



"We Care"

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

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- Kenneth Weiss, Washington
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- Robert Callison, Kendrick, Idaho
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- Lorrie McCabe
Chief Financial Officer
- Reed Allen
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- Edwin Ausman
Director of Purchasing and Warehousing
- Michelle Borders
Director of Member Services
- Douglas Pfaff
Director of Engineering
- Joe Stockard
Director of Operations
- Cynthia Tarola
Director of Accounting

Business Hours

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

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ID-1

THREE WAYS To Report A Power Outage

A big part of our work is *preventing* outages through vegetation management, pole testing and new infrastructure. When the unexpected happens, we have lots of ways to quickly and easily report your outage so we can get it repaired quickly and safely.



Text:
OUT to 768482
Phone number must be on file



Call:
1-888-743-1501
Available 24/7



Click:
Report Outage
In the SmartHub App



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

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

.....

Board of Directors

President

Gerry Arnson, Heppner

Vice President

John Qualls, Heppner

Secretary

Roy Carlson, Fossil

Treasurer

Deacon Heideman, Fairview

Lori Anderson, Condon

Todd Lindsay, Sand Hollow

Stacie Ekstrom, Lone

CEO/General 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

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

Summer is now upon us. While we have been fortunate to not have scorching heat, the wind has not stopped blowing. Please remember the following lifesaving tips:

- Be aware of overhead power lines, especially with irrigation pipe and ladders.
- Call before you dig. Dial 811 for underground utility locates.
- Don't burn debris or use burn barrels. Be aware of other ignition sources such as mowing in rocky terrain.
- Keep electrical equipment and cords away from pools and other wet areas.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Seek cover during electrical storms.

We here at Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative hope you and your family have a wonderful summer and get to enjoy many hours of summer activities.

Cooperative Updates

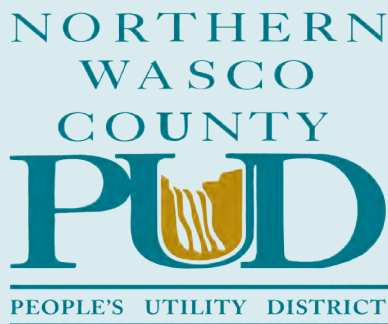
One of CBEC's priorities is to ensure your power is reliable. Our greatest objective is to keep our staff and linemen healthy. We continue to keep our front doors closed. I hope you understand this is our attempt to keep our staff, as well as our community, safe.

We are looking at options for the cooperative's annual meeting in November. Again, for the safety of our members, staff and guests, we are exploring a different presentation format or virtual options to allow members to participate.

Stay healthy,

Andy Fletcher

CEO/General Manager



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

Board of Directors

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

Manager

Roger Kline

Board Meetings

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

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values and Beliefs

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

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

We believe in:

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

OR-3

Neighbors Helping Neighbors—Especially Now

As our community continues to live through the various hardships associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, I want to reassure our customer-owners that Northern Wasco County PUD is here to help where we can, when we can, and for as long as we are able.

We suspended disconnects for non-payment in March, deferred late-fee assessments, credited deposits to accounts when possible and set aside financial resources for small business assistance to eligible organizations.

Those efforts—coupled with postponement of a 3.8% rate increase—have kept more than \$700,000 in your collective bank accounts, available for your other uses.

We know there are many who still need support. We will continue to work with customers facing financial struggles with the understanding that they work with us and communicate. We will reach out soon to set up payment arrangements with customers in arrears. It is imperative accounts become current before cold weather use increases and bills become insurmountable.

Federal and state dollars are available for utility assistance through the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council's Community Action Partnership. Customers must reach out to them for assistance. Programs have been modified to help more people qualify.

Even though our rates are the lowest in the region—and some of the lowest in the state and nation—that doesn't mean people still don't occasionally need help with their energy bills. We understand fully that the cost per unit of measurement (kilowatt-hours) is only one aspect. The amount of energy use via energy consumption is what can make an energy bill larger from one season to the next. That is why we work hard to provide opportunities for energy conservation. Soon, we will offer options such as prepay to help our customer-owners in need.

Another way we offer help is through our Neighbor to Neighbor program, which gives a helping hand to customers struggling to pay their electric bills. You can sign up to have a small monthly contribution of \$1, \$2 or \$5 automatically added to your bill each month, or you can make your contribution on a separate check made payable to "Neighbor to Neighbor."

Reaching your PUD has been challenging for some of you, as crews and staff stay safe and distanced while working remotely. We have added some technological solutions to make this easier going forward. Safety, integrity, customer service, respect, operational excellence and sustainability are still our core values. Even from 6 feet away.

Thank you,
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

Ralph Rise, President
District 2, Elmer City

Chuck Goldmark, Vice President
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District 5, Nespelem

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District 3, Belvedere

Pete Palmer
District 4, Nespelem

Patrick Morin Jr.
District 6, Nespelem

Ron Heath
District 7, Disautel

Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

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,” Clendenin says.



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

BOARD OFFICERS

Russ Sapp | CHAIRMAN
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

Annual Meeting Time!

2020 has certainly been a challenging year for many Americans. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we go about our daily lives. This is also true with regard to the way CPI and other companies are conducting business.

In March, CPI closed our offices in Philomath and Lebanon to walk-in traffic to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among our employees and our communities. Most employees began working remotely.

While some tasks may take a little longer, we continue to do everything we can to make the current situation as seamless as possible for our members.

Even this year's annual meeting won't escape the challenges of COVID-19. The meeting will certainly have a different feel due to the pandemic and restrictions on large gatherings.

This year marks 81 years of providing members with safe, reliable and affordable power—something we are extremely proud of. The annual meeting is Saturday, September 12. We hope some of you will be able to join us. Please see page 8 for more details about the meeting, some of the limitations and the registration process.

Senate District 5

Last month, CPI and other Oregon cooperatives had the opportunity to interview candidates for Oregon's District 5 Senate seat left open by Sen. Arnie Roblan, who is not running for reelection. District 5 includes much of the Oregon Coast from Coos Bay to Tillamook, and dozens of

coastal communities such as North Bend, Reedsport, Florence, Newport and Lincoln City.

The Democratic candidate is Coos County Commissioner Mellissa Cribbins. The Republican candidate is Lincoln City Mayor Dick Anderson. Both are strong candidates. We wish them well with their campaigns. We would also like to thank Sen. Roblan for his leadership and many years of public service.

Enjoy the Outdoors

With restrictions put on all of us to prevent the spread of COVID-19, one thing we can all agree on is it's nice to get out of the house once in a while. Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy the great Oregon outdoors while the weather is still nice.

We live in one of the most beautiful places in the country. From the coast to the Willamette Valley, the Cascade Mountains to the high deserts of Central and Eastern Oregon, nature's bounty surrounds us. As Oregonians, we sometimes take all of this for granted.

This year, be sure to take time to enjoy your surroundings. There are many wonderful places to visit in our rural local communities, including mountains, rivers, wineries, covered bridges, farms and ranches.

Social distancing is easier outside, so take the opportunity to get out there and enjoy it while staying safe and healthy.

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 800-872-9036 or visit us 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 August 26 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 Ekrot, 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

Worth the Cost

Dear Members,

This year has been mentally, emotionally and, for some, financially draining. In these uncertain times, Benton REA is still here for you, providing necessary electricity and internet service.

In a cooperative, your financial investment in Benton REA not only pays for the electricity you use, but helps keep costs down for all of the cooperative members.

Economic participation is one of our co-op principles. Although utilities are an expense we wish we didn't have to pay, I believe electricity and internet provide a lot of value for the cost. Life without them would certainly be much harder during a pandemic.

Our offices are still closed for the safety of you and our employees. We're not accepting cash payments right now, but have six other ways you can pay your Benton REA electric or internet bill.

- ▶ **Online**—Visit www.BentonREA.org and click "Pay My Bill". There you can log into your SmartHub account or create one to pay your bill online.
- ▶ **The SmartHub App**—Once you have a SmartHub account, you can pay on the app. Simply download it from your mobile device's app store.
- ▶ **Pay by Mail**—This tried-and-true method is what many of our members rely on to keep their accounts current. Please send us your bill stub and check. No cash, please.
- ▶ **Pay by Phone**—Use our secure, automated phone number to pay by phone. Just call 855-255-3685 to pay all or a portion of your bill any day of the month.
- ▶ **Automatic Deduction**—This is the easiest payment option because once you set it up, you won't have to worry about submitting your payment on time each month. Contact our office to sign up for auto payments from your bank account or credit card. This is the method that I use to pay my Benton REA electric and internet bills.
- ▶ **Drop Box**—Save a stamp and put your check and bill stub in the drop box at our Prosser or West Richland office. Payments are posted the next business day.



Whichever way you choose to pay, your prompt payments are greatly appreciated. Each dollar keeps the Benton REA electric system running safely and efficiently.

We thank you for your support of your locally owned and democratically controlled electric cooperative utility which, in turn, supports local businesses.

We are proud to keep the electricity and internet flowing to you and your family when you need it most. We're here for you.

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

General Manager

Robert Echenrode

www.umatillaelectric.com

OR-8

A Collaborative Effort to Invest in Our Communities

June 22 was a great day for UEC and our communities as Amazon Web Services announced a collaborative effort to donate to a dozen local agencies in a time of need.

In investing their UEC Capital Credits refund within the community, the AWS donations will positively impact many lives. (Please see details on pages 4-5.)

Among the recipients, the Stanfield Food Pantry plans to purchase food and replace its broken HVAC system. The Irrigon Boardman Emergency Assistance Center will expand its ability to provide food and help individuals pay rent and utility bills. The Agape House at Hermiston is considering upgrading its fleet to gather, deliver and store donations. Morrow County schools will use the donation for student connectivity and virtual learning.



The AWS donation also will supplement energy assistance funds of UEC and our neighboring consumer-owned utility, Hermiston Energy Services. In normal times, our energy assistance program, UCARE, is intended to help low-income residents manage heating and cooling costs.

However, in times of community crisis, UCARE funds are further opened to any residential customer in need of assistance to pay electric bills due to a personal, family, medical or employment crisis or emergency.

Simply put, if a credit on your energy bill will help relieve some stress in your life due to Covid-19, we want to hear from you. Please call or visit us for information, or fill out our online application at

umatillaelectric.com.

We are heartened at the positive community response to the UEC Business Resource Center, opened in April at Highway 395 and Harper Road.

Our new Center offers free and confidential business counseling on starting, expanding or marketing a business, and information about UEC's Revolving Loan Fund. Webinars are posted each Tuesday on the Center's Facebook page, as information regarding Covid-19 federal and state assistance programs is ever changing.

"We want to make sure every local business doesn't miss this resource," said Greg Smith, the Center's executive advisor. "It's a great opportunity to shore up your business or expand your business."

In acknowledging the work of counselors Emily Cecil and Ashley Garcia, Smith said, "In just a few weeks, they have assisted over 400 UEC members. Emily and Ashley have also developed strong relationships with every Chamber of Commerce in the UEC service area and continue to build connections with their members through daily community outreach."

For assistance, call the Center at 541-289-3000 or email uecbrc@gmail.com.

As you and your family manage the impacts of this pandemic, we want you to know we are ready to help. We are grateful to assist in any way to ease the personal and economic suffering in our communities.

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

Robert “Bo” Gridley Retires

Wasco Electric Cooperative employee Robert “Bo” Gridley retires this month after 23 years of service.

Bo began his career with Wasco Electric in 1997 as a journeyman lineman in The Dalles and advanced to the position of crew foreman in 2018. During his years of work, Bo made many friendships both in the cooperative as well as within the community of The Dalles.

Bo and his wife, Jan, will relocate to their new home in Idaho to be closer to family. I am sure Bo will find some great new fishing and hunting spots as they settle in the community. We all wish Bo and Jan the best in their retirement years.



Nominees for WEC Board

The Wasco Electric Cooperative bylaws provide the method for nominating candidates to the board of directors.

Directors appoint a committee of at least five members, but not more than 11, not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days before the date of the annual meeting. Those members select nominees for election to the board. The list of candidates must be posted in the WEC office at least 20 days before the election.

Other nominations may be made by providing a petition signed by at least 15 members, not less than 15 days before the election.

Candidates will be selected from three districts, with one director elected from each district each year.

- District 1 serves The Dalles, Mosier and Dufur.
- District 2 encompasses Sherman County and southeast Wasco County, including Shaniko, Antelope and Ashwood.
- District 3 includes Tygh Valley, Maupin and the Warm Springs Reservation.

If you are a member interested in becoming a candidate for the board of directors, contact the Wasco Electric office so your name may be submitted to the nominating committee for consideration at its September meeting.

If you want to beome a nominee by petition, please submit your petition containing 15 member signatures to the WEC office by Friday, September 11, so your picture and resume will be received in time for publication in the annual meeting booklet and Ruralite.

Members of the nominating committee look forward to hearing from members who are willing and able to serve.

If you are asked to serve on the nominating committee, we ask that you try to attend the meeting and offer your input for the good of your cooperative.

**Jeff Davis
General Manager**

Owned By Those We Serve

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

Officers

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

General Manager
Keith Brooks

Assistant General Manager
Phil Bigler

Office Manager/CFO
David Western

Superintendent
Todd Sherwood

Member Services
Todd C. Munsey

System Engineer
Jess Dory, PE

Mission Statement

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



OR-10

Fire Season Is Upon Us

Dear Member,

As we approach the month of August, I suspect that we are sitting at a “High”, if not “Extreme” wildfire danger. This would restrict or prohibit most outdoor activities having potential to start a fire. Powersaws, metal work, mowing of dry grass, and of course any open fires make up a small part of the list. A quick look at the Douglas Forest Protective Association’s website will tell you everything you need to know. <https://www.dfpa.net/>



Established in 1912, DFPA employs roughly 125 seasonal employees during the course of fire season. Jobs range from Wildland Fire Suppression Specialist, to dispatcher and fire detection camera operators. At this writing, they have already been training for weeks to prepare for whatever the fire season may have in store.

As we cover much of the same territory in rural Douglas County, DFPA and DEC have some common goals. Preventing wildfire is certainly first and foremost. As I shared before, we have ramped up our crews to address trouble trees and brush in and outside of our right-of-ways. Having water wagons on our work sites and providing fire training for our crews are all measures we have taken to hopefully prevent a serious fire. You, the member, also have a responsibility to keep your private property clean of any potential hazards. Negligence or violation of the posted restrictions is asking for trouble. Knowing that you could be responsible for any fire suppression costs should be enough incentive.

If you see any trees or branches in the power lines or any vegetation you think has potential to make contact and start a fire, please give us a call so we can address it. With a lot of effort and a little luck, maybe we will be able to sneak through this season without a major wildfire.

Thank you in advance, and as always, please feel free call me if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James K. Brooks".
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 620-8261
Gary Warner 934-2961
Brian Woodell 934-2260

OR-11

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.

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interrupters.

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“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,” Clendenin says.

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

DIRECTORS

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

Attorney, Thomas M. Grim
Cable Huston LLP, Portland

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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

Energy Efficiency: Extending Today's Energy Supply

According to the mantra, energy efficiency is the low-hanging fruit—and history confirms it. Since the 1970s energy crisis, the deployment of federal, state and local energy-efficiency programs have resulted in tremendous energy and cost savings.

The state of Oregon's 2018 biennial energy report concluded the combined efforts of all efficiency activities throughout the Northwest saved more than 6,600 average megawatts from 1980 to 2017. Oregon collectively offset approximately 1,900 aMW—enough to power more than a million Oregon homes annually.

Central Electric Cooperative has done its part, too. Working with the federal Bonneville Power Administration, CEC has developed a wide range of energy-efficiency programs from which members may choose. In the 1970s, CEC initially offered a weatherization program to help qualified homeowners better insulate their houses. The slate of program offerings has expanded, giving members many ways to save money and energy through home improvements, smart appliance choices and adoption of other technologies.

Today, CEC offers 14 energy-efficiency programs targeting residential, commercial, irrigation and industrial members. Programs range from enhanced new construction standards to high-efficiency heat pumps and water heaters, to irrigation equipment and pump testing to commercial and industrial lighting projects.

CEC members have consistently shown their commitment to saving money and energy by participating in our energy-efficiency programs. In 2019, 589 members implemented energy-efficiency measures that will save 4,389,480 kilowatt-hours annually—equivalent to offsetting the average annual energy use of 260 homes.

This year, we have showcased member involvement in our energy-efficiency programs across residential, commercial, irrigation and industrial classes.

In March, we highlighted how homeowner Randy Schuyler took advantage of CEC's incentives and exchanged her nearly 30-year-old conventional electric water heater with a heat pump water heater to save both energy and money.

In June, we shared the story of the non-profit Sisters Habitat for Humanity Thrift Store, which swapped out more than 500 old lights for all LED lighting before moving into its new facility. Savings will go toward helping the community.

Bierly Acres, an irrigation water cooperative north of Madras, installed a variable frequency drive on its pump serving 49 members. Previously, it ran full time at maximum output. Now, technology calibrates the pump to run based on real-time demand. The financial savings will go toward updating the district's system. For more on this story, please see pages 4-5.

Last year, the city of Bend installed high-speed turbo blowers with an integral variable frequency drive at its water reclamation facility plant, which translates into energy savings of about 1 million kWh a year.

It pleases me to see so many members working with us to implement energy-efficiency savings. I encourage you to visit www.cec.coop and check out our offerings. Our energy specialists can also help you select the right program for your needs.



Dave Markham
President and CEO



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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

Clean = Renewable. True or False?

Last month, I wrote about Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative's fuel mix and used the terms "clean" and "renewable." These words come up often when we talk about our energy production as it relates to the environment. Since energy and the environment are critical in our modern lifestyle, we ought to have a common understanding of their meanings in this context. Sometimes the definitions get complicated, like when legislation is involved. For now, I'll stick to the basics.



As it relates to an energy source, clean typically refers to the production of greenhouse gas. In most cases, carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the greenhouse gas of concern. When common fuels—such as gasoline, coal or wood—are burned, they combine the fuel with oxygen from the air to produce energy in the form of heat, and they exhaust CO₂ and water vapor. Energy production where no fuel is burned is typically a clean energy source. Examples are wind, solar, hydroelectric and geothermal. In this definition, nuclear power is clean, too, because its heat comes from nuclear fission, which does not produce greenhouse gas.

What about electricity from a biomass or a landfill gas plant? These two examples burn fuel and produce CO₂. That means they are not clean in the strict definition. This brings up another related term, carbon-neutral, which refers to where carbon-based fuel originates. Natural gas, coal and gasoline come from within the earth. When they are burned, they introduce new CO₂ into the air. Biomass (wood or cow manure) and landfill gas fuels are from sources above ground that are generally considered to be an existing part of the earth's natural carbon cycle. Therefore, biomass and landfill gas fuels are considered carbon-neutral.

Renewable energy sources take advantage of the earth's natural processes by gleaning energy from them. Common renewable energy comes from hydroelectric, wind, solar and geothermal sources. Usually, there is no burning of fuel, but that is not always the case. Two examples of renewable fuel are renewable natural gas from a landfill or methane digester, and biomass fuel such as wood.

I've spoken only of the clean and renewable aspects of an energy source as it is producing energy. Energy-producing technologies also influence our environment since they are manufactured and must be disposed of when they reach the end of their useful life. For example, a tremendous amount of electricity is required to manufacture photovoltaic panels. If that electricity is not from a clean source, those solar panels have a carbon footprint when they are manufactured. It's getting complicated, so I'll stop there.

Are clean and renewable equal? Clearly, the answer is no. But both are important as we think about where our energy comes from.

Brent Bischoff
General Manager and CEO



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

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

.....

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Bob Perry

Contact the board:
 directors@westoregon.org

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

OR-14

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

As we continue to navigate through this challenging time, we have decided to hold the West Oregon Electric Cooperative 2020 Annual Meeting of the Members remotely.

The meeting is Saturday, August 22, at 11 a.m. A live stream will be available for members to view on our website using a computer or mobile device. The live stream is for members only, so you will need to save the instructions and login information included in the ballot we mailed to you. A toll-free phone number and access code are included in the ballot for those who do not have computer or internet access.

Ballots were mailed to each member July 31. The ballot also contains candidate profiles, electronic voting instructions and voting deadlines. Please read these documents carefully.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to:

- Elect directors to serve three-year terms for Districts 3 and 7.
- Hear and consider the reports of officers and directors.
- Transact other business that properly comes before the membership.

Members now have multiple voting options:

- **Electronic.** A link will be available on the home page of our website, www.westoregon.org.
- **Mail-in.** A postage-paid return envelope is provided with each mailed ballot.
- **Drop box.** Our lobby remains closed due to COVID-19. If you wish to drop off your ballot at the WOEC office, please use our drop box on the outside of the building.

If you have any questions or concerns related to the annual meeting, how to vote or how to attend, contact Billi Kohler at 503-429-3021.

Best regards,

Bob Perry
 General Manager





Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

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

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

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

www.surprisevalleyelectric.org

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

After hours and outages:
Call office numbers above.

STAFF

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Valley Falls
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Raymond Cloud, Secretary/Treasurer
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Craig Joiner
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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

MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SURPRISE VALLEY ELECTRIFICATION CORP. JUNE 25, 2020

The special meeting of the Board of Directors Nominations Committee of the Surprise Valley Electrification Corp. was held on the 25th day of June 2020 at the Brass Rail Restaurant in Alturas, CA at 1:20 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Member Service Manager DJ Northrup. Those present at the meeting were Dan Bouse, Dennis Tate, Will Stevenson, Dannette DePaul, William Laudenslayer, Herb Jasper, Con Fitzgerald, and Don Robinson.

Dannette DePaul volunteered to serve as the Committee Chairperson and Dennis Tate____ volunteered to be secondary Committee Chairperson.

A motion was made by Dannette DePaul to nominate John Erquiaga for District 4, seconded by Dennis Tate. A request for additional nominations was made. None received. Asked for approval of John Erquiaga as the nominee for District 4. A motion was made by Don Robinson and seconded by Will Stevenson. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Don Robinson to nominate Dennis Flynn for District 7, seconded by Con Fitzgerald. A request for additional nominations was made. None received. Asked for approval of Dennis Flynn as nominee for District 7. A motion was made by Dannette DePaul and seconded by Dennis Tate. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Dan Bouse made a motion to close the meeting, Dennis Tate seconded, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairperson Dannette DePaul



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

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Andy Cave | IT Manager

Jonathan Farmer | Member & Public Affairs Manager

BOARD MEETINGS

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

OR-16

Virtual Annual Meeting Follow-Up

Included in this edition of Ruralite are follow-up reports that were promised during our first-ever virtual annual meeting. I hope you take some time to look them over. They are helpful in understanding some of the behind-the-scenes efforts we undertake at the cooperative.

As indicated in those reports, safety and financial stability are important to all of us here at Lane Electric. We also value your ability to work and thrive in the communities we serve. That is why we usually hold district meetings each year throughout our service territory—a practice that is not typical for most other co-ops.

We heard from many of you that providing broadband internet was something you would like us to explore.

Last year, I told you Lane Electric was working with the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative to conduct a broadband feasibility study. After an extensive study and assessing multiple paths to feasibility, the results of the study are now here. Unfortunately, the results were inconclusive, meaning it would only be feasible under what I would consider to be overly ambitious conditions.

The biggest factor identified in the feasibility study is the lack of poles on which to attach the fiber.

Lane Electric strives to improve the quality of rural life for our members. The resiliency improvements we have made

converting our overhead power lines to underground means there are not enough poles on which to attach the fiber. About 53% of our power lines are underground and safe from severe weather.



I am proud of the progress we have made to protect our electric system. At the same time, I am disappointed at the outcome of the feasibility study.

Feasibility is essential to developing a financially sound business plan. This is what you have come to expect of Lane Electric, as do our lenders.

While there currently is no sustainable path forward, we will continue to explore opportunities to support expansion of broadband services in Lane County.

A bright spot is that this news comes as Lane Electric is developing a strategic plan that will guide our actions the next few years. This insightful experience helps us confidently navigate how best to serve and support our rural communities.

I look forward to sharing more on our strategic plans as things take shape, and am excited by the discussions we are having about the future of Lane Electric.

Debi Wilson



**Blachly-Lane
Electric Cooperative**

90680 Highway 99 N,
Eugene, OR 97402
541-688-8711
800-446-8418
blec@blec.coop
www.blachlylane.coop

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

Board of Directors

District 1
Ernie Jacksch, 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

Manager's Report

Dear Members,

“Out of an abundance of caution” is how we are addressing our service to our members these days. Safety has always been at the top of our priorities, and for those of us in the electric utility business, that has meant avoiding exposure or contact to energized lines and equipment by our members and our employees.



Now we find ourselves finding ways to keep our members and employees from being exposed to COVID-19. That abundance of caution has led us to find new and creative ways to serve our members and continue to deliver safe and reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost.

Organizationally, and industrywide, we now hold regular meetings and training sessions virtually on the internet or on phone conference calls. That includes board meetings, safety meetings, Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative meetings, and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association meetings and training. These types of meetings and trainings have their limits and can feel cumbersome at times. Many of us long to get back together again to meet in person. For a small cooperative such as Blachly-Lane, a single exposure or, even worse, a single confirmed case and the subsequent quarantine or sickness involving one of our employees would cripple our ability to serve our members.

Earlier this year, I planned to meet with community members and consumers for coffee and conversation. I was looking forward to the opportunity to sit down and talk with folks about the value of your electric cooperative. As with so many other aspects of our business, we have adapted to the circumstances and will be having that talk virtually Saturday, August 22, at 9:30 a.m. Please see page 8 for information about how to connect to our first virtual Coffee Talk. While we will not be able to offer you a cup of coffee or tea and a pastry, we will be able to hear directly from you, our members.

We have had to adapt to the circumstances of these times, modifying work practices, closing our office, meeting with members by appointment and holding virtual board meetings. We do this all while working to serve our members safely and reliably with an abundance of caution.

**Greg Gardner
General Manager**



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.....
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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 Evaluates Advanced Metering



Klickitat PUD continues to look for ways to invest and leverage assets for the benefit of consumers. As technology advances, solutions become more affordable, allowing us to decrease costs and improve reliability.

Over the years, KPUD has invested in large-scale projects that have provided stable revenues benefiting rates. A smaller-scale project is being evaluated that could provide a similar return on investment directly to customers and offer new services.

Advanced metering technologies help identify power quality issues and outage locations. It also improves outage response times and the ability to more effectively manage the electric distribution system. Advanced meters offer customers the option for increased flexibility in making payments, accessing daily energy use and budgeting more effectively through KPUD's SmartHub portal.

Klickitat PUD is determining what advanced metering technology will be the most effective in our challenging terrain using a strategic deployment. This will provide an opportunity for customers and the utility to maximize the benefits of new technology and realize a significant return on the investment.

Multiple types of advanced metering are on the market. We already have evaluated many of them. We are in a trial phase of a cellular-based alternative. During the trial phase, we will move several meters throughout the district to determine cellular coverage.

The low upfront cost of a cellular-based option allows us to deploy meters strategically. This means advanced meters can be placed in customer-requested locations or where they will provide the most benefit to the utility. At this point, an incremental approach to advanced meter placement, rather than a systemwide implementation, will maximize the benefit.

Klickitat PUD is hopeful this technology will provide new resources for KPUD operations and customers. The trial period is expected to last three months. A decision regarding the viability of the technology will be made after the trial period. As we continue down the path of advanced metering technology, Klickitat PUD will communicate additional services and benefits as they become available.

Jim Smith
General Manager



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

For outages:
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208-263-5141

Outside Sandpoint:
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Board Vice President
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Board Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Dolan

General Manager
Annie Terracciano

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Vacant

District No. 3
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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

Tree Trimming Reduces Fire Danger

To keep a safe, reliable and affordable power supply running to your home or business, staff at Northern Lights is always on the lookout for foliage growing under lines, overhanging branches or any trees that may pose a risk to the lines. Tree trimming not only helps keep the lights on, but reduces fire danger.

We continuously check our 2,800 miles of distribution lines for areas that need maintenance. Except in emergency situations, you will be notified prior to any trimming done in the right-of-way along your property.

If you notice any trees or branches that may pose a risk to our power lines, please let us know and we will send a crew out to assess the situation. When planting new trees or foliage, keep in mind how tall and wide they may grow in relation to how close they are to any lines. Never plant anything under the lines. Also, if you need to cut down a tree or are trimming your own trees, please check for nearby power lines.

Although NLI can only trim trees that pose a danger to our lines and poles, trimming your own trees can also help reduce fire danger on your property. Keeping low-hanging branches pruned to 6 to 10 feet off the ground, removing any tall shrubs or grasses from underneath your trees, and keeping your lawn and shrubs well hydrated can go a long way toward protecting your home. Visit firewise.org to learn more.

If fire threatens the power lines and preventive vegetation management measures haven't been successful, NLI is prepared to shut down the lines at the request of firefighters for their own safety while fighting the fire. Power will be restored as soon as possible once the danger has passed.

Enjoy the August weather and be safe. When we work together, we can keep the lights on and reduce our fire danger.



Annie Terracciano
General Manager



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

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Cottonwood

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Frank McIntire
Kamiah

Martin Poxleitner
Grangeville

Greg M. Smith
Syringa

Bruce Nuxoll
Kooskia

Attorney
J.A. Wright

General Manager
Max Beach

c-21

Electricity Brings Everyday Value

Even though I work for a not-for-profit electric cooperative, 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 coffee maker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we don't think much about it or where it comes from.

For a point of reference on where it comes from, as of 2019, about 85% of our power is from clean and renewable hydropower. Since so many have been spending more time at home the past few months, they have likely been using more energy. Yet, we all still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we really care about electricity is when the power goes out, or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lives every day, it's a great value—especially 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. By comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Like many of you, I have a cellphone and internet to stay connected, and I subscribe to Netflix so I can enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these to be necessities for modern-day life. We can see what we get for our money, and we pay the price for those services. But when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all we get for our money.

Considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value. Inflation has averaged more than 2% for the past four years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' consumer price index. The cost of electricity from ICL&P has increased by less than half that amount. With our smallest rate increase ever in 2018 of 2.17% and no increase for 2020, we have worked hard to make sure we are spending your dollars in the best way possible while delivering safe, reliable and affordable power.

The bottom line: Electricity brings everyday value, and we always work to increase our service reliability, reduce brief interruptions and reduce costs. We continually work to improve our operations to ensure a safe and reliable grid.

We are heavily focused on vegetation clearing and will continue to do so because fires present a risk for not only us, but most electric companies around the country. We will need your help for years to come to allow us to clear more of the vegetation around our power lines. We are shooting for a five- to seven-year cycle in most areas, which is industry standard. It is in everyone's best interest to work together on this.

ICL&P provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued members of the co-op. As your trusted energy adviser, we want to help you save energy and money.

We recognize the past few months have been challenging for many of our members. We're here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please call us or visit our website at www.iclp.coop for our latest energy conservation rebates. ICL&P is your electric co-op. Our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That's everyday value.

Thanks for listening,

Max Beach,
General Manager



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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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

Making Connections, Staying Connected



Columbia REA has embraced its role as an “Essential Business” and we understand how important it is right now to keep the power on. With so many people home more than usual, students also at home, and spare bedrooms, dining rooms and other available space being transformed into home offices, safe, dependable electricity is more important than ever.

Another essential service we are providing during these strange times is our high-speed internet service, Columbia iConnect. Formed in 2000, Columbia iConnect (known as Columbia Energy at the time) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Columbia REA. In keeping with the original mission of Columbia REA (to provide electrical service to our rural area when no one else would), Columbia iConnect was created to offer high-speed, high-capacity internet service to customers in our service area and surrounding communities where those services were either unavailable or inadequate.

Bob Greene, Columbia REA Manager of Communications & IT, and his team have definitely been busy during this time.

“For a while, we were doing three or four new installs a day,” notes Bob. “So many people who were getting by with poor internet connections, or none at all, suddenly had a need for quality internet. With schools conducting classes online, and people working from home, and many requiring VPN (virtual private network) connections, more internet speed and broadband capacity became a necessity, and we can provide that for them where many other internet service providers can’t.”

In fact, when the schools in our service area closed down and went to online teaching, Columbia iConnect partnered with School Districts in Dayton, Waitsburg and Prescott to provide internet service to families that did not have internet at home, so those kids could keep up on their schoolwork and participate in school activities.


The formation of Columbia Energy (now Columbia iConnect) also came along at just the right time for a large segment of Columbia REA membership, our farmers.

“So much of farming now depends on computerized irrigation programming, GPS mapping and data collection, that the internet quickly became very important,” adds Bob. “Maybe you didn’t need a great internet connection in these rural areas before...now a strong internet is an integral part of farming.”

While we all continue to move through this strange chapter in our lives, you can be sure that Columbia REA will continue to do our jobs, and now more than ever, part of our job is to help you do yours.

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
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Operations Option 6

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

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Monday through Thursday
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Closed Fridays and holidays

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Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Dick Luebke, Sunriver

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:

The past few months have been unprecedented in the history of Midstate Electric Cooperative and our country.

In response to Gov. Kate Brown's actions to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, MEC closed lobby access to the public beginning March 17. Line crews were separated from other employees and assigned to permanent crews to limit possible spread of the virus. All employees followed social distancing guidelines. To the extent possible, employees were sent home to work.

As COVID-19 began spreading across the country, MEC has worked to support families and businesses throughout the communities we serve. Realizing the potential economic impact on our members, late fees and disconnections for nonpayment were temporarily suspended. This was one of many steps the cooperative took to reduce stress on members and provide some certainty during an uncertain time.

Energy bill amounts owed before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be discounted, excused or in any other way relieved. We urge all members to make every effort to keep their accounts current. If you are having problems paying your electric bill, please call 541-536-2126 option 3 to talk to a member service representative as soon as possible to discuss payment options and a repayment plan.

Financial aid is available. The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act provides funding to states to help people adversely affected by the pandemic. Members can contact Deschutes County Neighbor Impact

at 541-504-2155 or Klamath and Lake County Community Action Services at 541-882-3500. I encourage you to contact these agencies, even if you have been denied assistance in the past. Eligibility criteria for assistance has been expanded due to COVID-19.

In accordance with the governor's plan to reopen Oregon, much of the state has begun a slow phase-in of various services as it enters a period of recovery. MEC has begun a measured and gradual approach as we look to return to normal work and business practices. On June 15, the cooperative reopened the lobby to the public. Employees working from home have started to return to the office.

We are following all recommended health protocols to keep our employees safe as they return to work. We have secured additional supplies of face masks, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes, and social distancing protocols remain in place.

To protect members visiting our office, we have installed clear barriers at the counters, counters are cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day and 6-foot social distancing indicators have been posted in the lobby. Members are encouraged to adhere to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

Although we hope to continue seeing recovery for individuals and businesses affected by COVID-19, we acknowledge this situation may continue to evolve during the coming weeks. We will regularly evaluate any measures necessary to protect our employees and members while continuing to serve you.

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
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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

Annual Meeting Update

Due to precautions taken as a result of COVID-19, the Raft River Rural Electric board decided to hold the rescheduled 2020 annual meeting online.

View the prerecorded meeting beginning at 6 p.m. MDT Tuesday, September 1, 2020, at www.rrelectric.com.

BE SURE TO VOTE!

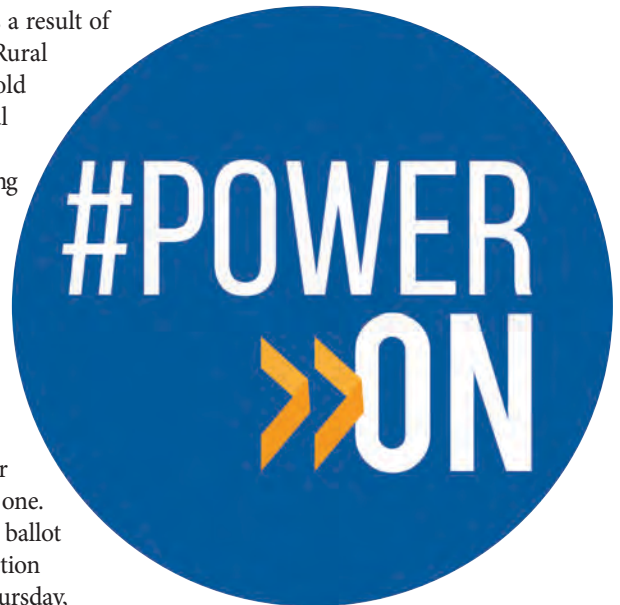
Vote by mail. Use the application for absentee ballot that was mailed in the July edition of Ruralite or contact the co-op to request one. For your vote to count, your ballot must be received by the Election Committee no later than Thursday, August 27, by 7 p.m. If you previously submitted your mail-in ballot from the postponed March 17 annual meeting, you DO NOT need to vote again, as your original ballot will be counted. Only one vote per membership is allowed.

Vote in person. The Election Committee will distribute and collect ballots August 27 from 1 to 7 p.m. in the Raft River Electric boardroom. Social distancing and good health practices will be followed.

Vote by proxy. If you do not want to vote by absentee ballot or in person, you can vote by proxy. Contact Raft River Electric prior to August 27 to obtain a proxy form.

All votes cast will be entered into a drawing for several prizes, including the grand prize of an \$800 energy credit.

If you have any questions, please contact our office.





BIG BEND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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

Ritzville office 659-1700

Toll free 866-844-2363

Pay by phone 844-255-3682

For after-hours emergencies

866-844-2363

www.bbec.org

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Vice President 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

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SmartHub is a convenient two-way communication program that allows members to access their Big Bend Electric account information through personal computers and mobile devices, including iPhone, iPad and Android smartphones and tablets.

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If you have any questions, please contact our office at 1-886-844-2363.

SmartHub is a registered trademark of National Information Solutions Cooperative.



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

.....

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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-July as I write this, and we're enjoying some of our first warm weather of the season.

If you're dreaming of air conditioning, consider adding a heat pump in homes with ductwork or a ductless heating and cooling system in homes with zonal heat. Heat pumps and ductless systems provide energy-efficient summer air conditioning and affordable winter heating.

For a limited time, we are offering rebates on qualifying high-efficiency heat pump models installed by qualifying contractors.

To learn more, visit www.hrec.coop/services/electric-service/heat-pump-rebates.

Here are some simple tips for keeping cool and lowering your energy bills:

- **Close blinds and drapes during daylight hours.** If you can, shade your windows from the outside to keep the sun off the glass. This simple step lowered the temperature on the inside of my windows by 10 degrees.
- **Keep your doors and windows closed during the day to keep out heat.** Open them at night or early in the morning and use fans to pull cool breezes through. Last summer, we used this strategy to keep the co-op office cool while our air-conditioning system was being repaired. Cooling down the office in the morning made a big difference in our afternoon comfort level.
- **Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.** Turn off or unplug unnecessary electronics.
- **Skip your dishwasher's drying cycle.** Air-dry dishes instead.
- **Dry your laundry on a clothesline.** If you must use a dryer, use the lowest heat setting.
- **Cook more meals outdoors on a grill or in your microwave.** Avoid using the oven, which adds heat to your home.
- **Use fans to keep cool.** Turn them off when you leave the room.
- **If you have an air conditioner or heat pump,** shade the outdoor unit and make sure it has good airflow on all sides.
- **Install awnings or plant deciduous trees** to shade sun-facing windows.
- **Check your air filters monthly.** Clogged filters make your air conditioner or heat pump work harder.



Facility Update

Although the threat of COVID-19 has not dissipated, we have cautiously reopened our lobby to limited walk-in traffic. Masks are required.

We wish you a safe and enjoyable 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

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Vice President Joe Cronin
Sec./Treasurer Gary Miller
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Rod Hoagland
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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



Fire rages near Harney Electric Cooperative headquarters in Fields in July 2017.

Stay Vigilant During Fire Season

Although the impacts of COVID-19 continue to affect our daily lives, we also must deal with the familiar risk of wildfires.

The National Interagency Fire Center reports that Harney Basin is experiencing low relative humidity and gusty winds, which will decrease live and dead fuel moistures significantly. Moderate to severe drought continues across much of Nevada. The resulting increase in fire potential is expected to last through fire season.

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

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

Harney Electric Cooperative remains focused on our own wildfire mitigation efforts, which includes maintaining

rights-of-way, treating poles and switches, retaining several fire pumpers in the fleet, and working with the Bureau of Land Management to educate first responders on power line safety and contact information.

Cross-training on radio protocol has been provided by BLM when HEC crews respond to a call. Our linemen are on 24/7 standby. With a territory as vast as ours, the cooperative is a member of six local rangeland fire protection associations.

But your cooperative can only do so much to help protect our service territory. We rely on you to help us by keeping your radar on potential hazards that may cause a fire. If you see a tree hanging on a line or vegetation growing close to one of our lines that could potentially spark a fire, call us as soon as possible and we will look into it.

Together, we can help stop the spread of COVID-19 and stop the spread of wildfires.

Thank you. Stay safe and stay healthy.

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

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 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

Electric Industry Update

The court-ordered Columbia River System Operation Environmental Impact Statement is near completion by the following federal agencies: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration. These agencies submitted a draft EIS for public comment. The 45-day comment period ended April 13. A final EIS is due out this summer. Records of decision documenting final recommended actions are expected to be issued in September.

The three agencies recommended a preferred alternative for operating, maintaining and configuring the 14 federal dam and reservoir projects that comprise the Columbia River system. It includes operational and structural measures that allow federal agencies to operate the integrated system to meet congressionally authorized purposes and EIS objectives, including those that benefit animals protected under the Endangered Species Act. The draft EIS identifies and evaluates a no-action alternative and five alternatives, one of which includes breaching the four lower Snake River dams.

The preferred alternative selected by the federal agencies in the final EIS will likely be challenged in the courts by those supporting other alternatives. It should be noted that the preferred alternative identified in the draft EIS did not include any action to breach any lower Snake River dams. While the agencies' preferred alternative will likely not be the optimal alternative for anadromous fish runs, it attempts to strike a balance between all uses of the Columbia River system.

Congress authorized the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation to build, operate and maintain the 14 federal dams as one interconnected system to meet multiple specified purposes, including flood risk management, navigation, hydropower generation, irrigation, fish and wildlife conservation, recreation, and municipal and industrial water supply.

BPA is authorized to market and transmit power generated by coordinated system operations.



Ken Dizes

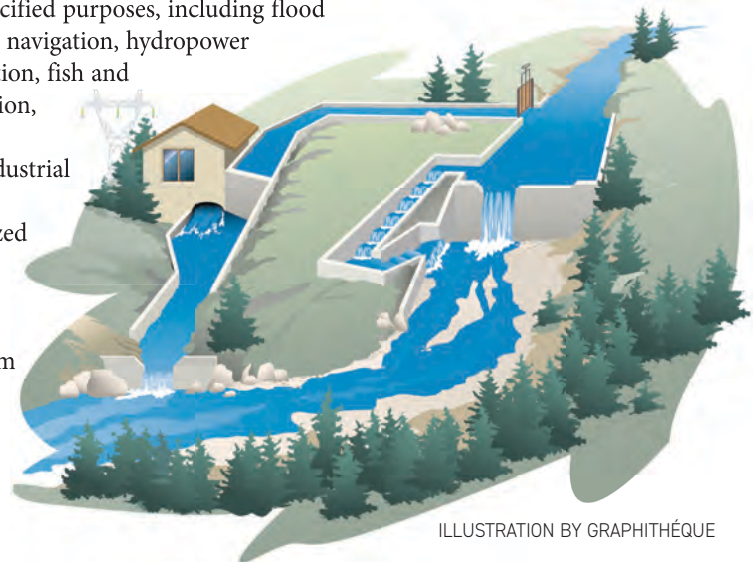


ILLUSTRATION BY GRAPHITHÉQUE



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 Service 101

With the start of August, 2020 is more than half over. As society prepares for all that fall has to offer, we at United Electric are also looking ahead. August and September are busy times as we see a rush of new service requests from folks realizing the construction season is closing soon.

UEC Staking Technician Sam Andrew and I want to share some tips to make your new residential service process as smooth as possible.

Once you have your perfect piece of Mini-Cassia property, the first step is to determine the location of the buildings and utilities. Several local electrical contractors can help you determine the size of service you need. Most residential services are 200 or 400 amperes, or amps. This rating is the amount of electrical equipment or load you can run from your service gear.

This also is a good time to request a copy of UEC's service requirements and ask any questions before you move forward. You also can find this information on our website at www.uec.coop.

The next important decision is where the outside service disconnect will be. Simply put, the service disconnect is the "switch" that can shut off your entire service. UEC requires the service disconnect to be located outside buildings or structures so a service can be de-energized in an emergency. The disconnect is also the point of ownership between the member and the cooperative. Sam can help you determine the best location of the disconnect.

Up next is a visit with UEC. As a cooperative, we are a membership organization. If you are not a UEC member, a representative will guide you through the membership process.

The site survey is a great time to

continue working with Sam to verify your requirements, discuss the materials needed, determine a route to bring in the power and any necessary easements. Any further responsibilities will also be worked out. Having your electrician at this meeting is helpful. Sam will create an estimate and draft a facility extension agreement, which summarizes the details of your project and the associated costs. This is sent to you right away for review.

At this point, the timeline is up to you. UEC will not schedule the project until the signed FEA is returned. Only then will Sam give your construction packet to our Operations Department so it can add your project to our work queue.

Once UEC's crews complete the work, the member will receive a bill for the construction as outlined in the FEA. It is important to note that even though the construction may be complete, our crews will not energize the service until the service disconnect has passed a State of Idaho electrical inspection.

I hope this overview of our line-extension process helps when you are ready to energize your property. As with any construction project, there can be unexpected delays and obstacles. We encourage everyone to be in contact with UEC early in the process so we can help you as much as possible.

We are here to help our members. Call 811 to locate all underground utilities before you start any excavation.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Cooperatively yours,
M. Jamie Stark
General Manager

For more information about UEC, please check 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

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MANAGER/CEO

Brad J. Gamett

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

ID-30

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,” Clendenin says.



A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative 

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Paul Kildal, Director
Jan Maslen, Director
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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

Important Dates

August

CVEA Deadline: The deadline to use your \$25 CVEA Community Cares gift certificate or submit to the CVEA Cares for Kids Summer Activity Program is August 8

CVEA Public Meeting: A public meeting has been scheduled to receive member input on proposed Bylaws changes, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 19, 2020

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

September

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Monday, September 7, 2020, for Labor Day

CVEA Board Meeting: The September meeting of the Board of Directors is cancelled

AK-34



Right-of-way clearing is an important part of Copper Valley Electric's goal of delivering safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service. Tree and brush clearing can help reduce the number and length of outages especially during severe weather conditions. The nice summer weather has caused a lot of growth. If you have a tree that is within 10 feet of a power line, please call CVEA at 822-3211 or 835-4301 for removal. For additional information on right-of-way clearing or electrical safety, visit www.cvea.org.

Construction Season Will Soon Come to an End

When summer comes to an end, so will construction season. If you are planning new construction or a service upgrade before the end of the season, don't wait. Please email construction@cvea.org or call your local office as soon as possible.

Pay Your Bill and Manage Your Account Online Using Smarthub

Are you looking for convenient ways to make your life easier?

If so, log on to www.cvea.org. You can pay your CVEA monthly bill directly from your bank account or by using your debit card or Visa, Mastercard, or Discover card. You can also see your billing and payment history and track your monthly usage and cost as well as daily averages. This is a great way to manage your CVEA account. Just go to cvea.org and click the Smarthub button on the home page.



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

*Office hours are 7 a.m. to 5:30 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

Our Power Is Water

Electricity continues to be an essential part of our lives. The method by which electricity is generated, the source it originates from, and how it is delivered to us so we can power our homes and businesses is an intricate process.

In 2019, Tillamook PUD customers used more than 481 million kilowatt-hours of electricity. The Bonneville Power Administration supplied approximately 99.4% of this electricity. We bought the remaining 0.6% of electricity from local methane digesters.

BPA's power portfolio predominately consists of hydroelectricity. Small and large hydroelectric comprises 83.1% of the fuel mix. Many of the dams seen along the Columbia and Snake rivers are responsible for generating this electricity through a simple process involving gravity and water. Water flows through a powerhouse and the pressure of the falling water turns a large turbine, which then turns a shaft that rotates a series of magnets past copper coils in a generator to create electricity. That electricity is sent through transmission lines to communities like ours for distribution to customers.

Hydropower provides clean, renewable and affordable energy. The dams that generate electricity are fueled by water, so they do not produce emissions like fossil-fuel burning resources. Because the fuel is replenished naturally through the watercycle, hydropower is also renewable.

The Pacific Northwest has what seems like an abundance of natural resources. Not many states have the pristine waterways we have throughout Oregon.

This does not mean we do not need to do our part to protect our resources and look for methods to sustain a strong

and healthy environment. Significant investments from several organizations and individuals have been made to protect and enhance



fish and wildlife, and reduce the impacts dams may have on plants, animals and surrounding land. BPA, through investments you make when you pay your power bill, has invested close to \$17 billion on fish and wildlife to protect salmon.

Clean energy is imperative to our environmental health. Conveying the facts about all types of clean energy—including hydroelectricity—is necessary to continue on the path of implementing new technologies and retaining the sources of clean energy we have.

Northwest RiverPartners, a nonprofit educational entity, recently initiated the "Our Power is Water" campaign in an effort to capture the attention of a younger demographic and spread a positive message about hydroelectricity. You will see this new and refreshed look at hydropower on the Tillamook PUD social media pages and in print. Like and follow us on Facebook or Twitter if you haven't already to catch the latest.

For more information about hydropower, visit the Tillamook PUD website at www.tpub.org.

Sincerely,

Todd Simmons
General Manager



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

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General Manager

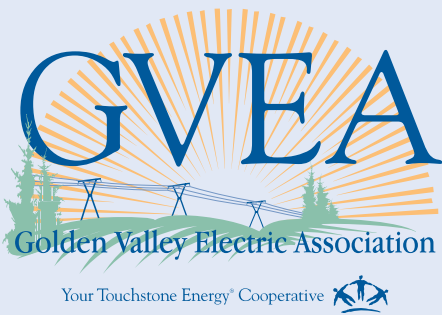
Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

Don't Be Surprised!

Know what's below. Call before you dig.

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



Owned By Those We Serve

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

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: *You Have The Power!*



AK-37

GVEA Lobby Update



As of print time (7/15/20), GVEA lobbies are open. However, due to the recent uptick of COVID-19 cases in our communities, we're now requiring visitors to wear a face covering when entering GVEA premises. We'll continue to limit the number of members allowed into our lobbies at one time. When inside, we're asking our members to maintain a distance of six feet from others and to use hand sanitizer. Thank you for keeping us all safe and healthy!



Lobby Hours (Mon. - Fri.):

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

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 continue to contact Member Services 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 different payment methods available to our members, 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 residential 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


The COVID-related payment agreement that is being offered is a modified version of GVEA's standard payment agreement.

Therefore, it's in the best interests of those residential members who qualify to take the time to submit these two forms. 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.

GVEA continues to add to the informational webpage that was developed to provide 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.

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



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

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fnelson@psrec.coop

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dshort@psrec.coop

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dhansen@psrec.coop

Larry Price, *Quincy*
lprice@psrec.coop

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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

Notice of Annual Meeting of the Members

To: Members of Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative

Notice is hereby given that the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Membership of Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative is Thursday, September 3, 2020, at 6 p.m. via YouTube Live at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnU9iCiDNhSRYgXps0YEIFg> for the purpose of taking appropriate action on the following matters:

- Reports of officers and managers.
- Report of the Nominating Committee.
- Results of election of directors for Districts 6 and 7.
- Results of proposed PSREC bylaw amendments.

Please send questions to be addressed at the annual meeting to marketing@psrec.coop by 5 p.m. Thursday, September 3.

2020 Annual Meeting Agenda

- Presentation honoring photo contest and scholarship winners
- a. Call business meeting to order, and introduction of directors and management
 - b. Board president's report
 - c. General manager's report
 - d. Treasurer's report
 - e. Quorum check
 - f. Minutes from 2019 annual meeting
 - g. Introduction of Nominating Committee
 - h. 2020 Nominating Committee report
 - i. Introduction and speeches by nominees; explanation of proposed bylaw amendments
 - j. Announcement of Credentials and Election Committee members
 - k. Results of election of directors for Districts 6 and 7
 - l. Results of proposed amendments to the PSREC bylaws
 - m. Adjournment of business meeting

Member Q&A - Questions can be submitted by emailing them to marketing@psrec.coop by 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 3 or via the YouTube chat function during the live broadcast. **You can find our YouTube Channel by searching Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative at www.youtube.com.**



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

Budget Billing Helps You Plan the Year

If there is something we have learned in 2020, it is that we cannot foresee what is going to happen next. The weather is no exception. Our fall and winter weather seasons will arrive soon, so we want to help you prepare for heating season. Cold weather temperatures are hard to predict, but we have a tool to help you with your heating budget.



If your account is paid in full, you can use our budget billing program. We will analyze your last 12 months of electric use and calculate a monthly amount. It is important you have been at the same service address for 12 continuous months so we can accurately calculate your average monthly use. Once your account is set up on budget billing, it is also important you pay the exact budget amount each month on or before the due date. Late fees and collection costs are not covered in the budget amount and can cause your account to be removed from the program.

You can assess your actual use each month by looking at your account online or reviewing your monthly billing statement. At different periods throughout the year, you may see a fluctuation in your kilowatt-hour use, but rest assured the budget will average out, unless you make significant changes in your power use. In August, we true-up your yearly use and you either pay the owed difference or you may have a slight bill credit. The program is voluntary and you can cancel at any time.

The budget billing program was created as a convenience to our members and can be an effective tool to pay the exact same amount each month. By enrolling in our budget billing program this month, along with one of our automated payment options, you have the freedom to rest easy about your power bill, not only during the winter months, but for an entire year. To sign up, call us at 800-977-6937 or 775-289- 8981. We are happy to help.

Sincerely,

Shellie Watts
Member Services/HR Manager



Board of Directors

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President

Gerald Anderson
Vice President

M Jonathan Dahl
Secretary/Treasurer

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

Director Emeritus

D. Vernon Dalton

Website

www.wrec.coop

Outage Hotline:

800-566-6696
24 hours a day

Carlin office:

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

Wendover office:

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

Wells office:

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

NV-41

Respecting Each Other

I have had many conversations recently with community members, employees and your Board of Directors. The conversations centered around our communities, as well as the country and the world. Clearly, there are differing opinions on what a public organization such as Wells Rural Electric Co.'s responsibility is during such challenging times.

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. I feel fortunate the Board of Directors had the vision to establish principles that have guided your cooperative for decades. There have been minor revisions to prepare for changing circumstances, but I believe these principles have remained relevant and appropriate for the times.

Philosophy/Mission

Our mission: Wells Rural Electric Co. improves the quality of life of the communities we serve by meeting the changing needs of our members through the guiding principles of our locally controlled cooperative.

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.

Core Values and Beliefs

Safety: Working safely and protecting our members, your employees and your infrastructure is not negotiable. The "Commitment to Zero" program enhanced

our efforts to eliminate accidents and injuries by integrating a nationally recognized safety program.

Integrity: Being ethical and holding ourselves accountable to conduct business in a fair, honest, transparent, compliant and environmentally responsible manner is at the core of what we do.

Member service: Providing quality service at a competitive price while being responsible to our members' needs creates added value and improves member 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 members is to continue to listen and to learn. I will do so while ensuring the safe and reliable provision of electric service for you.



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1 Michelle Caird 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

Concern for Community

Valley Electric Association is fortunate to be able to serve our community. During these unprecedented times, it has been inspiring to see our communities come together to help each other and make sure people are taken care of. Community members have donated to food banks, brought groceries to elderly neighbors and much more.

At Valley, we are guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles. They are:

- Voluntary and Open Membership.
- Democratic Member Control.
- Members' Economic Participation.
- Autonomy and Independence.
- Education, Training and Information.
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives.
- Concern for Community.

We take these cooperative principles to heart, especially Concern for Community.

When COVID-19 sent many children home with no means to get their education, Valley stepped in and did what we do best: serve our community. We provided many students with internet access. We support our local school districts, teachers and students. After all, these children are our future.

Children depend on school for more than education. It is a source for nutrition for some, a place to be heard, and a place to socialize and make friends. Schools lead students to reach their full potential. They encourage them to do the best they can. Strong schools have a great impact on the lives of our children, which is why supporting them is such a worthy cause.

Teachers, school staff, students and parents are trying to navigate these challenging times which, as of right now, has no definite end point. These uncertain

times can make it difficult to plan and manage.

As a community, we are no longer doing the same things we used to. We have to modify our way of life.



Our schools have come to depend on our annual Fill the Bucket event as a source for supplies. Instead of canceling this year's event, we decided to modify it. With social-distancing requirements making it impossible to hold this event in person, our goal this year is to bring our community together in a bigger way.

Valley is partnering with local businesses and members to gather funds to support our schools for the upcoming year. We will match all donations received by Tuesday, September 1, up to \$10,000.

Every year, Valley's employees eagerly help their community with Fill the Bucket as they put into practice Valley's vision of doing what is best for the community.

We want future generations to learn community is important. Leading by example, it is important to show we truly have concern for our community. Many of these children will be members of the community and of Valley Electric.

We will always keep our membership at the forefront of what we do. Community will always remain important to Valley Electric.

Until next 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.

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

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," Clendenin says.





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

District Offices

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


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

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

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

www.otec.coop
communications@otecc.com

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

Find us on 

Facebook.com/OTECOop



Follow Us on Instagram
otec_coop



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

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- Vice President Wayne Overton, Baker County
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- 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

Community and OTEC Resources Are Here to Help

Five months after our way of life was turned upside down, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect us all. As much as we want to see a return to a state of normalcy, it does not appear the state of Oregon is signaling for decreased regulations or mandates any time soon.

Apart from the obvious adverse effects on our communities, OTEC's utility resources remain stable. Our team has done a great job staying healthy and remaining focused on ensuring the delivery of safe, reliable power throughout these unprecedented events.

We've spent a great deal of time during the pandemic working to protect the health of our employees, members and the general public, but we haven't lost sight on remaining focused on supporting our everyday operations. All of us know someone who has had struggles during this pandemic. The ability to plan your future in what used to be normal times was difficult enough. Throw this pandemic into the mix and it leaves many of our member-owners in a very difficult situation. From school closures and child care to loss of jobs and business closures, finding a positive pathway forward remains a struggle.

As a not-for-profit cooperative owned by its members, we clearly see the difficulty some of our members and our communities face in supporting the monthly financial obligations that continue to come regardless of a pandemic. For this reason, we have placed additional attention on potential resources that may be able to provide some level of support. On pages 4-5, you will find a detailed overview of community and OTEC resources that may help you navigate those monthly bills and financial obligations. Please use these resources and share them with friends, family and other community members who may also be struggling.

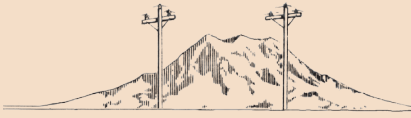
We will continue to leverage our resources to support those who need help in our communities. OTEC's Board of Directors recently approved the formation of a charitable foundation to bring more flexibility and support to further extend the cooperative's charitable arm into our communities. We will provide more updates on our foundation soon. Please do not hesitate to reach out and contact our offices for additional clarity and support regarding the resource options outlined in this Ruralite and found online at www.otec.coop.

OTEC is actively monitoring updates and new guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on COVID-19. We will adapt as needed to continue providing you with the best service possible.

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



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

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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

Chief Executive Officer

Steven Walter

Operations Manager

Nick Himebauch

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Steve Chamberlin

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Lisa Peabody

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John Saatela

David McGoldrick

Dutch Siedentopf

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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

COVID-19 Financial Support Available

Gov. Jay Inslee's Proclamation 20-23 is extended through August 1. If you are experiencing hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be eligible for support, including bill assistance and/or payment arrangements through Tanner Electric Cooperative. 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:

- **King County Residents:** Hopelink Energy Assistance Program, 425-869-6000 or 425-333-4163.
- **Pierce County Residents:** Pierce County Energy Assistance Program, 253-798-8700 or 253-798-4328.

To make payment arrangements, call TEC at 425-888-0623.

The lobby remains **closed** to the public. However, our member service team is working in the office to assist you Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Power outages can be reported 24/7 by calling 425-888-0623 or using the SmartHub app from your computer, iPhone, iPad or Android devices.

SmartHub is a convenient two-way communication program that allows members to access their TEC account information through personal computers and mobile devices.

Download the SmartHub app today!



SmartHub is a registered trademark of National Information Solutions Cooperative.



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

GENERAL MANAGER

Susan Cutrell

Incorporated in 1914—
The country's oldest
mutual cooperative



August 22nd 2020

USATF certified 5K course
is flat and fast

Raffle prizes are given away
at awards ceremony

Ribbons are given to top 3
in each gender and age group

Medals are given to 1st place
overall male and female

All proceeds benefit
Washington High School
Cross Country



Location:

Washington H.S.
12420 Ainsworth AVE S
Tacoma, WA 98444

Schedule:

8:30 AM – Registration Opens
9:20 AM – Registration Closes
9:30 AM – Start of Event
10:30 AM – Start of Awards

Registration:

www.patriotcrosscountry.com/ppr.html
*Registrations are also accepted on the
day of the event for an additional charge of \$5*

Course Map and Results:

www.patriotcrosscountry.com/ppr.html

For More Information:

Allen Culp
253-219-5252
aculp@fpschools.org



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

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

Please call to report outages
503-728-2163

Automated Secure Payment Center
1-844-262-2431

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Don Hooper, Vice President
Merle Gillespie, Secretary
Stephen D. Petersen, Treasurer
Jeannie Mustola, Director

GENERAL MANAGER

Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #2134500

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

Community Calendar

August 6: Clatskanie Chamber - Zoom meeting noon. See the Clatskanie Chamber Facebook page for more information.

August 13: Rainier Chamber - Zoom meeting at noon. See the Rainier Chamber Facebook page for more information.

August 19: Clatskanie PUD Board Meeting Regular board meeting at 5:30 pm.

Use Keepitlocalcc.com to find local businesses and events!



OR-60

Something that has been overshadowed during the course of the current pandemic situation is all of the great programs we have to offer to help you use electricity in the most cost effective, energy efficient manner. These rebate dollars are offered for energy efficiency programs through Bonneville Power Administration and Clatskanie PUD. I want to take this opportunity to let you know about our current program offerings to help you save energy and money.



HVAC (heating ventilation air conditioning) Upgrades

This includes qualifying heat pumps and ductless heat pumps. Currently there is a BPA promotion with increased incentives for nearly all residential HVAC measures. Most of the increases are \$200-\$500 over the normal incentive.

Heat Pump Water Heater Upgrades

The best measure we offer, as it is \$600 for standard income and typically free for income qualifying customers.

Weatherization Measures

This includes windows and insulation. The incentives vary for each residence based on square footage and existing insulation/windows.

Appliance Rebates

Clothes washers and dryers - incentive varies based on the appliance efficiency.

Miscellaneous Rebates

Smart thermostats, NEEM manufactured homes, air sealing, duct sealing, etc.

Commercial and Industrial Projects

Custom project offerings for commercial and industrial projects.


Additionally, we recently provided direct install LEDs and other measures through in home visits. This allowed us an opportunity to work directly with customers while providing a snapshot audit and discussing energy efficiency programs. With all the COVID-19 restrictions, this has been modified to a phone call visit, shipping LEDs for installation by the customer, and verification photos. We also have income qualified programs that are generally free to our customers that qualify. During these in home visits, our focus has been on the two major energy users in the house: the heating system and the water heating system.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit our website at clatskaniepud.com or call our office 503-728-2163 to speak with one of our Energy Services Specialists. We will provide you with the information you need to take advantage of these great opportunities and start saving.

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

Board of Directors

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Vice President

Dominic Ivanoff

Secretary

Pierre Lonewolf

Treasurer

Allen Jessup Sr.

Tom Atkinson

Allen Beaver

Wally Carter Sr.

Dood Lincoln-Carr

Harold Short

General Manager/CEO

Martin Shroyer

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

AK-64

Don't Be Surprised!

Know what's below.

Call before you dig.

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



Board of Directors

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Vice Chairman

Robert L. Beans Sr.,
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
Kaltag	Shageluk
Kasigluk	Shaktoolik
Kiana	Shishmaref
Kivalina	Shungnak
Kobuk	Stebbins
Kotlik	Teller
Koyuk	Togiak
Lower Kalskag	Toksook Bay
Marshall	Tununak
Mekoryuk	Upper Kalskag
Minto	Yakutat
Mt. Village	Wales

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



AK-105

Meet Our 2020 Scholarship Winner

Every year the AVEC Board Scholarship Committee reviews the many applications that are received for scholarships. The Board awards scholarships twice a year with the majority being for the fall school semester. Scholarships are also awarded for the spring semester.

The largest scholarship awarded during the year is the \$5,000 “Ted Stevens Memorial Award” and is sent directly to the school being attended by the winner. This year’s winner is Jayne Hanna from Mekoryuk. Following are excerpts from Jayne’s essay that I would like to share with you. Young people like this are our leaders of tomorrow.

“Growing up in an isolated Alaskan village, I have experienced many of the unique challenges that rural students face in attaining a quality education. My name is Jayne Hanna, and I am a second-year student attending Biola University in La Mirada, California. I am a graduate of Nuniwarmiut School in Mekoryuk, Alaska. My personal experience is one of the factors that led me to pursue a career in teaching mathematics at the high school level in rural villages like my own. Since moving to an urban university setting, I am beginning to recognize specific areas where I can incorporate different cultures of learning to help my students achieve success. As a future educator in rural Alaska, I hope to share my love for learning with students to incite positive change within my community.

“Since graduating from high school and attending university, I have become even more passionate about finding ways to incite positive change within AVEC communities like my own. Although many rural AVEC communities are small in size, they have been the settings of powerful testimonies of survival, perseverance and true grit for generations. I hope to follow the examples of my ancestors to create a similar story by achieving a university education and returning to strengthen the next generation as a high school teacher and community leader. Our communities may be small, but even our history attests to our potential to accomplish our dreams.”

In addition to the Ted Stevens Memorial Award, several additional \$1,000 scholarships are awarded every year. Those awardees will be recognized on our website later this year.

Until next time...

Meera Kohler
President and CEO





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www.lmud.org

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

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

CA-106

LMUD Adopts 2020-21 Budget

In these uncertain times, the last thing you need to worry about is the rising cost of electricity. Lassen Municipal Utility District's management, board and employees work hard to keep our rates reasonable and affordable. In fact, our residential rate of 13.5 cents per kilowatt-hour is more than 20% lower than Pacific Gas and Electric.

At its June regular meeting, our board passed the budget for fiscal year 2020-21. The budget includes capital projects, system upgrades and improvements, all without a foreseeable rate increase.

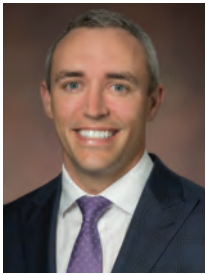
The budget is a guideline that helps direct how the district will collect and spend funds. It is not a crystal ball. When the budget is developed, we look at a variety of factors, including power supply predictions, revenue, capital projects and contingency plans. Each department offers input for the plan. Once complete, the draft document and supporting material are presented to the board.

After holding a budget workshop where questions are asked and answered, the budget is presented at a public meeting for approval by the board of directors. The process is open to public comment. The board considers input from customers and community stakeholders before making a final decision. Once the budget is adopted, it is posted online at lmud.org.

As we move through 2020 and into 2021, the board and management of LMUD will periodically review the budget and the Power Delivery Cost Analysis to make sure we are on track. If necessary, we will adjust our spending accordingly. The PDCA and any adjustments to the budget are reviewed in a public meeting and, as always, public comments are welcomed.

If you would like to attend a board meeting, the board meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the LMUD boardroom at 65 S. Roop St. Agendas are posted on our website.

Your Cooperative Staff: Who Are We?



One recent morning—a Monday, no less—I was anxious to get to work after a weekend filled with time to think about all that needed to be done. It was an early morning’s attempt to get into the office and begin the day before the possibility of additional distractions arose.

Around 6:30 a.m., as I was rounding a corner, I noticed a gentleman getting out of his car on the side of the road. He was donning a backpack and beginning a walk. Unfortunately for him, it was also starting to rain very hard right at that second.

I am not typically in the habit of picking up strangers on the side of the road. Like many of you, my parents taught me not to pick up hitchhikers. They also told of great stories filled with imagery and adventure, such as my father hitchhiking home from the Columbia airport when his service as a medic was up after the Vietnam War.

This gentleman, albeit different than me—a bit younger, a different race, at this point a much different perspective on the day ahead—looked like he was having one of those mornings that takes a full day to get over and forget. Now, if you have ever been to one of our annual meetings, heard me give a speech or even read some of my previous writings, you hopefully pick up on the fact that I try to take opportunities to reference blessings from God and His importance in my life and, I believe, this cooperative.

In this situation, I was able to assist this gentleman, who was on his way to work to restock inventory at a pharmacy in a nearby town. He didn’t want help changing his flat tire, but appreciated the less-than-a-mile drive to the nearby convenience store where he had help already on the way.

You may be asking yourself why I wasted your time with this article. It isn’t to receive praise for a simple good deed. In Matthew 6:1, Jesus states in his Sermon on the Mount, “Don’t do good deeds publicly, to be admired, because then you will lose the reward from your Father in Heaven.” Then why write this? This year has been filled with higher mountains to climb than many have seen, along with valleys to traverse consumed with danger, trepidation and darkness. I believe part of my responsibility as your cooperative’s CEO and the resources afforded to me—such as

this magazine, which reaches a vast part of our community—is to try to spread some light where there is darkness, literally and metaphorically.

One way MEC can accomplish this is through compassion and mercy, such as eliminating disconnections of service during a time when this state shut down for the global COVID-19 pandemic. But we can’t stop there. We need to provide grace, such as 8% power cost reductions to our residential members for almost all of 2020 so far.

The ability to do so while keeping a strong business foundation for future unexpected and unforeseen cliffs is due to the blessings we’ve received. Those blessings should be passed along to you, our neighbors, our friends and even some who may be strangers to us.

It wasn’t that long ago that stories throughout this country were shared in which people did a very unique and creative thing to spread a little joy and love to strangers. This was done by paying for the food of those in the car behind you in a drive-thru. This was done for me once. The \$6 it saved me might as well have been \$1,000 because it meant that much to me. As I heard the news from the cashier and saw as much joy on her face as was on mine, this slipped away just a little when I looked back in my rearview mirror to see a minivan full of what can only be described as a large group of family members. Even though my \$6 combo meal that day cost me over \$50 to “pay-it-forward,” the biggest winner was still me.

I encourage you to look for opportunities to bring light into this world. Sometimes—most times—you don’t have to even hunt for them. They are just “around the corner.”

I have two small children, and the future of their heart and character matters more to me than anything else. That’s who we are, and that’s what matters—just like it did in the beginning of time. If it weighs on your heart to pay the power bill for the person who is behind you in our drive-thru, I assure you we won’t stop you—and neither will the person behind you!

Very Truly Yours,

WILLIAM L. FLEMING, JR.
President and CEO

Florida Currents

August 2020 • Volume 9, No. 10

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EDITORIAL ASSISTANT Alyssa McDougle
GRAPHIC DESIGNER Duy Mai

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Message From the CEO

I Want to Hear From You

Each month, I write this column on a variety of topics I believe will be of interest to you as a member of Escambia River Electric Cooperative. Instead of writing about an issue I think you will find informative this month, I would like to know what you would like to hear about.

Communication is a valuable tool. I think we can all agree information is most beneficial when it is conveyed through a two-way exchange.

At EREC, we thrive on your feedback. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with our community’s priorities and needs.

EREC exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the cooperative. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve. EREC invests in community and economic development projects, educates students about safety and the environment, and generously donates time, energy and resources for school and community events.

We conduct a biannual survey to gather feedback so we can plan for new initiatives, technical upgrades and improvements on existing co-op services. EREC works to continually learn from members about their priorities so we can better serve you—because your co-op was built by the community, for the community. We can only improve, adapt and effectively plan for the future if we have two-way communication.

This leads me back to the purpose of this message: I would like to hear from you. Tell me what you would like to hear from me through this monthly message. What information do you need from your electric cooperative? What topics interest you? Please reach out. I’m listening.

To submit topics of interest for future CEO columns, please email CEOmessage@erec.com. Please note this email address is only used to receive topics for possible future messages. Outages or other cooperative business must be reported through contact information provided on the back of this magazine.



Ryan C. Campbell, P.E.



Spelunking Through Florida

Florida Caverns State Park and wet caves in the Panhandle draw visitors from around the world

Spotlight, Page 10

Sweet and Savory Pancakes

In the Kitchen, Page 16

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

Lessons From Admiral Stockdale

By Gary Smith

President and CEO
PowerSouth Energy Cooperative

These are unsettling times. The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the world, the country, the state and all of our communities hard.

Maybe you know someone, maybe a loved one, who didn't survive the virus. I have been fortunate thus far in that I haven't known anyone who has become a victim of the virus.

We possibly haven't yet seen the worst. The virus may have receded to some degree—and doctors now know more about it and how to better treat those with it. But we don't know if there will be another occurrence in the fall or winter.

We will not be in the clear until an effective vaccine or effective treatment is readily available and distributed. Equally important, we are just starting to experience the severe economic and societal repercussions of the pandemic.

Economic recovery will likely prove to be a long road back. We are not sure what impacts the COVID-19 pandemic will have on us, our businesses or our lives, and what changes may result.

The future is as uncertain as I have ever known.

I was thinking about the future and how to cope with the present when I came across a story on Rear Admiral James Stockdale that I thought was pertinent to our situation today. The story is from an interview of Admiral Stockdale by Jim



Collins in his outstanding management book, "Good to Great."

Admiral Stockdale was the highest-ranking U.S. military officer held prisoner in the "Hanoi Hilton" POW camp during the Vietnam War. From 1965 to 1973, Stockdale was tortured at least 15 times and lived out the war with no prisoner rights, with no set release date and with no certainty as to whether he would even survive or see his family again.

One of the first questions Collins asked in his interview was how the admiral dealt with those eight years: the uncertainty of his fate and the brutality of his captors.

The admiral answered, "I never lost faith in the end of the story. I never doubted not only that I would get out, but also that I would prevail in the end and turn the experience into the defining event of my life, which, in retrospect, I would not trade."

"Who didn't make it?" Collins asked.

"Oh, that's easy," said Stockdale. "The optimists."

"The optimists? I don't



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understand," Collins said, now confused, given what Stockdale had said just moments earlier.

"The optimists. Oh, they were the ones who said, 'We're going to be out by Christmas.' And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then they'd say, 'We're going to be out by Easter.' And Easter would come, and Easter would go. And then Thanksgiving, and then it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart."

Then, after a long pause, Stockdale said, "This is a very important lesson. You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end—which you can never afford to lose—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they may be."

"To this day," Collins wrote, "I carry a mental image of Stockdale admonishing the optimists: 'We're not getting out by Christmas; deal with it!'"

Admiral Stockdale wrote books on courage and leadership, including "Courage Under Fire" and "In Love and War."

He was obviously a fighter. He refused to compromise. He refused to give in, regardless of the cost. He disfigured himself with a stool and a razor, so his image could not be used to portray him as a well-treated

prisoner of war. He attempted suicide because he was scared of being weak and giving up the secrets of the Gulf of Tonkin Incident to the enemy.

In his summary, Collins writes, "A key psychology for leading from good to great is the Stockdale Paradox: Retain absolute faith that you can and will prevail in the end, regardless of the difficulties. And, at the same time, confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be."

How then does the Stockdale Paradox—a business principle—relate personally to all of us in these days of quarantine, disorganized businesses, disrupted plans and possibly health challenges? How do we maintain through the COVID-19 crisis?

The paradox offers this insight: Instead of saying optimistically, "It's going to be over by such and such a date," and then wasting the days and months ahead of us because this situation can't last long, we should face the harsh reality that no one knows when the end will be.

We can't allow the situation to destroy our will. We must confront the brutal consequences of the disease with discipline and resolve that with God's help and an absolute faith, we will prevail in the end.

We have the opportunity to turn the experience into a defining event of our lives, which, in retrospect, we would not trade.

Hopefully, this is a worthwhile lesson from an American hero. I hope you have a good month. Stay strong and safe. ■



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AUGUST 2020

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MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

You can offset summer cooling costs by using energy wisely. Find energy saving tips at www.FKEC.com/resources/energy-efficiency/

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

Celebrating Employee Commitment

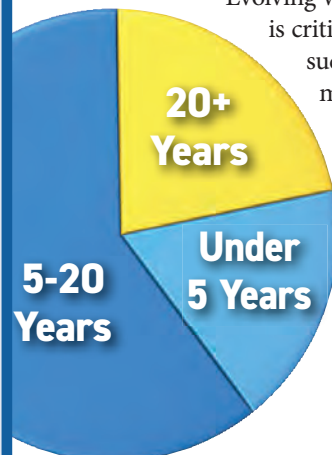
Throughout 2020 we have many employees achieving significant milestones, and in this publication are the most recent. I believe it is important to celebrate our long-standing employees as their experience and willingness to share their knowledge guarantees FKEC's success now and in the future.

Not only do our veteran team members show the pride they take in their job when they train new employees, but they also impart the community spirit on which this cooperative was founded.

We currently have 25 employees with 20 or more years at FKEC, and this year we also had several long-standing team members retire. Needless to say, there is a lot of knowledge, skill, and heart to be shared.

During my 30 years at FKEC, I have experienced a great deal of change within our industry and community.

Evolving with the times is critical to FKEC's success, and I must commend our established employees for growing and adapting.



Average Years of FKEC Employee Service.



SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

I am also proud of our team members who embrace the opportunities FKEC offers to expand their skills and advance their careers. As you'll read on the following pages, the employees celebrating anniversaries have all worked hard to earn promotions and further their careers.

While this edition of the Florida Currents recognizes recent milestones, I do not want to minimize the value in the energy our new employees bring. Their fresh perspective and input also contribute to our growth, and growth is what keeps us at the forefront of our industry.

I thank our entire FKEC team. It is our employees old and new, past and present, as well as our dedicated board of directors who ensure FKEC is a well-oiled, electricity-providing machine.

GLADES

Electric Cooperative, Inc
Celebrating 75 Years of
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The Board's next meeting is at 9 a.m. August 27 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

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

FL-153

Saving You Money and Bringing New Business to Moore Haven

With July almost behind us and those air conditioners churning, you are benefiting from some of the lowest rates we've had in years.

Your Board of Trustees—in continuing the mission of Neighbors Working for Neighbors during this ongoing crisis—found wiggle room to pass a fourth straight rate reduction. Our variable energy rate is now more than 24% lower than one of our neighboring for-profit utilities on the first 1,000 kilowatt-hours and more than 12% lower on all kWh thereafter. That is especially significant in these hot summer months.



Jeff Brewington

THERE'S MORE TO
MOORE HAVEN
 FLORIDA



I know we are still going through some tough times, but business has to get back to as near to normal as possible sometime—and that time has arrived for the cooperative. Through the craziness of the past five months, a team of local individuals has been working together on a plan to help transform the city of Moore Haven.

The initial plan is now ready to preview to the community. It is the result of visioning sessions with local leaders, stakeholders and community members, and interviews with local employers—all facilitated by a community transformation firm. You may have already read about it on our social media platforms or in the local newspaper.

Now is the time for you to join the team if you are interested in being part of this transformation. The first project we hope to develop is a full-scale restaurant on the river. The city and the cooperative are teaming up to bring this part of the plan to reality.

We are excited! Take a look at the website that lays out all the details at moretomoorehaven.com. I look forward to focusing on something other than COVID-19.

Continue to take care.





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

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

FL-154

GCEC President's Message

Lend Your Voice to Rural America



Doug Birmingham

In 2016, rural America played a big part in our national elections, with 500,000 more rural voters going to the polls than in 2012. In 2018, more candidates and elected officials visited cooperatives than ever before and talked about rural issues of importance.

This year, electric cooperatives can play a vital role in encouraging rural voter turnout and engaging on issues that matter most to our communities. With all the noise of a presidential election, we need to work harder to remind our elected officials that rural issues matter.

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit energy providers owned by the members they serve. They provide coverage for 88% of our nation's counties and are a foundation in their communities. Co-op members can make a difference by lending their voices to issues such as rural infrastructure and broadband, and the need to maintain access to affordable, reliable electricity.

To ensure all electric co-op members exercise their civic duty, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association created the Co-ops Vote program in 2016. This national, nonpartisan initiative remains simple at its core: to ensure members are registered to vote, go to the polls for every election and keep rural issues part of the national discussion.

By participating in the Co-ops Vote program, cooperative members send a resounding message that candidates at all levels need to put rural America's concerns front and center to earn our vote. We've proven that with millions of electric co-op members speaking out with one voice, we can have a major impact in making our top issues part of the conversation.

I encourage everyone, regardless of their political beliefs, to join America's electric cooperatives in this national effort. Let's continue to stand up for the priorities of the rural electric co-op community. It's more important now than ever. Learn more at www.vote.coop. ■



2020 Election Dates

Primary Election: August 18

Early Voting, By County

- ▶ Bay, Walton and Washington: August 8-15
- ▶ Calhoun and Jackson: August 3-15
- ▶ Gulf: August 8-17

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BOARD MEETINGS

August 25, 2020

September 22, 2020

October 27, 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

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FL-155

CEO Message

Is an EV Right for You?

If you're wondering if an electric vehicle is right for you, the answer may be as close as Peace River Electric Cooperative's website. We are your trusted energy adviser for a range of topics, such as surge suppressors, heating and cooling, energy conservation and, now, electric vehicles.

We offer a complete collection of web pages dedicated to electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles: the benefits of ownership, savings estimates and more.

EV use is on the rise in the United States as the cars provide a new driving experience for many Americans. More and more drivers realize the benefits of EVs, including less air pollution, fewer carbon emissions, decreased maintenance costs and less oil consumption.

As prices come down, EVs are gaining popularity. In 2011, around 17,000 EVs were sold in the U.S., compared to 361,000 sold in 2018. Since 2011, nearly 1.2 million EVs have been sold, and that number continues to grow.

More of our members are turning to PRECO for answers about EVs. As member-owners of the cooperative, our members know we work for them and will provide straight, unbiased answers to their energy questions. Our EV website is designed with you in mind.

PRECO's new EV website explains subjects such as range-per-charge and how it relates to how far you commute each day. The online calculator can help you compare your current gas costs to your expected cost-per-mile for an EV.

Are you considering an EV because you are concerned about reducing your CO₂ emissions? Choose the make and model of your current car and compare it to the



A Tesla electric vehicle and charging station sign. Learn about different chargers on page 4.



make and model of the EV you are considering. Our calculator will estimate your expected reduction in carbon emissions per year.

Get the latest facts, figures and pricing on brand name EVs and PHEVs, such as the Chevy Bolt, Nissan Leaf and Toyota Prius, to name just a few. The expected retail cost, miles-per-charge, charging time and more are listed for each vehicle. PRECO provides information on EV-related federal tax incentives to help you get the most bang for your buck.

Learn more about our EV website by turning to page 4 of this magazine or by visiting www.PRECO.coop.

Randy Shaw



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Ted Case

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Maureen Kuhlman

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

Rachel Kloor

OREGON ELECTRIC CO-OPS

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

OR-400

Case in Point

There are countless differing perspectives about the coronavirus epidemic, but hopefully we all agree the loss of life is tragic, wherever it occurs.

We are learning the extended electric co-op family is not immune to the pandemic. Last month, a sibling of an Oregon electric co-op director died of COVID-19—one of, at this writing, 140,157 Americans who have lost their life to this infection.

Sometimes we get so caught up in the grim statistics—the number of tests, infections and deaths—that we lose sight of the true human toll from this pandemic.

The number of COVID-19 cases is increasing, and there is a sense the infection is spiraling out of control. Many of us are wondering what school will look like in the fall, including the scores of co-op employees in the state who have school-aged children. The question remains: How do we protect ourselves and those around us? There seem to be few answers.

Electric co-ops are trying to do their part. Almost every conversation I have with co-op leaders involves their commitment to the safety of their employees and their consumers. I hear as much about plexiglass for their offices as I do about power supply. Every possible measure is being considered. No matter what we thought at the beginning, there is no rural-urban divide when it comes to COVID-19.

A virus once ravaging a distant New York metropolis has now shifted to small, quiet places much closer to home. It's a lesson rural Oregonians—and our electric co-op family—have learned in the most heartbreaking way.



Ted Case
Executive Director