications, please call us at 800-555-2207.

For more information on Public Safety Power Shutoffs and how to be prepared, please visit www.psrec.coop/about/psps.

If you or someone in your home has special medical equipment, please contact the PSREC office during normal business hours and ask to be put on the Life Line list. Please provide us with a landline or cellphone number, as wireless phones do not work without electricity. 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 it to the electrical system of your house, please make sure this is done to code using an automated system like 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.

The Cooperative is actively studying ways to upgrade our transmission system even further so that we can avoid PSPS issues, but the solutions are not cheap and will take time.

Continues on page 25

Manager's Message

Continued from Page 32

You can count on your cooperative to always be working toward a reliable, clean, safe and affordable power grid.

Telecommunications

Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications is working to expand broadband coverage of fiber optic service with speeds of up to 1-gigabyte per second through the California Advanced Services Fund grants in several areas. For our members on C-Road and Mohawk Vista, please make sure you are on our waiting list. The grants hit pockets that can seem haphazard, but will drag service past areas like the northern end of Chandler Road near Quincy, and Wingfield Road near Susanville.

In addition, PST and our parent electric cooperative have been working together to expand service in several other areas including Grizzly Road, Plumas Eureka, Sierraville, Sattley and Calpine. We are also working on expanding wireless service in southern Sierra Valley with an option that will provide speeds of up to 50 Mbps. PST's service offers unlimited data use so your family can stop fighting over bandwidth.

We know that some of you have been frustrated with our being unable to install inside homes due to COVID-19 concerns. We analyze our options every week, and are working on being able to install on the exterior of houses.

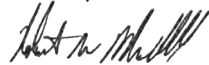
If you haven't already contacted us to get on our interest list, give us a call at 800-221-3474 or visit our website at www.pst.coop so we can contact you as soon as service is available in your area.

Hot Spots

PST has installed a new internet hot spot with improved outdoor range at the Calpine Community Center to allow people to work or participate in online education activities from their cars during the COVID-19 pandemic. PST hotspots are free to the public. Locations of all our hotspots throughout the region are on our website at www.pst.coop.

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

Photo Contest 2020

Attention Shutterbugs: Last Chance to enter PSREC's 2020 Photo Contest

Here's the scoop:

- Up to six (6) amazing photos will be chosen by an unbiased team of judges at Ruralite magazine.
- Winning photos will be featured on one cover of the PSREC Ruralite magazine following the Annual Member Meeting in September 2020, where winners will be announced.
- Winners will receive a \$100 credit on their bill.
- By entering the contest, you agree to give PSREC rights to publish your photo on the Ruralite cover and to use it in various communication tools including print and web with photo credit.

Gotta play (by the rules) to win!

- Photographers must be members of, or own a business that receives service from, PSREC or its telecommunications subsidiary.
- Photos must be within PSREC service area, and may include people, places or things; photos from all seasons will be considered.
- Only **vertical** format photos will be considered.
- Only digital JPEG photos will be accepted, and can be emailed or submitted on a CD. **Photos must be at least 300 dpi at 9 inches wide by 11 inches tall.** Emails larger than 10 megabytes will not be accepted.
- Each photo submission must include photographer's name, address, member number, email address, phone number, location of photo and a short description of the photo.
- Maximum three (3) photos submitted per contestant.
- Photos will be accepted until **July 31, 2020.**
- Submissions should be sent to marketing@psrec.coop, or mailed to PSREC (address below) along with supporting information. Please put the words "2020 Cover Photo Contest" in the subject line.
- Contact Emily Compton at 530-832-6032 or 800-555-2207, ext. 6032 or ecompton@psrec.coop with questions.



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 – Open
- 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

Thank You For Your Dedication, Solidarity

Hello, Mt. Wheeler Power members. Welcome to summer. Early in March, we were forced to deal with the coronavirus pandemic and its impact. Our country was defined by essential or nonessential worker status. We have seen this designation used in recent federal budget battles and government shutdowns. I struggle with the title and responsibility of distinguishing one from the other.



We learned quickly that everyone plays an essential role in the day-to-day duties within our community. We want to give thanks to our small businesses, front-line workers, medical and EMS personnel, public safety workers, firefighters, grocery store employees, miners, contractors and our Mt. Wheeler employees. All have demonstrated courage as they continue to provide the level of performance and service to which our community is accustomed. No one was prepared for the risk or sacrifices that lay ahead as these individuals made the selfless decision to continue providing the goods and services to our service territory.

There is no denying this pandemic has changed the way we do business. It will no longer be business as usual. Technology has been forced on us, where in the past many resisted change. As we prepare to celebrate our nation's freedom this month, let's applaud our great country and its ability to embrace change. Trepidation and facing the unknown can sometimes be the catalyst for creativity and necessary transformation. It is evident we will become a better nation of people following this disruptive event.

As your cooperative, we want to commend the leaders and organizations that have made difficult decisions and given the necessary sacrifices. We have always been a nation that stands together to fight for our freedom. Recovering will require determination, dedication and solidarity, but I am confident it will result in a stronger country.

We have a better understanding of what exposures and risks essential workers have faced. It may change the career path of some. However, I have witnessed the action and response by our Mt. Wheeler Power employees and our local frontline workers. I admire the way they have embraced the challenge and have become better for it. Our nation and communities are blessed to have people like these among us. Please enjoy a great Fourth of July and celebrate our nation's independence. Be safe and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Kevin Robison, CEO



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M Jonathan Dahl
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Kirk Dahl
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Ouida Madison
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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 89833
775-664-2204

Wells office:

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

NV-41

I'm Proud of Our Community's Response to a Crisis

I know COVID-19 has occupied our time and thoughts for the past few months, and I suspect we have a way to go before this is behind us. Recently, I've heard members talking about the "new normal." It makes me wonder what that means for us as individuals, our families, our friends, our businesses and our communities.

I've been overwhelmed by the generosity of our members to each other. We've had several members contact us about paying the bill for another member they know is struggling. We know of local businesses who continued to pay their employees even after they were ordered to close their doors. If the "new normal" means having more understanding and empathy for our fellow members, at least one good thing will have come from this pandemic.

I 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. In addition to being dedicated to your service, your employees have also made generous donations to help members during this challenging time.

More than a decade ago, your Board of Directors made the decision to partner with local service organizations, welfare agencies, senior centers, family resource centers and churches to provide Commitment to Community vouchers for electricity to assist members who have encountered unexpected financial hardships.

While this program has always been important, it has been invaluable as WREC members have endured unprecedented unemployment. One of WREC's vendors, CoBank, also provided a grant to help members through this difficult time.

If you, or someone you know, is falling behind, I hope you will contact your local WREC office. Our Member Advocates can help in ways we have never been able to before. Not only can these specially trained employees help you determine if you are eligible for one of the temporary assistance programs, they can help you apply for state and federal aid programs. Some of these programs have received supplemental funding and have adjusted their criteria to address the unique circumstances created by the economic impacts of COVID-19. Even if you haven't been eligible in the past, you may be eligible now.

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 I am grateful for your patience and understanding. Throughout our membership, people are rising to the occasion. We join so many others in looking forward to a brighter future filled with health, safety, prosperity and peace.

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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509-995-3078

DISTRICT 4

Kathleen Keyes
760-920-7401

DISTRICT 2

Bonnie Groenert
775-764-0014

DISTRICT 5

Terrie D'Antonio
702-325-0631

DISTRICT 3

Rob Shirley
775-253-4916

DISTRICT 6

Paul Healey
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

The Value of Being a Member-Owner

What is a co-op? What does it mean to be a member-owner? The answers hold the reason for Valley's existence.

Cooperatives are member-owned and member-governed businesses that operate for the benefit of their members. They are driven by the Seven Cooperative Principles, which can be traced back to 1844 when the first co-op was founded. These principles ensure co-ops are driven by values rather than investors. Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. Cooperative members believe in honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.



Member-owners formed our organization in 1965 to light up our communities. Thanks to the vision and values of our founders, Valley stands strong and remains focused on being an industry leader and innovative service provider to benefit the lives of our members.

In general, the term member-owner means just that: We are owned by our members, who contribute equity and, in turn, become shareholders or member-owners. Equity is half of ownership, and member benefits are the other half. The most important benefit is the co-op's existence. Member-owners invest in a co-op because they want to use its services, support its mission and benefit as community members.

Our cooperative is a democracy governed by our members. Valley's Board of Directors is elected by the members it serves. Each director represents a district, which they live in. The board is passionate about our co-op and our communities. The directors are truly good neighbors hoping to benefit the community by being your voice and serving to the very best of their abilities.

Valley prides itself on being community focused. Our employees are hardworking and go above and beyond to help our members. Valley's employees often volunteer and donate their time to organizations throughout our service territory. We are friends and neighbors, making it a pleasure to serve and volunteer. For example, we are taking precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect our members while adapting to meet their needs. We are in this together.

Make the most of your cooperative by being informed and involved. I encourage you to educate yourself about the cooperative. You have a voice as a member-owner. I encourage you to join one of our board committees, attend meetings and check out events VEA hosts. You can always find updated calendars and information on our website. The membership is why we do what we do. We strive to be good stewards of our cooperative and are working for the benefit of each member-owner and our communities.

Being part of a cooperative is a story worth telling. It is something to be proud of. It is an honor to be your neighbor, working hard alongside you to make our community great.

Have a wonderful and safe month,
Mark Stallons, Chief Executive Officer

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.



Keep Fireworks Clear of Power Lines

Can't wait for the professional fireworks display—the one local firefighters supervise so nobody gets hurt? You are taking a risk by lighting your own.

Even legal fireworks can be dangerous. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, Fourth of July revelers report 9,300 fireworks-related injuries a year. Firecrackers are responsible for 1,600 of those. Next-worst are bottle rockets and sparklers, which burn at about 2,000 degrees.

If you put on your own backyard show, stay away from power lines. Light fireworks in open areas where you cannot even see any power lines. If your fireworks get tangled in an overhead wire or create a spark on one, call 911 immediately. Do not try to solve the problem yourself.

Here are additional fireworks safety tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Keep a bucket of water nearby in case of fire.
- Children should be spectators, not participants, in the show. Never give children fireworks or sparklers.
- Read and carefully follow directions and warning labels. Most injuries result from improper use.
- Keep spectators at least 20 feet away and not downwind from where fireworks will be set off.
- Light fireworks only on a smooth, flat surface away from all flammable materials, including dry leaves.
- Never attempt to relight malfunctioning fireworks. ■


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





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

District Offices

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

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

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

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

www.otec.coop
communications@otecc.com

**Report Outages at
866-430-4265**

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Facebook.com/OTECOop



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

Officers/Directors:

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- Vice President Wayne Overton, Baker County
- Secretary-Treasurer Aletha Bonebrake, Baker County
- George "Austin" Bingaman, 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



Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative continues to provide all of its services during the pandemic, while keeping employees and members safe. PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYHIGH IMAGING

Pushing Forward

As our communities push forward with phase two guidelines set by the state and counties to continue the process of reopening businesses, I want to give you an update on how Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is managing through this process.

Unfortunately, the spike in cases in Union County last month has set some of the reopening plans back for certain business sectors. Our resources at the cooperative will remain in a holding pattern, providing all our services that you rely on. However, during this time we will continue to limit member-facing access at our offices to keep our critical resources healthy and available, and to ensure the safety of our employees and our members.

As you know, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been broad sweeping. In May, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposed suspending BPA's financial reserves surcharge through September 30, 2021, due to the economic impact of COVID-19. In keeping with the agency's strategic and financial plans, the financial reserves surcharge policy was

established to strengthen BPA's financial health. It is designed to enable BPA to maintain at least 60 days' cash on hand for both its power and transmission business lines. The surcharge could have raised up to \$30 million a year through a 1.5% increase to wholesale power rates.

OTEC buys all of its power from BPA under contract, so this decision helps the stability of our current rates. OTEC appreciates BPA's decision to suspend the surcharge during this time of economic distress.

As our communities navigate the challenges of reopening, managing and operating a business under these unique conditions, we recognize everyone is affected in ways that remain to be seen. We have provided a list of resources on our website, www.otec.coop, that may be helpful for you or your friends and family during this time. They include OTEC programs and services, as well as external resources that may be helpful as we all get back on our feet.

Les Penning
CEO



Member-owned since 1921

Ohop Mutual Light Co.

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

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Jerry Walter, Sec./Treasurer

Isabella Deditch

Frank Hoffman

General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49



Keep Fireworks Clear of Power Lines

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- Read and carefully follow directions and warning labels.
- Keep spectators at least 20 feet away and upwind from where fireworks will be set off.
- Light fireworks only on a smooth, flat surface away from all flammable materials.
- Never attempt to relight malfunctioning fireworks.

Financial Hardship

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

Lobby and Office Hours

As we continue to work to limit person-to-person contact, our office lobby will remain closed to the public. But rest assured: we are not closed. Our drive-thru window is open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to transact business. Also, our dispatch service continues to operate seven days per week, 24 hours a day.

We also encourage you to manage your account from the safety of your home by going to our website at www.ohop.coop or using SmartHub to make payments and track your energy use. If you haven't done so yet, download our app, which is packed with tools to help you watch and curb your energy use.



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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Nick Himebauch

Controller

Steve Chamberlin

Executive Assistant

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An electric utility owned
by those we serve in:

North Bend

Ames Lake

Anderson Island

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

WA-50

Electricity Brings Everyday Value

Even though I work in the energy industry, like most people, I still don't think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch and the coffeemaker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we don't think much about it. Since many of us have been spending more time at home over the past few months, we have likely been using more energy. And yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we really think about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years back. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Like many of you, I have a cell phone to stay connected and I subscribe to cable channels so I can enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern day life. We can see what we're getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4% from 2014 to 2019 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index. The cost of medical care was increased 3% during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6%. So, where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4%.

The bottom line: electricity brings everyday value. In fact, Tanner Electric Cooperative members experience an average of 2.5 outages lasting just 167 minutes each year. Considering electricity is something that we all use around the clock and the heavily forested areas we serve, I am very proud of our track record. At the same time, we are striving to increase our service reliability and reduce those brief interruptions and reduce costs. We are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid and exploring more renewable energy options where possible.

TEC provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued members of the co-op. And as your trusted energy advisor, we want to help you save you energy and money.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our members and we're here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. TEC is your electric co-op and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That's everyday value.

Steven Walter

Tanner Electric CEO



Owned By
Those We Serve

12918 Park Ave.
P.O. Box 44426
Tacoma, WA 98448-0426
253-531-5666

www.plw.coop

OFFICE HOURS
Mon-Thu, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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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

Poem From A Member

Parkland Light & Water member Clara Mullin submitted this poem, "Independence Day."

Independence Day (why not?)
 Independence Day, its arriving soon.
 It's a holiday, "I want to observe it!"
 Maybe a memorial barbeque -
 No doubt, we all deserve it!
 But masks are in and crowds are out.
 Staying six feet apart is what it's about!
 Shen, you think about how you should do it.
 By holding up signs to each other?
 Or call on our phones across the yard,
 Or maybe, just not even bother.
 How about a little shout out?
 No... we won't do that. It's a fact!!
 We just want to have fun and be polite,
 And keep our wits in tact!
 I'm sure you'll find a solution
 As creative as can be -
 So reconnect with your loved ones -
 We'll have to wait and see.
 So, go shopping for the hotdog,
 burgers, salads, chips and more.
 There's lots of work for everyone.
 And, of course, that means more chores.
 A barbeque grill, chairs spread out
 across the lawn.
 A family gathering, you'll remember...
 ending at dawn.
 by Clara Mullin

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

General Manager

Kevin Short

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

July and August
Congratulations!

- ▶ Brian Baharie 5 years
- ▶ Don Downing 14 years
- ▶ Kevin Short 14 years

IMPORTANT DATES

- ▶ September 19—AEC Annual Membership Meeting

Easy Money

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

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

A Message from the Manager

We're Already Open. To Everyone.

Of the Seven Cooperative Principles, the very first one, “Open and Voluntary Membership” is likely the most important of all. Cooperative founders in Rochdale, England, knew how important this idea was back in 1844. The fact that membership in Anza Electric is open to absolutely anyone makes us one of the most comprehensive groups around. The best part of this arrangement is the cooperative benefits from the great diversity and inclusiveness of our membership. Our whole is far greater than the sum of our parts.

The importance of this universality of cooperative membership cannot be overstated. The services AEC offers to all—the highest quality reliable electric service and internet access, at some of the best possible pricing—have become part and parcel of today’s modern lifestyle. All of us, regardless of who we are, how we look or what we think, can be members of this cooperative and enjoy the benefits of these innovative technologies. This is why we are so successful at what we do for our members.

Interestingly, this wide-ranging arrangement does come with a bit of a catch. Cooperative members must accept the responsibilities of membership, along with the benefits, by each of us paying our own way for these services. We must also use these technologies responsibly. Fortunately, there is also some programmatic assistance available. Other cooperative principles include “Concern for Community,” whereby we can help our fellow citizens access the services we provide when they may need a hand during tough times, such as these.

As we approach our cooperative’s 70th anniversary, it’s critical we all remember these fundamental principles that define who we are in our community. In fact, we are the community. All of us, every one of us, together. We’re already open. To everyone.



Kevin Short

ANZA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 391909 • Anza, CA 92539

Phone: 951-763-433 • Fax: 951-763-5297 • aec@anzaelectric.org • www.anzaelectric.org

Our crew is on standby 24 hours a day. To report an outage or other service problem, please call 951-763-4333.





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

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

Please call to report outages
503-728-2163

Automated Secure Payment Center
1-844-262-2431

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Merle Gillespie, Secretary
Stephen D. Petersen, Treasurer
Don Hooper, Director

GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #3122700

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

Community Calendar

July 2: Clatskanie PUD Office Closed

4th of July observed.

July 2: Clatskanie Chamber - Zoom

meeting noon. See the Clatskanie Chamber
Facebook page for more information.

July 9: Rainier Chamber - Zoom meeting

at noon. See the Rainier Chamber
Facebook page for more information.

July 15: Clatskanie PUD Board Meeting

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

OR-60

We will reopen our lobby on Monday, June 29th to our customers and the public, now that Columbia County has entered Phase 2. We have taken precautionary measures to protect both our returning staff and customers through the remainder of the pandemic period.

The most noticeable change is the plexiglass we installed over our customer service counters. They will provide a protective barrier for everyone and still allow us to see, communicate, and interact effectively with our customers. When I walked up to the new plexiglass, I actually didn't see it at first. It is very clear and unobtrusive, so I'm really pleased with the results.

Other changes will include new signage to clearly communicate the social distancing requirements from the State, to ensure six feet between people waiting in the lobby and only one person at the front counter at a time. We will have hand sanitizer stations throughout the lobby and building for all to use. We will also be cleaning the lobby area on a regular basis with emphasis on door handles and counters that receive regular use.

All of our services will once again be available to our customers. We will continue our requirement that when having any physical interactions between staff and customers in the field, we will be wearing protective masks for the safety and protection of both. Customer Service Representatives working behind the plexiglass barrier and distanced with the large front counter will not be required to wear masks. The barrier offers protection without wearing a mask, allowing for better communications.

We greatly appreciate everyone's patience and understanding throughout this challenging time. We are excited to be able to work together again and interact with our customers. We do ask one very important thing of both our staff and customers; for the continued safety of all, if anyone is sick for any reason, we request that they not come into the building. This will allow us to continue to be open and available while providing a safe working environment for us to do so. Thank you!

I also wanted to remind our customers, both residential and business, to please contact our Customer Service Representatives if you are encountering financial difficulties in paying your bill due to the loss of or decrease in employment, or loss of business due to the pandemic. While we have discontinued late fees and disconnect processes for the present time, balances are still owed for the energy used. We are able to make payment arrangements and offer COVID Share the Warmth assistance to you. We want to help you through this difficult time. Through energy assistance emergency funds made available to us we can help with these balances, but need you to contact us as soon as possible to make arrangements to access these funds.

Be safe and be well!

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

Charlie Gregg

Treasurer

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Tom Atkinson

Wally Carter Sr.

Dood Lincoln-Carr

Pierre Lonewolf

Harold Short

General Manager/CEO

Martin Shroyer

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

AK-64

Inspect Your Home For Electrical Risks

Just like any man-made product, electrical systems become outdated.

As rooms, appliances and electronics are added, electrical systems can become overburdened.

“Many homeowners don’t understand the dangerous effect age has on their home’s electrical system,” says Michael G. Clendenin, the former executive director of the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

The ESFI recommends electrical inspections for any house more than 40 years old; any house 10 years or older that has had major renovations or appliances added; and any previously owned house at the time of resale.

“If your home has dim or flickering lights, loose receptacles, circuit breakers that frequently trip or fuses that frequently pop, hot or discolored outlets and light switch covers, or damaged wire insulation, your home may well be a fire waiting to happen,” Clendenin warns. “That is your home’s way of telling you that you have a problem.”

Depending on the size of your home, an inspection could take between 30 minutes and an hour. The ESFI recommends checking for the following:

- The condition of the electrical service entrance and all exposed wiring.
- Proper grounding and polarity in receptacles.
- The condition of the panel and its connections.
- The operation of and need for ground and arc-fault circuit

interrupters.

• Voltage drop on a couple of circuits and a load analysis to determine if service is adequate to meet present demand.

- Proper lamp wattage.
- Overloaded outlets and the improper use of extension cords.
- Proper installation of smoke alarms.

Homeowners are urged to develop a detailed map of their home’s circuitry, showing the outlets and fixtures served by each circuit and how much power is demanded of each.

You may find your total demand exceeds the service to your home, requiring an upgrade to a higher level of electrical service.

Repairs could be minor and nominal in cost, such as cleaning and tightening of connections or adding outlets, or more involved and costly, such as adding circuits and subpanels or replacing degraded wiring.

Making repairs could save you money on your homeowners’ insurance.

“You have a good chance of identifying and correcting hazards with an inspection, but very little chance of avoiding eventual property loss, traumatic injury and even death without one,” says Clendenin. ■



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Vice Chairman

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Mountain Village

Secretary

Helena R. Jones, Ambler

Treasurer

Peter Demoski, Nulato

Directors

Phyllis Clough, Old Harbor
Robert Hoffman, Bethel

board@avec.org

Communities Served

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

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



AK-105

Notice of Vacancy on AVEC Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative recently received the resignation of Walter Sampson, who has served on the AVEC Board since he was first elected in 1989. His 31 years of service are a credit to his dedication to the AVEC membership. He was reelected every three years, typically by an overwhelming majority of the delegates and the membership.

Since Mr. Sampson was elected to a three-year term in 2019, the Bylaws require that the remaining Board Members must appoint a successor to serve out the remainder of his term, which expires in April 2022.

The current Board Members are:

Fred Sagoonick, Shaktoolik - Chair
Robert Beans, Mt. Village - Vice Chair
Helena Jones, Ambler - Secretary
Peter Demoski, Nulato - Treasurer
Phyllis Clough, Old Harbor
Robert Hoffman, Bethel

Any AVEC member in good standing may apply to fill this vacancy. "Good standing" means that the candidate must not be past due or delinquent on any debts owed to the Cooperative. The individual may not be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative. In selecting a replacement director, the board will also consider the Bylaw requirement that no more than one director may come from a community and that directors must represent the "widest possible geographic distribution."

Members wishing to be considered for this vacancy should submit a letter of interest addressed to the AVEC Board of Directors and mailed to 4831 Eagle Street, Anchorage Alaska 99503. Letters of interest may also be emailed to AMurphy@avec.org.

All expressions of interest must be received no later than Friday, July 31, 2020.

Meera Kohler
President and CEO





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

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Daren Hagata, Vice President
Fred Nagel, Treasurer
H.W. "Bud" Bowden
Jess Urionaguena

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Doug C. Smith

Assistant General Manager

Pat Holley

Administrative Services Manager

Karen Rollings

Electric Operations Manager

Cort Cortez

Public Relations Manager

Theresa Phillips

IT Manager

Nick Dominguez

Senior Accountant

Catherine Schroeder

Customer Service Supervisor

Christina M. Nystrom

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

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

CA-106

Your Lassen Municipal Utility Bill Could Help You Obtain a REAL ID at the California DMV

As part of the REAL ID application process, California residents are required to provide the DMV with two different documents to verify their California residency. One of those documents may include your Lassen Municipal Utility bill, provided your full name and home address appear on the document.

Request a one-time paper bill from Lassen Municipal Utility today to secure one of your two residency verification documents required for REAL ID. Call 530-257-4174 to request a copy of your LMUD bill.

For a full list of documents required to obtain a REAL ID, visit www.dmv.ca.gov.

For more information, visit CaliforniaREALID.org





201 Bullionville Road
Panaca, Nevada 89042

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

Email: lcpd@lcpd1.com

DIRECTORS

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

General Manager

David Luttrell

Board meets the second Tuesday
of each month.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

NV-107

Increasing Rates: An Unpopular Topic

I am afraid cost pressures at Lincoln County Power are forcing us to consider an increase to our rates. Any rate adjustment we make will not occur until the fall. In August and September, we will provide information on why a rate increase is needed and our proposed rate design. We will hold meetings to answer customers' questions. Meeting dates and times will be announced well in advance.

Today, I would like to start the conversation by discussing how seriously we take our rates for electric service. We don't adjust our rates unless we feel it is absolutely necessary. In fact, through effective management and planning, Lincoln County Power has only adjusted its base rates four times in more than 30 years. These prior rate adjustments occurred October 1, 2013; October 1, 2007; October 1, 2004; and May 1, 1993.

That is a pretty good track record, which we achieved by carefully considering all of our major actions. We carefully weigh the financial impacts of every decision. For years we have tried to walk a fine line between the need to improve the reliability of our electric system and the need to maintain appropriate and affordable rates.

Every year, the reliability of our system gets better, and our overtime costs for after-hour power outages goes down. We have achieved this while maintaining low rates. As I reported last year, our current rates are among the lowest in the nation. We were designated in the top 2% of rural electric utilities in the country by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation based on our overall electric rates.

To help understand the level of our current rates, if you were to use 1,500 kilowatt-hours of electric energy in a month, your bill from Lincoln County Power would be \$129.30. By comparison, if you were to use the same amount of energy and pay the national average for electricity the cost would be \$196.20. If you were to pay the Nevada statewide average for that same electricity, the cost would be \$181.80. For Californians, the average cost would be \$307.35.

The biggest reason we need to adjust our rates is that the cost of power we buy for Lincoln County has gone up and is scheduled to go up more. Our power supply makes about 46% of our annual operating costs. Since we last adjusted our rates for electric service, our annual power supply cost has increased 20% and is forecast to increase another 14% by 2022.

Over the next few months, we will complete our cost-of-service study and will share more information about our costs and rates. In the meantime, if you have any questions or thoughts, please don't hesitate to give me a call.



David Luttrell, General Manager



Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc.

www.MarlboroElectric.coop

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

843-479-3855
800-922-9174

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Monday–Friday

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Sam P. “Bo” McInnis Jr.

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Secretary/Treasurer
W. Ronald Quick, *District 8*
Janelle Sauls, *District 9*

ATTORNEYS

Doug Jennings
Paul Conway

CO-OP NEWS EDITOR

Matt Haynie
email: mhaynie@marlboro.coop

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Be Ready for Hurricane Season

The 2020 hurricane season hit the ground blowing this year.

By the official June 1 start date, we’d already seen two named tropical storms. The second, Bertha, formed just one hour before making landfall east of Charleston on May 27. While thankfully neither have been catastrophic, forecasters predict that due to oceanic and atmospheric conditions in the Atlantic Ocean, the remaining 2020 hurricane season will be very active.

Between 1981 and 2010, there was an average of 13 named storms each year. Weather experts predict 16 more named storms this year. The actual number is 16.5, so apparently 50% of the weather experts are on the fence. During the past three decades, there have been seven named storms that became hurricanes each year, with the 2020 season predicted to have at least eight.

While the future cannot be known, at MEC we feel it’s important to be prepared. This starts with our extensive right-of-way maintenance program. It is just one of the ways Marlboro Electric prepares for storms and other natural disasters. ROW maintenance involves clearing limbs and trees away from power lines to help prevent outages and reduce potential hazards.

In the event of an outage, MEC’s focus is to safely restore power to the greatest number of members as quickly as possible. To do so, restoration must be performed in a specific sequence. First, we work alongside our generation partners to restore any affected high-voltage transmission lines. Crews then inspect distribution substations, which lower the voltage so it can be used by homes, businesses and industries.

If the outage persists, we check the main distribution lines powering our communities, followed by individual supply—or tap lines—that carry power to transformers supplying groups of homes, businesses or schools. However, should you see your neighbor’s lights turn on while yours remain dark, there may be damage to the individual service line to your house or you may be fed off a different phase, so be sure to call us to report it.

While MEC does everything it can to restore safe and reliable power as quickly as possible, there may be circumstances out of our control. For those who have home businesses, rely on medical equipment or simply want peace of mind, MEC offers a variety of whole-home and portable backup generators to meet your needs.

Along with free in-home estimates and on-bill financing options, Marlboro Electric’s whole-home generators come with a seven-year extended warranty and a free year of maintenance. For your friends and loved ones, we are proud to offer this service to nonmembers as well. To learn about our generators or schedule a free in-home estimate, call Bryan Singletary at 843-454-2896.

With experts predicting a memorable hurricane season, we at MEC hope for the best, but plan for the worst. While we will do everything possible to maintain your electric service, we hope you, our members, will join us in preparing to keep your homes, your families and yourselves as safe and comfortable as possible in the months ahead.

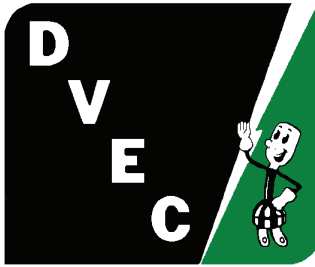
JOHN ALFORD

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!





Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

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Judy McKinley
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Leon Reynolds
Dustie Robinette

ADMINISTRATION

Steven Lunt
CEO

BOARD MEETINGS

July 13
August 17
September 21
Generally the third Monday of the month

Owned By Those We Serve—
Incorporated June 1947



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

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

CEO's Message

Principles to Follow, Even During a Pandemic

One of the phrases we hear regularly now is “the new normal.” Like many of you, I don't feel that the events of this year are normal, nor do I wish them to become a normal part of our lives.

In spite of the worldwide pandemic, some things have remained constant for our cooperative. We have had to find creative ways to maintain that constancy, but the underlying principles are still as relevant today as they were before our current situation.

One of those constants is our annual meeting. While we were not able to meet in person, we were able to accomplish the essential tasks of the annual meeting. In accomplishing those tasks, we also realize some other constants in the way a cooperative operates, namely abiding by the Seven Cooperative Principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership. Membership is available to any person, firm, association, corporation or political body. By taking service from the cooperative, you agree to be a member and abide by its bylaws and policies.

The annual meeting is an opportunity for the board and staff of the cooperative to

report on the status of the cooperative to the members.

Part of your membership is your right to be involved by the second cooperative principle, **Democratic Member Control.**

Thank you to those who voted for directors as part of this annual meeting. Three directors were up for election this year. Judy McKinley retained her seat in District 1, Leon Reynolds retained his seat in District 2 and Johnnie Frie retained his seat in District 3.

Your taking of service from the cooperative includes you in the third cooperative principle, **Member Economic Participation.** The rates and fees you pay for services are invested in the distribution system and general plant of the cooperative, and help pay salaries and other expenses. If the cooperative's operations provide for a positive margin, any excess is credited as patronage to each member in ratio to their use of cooperative services.

This year, the cooperative did not have a positive margin, but we were still able to continue to maintain



Steven Lunt

our distribution system and make improvements in reliability and capacity.

Autonomy and Independence.

Other than governmental oversight, the cooperative answers

to its members

through its democratically elected directors. We are not beholden to outside investors.

Education, Training and Information. Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. This past year, Director Dustie Robinette completed the Board Leadership Certificate, a series of classes that further help directors understand their role and keep them up to date on current issues in the power industry. Congratulations to Dustie and all of our board members on their commitment to continuing education.

Seven of our board members have earned their Credentialed

Continues on page 8

Co-op Principles

Continued from page 32

Director Certificate and six have earned their Board Leadership Certificate. Larry Avila is already taking courses toward his Credentialed Director Certificate.

What a blessing it is to have educated directors in our boardroom as we discuss complex issues.

Several employees have also completed classes or attended training programs to enhance their skills, providing a value added benefit to the cooperative.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives. Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together. Our relationship with Arizona's generation and transmission cooperative has opened up to us some unique energy markets for both gas and electricity that result in a lower cost of energy to you, our member.

Concern for Community. Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative invests in our community through scholarship programs and direct donations to community causes. This year, we awarded \$2,000 scholarships to Eli Frie, Kaitlyn Lunt and Megan Van Sickle. We also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Amy Evans as a new initiative to encourage and support some of our adult members to continue in a post-high school education program.

In addition to these scholarships, every year, the

cooperative sends three students to Washington, D.C., on an all-expense-paid one-week trip to visit the nation's capital and learn about the legislative process firsthand and to be educated on how cooperatives function. This year's recipients are Lauren Basteen, Melissa Claridge and Jason McGrath.

Because of the pandemic, this year's trip was canceled. The board of directors is working on a way to reward these students. We believe these investments are important not just for the cooperative, but for our local and world community and economy.

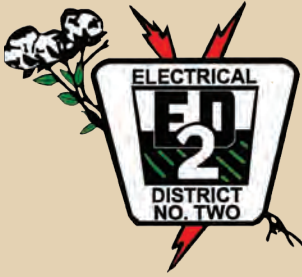
I am so grateful to be part of

our cooperative, and especially part of our community. This pandemic has certainly proven that we are adaptable, and that as a cooperative, we can still meet our members' needs in the face of challenges. I am a witness that our community does what great communities always do in times of crisis: We serve one another. ■

THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

ONE VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP
TWO DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL
THREE MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

FOUR AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE AND INFORMATION
FIVE EDUCATION, TRAINING
SIX COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES
SEVEN CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY ©



Electrical District No. 2

P.O. Box 548
Coolidge, AZ 85128

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

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

DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN
Jacob Roberts

VICE CHAIRMAN
Jack K. Henness

SECRETARY
David Wuertz

TREASURER
Eugene Anderson

AUDITOR
David Gladden

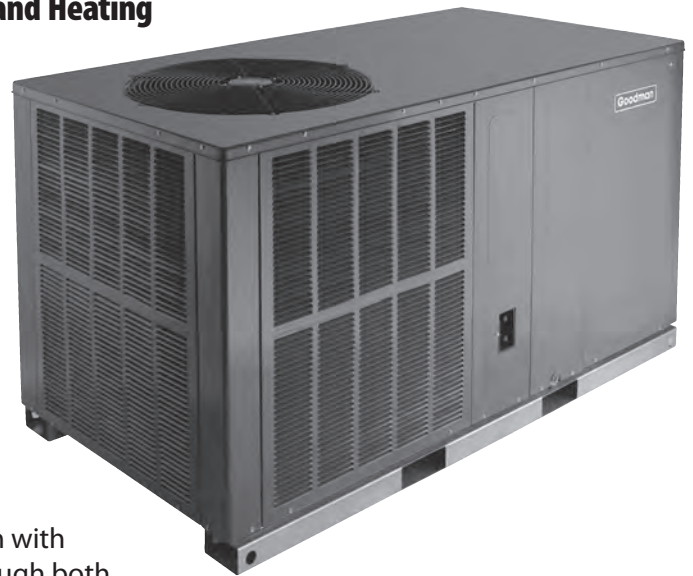
GENERAL MANAGER
Kenneth W. Robbins

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

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

Maintain Your Equipment

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



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

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

Tri-Cor Air Conditioning & Heating

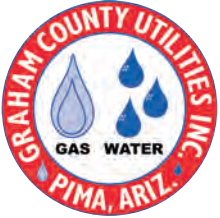
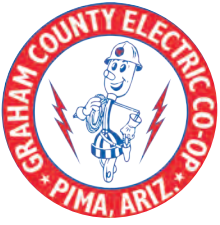
a division of Electrical District No. 2

520-836-4820 or 520-723-8566

ROC 143626

ROC 143627





P.O. Drawer B
Pima, AZ 85543

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

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Vice Pres. Mark Claridge
Secretary Jim Bryce
Chris Claridge
Tommy Clonts
Stephen Hooper
Dennis Jacob
Gene R. Larson
Gerald Schmidt

Graham County Utilities Board of Directors:

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Vice President Steven Hooper
Secretary Mike Crockett
Jim Bryce
Tommy Clonts
Dennis Jacob
Gene R. Larson
Larry H. Morris
Gerald Schmidt

CEO and General Manager:

Kirk Gray

Assistant General Manager:

Phil Cook

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Assistant General Manager's Message

Returning to the New Normal

Challenging times would not adequately explain what our nation, state and community have endured during this ongoing pandemic.

As our community returns to normal business practices, we all have seen a new normal when visiting businesses and local establishments. This includes social distancing, wearing masks, limiting the number of customers and directing foot traffic.

We continue to learn about COVID-19 and how to prevent the spread of the virus. Most shelter-in-place and similar orders have expired. Businesses are challenged with the difficulties of opening in a manner that is safe for employees and customers.

Our lobby was closed the past several weeks and business was completed through a variety of methods, thanks to your help. We will open the lobby to customers on July 6 with some additional procedures to protect our members and employees from the spread of COVID-19.

Some of the changes include:

Reducing the amount of lobby traffic.

Most business can be conducted using our drive-up window, visiting www.gce.coop, or calling and talking with our customer service representatives. This includes establishing new services, paying utility bills and requesting account information. If you need an in-person meeting, we ask that you make an appointment by calling our main line at 928-485-2451 to schedule a meeting with our staff.

Environmental cleaning. We clean and disinfect our offices daily, including frequently touched surfaces such as workstations, door handles, and bathrooms. Hand sanitizer will



be available in the lobby area. We encourage good hygiene for employees and our members.

Social distancing. We ask our members to maintain 6 feet of separation, when possible, while visiting our lobby. You will see floor markings to assist you with social distancing and routing of members to our customer service representatives. Please limit the

number of people you bring into the lobby. This will help all of us maintain the current best practice of 6 feet of social distancing. There are signs on the lobby doors asking you to go home if

you are sick or not feeling well. This is necessary to keep our members and employees healthy.

Communications. Account information, new service connects and payments can be completed using the website. When you sign up for SurePay, GCEC/GCU will withdraw from the account you designate the exact amount of your bill on or about the 10th of each month. To sign up for SurePay, go to www.gce.coop, click on the "Member Services" tab and select "Payment Options."

Communicating and working closely with our membership is important to us. We encourage you to take a look at our updated website and see what information is available.

We will continue to use social media to send out real-time information regarding service outages and other important information.

We appreciate our members and value our continued positive working relationship to keep all of us healthy and safe.

Phil Cook, Assistant General Manager



P.O. Box 22530
Bullhead City, AZ 86439
Member Services: 928-763-1100
Outage Reporting: Toll free
844-632-2667 or text "outage" to
55050 from phone number linked to
your MEC account.
mohaveelectric.com

Mohave Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

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- Vice President**
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- Secretary**
Toni Barbaro
- Treasurer**
Rich Tempelman
Michael Bartelt
Cindy Christy
John Nelssen
Jose "Joe" Solar

CEO
Tyler Carlson

What's Happening

- August 14—School grant deadline.
- September 7—Holiday office closures Labor Day.
- September and October—Budget Billing sign up.
- October—Member Appreciation Month.



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A Message from the CEO

Communication—You Bet!

I'm sure you are curious about this new publication. As a member of Mohave Electric Cooperative, I was curious, too, when our communications and public affairs team presented the idea to me. What I saw was a new format for Currents that fit right in with our board and management goal to improve communication with our members.

We were already moving in this direction before the COVID-19 situation, but these past few months have demonstrated that more communication, using methods to reach more members, is the right path going forward.

Welcome to our new Currents publication. In each issue of Currents, you will find MEC news, information from Arizona's rural electric cooperatives and interesting feature stories. You will receive the new magazine six times a year. The pages specific to MEC will remain the same in each issue.

In this July issue, the cover directs you to pages 4-5 and information about MEC's fiber broadband project. News about capital credits returned to members and MEC's member assistance programs with River Fund is found on pages 8 and 25.

I am also pleased to announce we have added new social media channels. You can now follow MEC on Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn, as well as Facebook. This is another milestone in our communication improvement plan. Within the next few months, our website will be going through a major makeover. Stay tuned for that one.

Even with all these new things, you will still hear from us on a regular basis via bill inserts and messages, local print media and radio communication.

What matters most to us are our members and our community. During this difficult time, MEC has increased our programs to help members experiencing financial difficulty, and returned \$1.3 million in capital credits to members. Involvement and investment in the community is a natural benefit of the cooperative business model. We're locally based, live and work here, and are MEC members.

Through this pandemic, our employees have been there for you—in the field and in the office—making sure the lights stay on. I am proud of their dedication to respond day and night. We asked them to adapt to new and different ways of serving our members, and they did, while also having the same concerns for family, and dealing with the changes to daily life we all have experienced. Our employees have stepped up to make sure the power stayed on for all our members, allowing medical and first responder facilities to do their jobs, run their businesses and spend more time at home.

As we transition to businesses reopening and have fewer disruptions to our everyday lives, we remain committed to our community—as individuals and as Mohave Electric Cooperative. We're here, keeping the lights on.

—Tyler Carlson, CEO



Tyler Carlson

Florida Currents

July 2020 • Volume 9, No. 9

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

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

HOW TO CONTACT FLORIDA CURRENTS

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

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

DISPLAY ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

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

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Message From the CEO

Now Is the Time to Prepare

As I sit down to write this article, we are experiencing high winds and rain with Tropical Storm Cristobal. I cannot help but wonder if I have fully prepared my home and family to ride out a big one. Because of COVID-19, many of the guidelines we have followed in the past to prepare for a hurricane are now a bit more complicated.

Nonperishable food items are an important part of a hurricane preparedness plan. Because of the pandemic, some stores may be in short supply of your go-to items. If you live in a remote area, prepare a more abundant supply rather than the typical three-day stash. Plan for a larger supply of sanitation supplies and extra first-aid essentials, including your prescriptions. If you must evacuate, consider any special needs for social distancing and other safety measures to protect yourself and your family.

COVID-19 has given us more to consider when making our family's disaster plan. Likewise, our cooperative has updated our emergency plan with extra safety precautions to safeguard our employees and members in the event of a disaster. Whether we are sending crews to help another cooperative or we are on the receiving end, safety is always top priority.

I am confident in EREC's Emergency Response Plan and our cooperative's ability to respond to whatever Mother Nature sends our way. I learned long ago if you do not already have what you need when disaster strikes, you are not likely to get it. Our plan includes having the required supplies and equipment on hand at our facility, and additional line crews in staging locations ready to respond to the call.

EREC is part of a vast network of cooperatives ready and willing to help in times of need. Every year, our line crews assist with power restoration at other co-ops with widespread outages because of hurricanes or other natural disasters. Our fellow cooperatives have responded to our call in the past when we were in need.

Now is the time to prepare for storm season. EREC is prepared. Is your family?



Ryan C. Campbell, P.E.



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 Spotlight, Page 12

Easy Summer Snacks
 In the Kitchen, Page 16



FKEC NEWS

JULY 2020

www.FKEC.com

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
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MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

Before a storm threatens our area, learn what you should know before the power goes out at www.FKEC.com/outage-center/fkec-storm-center/

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

SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

Plug into a Bright Future Class of 2020

This school year ended much differently than any other, but our Upper and Middle Keys communities did not let our graduating seniors go unrecognized. From banners lining the streets to parades, our communities went all out to celebrate the class of 2020.

In the Upper Keys, we were able to show our support by helping a group of residents complete their goal of hanging banners with the photos of each Coral Shores High School senior on them along U.S. 1. We were also happy to oblige when asked to raise our big American flag for a parade the community put together (see cover).

Seeing all the students' genuine appreciation and hopeful faces as they paraded down the street was something to

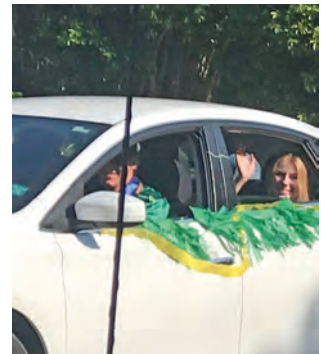


FKEC's Scott Newberry and Jason Richard's (in bucket) at the parade for Coral Shores High School graduates.

be remembered.

While they didn't need our assistance in Marathon, our Middle Keys members also pulled out all the stops to honor their Marathon High School graduates as well.

We wish the graduating class of 2020 the best as they navigate the next chapter of their lives. A special shout out to Kyle and Karli Richards, Emma Lovell, Jennifer Setchell, Olivia Betancourt, and Evan Patterson — All graduating kids of some very proud FKEC team members.



GLADES

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

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844-201-7203 (24-hour phone payments)
www.gladeselectric.com

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26733 U.S. Hwy. 27 East
P.O. Box 519
Moore Haven, FL 33471

214 SR 70 West
Lake Placid, FL 33852

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

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The Board's next meeting is at 9 a.m. July 28 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

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CFO Jennifer Manning
Chief Operating Officer Travis Turner
Chief Communications Officer
Jennifer Koukos
Dir. of Safety Pedro Navarro

FL-153

Helping Our Members Cope With COVID-19 and a Return to Normal

As I write, the COVID-19 crisis is picking up in our neck of the woods. I'm not sure if that's related to the recent end of the sugarcane harvest and milling season—with hundreds of employees returning to a more leisurely life with higher public exposure—or if it's due to the semi-reopening of the economy and people dropping their guard on social-distancing practices. Whatever the case, we continue to watch out for you while also protecting our workforce.

So what have we done lately? First, our Moore Haven and Lake Placid office lobbies were reopened to the public June 1. The Okeechobee office remains closed. Those few of you who have come to the lobby are using masks. We appreciate that not only for your well-being, but also for the safety of our employees and other members who may be taking care of business.

Another action we've taken is a third rate reduction, also effective June 1. This now reduces our variable energy rate to 23% less than one of our neighboring for-profit utilities on the first 1,000 kilowatt-hours and 11% lower on all kWh thereafter. This will make a difference in your June bill, which will be helpful as use increases with the summer heat.

Some members also received a capital credit retirement credit to their bill in May. We retired capital credits earlier in the year than usual to provide extra help to members at this time, when it is so needed. I recently reviewed one member's account who had expressed some concerns. Their capital credit retirement paid their entire May bill and left a significant credit balance to carry forward, which will further reduce their June bill. It's good to see how our plans to help our membership through this crisis have worked out so well.

Through this all, we still have suspended disconnections and late fees for nonpayment. However, business must return to normal at some time, and we are developing that plan. Barring any return to the economic closure started in March, we plan to restart business as usual Monday, July 13. For anyone not caught up on their bill before then, we have a plan to help you. Our Member Service team is prepared to work with you. Give them a call at 863-946-6200 or stop by one of the open lobbies. Please do so before July 13.



Jeff Brewington



Gulf Coast
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

OFFICES

722 West Highway 22
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850-639-2216 or 800-333-9392

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Gary Cox
Kinneth Daniels
Carl Goodson
Eddie Jones

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

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

FL-154

GCEC President's Message

Are You a Co-op Voter?

As member-owned electric cooperatives, voting is already in our DNA. It's how we maintain an electric utility that is responsive to the consumers it serves. Voting also plays a crucial part in our representative democracy. Federal, state and local elections offer an opportunity to exercise a civic responsibility—to select the best leaders for our communities.



Doug Birmingham

This year is going to be a big one, with the possibility for unprecedented voter turnout. Co-ops must find a way to ensure elected officials in our communities understand the issues we face.

When voters do not vote, they lose the opportunity to communicate their concerns to our leaders about the issues that matter to us where we work, live and raise families.

Reliable electricity, rural infrastructure and access to rural broadband are just a few of the issues we all care about. These issues will only become priorities if we continue to express our concerns to our elected officials. Registering to vote and showing up to the polls on Election Day are the most effective ways to send this message.

When we go to the polls with the cooperative principle of Concern for Community in mind, we instantly improve our political system. It's a system designed to produce a government "of the people, by the people and for the people." People like you and me.

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative has again joined America's electric cooperatives in continuing the Co-ops Vote campaign to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops and our communities into the public discussion. This effort will ensure our voices are heard loud and clear every day, and especially on the next election day.

Co-ops Vote is a nonpartisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association—the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. You will join with 42 million members across the nation to ensure electric co-ops are a powerful voice on national issues that have a local impact.

We have the opportunity to continue the dialogue with a variety of candidates this year. Now is the perfect time to ask, "What will you do to ensure we continue to have affordable and reliable electricity in our community?" This is a perfect time to confirm your voter registration is valid and for any new voters to get registered.

For information on how to register and vote in our state, visit the Co-ops Vote website: **www.vote.coop**. You can also find information about elected officials and read more about issues important to our community. I hope to see you at the polls!

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

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District 8

ELLEN BACHMAN
PRESIDENT

District 9

WILLIE DAWES

BOARD MEETINGS

July 28, 2020

August 25, 2020

September 22, 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

We're Here to Help You Save

Peace River Electric Cooperative is here for you. Given the challenging times we've all experienced in the last few months, I would like to share some information and ideas to help you save energy and money.

Summer is a great time to identify ways to boost energy efficiency. Understanding how your home uses energy can help you determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet.

Identifying Potential Savings

While an energy audit is one of the best ways to identify potential energy savings, PRECO has temporarily suspended in-person energy audits to maintain safe social distancing. However, one of our qualified Energy Services advisers can help you learn where most of your energy dollars are spent and advise you on energy-saving measures over the phone. Just call us at 800-282-3824.

If you prefer doing an energy audit yourself, try the audit found on Energy Star's website. Visit www.energystar.gov, then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started.

Keep in mind that an online audit isn't as thorough as a personalized call to PRECO.

Take your search one step further with an electricity use monitor. These small, easy-to-use devices, range in price from around \$13 to \$50. They can show you which appliances are using the most energy. Simply plug the energy monitor into an outlet, then connect your appliance to the device. Most energy monitors can

calculate your projected daily, monthly and yearly energy use for the appliance.

Putting Power in Your Hands

Prepaid metering is intended to aid in budgeting your monthly energy costs.

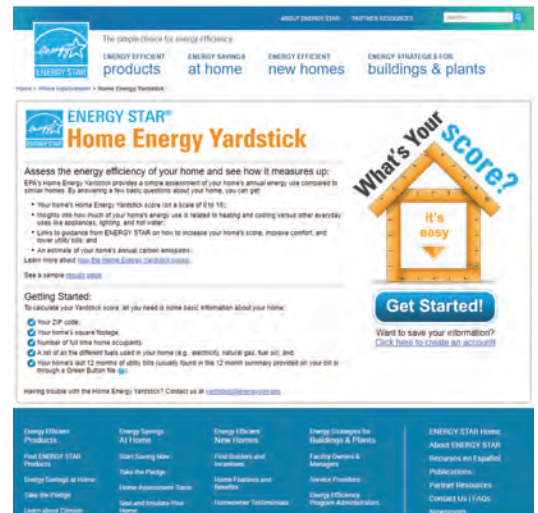
PRECO members can pay for electricity before it is used, then use the electricity until the credit expires. We will notify you when your balance is running low so you can replenish your account.

You can monitor your daily energy use through your online account or by using our SmartHub mobile app.

Industry studies show consumers who participate in prepaid metering use up to 10% less electricity.

As your trusted energy adviser, we're here to help. If you have questions about your bill or additional ways to save energy, please let us know. We're only one click or phone call away.

Randy Shaw





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Volume 37, Issue 4

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

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

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

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

BECi Reflects Cowboy Spirit

The origin of electric cooperatives in this country is an inspiring story that demonstrates the exceptional nature of the people who populated rural America, then and now.

With all the uncertainty and concern swirling about, now is an appropriate time to reflect on the reasons for the creation of electric cooperatives like Beauregard Electric more than 80 years ago.

It's hard to imagine what life was like outside of urban areas in 1935, especially through the lens of our 21st century existence—news took days to reach you, roads were dirt, there was more manual labor and there was no electricity. For a large portion of the country, including Southwest Louisiana, it really was a frontier life.

Rugged people made a living through strength, persistence and hard, often crushing, work. They relied on themselves or their neighbors when things got tough. A few who remember when the lights first came on are still around, but for most, life without electricity is an alien concept. While 95% of urban dwellers had electricity, only one in 10 rural Americans was so blessed.

On May 11, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 7037, which created the Rural Electrification Administration. It would serve as a means for rural communities to acquire low-interest loans and thus provide the resources to build the infrastructure necessary to energize their homes, businesses and farms.

Immediately, the people who would make up our “cowboy” cooperatives took the bit in their teeth and started creating electric co-ops across America.

The term “cowboy” might conjure up Hollywood images of hard-living, rugged individuals fighting injustice against great odds. The cooperative model matched the cowboy ethic and narrative perfectly.

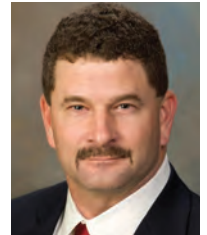
An insightful book written by a retired Wall Street executive James Owen captured this ethic and boiled it down to the following eight points:

1. Live each day with courage.
2. Take pride in your work.
3. Always finish what you start.
4. Do what has to be done.
5. Be tough, but fair.
6. If you make a promise, keep it.
7. Ride for the brand.
8. Talk less and say more.

Some might think so-called “cowboy co-ops” would be restricted to the West, but the case can be made that every co-op was formed by the cowboys of their area. They were tough, self-reliant, hardworking, honest, resilient men and women willing to take bold action to serve their interests and create a better life for their families. They were working together for their neighbors and for their communities.

That spirit persists today in a new generation. Here at BECi, our employees work hard every day to embrace and demonstrate Owen's ideas. BECi employees and members share the common goal to make our community a better place to live, work and play.

We look forward to a productive and bountiful second half of 2020. It's our pledge to do our best to make sure the spirit that led to our creation many years ago stays as strong as it ever was, and inspires us to provide the quality service you deserve and that you've come to expect from your locally owned cooperative.



Kevin Turner

Kevin Turner
General Manager



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Phone: 318-927-3504
www.our.coop

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Manager's Message

As we reach the midpoint of 2020, I think we can all agree this has been quite the strange year. First, I want to express my appreciation to Claiborne Electric's employees and membership for the way they have handled COVID-19. The Co-op's employees have exhibited resilience and dedication in the face of the unknown. They have thrived with new precautions and work procedures in place. Our members have shown grace and understanding during this time when the way we conduct business has had to adapt. I appreciate how our communities have responded to this situation.

As we return to a more normal way of life, I want to shift attention to the upcoming Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for July 25 at the Thomas Assembly Center in Ruston.

Each year, Claiborne Electric members have the chance to gather and conduct business at this meeting. This year, it is critical to have a quorum in attendance because we have an important vote on proposed bylaw amendments. I want our members to know that even as we see significant reductions to new coronavirus cases in our area, we continue to monitor the situation daily. We will take all necessary precautions to make our meeting safe and enjoyable for our employees and members.

One of the best and most important characteristics of the cooperative business structure is democracy. Decisions are made by you, the members. Please don't take that responsibility lightly. Attend the meeting and participate in the democratic process of voting.

Beginning with the year's first edition of Louisiana Country, we have presented the proposed amendments and explained how the changes would affect the bylaws. In this edition, we present the information again on pages 20-21. Members should make themselves familiar with these proposals.

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

Members need to present photo ID at the meeting to register and vote. The person who registers and presents ID at the meeting must be the primary member on the account.

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



Mark Brown

Mark Brown
CEO, General Manager

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

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

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

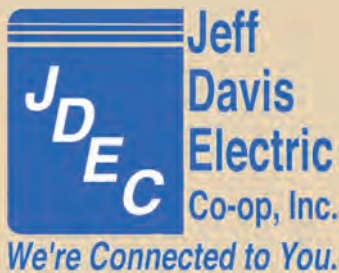
- Name
- Account number
- Email address

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

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

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

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



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Branch office:
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337-598-5700
www.jdec.org

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Annual Meeting Changes Due to COVID-19 Concerns

To the Members of Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative Inc.:



Michael Heinen

After careful consideration, the Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative Board of Directors decided not to meet in person for the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Members, which was set for Monday, July 13. This action was taken because of restrictions related to large public gatherings during the coronavirus pandemic. We all want to return to “normal life,” but we also need to keep our members and employees safe.

While we will not have an in-person gathering, we still have important business to conduct: election of directors to represent Districts 2, 5 and 8. That will be done with a mail-in ballot. Ballots will be mailed to members on June 29. If you do not receive one, please contact our office. Completed ballots must be received in the office or postmarked no later than July 13. A return envelope will be included with the ballot.

It is important for you to exercise your right and responsibility to select your representatives. We need your participation. It's what sets electric cooperatives apart from other forms of business. Please take the time to vote. Winners will be announced on our Facebook page and in our September/October edition of Louisiana Country.

If a quorum is met with returned ballots, all members will be entered into a drawing for three prizes: \$1,500 for first place, and \$1,000 each for second and third place.

Thank you for understanding the need to change our plans. We wish it wasn't necessary. We look forward to seeing you at our 2021 Annual Meeting of the Members on Monday, July 12, 2021. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Heinen, General Manager

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee appointed by the Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative Inc. Board of Directors met in accordance with the bylaws and nominated:

- District 2**—Kirk Weldon, 21055 Highway 26, Jennings, LA 70546
- District 5**—Open seat
- District 8**—Reggie Murphy, 107 Maple St., Cameron, LA 70631

We appreciate the privilege of serving in this capacity and hope the membership will consider these nominations favorably.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Prejean, District 2, 18057 DA LeDoux Road, Jennings, LA 70546
Alvinette Teal, District 5, 6414 Price Road, Gueydan, LA 70542
Davy Doxey, District 8, 135 Bonsall St., Cameron, LA 70631

Posted in Jennings office and Charles S. Hackett branch office on June 11, 2020



**PANOLA-HARRISON
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

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Marshall, TX 75671
903-935-7936 local • 800-972-1093 toll-free
Website: phec.us

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Kathy Wood

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1: Paul Fortune

District 2: Albert Tiller | President

District 3: Jay Goswick | Treasurer

District 5: Debbie Burch

District 6: Jerry L. Holmes | Vice President

District 7: Gene Stough

Year organized: 1937

Counties and parishes served:

Harrison, Panola, Caddo and Desoto

Connected meters: 19,854

Members: 13,684

Energized line: 2,465 miles distribution;

72 miles transmission

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

Volume 37, Issue 4

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Stay in the Know

At Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative, we strive to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our consumer-members. That's you!

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

Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about important programs, events and activities.

Up-to-date contact information can speed up the power restoration process during an outage. The phone number you provide is linked to your service address in our outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location.

Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

Keeping the co-op updated with your



Kathy Wood

information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing.

Contact information can be used in ways that help us help you in a timely fashion. In addition, discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative has accurate account information.

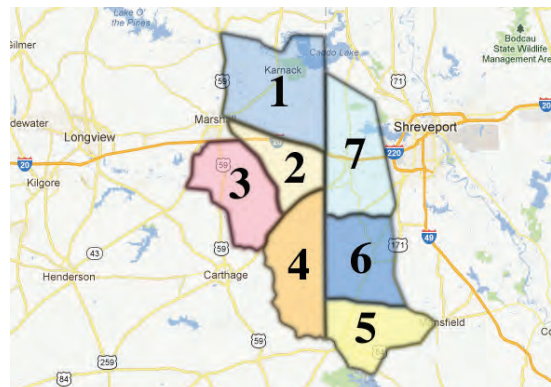
Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize many members now use a cellphone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

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

Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by contacting Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative at 903-935-7936 or 800-972-1093.

By doing so, you will help us improve efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op.

Kathy Wood, General Manager



BILL PAYMENT INFORMATION

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



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Prepare, Prepare, Prepare for 2020 Hurricane Season



Joseph A. Ticheli

Living along the Gulf Coast in South Louisiana, we have four seasons during the year like everyone else. We have summer, of course, that can stretch all year long. Then we have hunting season, football season and, finally, the dreaded but unavoidable hurricane season.

Having lived in Louisiana all my life and having gone through enough hurricanes to last several lifetimes, I can honestly say I never get use to them. At this time of year, I always get a little jittery and slightly uneasy in anticipation of what might come our way. That's a good thing, because we should never take hurricane season for granted, and we should always be alert and on our guard. Like the saying goes, "Prepare for the worst but hope for the best"

As far as the 2020 hurricane season goes, this is what we know. Forecasters are predicting an above-average season, with 19 named storms. Of these, 10 are forecast to become hurricanes and four are predicted to become major storms. There is a 95% chance that at least one hurricane will make landfall in the U.S. The above-normal hurricane season is because water temperatures in the Atlantic are warmer than normal and there is no El Nino weather pattern in the Pacific this year to help suppress hurricanes in the Atlantic.

Remember, these are early predictions. They can and will change as the season progresses.

What can you do? You can prepare, prepare and prepare even more. Have a plan in place for your family. Safeguard important documents such as insurance policies and personal papers. Have enough water on hand to last several days. Stock an emergency kit with medical supplies, batteries, nonperishable foods and prescription refills, and make plans in case a mandatory evacuation is issued. Hopefully none of this will be necessary, but as another old saying goes, "It's better to be safe than sorry"

I want you to know SLECA is well prepared for the 2020 hurricane season. We, too, have an emergency plan in place that lists in detail what needs to be done before, during and after a hurricane. This work plan was reviewed recently by staff, and we performed a tabletop hurricane drill. In the event we need outside assistance to restore power, mutual aid agreements are in place and contacts have been made to secure and house line crews that come to our aid. [208432001](tel:208432001)

Just as for Betsy, Camille, Andrew, Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike, Isaac, last year's Barry and all the others, you can count on SLECA to be ready no matter what comes our way.

Joseph A. Ticheli
General Manager

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SLECA Sweepstakes

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





WST Electric

WASHINGTON-ST TAMMANY ELECTRIC OFFICES

Main office

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

Additional offices

21504 Mire Drive
Abita Springs, LA 70420

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WSTE Board President's Address

Good morning! Welcome to life during and after COVID-19. I have the privilege and honor to represent you as president of the Washington St.-Tammany Electric Cooperative Board. On behalf of your nine-member board, I would like to express appreciation for your continued interest in your local rural electric cooperative.

Today, history is being made. You are a part of a cooperative that is a shining example of determination, ingenuity, unity and strength. Together, we have survived a hostile takeover attempt from an investor-owned electric utility, numerous hurricanes including Katrina, severe weather events and ice storms even in the South. Also, we have been faced with territorial challenges due to the 300-foot rule, extreme political regulations placed on the cooperative and our power provider, and now the COVID-19 pandemic.

Enduring these incidents has reminded us of all the benefits we have because we are a member-owned cooperative. Together we are strong. Together we can overcome anything. This pandemic, just as all of the other historical events, has taught us to adapt and rise above the challenges. (Account No. 390990501)

To protect you and our employees during this virus outbreak, the difficult decision was made to close all of our office lobbies, but we also needed to provide the necessary services. Without complaint, you understood the efforts of the cooperative to protect everyone and to continue providing services. A challenge we worked through together. You turned to our online services, drop boxes and drive-thru windows for payments and new applications. Your patience and kindness demonstrated the confidence and trust you have in the care of your cooperative. Thank you for your understanding.

Other business still went on within the cooperative. For the first time, the Committee of Nominations used the conference-call technology to qualify candidates on the ballot, while maintaining social distancing. The linemen staggered their time at the warehouse when getting materials needed for the day. Everyday business continued.

Now, this day, this time, this moment, a portion of Lee Street has been closed for your annual meeting. Ironically, the coronavirus pandemic that requires us to be apart has actually brought us together as a stronger cooperative.

I would like to personally thank management, the employees, the board and, most importantly, you—the member—for working so hard to conquer this invisible virus that came knocking at our door. WSTE is blessed to have dedicated and committed employees who work diligently at keeping your lights on. It's not just a job, it's family.

In closing, as a board, every decision in the boardroom is based on you, the member. We represent all of you, as a united voice, with the mission of providing safe reliable electricity while continuing to enjoy the many years of affordable electric rates. You can remain confident in the efforts of your board. You are the members and owners of this organization, and on behalf of the board and staff, it is a great privilege to serve you.



Dr. Francis Cefalu

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The Lucky Account No. Contest continues this month with two winners included in this edition of Louisiana Country. Before you continue looking through this edition for your winning number, look for your account number printed above your mailing address. Locate this number anywhere in this issue and win a \$50 prize. To claim your prize, call 985-839-3562.



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Mission

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

Volume 35, Issue 4

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

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Manager's Report

Randy Pierce
CEO & General Manager



“Louisiana Strong.” We hear it time and time again. Whether we’re recovering from the impact of a tropical storm or hurricane, the Great Flood of 2016, or in this case, the COVID-19 international health pandemic, we always power through.

With each set of circumstances, heroes step up and serve so others can thrive. In the case of COVID-19, we all readily acknowledge the tremendous heroism of health care workers. They truly are on the front line of this crisis.

Not always obvious, but certainly noticed, are the hundreds of people who have shown up to work to help keep our homes, families, and lives in working order. We thank you for keeping our communities thriving during the stay-at-home order. *Story on page 5.*

Another example of our strength as a state and community was seen in the various efforts that recognized and honored the Class of 2020. Schools, parents and communities stepped up and innovated new ways to celebrate—with neighborhood car processions, photo yard signs, banners, and large schoolyard signs and displays all over town. I hope you saw the DEMCO “Congrats Class of 2020” billboards and yard sign displays—small gestures of fanfare and recognition—but we also wanted to do something for these well-deserved graduates. *Story on page 8.*

Education is a principle that we focus on at DEMCO. We visit school students throughout the years, and by the time they reach high school, we offer two exceptional opportunities. High school juniors may enter the DEMCO Youth Tour Essay Contest to win a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. Featured on the cover are the 12 finalists for the 2020 contest. Along with their teachers, parents and principals, these students gathered at White Oak Plantation for a banquet with DEMCO board members, leadership and judges. Each student gave an oral reading of their essay, and four winners were selected. *Story on pages 20-21.*

For high school seniors, DEMCO invites applications for our annual scholarship program. This marks the 27th year of awards and the first in DEMCO history to grant \$125,000 in a single academic year. The DEMCO board of directors unanimously voted to award scholarships to 50 member-students this year, each eligible for \$2,500 for the 2020/2021 school year. *Story on page 17.*

These are a few ways that we are fulfilling one of our core principles that guides us each day. The Seventh Cooperative Principle is “Concern for Community,” and these examples are some that we are certainly proud of in this season where many communities can benefit from the resources of their cooperative.

DEMCO is more than poles and wires and kilowatt hours. We are a part of the communities we power, and we will always find a way to show our heart through our support. We love what we do, and we love doing it for you—our members.

Lucky Account Number Contest

Four lucky co-op members will win \$25! Your account number is listed on your mailing label, but to win you must also find it in the pages of the magazine. If you find it, call 225-262-2160 to claim your prize.





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OR-400

Case in Point

I took a call from National Public Radio the other day, which I concede is not a regular occurrence.

The reporter, who was familiar with electric co-ops, was interested in what Congress and the president could do to meet the moment on energy issues, much as they had done in 1936 when Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Congress worked together to pass the Rural Electrification Administration.

Because my book “Power Plays” covers the story of the genesis of REA, the reporter asked if our political leaders could come together during the middle of a global pandemic and economic catastrophe and do something as similarly ambitious as electrifying the nation—such as tackling climate change.

It is an interesting parallel, but I told him Congress may be reluctant to take on climate change in the middle of a recession. Instead, I suggested broadband as a golden opportunity for our nation’s leaders to demonstrate they could still do big, bold things.

If the global pandemic has shown us anything, it is being connected no matter where you are is the key to progress. Just ask any 11- or 15-year old. Not coincidentally, those are the ages of my kids. They have spent the past three months on Zoom and other technologies I had never heard of before the advent of COVID-19.

The Case family is lucky. We have access to broadband. But according to federal data, about 14% of households with school-age children do not have internet access. Most of those are in households that make less than \$50,000 a year and live in rural areas. That is why many Oregon electric cooperatives have invested in broadband or are seriously considering getting involved in the business—if it makes sense.

Recently, my smartphone-obsessed daughter was in my office looking at a map on the wall of America’s electric cooperatives.

“You have so much of the land,” she said.

I told her our history. No one wanted to provide electricity to all that land, and that is why electric cooperatives exist. We are here to fill a need no one else wants to fill.

As I told the NPR reporter, that moment has come again—and it is not just Washington, D.C.’s job to make it happen. In the 1930s, REA may have been the catalyst, but it was the sweat of rural leaders that brought the countryside out of darkness. Deploying broadband to the last mile will take that same of relentless commitment. All things considered, it will help us make history again.



Ted Case

Executive Director