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**Business Hours**

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

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ID-1

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.....

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Todd Lindsay, Sand Hollow

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**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

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## Manager's Message

Dear Members:

Due to the ongoing concern and uncertainty regarding COVID-19, as well as the current regulations for the state of Oregon and Morrow County, Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative's management and board of directors decided to hold our annual meeting virtually.

The decision was not made easily or without considerable thought. Our members' safety will always be a priority. We feel we could not, in good conscience, put our members and staff at risk with the possibility of exposure by holding our previously scheduled annual meeting in-person in Ione.

The annual meeting is still Thursday, November 5. We will mail ballots in late September or early October. Along with your ballot, you will receive instructions on how to log in to the virtual meeting.

The cooperative will enter the names of the members who return their ballots into a drawing for prizes, so be sure to return your ballot. A list of prizes will be included in the mailer.

Again, the decision to cancel our in-person annual meeting was a difficult one. Everyone at Columbia Basin Electric hopes you understand we made this decision in what we believe is in the best interest of our members and staff.

Please mark your calendars for next year's meeting in Ione the first Thursday of November 2021. We hope everyone plans to attend.

Thank you for your understanding. 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

## Oh, What a Year It's Been

Greetings,

Last year at this time, I updated you on the district's capital investment plan and the commencement of the advanced meter infrastructure project. Everyone was gracious and understanding as we upgraded the various systems to current technology. We've been able to be more responsive to your needs because of these investments.

Little did we know we would lean on this and other technology so heavily as staff transitioned to remote work due to the pandemic, or even fully appreciate how quickly we would be able to respond to outages or system maintenance opportunities as this plethora of information has become more readily available.

There are still a few more meters to go to call the project 100% finished, but we're working on them in a diligent and customer-centric manner because these installations are more technical in nature and require a bit more engineering and planning to complete. We're almost there!

That project, along with many others, has continued to keep the lights on during this interesting year. In management speak, we use terms like "opportunity-rich environment" to try to make lemonade out of the lemons that sometimes show up when we're trying to accomplish other things.

District staff, your board of directors and our contractor community have worked hard to make lemonade out of 2020 when it wasn't always easy. We've delayed work, reshuffled short-run priorities and altered course in a few ways to support the community as people have fallen behind on paying their PUD bills.

We're doing our part. We need you to do your part as well. Please contact us if you need help catching up on your bills.

For the district, September means the end of the third quarter of operations, transitioning from the summer construction season to the fall, and preparing for our winter heavy-use heating, or peak season. We're finalizing 2021 budgets and preparing to support new member(s) of the board of directors because it is an election year.

"The show must go on" is an appropriate phrase. It must go on regardless of pandemics, regardless of season and regardless of how many lemons present themselves. That's our commitment to you, and we will continue to live up to it.

As always, organizational performance information and much more is available at [www.nwascopud.org](http://www.nwascopud.org).

Happy September, everyone. Please stay safe and healthy.

**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.

.....  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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**Chuck Goldmark**, Vice President  
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 District 6, Nespelem

**Ron Heath**  
 District 7, Disautel

**Albert Preugschat**  
 District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth  
 Tuesday of every month.

**WA-5**



**Our Power Is Water**

Nespelem Valley Electric’s core mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable service in accordance with sound business and environmental practices. Hydroelectric power helps us achieve this mission by supplying clean, renewable and reliable electricity. More than 80% of the power flowing to your home comes from hydroelectric power.

**Affordable Energy for All**

Thanks to hydroelectricity, Northwest communities pay some of the lowest energy bills in the nation.

**Investments in Salmon**

Billions of dollars have been invested in habitat restoration and dam improvements to support salmon populations across the region.

**Reliability for Renewables**

Hydroelectric dams help balance the fluctuations of solar and wind, which helps us achieve our clean energy goals.

**14M**

The approximate number of U.S. households that could be served by the Northwest’s hydroelectric output in an average year.

**34.3K**

The generating capacity of Northwest hydroelectric dams, in megawatts.

**16.2K**

The Northwest dams generate 16,200 megawatt-hours each year.

**80%**

The percentage of the Northwest’s carbon-free annual electricity production made up by hydroelectricity.

**47%**

The percentage of the Northwest’s average total electricity production that comes from hydropower.

**0**

Hydropower production generates no carbon emissions.

For more information, visit [nwriverpartners.org](http://nwriverpartners.org)



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

MAILING ADDRESS

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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



### Give a Gift That Keeps on Giving

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

OR-6

## President's Report

The Bonneville Power Administration announced last month that BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer is leaving to become CEO of the California Independent System Operator. CAISO manages the transmission of electricity for most of California and a piece of Nevada.

Elliot had an 18-year career at BPA, seven as its leader. BPA markets power from 31 federally owned hydroelectric dams in the region and operates 75% of the high-voltage transmission in the region.

As administrator, Elliot refocused the agency on operational safety, rebuilt its management team and leadership culture, and prioritized modernizing the grid while controlling rate increases.

Elliot's last day at BPA was August 31. We extend our thanks to him for his leadership at BPA, and wish him success in his new venture.

### Water Resources Development Act

In July, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved legislation to reauthorize the programs and projects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This legislation included language directing the Corps to start a two-year process to deauthorize power generation at Cougar and Detroit dams in the Willamette River Basin.

Once finalized, we anticipate this legislation to save Northwest ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars in long-term capital investments. The hydro portion of these two projects are some of the lowest value, highest cost hydro projects in the federal system and provide less than 1% of the federal system's total electricity output. The cost to operate these generation resources over the next 20 years is projected to be five times higher than that of the rest of the federal system.

We thank Rep. Peter DeFazio, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, for his leadership on this important issue. We also thank Rep. Kurt Schrader for his

extensive work as well as Public Power Council staff, specifically Marty Kanner, who has been working on this matter for many years.

While the benefits of hydropower are many, the current and projected future cost of these two hydro projects combined with their low output make them uneconomical.

### Lower Snake River Dams

In July, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and BPA rejected the notion of breaching the four lower Snake River dams with their release of the final Environmental Impact Statement for the Columbia River System Operations. The agencies worked with public, state, county and federal agencies and more than 30 tribes and various other stakeholder groups to develop the final EIS.

Breaching these dams would carry enormous social and economic costs and require congressional authorization. Barges that carry wheat and other goods would be stranded, farmers would not be able to irrigate their crops, the public would lose valuable recreation benefits and electricity rates would rise to unacceptable levels. Greenhouse gas emissions would increase more than 1 million metric tons annually as natural gas-fired power plants would have to make up for the lost hydro generation.

The agencies continue to favor spilling more water over dams in the spring to help wild salmon and steelhead protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

### Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting is Saturday, September 12. The event will be much different than previous meetings due to COVID-19, social-distancing requirements and state restrictions on large gatherings. Please see the August edition of Ruralite for more details or give us a call at 541-929-3124.

—Roman Gillen, President and CEO



**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

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- Catherine Russell, Secretary/Treasurer, District 8
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- 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 September 30 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](mailto:priorityrequests@bentonrea.org).

**General Manager**

Michael J. Bradshaw

**Management Staff**

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

# Recognizing Our Nation's Workforce

**Dear Members,**

Labor Day is Monday, September 7. We typically celebrate with family backyard barbecues, but the holiday's history was not as relaxing.

The recognition of our nation's workforce was created by the labor movement in the 19th century. Labor Day became a federal holiday when signed into law by President Grover Cleveland on June 28, 1894. The purpose of the holiday is to pay tribute to the achievements of all American workers and their contribution to the success of our great nation. I want to thank the Benton REA workforce for their contribution to the success of your rural electric cooperative.

Benton REA employees, and many of you, will be taking this day off work to celebrate this important holiday. Maybe you labor in agriculture, health care or are a stay-at-home parent, and there's still work to be done on September 7.

Maybe you are not working right now because your employer cut back due to economic hardship caused by COVID-19. Whatever situation you are in, I want you to know that Benton REA greatly appreciates your patronage and is always here to provide you with reliable electric service.

If you haven't been able to work these past few months, and your budget is tight, please call us. We have programs to help our members in need. We can point you to organizations that help pay electric bills and can connect you with our energy experts to discuss ways to lower future bills.

Also, your Benton REA Board of Trustees chose to pay back the 2020 ownership credits in July, rather than December, to get your money to you faster.

**Want To Help?**

Benton REA is launching a new program this month to help members pay their electric bills. You can round up your monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar or make a monthly or one-time donation to this fund.

Participants will contribute an average of about \$6 a year rounding up their electric bill payments to help fellow members. Benton REA will match your donations up to \$5,000 through October 31. See page 28 for details about participating in this program.

I hope you all enjoy the Labor Day weekend while also staying safe and healthy!

**Cooperatively,**

**Michael J. Bradshaw, General Manager**

[mikeb@bentonrea.org](mailto:mikeb@bentonrea.org)





**Offices**

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

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

**Hours**

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Monday-Thursday

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

**General Manager**

Robert Echenrode

[www.umatillaelectric.com](http://www.umatillaelectric.com)

OR-8

# An Evolution in Power Acquisition

When it comes to buying wholesale power for our members, it was simple until it wasn't.

In UEC's earliest days in the 1930s, we bought power from neighboring Pacific Power to deliver to our members. Soon we began buying federal hydropower from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), an association that continues to this day.

For decades, UEC stood alone, buying our power directly from BPA. We grew and prospered. Enjoying the benefits of federal hydropower, we went 38 years before imposing our first rate increase.

Then things got a bit more complicated. Energy shocks of the 1970s and a federal notice that Northwest public utilities could no longer rely on BPA for all our future power needs changed our world in a heartbeat.

With five other cooperatives, UEC in 1975 created the Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative, now PNGC Power. That gave us greater buying clout and technical capabilities as we shared both costs and benefits.

Fast forward to modern times. In 2007, Oregon mandated that larger utilities prepare to buy sizeable amounts of renewables such as wind and solar. And more significantly for us, in 2010, BPA capped the amount of legacy federal hydropower utilities such as UEC could buy.

Because our communities have been growing, driven by irrigation, food processing and technology, we quickly exceeded our legacy hydro allocation. Working through PNGC, we sought additional power resources from BPA and went beyond into the Northwest's open and varied energy market to fulfill our needs.

Fortuitously, the timing worked for us

– energy resources and other factors have moderated the cost of wholesale power in the U.S. and Northwest. At times, the cost of market power has been less than legacy hydropower. The collective membership of UEC has been the beneficiary.

Because buying power makes up nearly 80 percent of our cost of doing business, no decision is more critical than how, when and where we buy power for our members. We have worked many months planning UEC's next evolution in power acquisition.

Today, with our growth and the current dynamics of the Northwest energy market, it's time for UEC to make another transition in acquiring wholesale power. On Oct. 1, UEC will begin to independently acquire power resources for our members and our long-term and historical relationship with PNGC will amicably end. We are grateful for our association and camaraderie with PNGC, which has grown its number of member cooperatives operating in seven states, as they worked to provide their members with stable prices and beneficial power supply strategies.

We will continue buying power from BPA – directly instead of through PNGC – and we will be buying power in the energy market from many of the same sources as PNGC. As a member of UEC, you will receive the same quality of service you have always relied upon.

We are excited at the added control and flexibility this will bring in directing energy resources and in seeking the best value for our members. In an upcoming column, I will discuss more about the road ahead in power supply for our cooperative.



**Robert Echenrode**  
General Manager & CEO



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

**Board of Directors**

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- 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
- BJ Ayres. .... The Dalles Foreman
- 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

## Annual Meeting Cancellation

Following much discussion and consideration of the status of the COVID-19 pandemic and the meeting rules in place for Oregon, the Wasco Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has canceled the 2020 Annual Meeting of its Membership.

In place of the traditional annual meeting, the co-op will hold a special meeting for the purpose of electing directors, as required in the co-op’s bylaws. This meeting is Saturday, November 21, 2020, via teleconference. Please see page 8 for more information on the director election process this year.

The board of directors is deeply saddened to cancel the public gathering portion of our annual meeting for the first time in our cooperative’s history. However, it is the right decision for the health and welfare of the co-op’s members and employees. The directors and employees look forward to reconvening at the traditional in-person annual meeting in 2021.



## WECare Donations

Each year, the cooperative reaches out to its members asking for support of those less fortunate who struggle to make financial ends meet. Your contributions to our WECare program help many families each year. We are again asking for your support this month.

With your September electric bill, you will find a donation card for you to help support your friends and neighbors. Please see page 4 of this month’s issue for more information on the benefits of this program.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your cooperative, please call or stop by the office.

**Jeff Davis**  
**General Manager**

# Owned By Those We Serve

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

## Officers

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

**General Manager**  
Keith Brooks

**Assistant General Manager**  
Phil Bigler

**Office Manager/CFO**  
David Western

**Superintendent**  
Todd Sherwood

**Member Services**  
Todd C. Munsey

**System Engineer**  
Jess Dory, PE

## Mission Statement

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

**DOUGLAS**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OR-10

## Everyone Working Together

Dear Member,

Agencies like Douglas Forest Protective Agency, Coos FPA and local fire fighters throughout our service territory are my heroes. As your manager, I look at the thousands of 150-foot or taller trees bordering our tiny 30-foot-wide utility corridors and become a little disheartened. When some of those trees fall into our lines, especially now when we are deep into fire season, the potential for damage is huge. By far, most of our outages and power line-related fires are caused when trees from outside our easements fall into Douglas Electric Cooperative's lines.

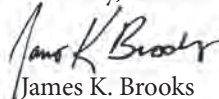


This threat is increasing as the effects of Snowmageddon, drought, disease, insects and warmer temperatures weaken standing trees competing for the scarce resources needed to survive. By conservative estimates, our wildfire season is now more than 30 days longer than it was just a few decades ago. Programs like DFPAs Firewise have been very effective in helping stop the spread of fire when it does occur. DFPAs response time has been nothing less than incredible during a fire. In most cases, they are literally fighting an uphill battle. They are heroes, to say the least.

For our part, the only way I lift my spirits, is to shake off the worry and start working the problem. What can we do? Douglas Electric, like most Oregon cooperatives, has enacted fire mitigation plans. We have increased our vegetation management and maintenance budgets. We now patrol our rights of way with drone technology, which allows us to inspect more line faster. We look for opportunities to bury more line, with almost all our new services installed that way. But the cost of doing so systemwide is prohibitive, and many miles of the terrain we serve make it impossible. We could build a system that is resistant to fire threat, but no one would be able to afford it.

What can you do? Make sure there is defensible space around your home. If you see trees that may threaten the high-voltage lines on your property, please call us. If we feel they are a threat, we will take them down at no expense to you. Finally, say a little prayer and a word of thanks to our heroic firefighters. They are doing God's work.

Sincerely,

  
James K. Brooks

# 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

# Make Your Voice Heard

There's an old political saying, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "Why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate who shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we encourage all Columbia Power Co-op members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on September 22, 2020.



Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote, or helping members of our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

While local elections may not be as exciting as a high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and quality of life.

As at the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community and, more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board, public service commissioner or an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures a diverse number of views are represented. The entire community benefits when more people participate in the process because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state and local elections, you are a role model for your family, friends and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues on the ballot, and get out and vote! ■

*To learn more about National Voter Registration Day or to get involved, visit [www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org).*

# Central Issues

## Central Electric Cooperative

### DIRECTORS

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

Attorney, Thomas M. Grim  
Cable Huston LLP, Portland

### STAFF

**President and CEO**  
Dave Markham

**Chief Financial Officer**  
Rawleigh White

**Director of Operations & Engineering**  
Brad Wilson

**Corporate Information Officer**  
Lisa Cutter

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

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

### 24-HOUR PHONE NUMBERS:

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

#### **Mission Statement**

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

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

**www.cec.coop**

OR-12

## Seeking Solutions to Reduce Wildfire Risk

Vegetation management helps reduce the threat of wildfires and enhances the resiliency of the electric grid. When the U.S. Forest Service recently announced its new vegetation management rule to improve the approval process, it was met with optimism—albeit tempered.

The new rule seeks to streamline the permitting process to allow utilities to remove vegetation along their rights-of-way on federal land, including dead snags, hazard trees and limbs that could fall into power lines. CEC has experienced lengthy delays and, at times, an unclear process to proceed with routine maintenance. I have shared frustrating ordeals with you before in this space and, more recently, in a national podcast.\*

Since 2014, I have testified before Congress and met with federal land agencies' representatives multiple times to educate and promote solutions to improve a problematic and expensive application process to get approval to carry out routine maintenance on power lines, some of which have been in place for more than 50 years.

For the past six years, multiple legislative initiatives failed to gain traction. Not until 2018 did Congress pass meaningful vegetation management and fire-prevention measures. The legislation directed federal land agencies to draft new regulations to streamline the permitting process. Here we are two years later.

The new rule raises some concerns. As it reads, local ranger districts have wide latitude to implement the standards at their discretion. There is no guarantee of a consistent or uniform process. This is problematic.

CEC's service territory covers approximately 5,300 square miles and includes multiple national forests. What

the Ochoco National Forest requires to perform vegetation management may differ from the Deschutes National Forest resulting in the co-op expending unnecessary additional time and resources to conduct routine vegetation management.

We do, however, have another bite at the apple. In an unprecedented step, the federal land agencies will solicit public input on their new directives before finalizing the regulations. Historically, they limited public comment before releasing the final rule.

I welcome the opportunity and will work toward solutions to ensure a more consistent and uniform process to allow the co-op to expeditiously remove danger trees and vegetation for the general public's safety and a more resilient electric grid.

We are not only engaged in the federal but the state arena, too. Earlier this year, Gov. Kate Brown issued an executive order directing the Oregon Public Utilities Commission to conduct workshops to develop and share best practices for mitigating wildfire risk. CEC participated in the first workshop on a panel to highlight the ongoing challenges and the wildfire assessment tools we deploy to mitigate wildfire risk. These practices are being formalized in CEC's wildfire risk mitigation plan, due for completion later this year.

Partnering with federal and state land agencies and other electric utilities helps ensure we leave no stone unturned when it comes to protecting our members and the general public and strengthening our system to reduce wildfire risk.

**Dave Markham**  
**President and CEO**

*\*See pages 28-29 for an in-depth discussion excerpted from a recent interview with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's "Along Those Lines" podcast.*



## Board of Directors

### President

John G. Herzog, Brookings/Harbor

### Vice President

Georgia A. Cockerham, Brookings/Harbor

### Secretary/ Treasurer

Jim Kolen, Gold Beach

Cheryl L. McMahan, Southern At-Large  
Peter C. Radabaugh, Bandon/Coquille  
Daryl C. Robison, Port Orford/Langlois  
Daniel Loshbaugh, Northern At-Large

Attorney—Tyler Pepple

## Staff

### General Manager/CEO

Brent Bischoff

### Corporate Services/CFO

Frank Corrales

### Engineering Manager

Matt Mjelde

### Chief Information Officer

Dan Springer

### Marketing and Member Services Manager

Jacob Knudsen

### Operations Manager

Randy McDonald

### Local numbers

Coquille ..... 541-396-3118  
Port Orford..... 541-332-3931  
Gold Beach..... 541-247-6638  
Brookings..... 541-469-2103

Area office hours 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Monday through Thursday.  
Closed Friday.

### After-Hours Outage Number

866-352-9044

### Call Before You Dig

811

[www.ccec.coop](http://www.ccec.coop)

OR-13

# Safe and Reliable

One of Coos-Curry Electric's strategic goals is to provide you with safe and reliable electric service. Sometimes these two principles of operation—safe and reliable—are at odds with one another. We then rebalance them and may give one priority over the other.

Without question, safety takes precedence over reliability. Fire season is here again and we must adjust the balance between safety and reliability in favor of safety. Let me illustrate by explaining one feature of power system operation.

Have you ever been home on a stormy night when the power goes off, then comes back on, then goes off and on again in what seems like an intentional rhythm? It is a design feature of the power system called reclosing. Reclosing improves power system reliability because about 80% of power system problems are temporary.

Lightning may strike a power line or a broken tree limb momentarily lands on a power line and then falls off. Protective equipment that monitors the power system senses the problem and opens a circuit breaker to de-energize the power line—and the lights go out. The protective equipment waits a couple of seconds, recloses the circuit breaker—and the lights come back on. If the problem remains, the recloser cycles off and on up to three times before locking the circuit breaker open. If the lights stay off, you then report the outage and wait for linemen to troubleshoot and repair the problem. If the problem was temporary, the lights stay on after just a blink or two. Reclosing improves reliability.

When a problem exists on the power system, there is the potential for arcing and sparking while the power line is energized. Most of the year, fire danger is low and this is not a concern. But for the short time during the year when fire danger is high, we take extra precautions for the benefit of safety. On distribution lines where and when there is extreme fire danger, we “cut out reclosing,” meaning we shut off the recloser. This minimizes the potential for the power system to be a fire ignition source. In this case, safety improves at the expense of reliability.

This is just one example of the many things we do at Coos-Curry Electric to assess and mitigate the risk of the electric system causing a fire when fire danger is high. Safety is always at the forefront of our work, with specific safety focus during fire season.



**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 4 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,

West Oregon Electric Cooperative's first virtual annual meeting will be history by the time you read this, but it has not happened at the time of this writing. What I do know is both candidates ran unopposed and it should have been a decisive win for both. The bylaw amendment, if passed, will help get voting information to you sooner, allowing you more time to review the information prior to a meeting.

September is a month of transition that eases us into the change that is coming. The air will start to feel cooler; the trees will start to turn colors and the daylight hours get shorter. September is a reminder that winter is just around the corner. It is amazing how quickly this year has gone by.

As fall sets in, our office hours have changed, too. Beginning Monday, August 31, the office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m. As usual, our after-hours dispatch service can assist you by phone while we are away.

Through all this disruption caused by COVID-19, we have seen a huge increase in online delivery service. This is nothing new—WEOEC has been in the online delivery service for decades. I am hopeful the weather will cooperate this winter so we can continue our online delivery service to you uninterrupted.

Speaking of uninterrupted, if you are getting behind on your electric bill, our front office team is here to help you. Please give us a call.

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](http://www.surprisevalleyelectric.org)

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

After hours and outages:  
Call office numbers above.

## **STAFF**

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

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dennis Flynn, President  
*Valley Falls*

Scott Warner, Vice President  
*Lakeview*

Raymond Cloud, Secretary/Treasurer  
*New Pine Creek*

Wesley Cook  
*Cedarville*

Craig Joiner  
*Lookout*

John Erquiaga  
*Lake City*

Kyle Weber  
*Alturas*

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

**"Owned by those we serve."**

This institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.

CA-15

## **Cancellation of 2020 Annual Meeting, Directors Appointed**

On July 23, 2020, the Surprise Valley Electrification Corp. Board of Directors voted unanimously to cancel the Annual Meeting of the Members this year because of the threat that the COVID-19 pandemic poses to the health of its members and the probability that the state of California current public health directives which prohibit gatherings such as the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative's Members would still be in effect.

"The Annual Meeting of the Members is an event that is important to the cooperative and our members," says Dennis Flynn, president of the SVEC Board of Directors, "But the risk to the health of our members and the expense of getting the event planned was too great given the unique circumstances we are all facing this year."

The annual meeting is the time when the cooperative holds its elections for those who serve on the board of directors. District No. 4 and District No. 7 were to be decided at the meeting this year because the terms of John Erquiaga—representing District No. 4—and Dennis Flynn—representing District No. 7—expire this year. In that the annual meeting was canceled, the board of directors appointed John and Dennis to continue to serve on the cooperative's board representing their respective districts. Both will serve three-year terms.

The board of directors instructed the cooperative's management to provide information directly to cooperative members concerning the activities and financial health of the cooperative. General Manager Brad Kresge explained that the information that is usually presented at the annual meeting will be published in the monthly Ruralite magazine early this fall.



# 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](http://www.surprisevalleyelectric.org)

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

After hours and outages:  
Call office numbers above.

## STAFF

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Flynn, President  
*Valley Falls*

Scott Warner, Vice President  
*Lakeview*

Raymond Cloud, Secretary/Treasurer  
*New Pine Creek*

Wesley Cook  
*Cedarville*

Craig Joiner  
*Lookout*

John Erquiaga  
*Lake City*

Kyle Weber  
*Alturas*

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month at the SVE office.*

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provider and employer.

CA-15

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Hugh Buermann**, Row River District | **President**  
**Kathy Keable**, McKenzie District | **Vice President**  
**Jack Billings**, Central District | **Treasurer**  
**J. Ingrid Kessler**, Central District | **Secretary**  
**Susan Knudsen Obermeyer**, Oakridge District  
**Jerry Shorey**, Oakridge District  
**Chris Seubert**, Central District

## MANAGEMENT

**Debi Wilson** | General Manager  
**Susan Carter** | Finance & Administration Manager  
**Tony Toncray** | Operations Manager  
**Sean Krause** | Engineering Manager  
**Andy Cave** | IT Manager  
**Jonathan Farmer** | Member & Public Affairs Manager

## BOARD MEETINGS

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

OR-16

## Be Heard, Join ACRE

Summers here at the co-op are some of our busiest times. The dry weather allows us to prepare for storms by performing system maintenance, trimming rights-of-way and inspecting lines that are otherwise problematic to reach.

There actually are a few storms brewing that we could use your help to prepare for.

We are all experiencing difficulties and a certain degree of loss during these trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic. There also are pressing legislative issues that need our collective attention.

As Congress continues to struggle with relief packages and charting a course back to prosperity, there is an opportunity for us to advocate for our co-op and our communities.

We need to urge policymakers to minimize COVID-19 impacts and provide a safety net by:

- Promoting investment to expand broadband access in areas of rural America that lack internet access, like much of our service territory.
- Providing federal funds to address potential operational shortfalls for electric co-ops whose members are disproportionately affected by the economic downturn and not able to pay their bills.
- Directing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to swiftly provide promised funding to co-ops that have restored their electric systems devastated by past disasters, such as last year's snowstorm.

Here is how you can do all that and more, in less than 5 minutes.

Cooperatives across Oregon are encouraging their members to promote commonsense solutions by way of a grassroots program called Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association Action, or ORECA-Action.

Upon visiting its website, [www.oreca-action.org](http://www.oreca-action.org), click the "Take Action" button, which will provide you with information about things you can do right now to help



us better weather the storms ahead. Please visit the site today and help us help you.

Cooperatives have a storied past of political engagement. They understand the power that comes from banding together with those around us to advocate for things important to us.

After all, it was a group of concerned neighbors up the McKenzie River that got together in the late 1930s to make their voices heard, which spurred the creation of what is now Lane Electric Cooperative.

More recently, it took a group of concerned co-op members to reach out to their elected officials to advocate for support of the RURAL Act, which corrected unintended changes to the IRS code that would have cost us our tax-exempt status.

It will take just such a group of concerned citizens to continue supporting the preferred alternative of the Environmental Impact Study regarding the four lower Snake River dams to keep our power clean, reliable and economical.

It's more important than ever to work cooperatively and advocate for solutions to the problems facing our co-op, our community and our country.

We need to do our part and add our voices to the many others around us. Members of Congress work for us, and they need to hear our stories.



**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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
*The power of human connections*

OR-17

## Manager's Report

**Dear Members,**

We are heading into harvest time for farmers and it got me thinking about this question: If you want a crop of apples, when should you plant the trees? Our members know the answer to that question is well ahead of harvest time. One of my hobbies and passions is growing and cultivating fruit trees, so I know a bit about getting a decent crop of apples.



In the past, you've either heard me talk about or you have read about Blachly-Lane being a planning organization. It is a bit like farming. You develop a business plan, you plant the crop, cultivate the land, water, prune, thin and treat the trees appropriately. If you don't have a severe weather event, disease or pests—and if everything else goes right—you have a bountiful harvest.

Every year about this time, we start planning where to focus our efforts for the next year so it brings the greatest return on our investment. As we look ahead, we recognize that last year we had a significant weather event and this year our members are being impacted by a disease like we have not seen in our lifetime. Those setbacks have impacted your cooperative's ability to accomplish all our planned work, forcing some delays in work we recognize still needs to be done.

We know our mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable electric power. Our vision is to provide those services for the economic future of Blachly-Lane consumer-members. As we put together next year's work plan and budget, we need to take both our mission and our vision into account while we tend to the energy network that provides service to our members.

Farmers know a bit about handling setbacks and being resilient—something I have always admired and respected. They take great care of the resources they have been provided and they know how to tend to their crops. Likewise, we remain resilient and plan to take great care of your cooperative.

**Greg Gardner**  
**General Manager**



**Board of Commissioners**

**Dan G. Gunkel**  
*President*

**Douglas B. Miller**  
*Vice President*

**Randy L. Knowles**  
*Secretary*

.....  
**Jim Smith**  
*General Manager*

**Gwyn Miller**  
*Assistant General Manager*

**Kevin Ricks**  
*Renewable Energy Asset Manager*

**Mike DeMott**  
*Director of Finance  
and Power Management*

**Mark Pritchard**  
*Operations Manager*

**Ron Schultz**  
*Engineering Manager*

**Brandy Myers**  
*Customer Service Supervisor*

.....

**www.klickitatpud.com**

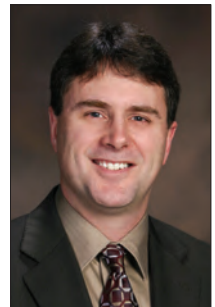
**Goldendale Office**  
1313 S. Columbus Ave.  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
509-773-5891  
800-548-8357

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



WA-18

## Continuing to Serve



Are you as ready as I am for things to go back to normal? It is hard not to become complacent, and we have been talking about that here at your PUD. We all still work modified shifts to provide you reliable service because these just are not normal times. I wonder what normal will be once we finally get through this virus—if we ever get totally through it. Whatever the new normal is, we will respond accordingly to look after your needs.

Much of the work we do is unchanged. Our work connecting new customers is almost back to “normal” as the economy opens up. In the past two weeks, we have worked to install 10 new customer services in the west end alone. We also continue to work on our maintenance and system improvement projects, as well as all the vegetation management, purchasing, accounting, billing, invoicing and customer work that needs to be completed every day. The water and wastewater department continues to complete summer repair projects and operate water systems during our peak demand times.

Our meter readers are catching up on meter reads after being restricted by the virus. You will see them around throughout the county. We are also actively working with customers impacted by the coronavirus. Klickitat PUD customer service representatives are assisting customers with payment plans to get caught up on their bills as the economy reopens. Contact us to make payment arrangements if you are behind, as the bills are still due.

The way we work has changed. We have implemented significant steps to make sure employees are safe and can stay healthy and at work. Our goal is to not lose the ability to provide you service.

Customer programs are also still in place. Our COVID-19 Small Business Support Program, Low-Income Elderly Discount Program and Operation WarmHeart have already contributed more than \$85,000 this year to folks in our community.

I'll leave you with this: I have told our employees, regardless of how we feel about the virus, this is not about us. It is about others and respecting their space and making an extra effort to do our part. Anyone can come into inadvertent contact with someone who is later diagnosed. That's a fact. We owe that effort to everyone. I hope you embrace this perspective as well. Let's keep each other safe.

**Jim Smith**  
**General Manager**



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

**For outages:**  
866-665-4837

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

**Outside Sandpoint:**  
800-326-9594

**Board President**  
Steve Elgar

**Board Vice President**  
Kennon McClintock

**Board Secretary/Treasurer**  
Mike Dolan

**General Manager**  
Annie Terracciano

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

**District No. 2**  
Jill Vandegrift, Trout Creek, MT  
801-574-7703

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

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

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

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

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

ID-19

## New District 2 Director

Happy Labor Day! I hope you all enjoyed your summer and are ready for some cooler weather and beautiful autumn colors.

Join me and the NLI Board of Directors in welcoming Jill Vandegrift of Trout Creek as the new District 2 director covering the area south of Bull Lake in Montana from Clark Fork, Idaho, to Thompson Falls, Montana.

Jill was appointed after the passing of Judith Simonson, who was the District 2 director for 25 years.

Jill is joining the board with extensive business, military and emergency management experience. Her knowledge and skill set make her an excellent addition to the board.



### **What is the role of NLI's board of directors in serving the membership?**

Board directors are democratically elected by the membership to govern and direct the affairs of the cooperative. The board of directors are fiduciaries—people to whom power is entrusted for the benefit of others. The fundamental fiduciary responsibility of the board of directors at NLI is to carefully represent the interests of the members as a group in directing and overseeing the business and affairs of the cooperative within the law.

NLI is overseen by a seven-member board of directors. Each director represents a specific geographic area of our service territory covering north Idaho, western Montana and eastern Washington. Being a director is a big responsibility. The electric utility industry is an ever-evolving, high-tech system that must be designed and engineered to meet regulatory and consumer standards for reliability, quality and safety. In addition, there are numerous challenging industry issues such as power supply, regulatory requirements and environmental issues.

To fulfill their duties, the board of directors at NLI commit time to education. On a regular basis, directors attend training courses on topics such as board governance, financial decision-making and strategic planning, to name a few. This education helps prepare the directors to make wise business decisions in the boardroom.

Albert Einstein once said, "Learning is not a product of schooling but the lifelong attempt to acquire it." At NLI we agree with this philosophy.

**Annie Terracciano**  
**General Manager**



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

#### **DIRECTORS**

**Jim Poxleitner** | President  
Cottonwood

**Ernie Robinson** | Vice President  
White Bird

**Gerald Frei** | Secretary-Treasurer  
Grangeville

**Frank McIntire**  
Kamiah

**Martin Poxleitner**  
Grangeville

**Greg M. Smith**  
Syringa

**Bruce Nuxoll**  
Kooskia

**Attorney**  
J.A. Wright

**General Manager**  
Max Beach

c-21

## Make Your Voice Heard

There's an old political saying, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "Why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you not only miss the opportunity to support a candidate who shares your views and concerns, you allow others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we're encouraging all ICL&P members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on September 22. Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote, or helping members of our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

While local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections directly impact your community and quality of life.

As at the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community and, more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board or an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, ICL&P board members provide strategic guidance on the direction of the co-op and how it serves the community. Local board members embody the voice and identity of the community. At our upcoming ICL&P annual meeting in November, members will vote for the director positions in districts 5,6 and 7 for three-year terms.

Ultimately, the role of the co-op board is governance. While day-to-day decisions are made by our employees, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is look out for the vitality of the co-op and the members we serve. ICL&P board members provide their perspective on community priorities, enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

Our directors spend a significant amount time on cooperative business and making the best decisions they can for our members and communities. This takes time and effort, and depends on you and your neighbors to vote so we can stay on course and ensure we're in sync with the community we serve.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures a diverse number of views are represented. The entire community benefits when more people participate in the process, because greater numbers reflect a better consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues on the ballot and get out to vote!

Learn more about National Voter Registration Day and get involved by visiting [nationalvoterregistrationday.org](http://nationalvoterregistrationday.org).

Thanks for listening,

**Max Beach**  
General Manager



# Columbia REA

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections

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

### Board of Directors

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

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

### Staff

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

WA-22

## Running in place but still working hard

Even though we seem to be in a “two steps forward, one step back” cycle, in terms of battling this Coronavirus pandemic, the strategic planning process continues every day among Electric Cooperative leadership, both locally, regionally and nationally. We definitely hope for the best...a short-term return to regular work and home life...but we must prepare for a longer recovery in order to fulfill our primary mission: to keep the lights on for you, our members, in the safest and most efficient manner possible.



As CEO, it is my responsibility to keep our staff safe, so they can keep your power flowing. With all else that is happening, the last thing we want is for you to worry about your electricity. For an essential business the guidelines allow a bit more flexibility, but we have taken a more conservative position, and will continue to follow the recommended CDC guidelines, and do our best to keep our employees safe.

But I don't make these decisions in a vacuum. Most days are filled with virtual meetings and conference calls. All Washington co-op leaders are meeting via video conference call every Monday morning to discuss the latest developments. These meetings have included elected members of Congress as well as elected State leaders and industry experts. We've also had representatives from our financial institutions on the calls to talk about impacts to the economy, as well as the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), to talk about focused outreach to Congress to ensure that Cooperative needs are addressed within any national response.

I also participate in a regional cooperative CEO group, with other executives from Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho and Western Montana. We talk about issues, ideas, and the latest developments of the day. This has been a great sounding board for ideas and to learn what others are doing. It is continually amazing how often and how much the recommendations and regulations change, both nationally and from state to state.

With the recent announcement that all counties in Washington will remain in their current phase indefinitely, we will maintain our conservative approach as well. All staff are working remotely from home, with a few key operational exceptions. We will continue to keep each of our line crews separate from the other crews, except in isolated situations where more people may be required. All field personnel understand that their health and safety are a priority and they are empowered to remove themselves from any situation that doesn't feel safe.

We will do our best to keep you up to date with changes as they happen, and they do seem to be happening fast!

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



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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

#### Departments

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

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

#### OFFICE HOURS

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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

##### Vice President

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

##### Secretary/Treasurer

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

As our communities continue to live through the hardships associated with COVID-19, Midstate Electric Cooperative is here to help where and when we can.

We realize some members may be facing financial struggles. We will continue to work with those members with the understanding they communicate with us. Member service representatives are available at 541-536-2126 option 3. It is imperative accounts become current before cold weather use increases and bills become insurmountable.

Federal and state utility assistance is available through Deschutes County Neighbor Impact at 541-504-2155, and Klamath County and Lake County Community Action Services at 541-882-3500. Members must reach out to these agencies for assistance.

### Impact Statement Released July 31

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bonneville Power Administration and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation—with input from tribal nations and Northwest states—released the Columbia River System Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement on July 31. The FEIS provides a comprehensive, final analysis of the four lower Snake River dams. It balances the needs of salmon, power supply and social welfare in the Pacific Northwest.

The report concluded the best option for fulfilling the objectives of improving salmonid survival, providing a reliable electric grid and reaching the Northwest's clean energy future is to maintain the four dams with adjusted operations.

The FEIS acknowledges the dams are a critical source of affordable and dependable energy for the Northwest. Without

the dams, the Northwest would be much more susceptible to energy shortages and regional blackouts.

The potential benefit to salmon from dam breaching varies according to modeling assumptions, but the socio-economic consequences to communities that rely on hydropower would be devastating. The FEIS estimates the cost of replacing the four dams with other renewable energy sources backed with batteries would approach \$800 million a year. That roughly equates to a 25% increase in electric bills for millions of Northwest residents and businesses.

Escalating electricity bills would create economic chaos at a time we are already reeling from a global pandemic, a homelessness crisis and an affordable housing shortage.

Salmon and steelhead recovery is a critical area of focus in the FEIS, calling for continued significant investments in habitat restoration as part of a holistic approach to helping salmonids.

The FEIS release coincides with the release of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration fisheries' biological opinion, which examined the proposed hydroelectric operations under the document's preferred alternative. It found the recommended operations are consistent with Endangered Species Act requirements.

It is hoped the FEIS and its in-depth decision-making process brings closure for all stakeholders involved and a firmer conviction around the critical role of the hydropower system, which provides the Northwest with the most affordable, carbon-free, renewable energy in the nation.

**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](http://www.rrelectric.com)

After hours or to report outages  
800-342-7732

Automated secure pay by phone  
844-244-1497

**Office hours: 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

Monday through Thursday  
Closed Friday through Sunday

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

Board meetings typically are the  
fourth Wednesday of each month.

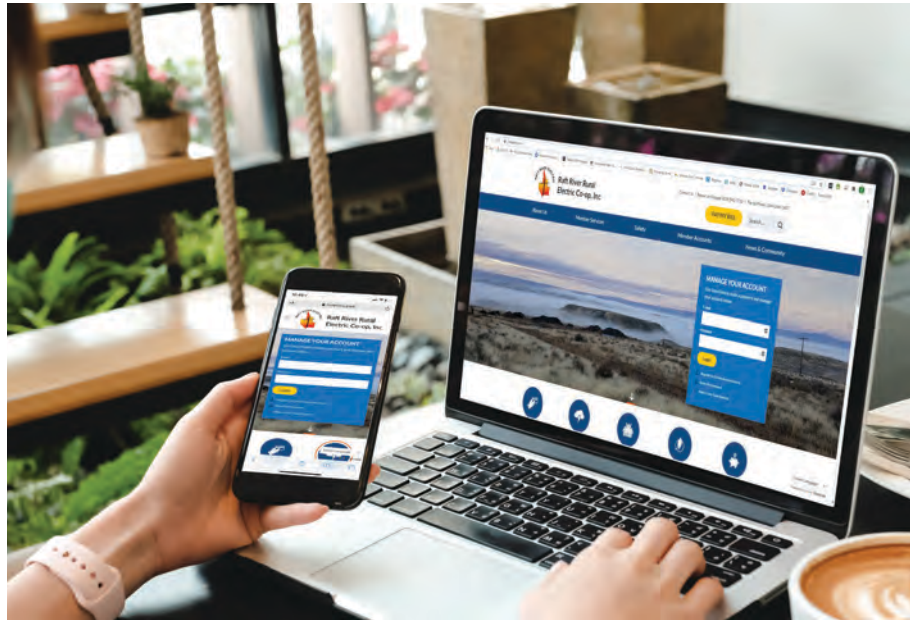
**Chad Black** | General Manager

**Mission Statement**

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



ID-24



# New Website Launch

Raft River Electric's new website has a fresh look.  
It was designed with members' needs in mind.

[Check it out on www.rrelectric.com](http://www.rrelectric.com)



## 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](http://www.bbec.org)

### TRUSTEES

President Ken Story  
Vice President John Harder  
Secretary Lanny Hayes  
Treasurer Stacy Kniveton  
Curtis Dahl  
Greg Galbreath  
Dan Hille  
Lyle Holt  
Dennis Swinger Sr.

### GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Yvette Armstrong

### LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf

WA-25



## Our Power Is Water

Big Bend Electric's core mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable service in accordance with sound business and environmental practices. Hydroelectric power helps us achieve this mission by supplying clean, renewable and reliable electricity. More than 80% of the power flowing to your home comes from hydroelectric power.

### Affordable Energy for All

Thanks to hydroelectricity, Northwest communities pay some of the lowest energy bills in the nation.

### Investments in Salmon

Billions of dollars have been invested in habitat restoration and dam improvements to support salmon populations across the region.

### Reliability for Renewables

Hydroelectric dams help balance the fluctuations of solar and wind, which helps us achieve our clean energy goals.

### Northwest Hydro By The Numbers

**14M**

US households served by the Northwest's hydroelectric output in an average year

**34.3K**

megawatts of generating capacity of Northwest hydroelectric dams

**16.2K**

The yearly average output of megawatts by Northwest hydroelectric dams.

**80%**

of the Northwest's carbon-free annual electricity production.

**47%**

of the Northwest's total average annual electricity production.

**0**

carbon emissions generated by hydropower production.

For more information, visit [nwriverpartners.org](http://nwriverpartners.org)



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

541-354-1233  
www.hrec.coop

www.facebook.com/HRECCoop

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

.....

**DIRECTORS**

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

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Libby Calnon

.....

Serving rural  
Hood River County  
since 1945

OR-26

## Manager's Message

Dear Members,



On August 12, a wildfire in the Mosier area threatened the Bonneville Power Administration transmission line that serves our Odell, Pine Grove and Eastside Road-area members. BPA de-energized the power line to protect firefighters, causing an outage that lasted several hours. We appreciate your patience during the outage, and want to remind you of a few resources you should use to get information about outages and other local emergencies.

- **HREC Facebook Page.** We update our Facebook page regularly during major outages. We also use it to provide information for members about our programs and services. We encourage you to follow us there: [www.facebook.com/HRECCoop](http://www.facebook.com/HRECCoop).

- **Everbridge.** Hood River County uses the Everbridge alert system to send citizen notifications regarding storms, outages and other emergencies. We encourage you to register at <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736721762/#/signup>.

- **Special needs.** If someone in your home has special needs, such as relying on electricity to run life-sustaining medical equipment, it is even more important to register with the county's Everbridge system. This helps our local agencies know who might need extra assistance during outages, storms and other emergencies. Use the same registration link to sign up: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736721762/#/signup>.

- **Be ready for outages.** When outages hit, we work as quickly as safety allows to restore your service. But restoration sometimes depends on repair work that must be completed by BPA or Pacific Power. During major storms with multiple trouble spots, repairs can take a few days. That's why we encourage you to prepare in advance. A home emergency kit can help you and your family stay safe and comfortable while we complete our repair work. To learn about preparing for winter weather, visit <https://hrec.coop/safety/outage-preparation>.

On behalf of all of us at HREC, we wish you a safe and happy fall.

**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](http://www.harneyelectric.org)

Find us on 

## Board of Directors

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

## General Manager

Fred Flippence

## Operations Manager

Jason Hill

## Line Superintendent

Jason Radinovich

## Electrical Engineer

Shane Sweet

## Office Manager

Stephanie Bowen

## Attorney

Raymond S. Kindley

OR-27



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY ANGELOV

## Back-to-School Safety

This school year may look different than other years, but safety is always top priority.

Whether you drive your children to school or they ride their bicycle, walk or take the bus, it is important to be safe. Here are some tips to ensure your child travels safely:

### Bike Riders

- ▶ Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic and in a single file.
- ▶ Come to a complete stop before crossing the street. Walk bikes across the street.
- ▶ Always wear a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing.

### Walkers

- ▶ Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available. When on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic.
- ▶ Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.

- ▶ Make eye contact with drivers before crossing. Always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections.

### Bus Riders

- ▶ Stand 6 feet (or three giant steps) away from the curb.
- ▶ If you must cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the side of the road until you are 10 feet ahead of the bus. The child and the bus driver should always be able to see each other.

### Driving Your Child to School

- ▶ Obey school-zone speed limits. Follow your school's drop-off procedure.
- ▶ Make eye contact with children who are crossing the street.
- ▶ Never pass a bus loading or unloading children.

Stay safe and have a great school year!

Source: National Safety Council



P.O. Box 384  
 Challis, ID 83226  
 Phone: 208-879-2283  
 Fax: 208-879-2596  
 After-hours emergency numbers:  
 Propane: 208-879-2201  
 Electric: 208-879-4900

#### Board of Directors

President Norman Wallis  
 Vice President Jeff Bitton  
 Sec./Treasurer Doug Parkinson  
 Bob Boren  
 Michael Miller  
 Steve Rembelski  
 Earl Skeen  
 Manager Ken Dizes

**Board meets the fourth  
 Wednesday of each month**

**Email: [energy@srec.org](mailto:energy@srec.org)**

**Website: [www.srec.org](http://www.srec.org)**

## Why Do My Lights Blink?

Members periodically ask why their power bumps on and off.

There can be a number of reasons this occurs. Typically, power bumps originate on utility lines. They can be caused by wind events, avian and animal contacts, lightning, tree and stick contacts, snow and rain events, and conductor, insulator and equipment flashovers, to name a few.

To understand why the power blinks or temporarily goes off and then comes right back on, I will describe how the SREC system is designed to respond to fault or power disturbance conditions.

An electrical fault can be permanent, or it can be transient or intermittent. The type of fault dictates whether the power blinks or stays off—perhaps after a series of blinks. SREC employs sophisticated programmable electronic devices to detect and respond to faults on power lines. Responses by the protective devices typically involve a series of automated open and close cycles, or on/off operations of the power to detect whether a fault is permanent or transient in nature. If the device does not see a fault on the line when it recloses, the device stays closed, and a longer power outage is avoided. If the device still sees the fault, it will continue to open and close until the fault clears or until a preprogrammed number of open and closes—typically four—locks the protective device open and a power outage occurs.

These digital protective devices are designed to coordinate with other digital protective devices and line tap fuses. In theory, the line tap fuses are designed to fail if there is a permanent fault on the line. The upstream digital protective device is designed to operate faster than the line tap fuse on the first two cycles of open and closes. This gives a transient fault time to clear before the fuse blows. This coordination of protective devices is designed to protect the public and to limit the number of customers impacted by a fault event.

This explanation oversimplifies the anatomy of the protection system employed by your electric cooperative. Unfortunately, most outages and blinks are unavoidable and are the nature of distributing electric power over power lines. We continue searching for ways to harden our electric power system against events that cause power disturbances and outages.

There are protective devices you can buy to protect your sensitive electrical equipment from momentary power disruptions. These devices are installed on the customer side of the meter. Electricians can help you choose the best protective device for your home.

Three-phase motors are especially susceptible to power disturbances. We strongly encourage you to have equipment installed to protect them.



**Ken Dizes**



# United Electric

CO-OP INC.

## Directors

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

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

## General Manager

M. Jamie Stark

## Engineering and Operations

Trevor Parke

## Line Superintendent

Kay Hill

## Executive Assistant/Billing Specialist

Trisha Moultrie

## Member Services Manager

Chris Seibold

## Mailing address:

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

Fax: 208-679-3333

Email: [uec@uec.coop](mailto:uec@uec.coop)

Website: [www.uec.coop](http://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

# LOVE THE OUTDOORS? BE SAFE OUT THERE



$\frac{2}{3}$

of lightning fatalities are associated with outdoor recreational activities.



Pay attention to weather forecasts **before you go canoeing or boating**. Get off the open water as soon as you **hear thunder**.



**Do not use generators in enclosed areas.** The same goes for grills, camping stoves or other small appliances that produce carbon monoxide.



**Look up** for power lines while fishing or sailing.



**Going for a hike?** If you hear thunder or see lightning, **do not seek shelter under a tree.**

**FACT: Fishing is the most common outdoor activity associated with lightning-related deaths.**



X

**Tent camping?** Plan ahead, seek shelter in a hard-top vehicle or four-sided building during a storm or at the first sight of lightning.



For more information, visit:

**Safe Electricity.org**



## 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](mailto:office@lrecoop.com)  
[www.lostriverelectriccoopinc.com](http://www.lostriverelectriccoopinc.com)

### DIRECTORS

**Randy R. Purser**, President

**Susan M. Harris**, Vice President

**Bret L. Zollinger**, Sec./Treasurer

**Chad H. Angell**

**James D. McKelvey**

**Maddie Mocettini-Hansen**

**Dean L. Myler**

**Lynn O. Rothwell**

**Merlin A. Waddoups**

### MANAGER/CEO

**Brad J. Gamett**

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

ID-30

## Your Energy Provider

### Supplying our past, present and future power needs

Acquiring the reliable and affordable power to effectively meet our members' needs has been a priority for the Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc. Board of Directors and staff since our founding. Early efforts to provide electrical energy to valley residents consisted of local generation projects. These projects included steam, gasoline, diesel generators and the fascinating 300-kilowatt hydroelectric power plant project on Lower Cedar Creek above Mackay.

As load requirements grew, these resources proved insufficient to meet the power needs of valley residents. To bring rural electrification to the Big Lost River Valley—as initiated by LREC's founding members in the early 1940s—options for continuing to provide local (distributed) generation were weighed against wholesale power purchases from larger generation and transmission providers. Ultimately, the decision was made to buy wholesale power based upon economics and, presumably, convenience. Since that time, wholesale power purchases have been the mainstay of the LREC power supply model.

In 1963, LREC was included in the Bonneville Power Administration service area, through which abundant, clean and affordable hydroelectric power is marketed from the Federal Columbia River Power System. Although LREC is not connected directly to the FCRPS, as a preference customer, BPA is obligated to provide both power and transmission capacity necessary to supply LREC load levels. This arrangement has served LREC well through the decades.

Looking to the future, many uncertainties present challenges to how LREC management will continue to meet long-term power supply needs. We currently are setting the preliminary groundwork for long-term contracts for our 2028 power sales contract with BPA that will dictate terms of our power supply, typically for 20 years afterward. LREC directors and staff are evaluating all realistic power supply options—as part of our integrated resource plan—to determine the path on which to proceed as we seek to continue to make our communities affordable places to live.

Local generation projects may continue not be cost effective due to engineering, construction and operation expenses, but we continue to evaluate whether such projects are practical. Participation in potential generation projects—such as the Carbon Free Power Project—may also serve our future power supply needs. An informed and open-minded board of directors and staff are laboring to pursue options that best meet our members' needs. We will continue to keep our members informed of these determinations made on their behalf.

**Brad J. Gamett**  
Manager/CEO



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

#### Board of Directors

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

P.O. Box 45  
Glennallen, AK 99588  
www.cvea.org

**Copper Basin District**  
907-822-3211

Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

**Valdez District**

907-835-4301

367 Fairbanks Dr.

**After hours outage line**

### Important Dates

#### 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

#### October

**Ruralite Cover Photo Contest:** Submit photos October 1 - October 29, 2020

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The October meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, October 15, 2020, in Glennallen

**National Co-op Month:** Stay tuned for Co-op Month announcements

AK-34

## 2020 Ruralite Cover Photo Contest

Would you like to see your photo on the cover of Ruralite Magazine; CVEA's primary member communication tool? Over 2500 copies of Ruralite are distributed each month to members in the Copper Basin and Valdez. That means excellent exposure for local photographers!

### Details

- Winners will be chosen by CVEA employees
- Final decision will be announced by Monday, November 23, 2020
- Winning photos will be featured on the cover of Ruralite for one issue in 2021 and on cvea.org
- Winners will receive \$100 per winning photo and will be announced to the local media
- CVEA will retain rights to utilize all photos submitted in various communication tools including print and web
- Future photo usage in Ruralite or on cvea.org will include photo credit

### Contest Rules

- Photographers must reside in a dwelling that receives service from CVEA
- Photos must be from within CVEA's service area (Valdez to Sourdough, out to Kenny Lake, and over to Sheep Mountain)
- Content can include scenery, community events, and community residents enjoying local activities; photos from all seasons should be considered, at least two winter photos will be chosen
- Only vertical photos will be eligible to win cover contest; horizontal photos may be submitted for use in other print or web based applications
- Maximum six photos submitted per contestant
- Each photo submission must include a digital and printed copy at 8X10 inches; digital files must have a resolution of 300 dpi at 8X10 inches
- Each photo submission must include photographer's name, location of photo, and photo title
- Photos must be submitted between October 1-29, 2020
- Photos can be dropped off at the CVEA offices in each district or sent directly to Sharon Scheidt: [scheidt@cvea.org](mailto:scheidt@cvea.org) or P.O. Box 927, Valdez, AK 99686
- Photographer submissions must include permission form; visit [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org) for blank form
- Contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email [scheidt@cvea.org](mailto:scheidt@cvea.org), with questions

Submission Dates: October 1 - October 29, 2020



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

*Office hours are 7 a.m. to 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

## Get Ready to Expect the Unexpected

### **Dear Customers,**

When you think about being prepared,  
what comes to mind?

For some of us, it might be preparing  
for the following day or week ahead. For  
others, it could be carefully laying out  
plans for years down the road.

No matter what we are preparing for,  
there is always a purpose behind the  
preparedness.

Though always purposeful, preparedness  
does not always have a definitive time  
frame. This is true for emergency  
preparedness. A disaster or an emergency  
could occur at any time—and our  
preparedness needs can change as well—  
so continuing our emergency preparedness  
efforts is necessary.

At Tillamook PUD, we approach  
emergency preparedness from an all-  
hazards perspective. We do this so we can  
respond to any emergency, continue to  
keep the power on and meet the needs of  
our customers.

Where you live can have a significant  
bearing on your preparedness plan.  
Some regions, including ours, have  
severe rain and windstorms with the  
potential of flooding, while other regions  
experience below-zero temperatures and  
snow for extended periods. As such, our  
preparedness plans will likely look a little  
different.

For the past several months, we have  
all been dealing with a unique type of  
emergency that many of us were not  
entirely prepared for: a global pandemic.  
Who could have expected that we would  
not be able to obtain basic paper products,

hand sanitizer  
and cleaning  
supplies? Even  
worse was the  
lack of personal  
protective  
and medical  
equipment  
available when  
this crisis hit.



In addition to the supply-and-demand  
issues for critical resources, the pandemic  
has brought other difficult issues to prepare  
for, such as adequate technology for  
students and adults working from home,  
job losses and an economic downturn.

Navigating the unpredictable course of  
the pandemic has been a serious challenge,  
but it has taught many of us to prepare in  
different ways and adapt our preparedness  
strategies to fit additional situations we  
may not have considered.

Our preparedness not only helps us  
tackle what is ahead, but also helps us  
come back stronger when the situation is  
over.

September is National Preparedness  
Month. This month, we recognize the  
importance of being prepared and  
encourage continual preparedness.

Check out the Tillamook PUD website  
at [www.tpud.org/safety/emergency-  
preparedness](http://www.tpud.org/safety/emergency-preparedness) for more information and  
to enter our preparedness drawing for a  
chance to win an emergency go-bag.

Sincerely,

**Todd Simmons**  
**General Manager**



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

### Board of Directors

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#### Vice President

Roy M. Nageak Sr.

#### Secretary

Herman L. Ahsoak

#### Treasurer

Don A. Nungasak

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

#### General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

## Make Your Voice Heard

There's an old political saying, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "Why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate who shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we encourage all electric cooperative members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on September 22, 2020.

Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote, or helping members of our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

While local elections may not be as exciting as a high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and quality of life.

As at the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community and, more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, state representative, school board or an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures a diverse number of views are represented. The entire community benefits when more people participate in the process because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state and local elections, you are a role model for your family, friends and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues on the ballot, and get out and vote! ■

*To learn more about National Voter Registration Day or to get involved, visit [www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org).*



September 22, 2020



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### Owned By Those We Serve

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tom DeLong, Chairman (District 2)
- John Sloan, Vice-Chairman (District 6)
- David Messier, Treasurer (District 1)
- Appointment TBD (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 1

#### View Outage Map:

[gvea.com/resources/outages](http://gvea.com/resources/outages)

[www.gvea.com](http://www.gvea.com)

**Safety:** You Have The Power!



AK-37

# Capital Credits

## Were you a GVEA member in 1995?



When capital credits are retired – currently in 25 years – GVEA issues a refund to you.

In 2019, Golden Valley refunded \$3.5 million in capital credits to members who had service with us in 1994 and earlier.

Preparations are already underway for the capital credit check run that will take place this fall (after Board approval, of course). It's inevitable that some checks won't reach past members, due to invalid mailing addresses or missing W9 tax information (required for capital credit checks issued for \$600 or more).

GVEA would like to request your assistance to ensure your refund check makes it to you.

- If you are currently a member and receive mail from GVEA, you're all set; no further action is needed.
- If you were a member in 1995 but no longer receive service and are unsure of the mailing address we have on file, please contact GVEA at your earliest convenience.

There are a variety of ways to contact GVEA's Capital Credits Section:

- Visit: <http://gvea.com/forms> where you can locate a variety of forms to fit your needs.
- Call: 907-451-5625 or 1-800-770-4832
- Email: [capitalcredits@gvea.com](mailto:capitalcredits@gvea.com)

### How it works



**1** GVEA tracks how much electricity you use during the year.



**2** Each year, after expenses are paid, GVEA calculates the leftover funds (margins).




**3** The margins are used to pay down any debt, invest in facilities and projects and are allocated to members as CAPITAL CREDITS based on how much electricity they used.



**4** Depending on financial conditions, GVEA retires (refunds) CAPITAL CREDITS to members at a future date.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

73233 State Route 70  
Portola, CA 96122

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**President**

Fred Nelson, *Clio*  
[fnelson@psrec.coop](mailto:fnelson@psrec.coop)

**Vice President**

Dick Short, *Graeagle*  
[dshort@psrec.coop](mailto:dshort@psrec.coop)

**Secretary/Treasurer**

David Hansen, *Doyle*  
[dhansen@psrec.coop](mailto:dhansen@psrec.coop)

Larry Price, *Quincy*  
[lprice@psrec.coop](mailto:lprice@psrec.coop)

Dave Roberti, *Sierra Valley*  
[droberti@psrec.coop](mailto:droberti@psrec.coop)

Tom Hammond, *Herlong*  
[thammond@psrec.coop](mailto:thammond@psrec.coop)

Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*  
[nmiller@psrec.coop](mailto:nmiller@psrec.coop)

**Manager**

Robert (Bob) Marshall  
[bmarshall@psrec.coop](mailto:bmarshall@psrec.coop)



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

To learn more, please visit  
[www.pst.coop](http://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](http://www.psrec.coop).

CA-39

## Manager's Message

### Dear Members:

The cooperative's 2020 annual meeting is Thursday, September 3, at 6 p.m. via YouTube Live at [www.youtube.com/channel/UCnU9iCiDNhSRYgXps0YEIfg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnU9iCiDNhSRYgXps0YEIfg). You can also find our YouTube channel by clicking on the link on our website or searching Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

We hope you will join us for an informative evening with updates, election results and a question-and-answer session. We encourage you to submit questions in advance via email to [marketing@psrec.coop](mailto:marketing@psrec.coop). We will also take questions via the chat option during the YouTube broadcast.

### Public Safety Power Shutoffs

As we go into the fall, we expect Pacific Gas and Electric to once again shut down significant portions of their rural system to prevent fires. When this occurs, we will ask our members to reduce their energy use so we can keep the lights on for all our members.

It's possible there will be power shutoffs in extreme weather conditions on our own system, but we hope to minimize the time off. We will provide as much notice as possible to members, and will post information at [www.psrec.coop](http://www.psrec.coop), on social media (Facebook and Twitter) and via text message. To sign up for text messages, log in to SmartHub and set your notification preferences.

### Telecommunications Expansion

Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications is focused on construction of the grant area projects, including Mohawk Vista, C Road, Keddie, Purdy Lane, Chandler Road, Lake Davis, Johnstonville and Johnsville.

At the same time, PSREC and PST are working together to expand electric system control and broadband into other areas, such as Plumas Eureka and Grizzly Road. We will

discuss our plans for other areas during the annual meeting.

We have applied for additional grant funding from the California Advanced Services Fund for more of the hardest-to-reach areas and will know at the end of the year if we are awarded grant funds to continue broadband expansion.

For more information about our products, including coverage maps, please call 800-221-3474 or visit [www.pst.coop](http://www.pst.coop).

### WRAP Program

We are again offering a discounted rate for qualifying members through our Winter Rate Assistance Program. The discounted rate is available for November through April electricity use to income-qualified members.

For more information and an application, visit [www.psrec.coop](http://www.psrec.coop) or call 530-832-4261.

### Youth Opportunities

As part of our commitment to the communities we serve, PSREC and its subsidiary offer life-changing opportunities to local youth, including scholarships and the Washington Youth Tour.

These programs provide enriching experiences to help young people discover themselves and their roles as citizens.

Please see page 4 for more information about the Washington Youth Tour. For more information on all of our youth opportunities, visit [www.psrec.coop](http://www.psrec.coop).

If you have any questions, please call me at 800-555-2207 ext. 6076, or email me at [bmarshall@psrec.coop](mailto:bmarshall@psrec.coop).

Sincerely,



**Bob Marshall**  
General Manager



## MT. WHEELER POWER

1600 Great Basin Blvd.  
Ely, NV 89301

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

### Emergency Contacts

Ely Office  
775-289-8981

Eureka Office  
775-237-5693

Outside Ely / Eureka Area  
800-97-POWER

### Board of Directors

- District 1 – Ron Miller
- District 2 – Mary Kerner
- District 3 – Robert Pratt
- District 4 – Catherine Bakaric
- District 5 – Rick Hendrix
- District 6 – Jerald Anderson
- District 7 – Martin Plaskett
- 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

## Labor Day: A Yearly Tribute

We celebrate Labor Day to acknowledge the creation of the labor movement and highlight the social and economic achievements of American workers. The holiday constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country.

We can never forget the critical value of these contributions and what they have provided in the development of our great nation. Additionally, as we see many hardworking people in our communities out of work today, we should look to support our local businesses and homegrown entrepreneurs, whether it is a web-based venture or bricks-and-mortar store.

These businesses are part of the fabric that has weaved economic security into our communities. Many of these small business owners and startup companies have risked everything to provide services and jobs to our communities. These businesses and the workforce behind them are the foundation of our social and economic structure. Without them, success does not exist.

We must always remember the foundational pieces of our nation included the labor movement along with the creation of the Constitution. Recognized 125 years apart, each of these iconic movements have advanced our country.

Even with our struggles today, we remain the greatest country in the world, with freedoms and rights enjoyed by few others anywhere else around the globe.

As Americans, we are reminded of two timeless quotes by our 35th president, John F. Kennedy:

- “Too often, we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.”
- “And so, my fellow Americans: Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”

We must think and do for ourselves, as well as others. Service to our fellow man, communities and country is necessary and fulfilling.

Through our efforts at work, or by performing service for our neighbors and communities, we can labor to ensure each September we have reason to celebrate.

Thank you to all the business laborers and leaders.

Sincerely,

**Kevin Robison, CEO**





**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](http://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

## Members are Receiving a Refund

Despite the effects of COVID-19, your Board of Directors and employees are committed to continuing the long-standing practice of refunding capital credits. These refunds are just one of the many benefits of being a member of a locally controlled not-for-profit rural electric cooperative.

COVID-19 has caused us to reexamine every business practice and policy to make sure we are doing our part to protect the health of our members and employees, and the assets of your company so you continue to receive safe, affordable, reliable and carbon-free electricity.

We recognize the restrictions that have been imposed in response to COVID-19 have caused widespread financial hardships for many of our members. Those restrictions have also impacted how we do business. With those factors in mind, Wells Rural Electric Co. approached this year's capital credit refund with three goals in mind:

1. Provide immediate economic relief to our members.
2. Safely reach as many members as possible.
3. Make it convenient.

WREC normally refunds a portion of all capital credits allocated over the last 30 years by mailing a check to our members. This year, capital credits are being refunded to all members who had active accounts in 2018 as a credit on your monthly bill. This will result in an immediate reduction in your total bill. You won't have to wait until your refund reaches the \$10

minimum for a check and you won't have to deposit or cash a check.

Members in Carlin received the refund on bills mailed August 11. Members in Wendover and West Wendover received their refunds on bills mailed August 21.

Members in Wells and the rural areas will see the refund on bills mailed September 2.

The dollar amount of each refund depends on the amount each member paid for electricity in 2018. Accounts with smaller monthly bills will receive a smaller refund. This refund differs from the allocation of 2019 capital credits, which will be listed on next month's bill. The 2019 allocation isn't a refund, but a notice of the amount of capital credits you accumulated in 2019. That allocation will be refunded in the future.

The capital credit refund provides financial relief to all WREC members with active accounts. Other programs are in place to assist members who are enduring exceptional hardships. Our Member Advocates are available during business hours to help manage accounts.



**Clay R. Fitch**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Valley Electric  
Association, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



**LIGHTNING FAST**

*Internet Service*



**valleycom.com**

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

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509-995-3078

**DISTRICT 4**

Kathleen Keyes  
760-920-7401

**DISTRICT 2**

Bonnie Groenert  
775-764-0014

**DISTRICT 5**

Terrie D'Antonio  
702-325-0631

**DISTRICT 3**

Rob Shirley  
775-253-4916

**DISTRICT 6**

Paul Healey  
775-253-5743

**OFFICE PHONE**

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

**AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY**

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

775-727-5312

Website: [www.vea.coop](http://www.vea.coop)  
Email: [wmc@vea.coop](mailto:wmc@vea.coop)

NV-42

LETTER FROM THE CEO

# Embracing Solar

Valley Electric has been making great strides in improving the financial stability of our cooperative—we continue to focus on it daily. It is stability that made us think of the current solar market. Seeing the interest in solar from our membership led us to expand our services to include it.

Solar has been gaining in popularity in our area for several different reasons. We live in the beautiful desert, where we have an abundance of sunshine to provide clean, inexhaustible power. Solar can also provide members the opportunity to produce energy that can cut costs on their electric bills. For these reasons and more, Valley decided to support our membership by entering the solar industry with SolPower. Not only does it make sense for the membership, but the community as well.

The creation of SolPower will benefit the community by creating jobs, helping the local economy and giving members an honest, local provider for their solar needs. Investing in SolPower is investing in your cooperative.

Technology has advanced to make the cost of installing solar power attainable. Innovations have made solar power more efficient and cost-effective. Valley will continue to listen to our membership as we progress into the future and strive to be the go-to energy adviser.

Every day, members count on Valley Electric to deliver consistent, reliable service. We can continue to provide members with the same exceptional service when it comes to SolPower's product.

Going solar is a big decision. It is a hefty investment. That is why SolPower will make financing as easy as possible as we walk alongside you through the

process. When you choose to go with SolPower, not only will you have a great reliable product, the service will be unbeatable.

As Valley Electric continues to be good stewards of the organization, we strive to remain member-focused, prepared for the future and to lead by example. As we look ahead, we continue to see challenges and will face them with confidence—making decisions that best benefit the membership.

Valley is proud to provide additional services for our members. With careful planning and strategic decision-making, we are excited about the new opportunities SolPower brings.

Valley is committed to its members and the community. We will continue to serve with the best interest of the cooperative in mind.

The members are why we do what we do. Valley is determined to be the best-in-class cooperative that our members deserve.

Stay healthy,

**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](http://www.kvfish.org)
- ▶ HopeSource, 509-925-1448, [www.hopesource.us](http://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](http://www.st-andrewsparish.org)
- ▶ Small Tribes Organization of Western Washington, 800-567-6690, [www.stoww.webs.com](http://www.stoww.webs.com)



**Our Power Is Water**

Kittitas PUD’s core mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable service in accordance with sound business and environmental practices. Hydroelectric power helps us achieve this mission by supplying clean, renewable and reliable electricity. More than 80% of the power flowing to your home comes from hydroelectric power.

**Affordable Energy for All**

Thanks to hydroelectricity, Northwest communities pay some of the lowest energy bills in the nation.

**Investments in Salmon**

Billions of dollars have been invested in habitat restoration and dam improvements to support salmon populations across the region.

**Reliability for Renewables**

Hydroelectric dams help balance the fluctuations of solar and wind, which helps us achieve our clean energy goals.

**14M**

The approximate number of U.S. households that could be served by the Northwest’s hydroelectric output in an average year.

**34.3K**

The generating capacity of Northwest hydroelectric dams, in megawatts.

**16.2K**

The Northwest dams generate 16,200 megawatt-hours each year.

**80%**

The percentage of the Northwest’s carbon-free annual electricity production made up by hydroelectricity.

**47%**

The percentage of the Northwest’s average total electricity production that comes from hydropower.

**0**

Hydropower production generates no carbon emissions.



For more information, visit [nwriverpartners.org](http://nwriverpartners.org)



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

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866-430-4265**

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- Vice President Wayne Overton, Baker County
- Secretary-Treasurer Aletha Bonebrake, Baker County
- George "Austin" Bingaman, Union County
- David Baum, Union County
- Robert Cargill, Harney County
- George Galloway, Union County
- Greg Howard, Union County
- Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, CEO

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

# Community Resilience Strong During Coronavirus

There is a captivating concept called *fore-caring*, also known as “the precautionary principle.” The underlying idea of fore-caring is that we can plan for what might be a difficult future. We see it all the time here in Eastern Oregon—from our communities preparing for the ice and snow of difficult winters to the heat and threat of summer wildfires, as well as the planning you do to ensure the safety of yourself and your loved ones in case of emergencies.

It was hard, if not impossible, to predict and prepare for the unprecedented public health and economic challenges the COVID-19 pandemic wrought upon our communities, state, nation and world. Local

businesses and workers continue to feel the impact and possibly face a difficult financial future. Many schools that should be open this month are preparing for alternate approaches, including virtual learning, putting more stress on already stressed parents and teachers.

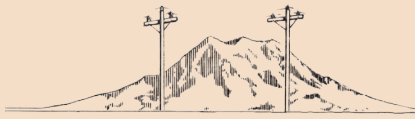
Out of all this uncertainty has been the strength and resilience of our communities coming together to help one another. From food drives and school supply drives to charity functions, it’s encouraging and uplifting to see how our communities watch out for one another during this bleak period, knowing that one day things will be brighter.

Our top priority is the delivery of safe and reliable power to our member-owners as well as the health, safety and well-being of our employees and the public. We know the stress, anxiety and potential feelings of powerlessness from the pandemic can take a toll on mental health. We’ve gathered a list of resources on pages 4-5. On pages 28-29 is a list of community assistance resources if you or someone you knows needs help making ends meet.

Together, we will come out stronger than ever. Together, we can continue demonstrating our community resiliency. We can do this by using the precautionary principle: taking action in the face of uncertainty to prevent suffering.

**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

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

## General Manager

Kenneth Klotz

WA-49



## Our Power Is Water

OHOP Mutual Light Co.'s core mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable service in accordance with sound business and environmental practices. Hydroelectric power helps us achieve this mission by supplying clean, renewable and reliable electricity. More than 80% of the power flowing to your home comes from hydroelectric power.

### Affordable Energy for All

Thanks to hydroelectricity, Northwest communities pay some of the lowest energy bills in the nation.

### Investments in Salmon

Billions of dollars have been invested in habitat restoration and dam improvements to support salmon populations across the region.

### Reliability for Renewables

Hydroelectric dams help balance the fluctuations of solar and wind, which helps us achieve our clean energy goals.

### Northwest Hydro By The Numbers

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The approximate number of U.S. households that could be served by the Northwest's hydroelectric output in an average year.

# 34.3K

The generating capacity of Northwest hydroelectric dams, in megawatts.

# 16.2K

The Northwest dams generate 16,200 megawatt-hours each year.

# 80%

The percentage of the Northwest's carbon-free annual electricity production made up by hydroelectricity.

# 47%

The percentage of the Northwest's average total electricity production that comes from hydropower.

# 0

Hydropower production generates no carbon emissions.



45715 SE 140th St.  
P.O. Box 1426  
North Bend, WA 98045-1426  
Telephone: 425-888-0623  
Toll-free: 800-472-0208  
Website: [www.tannerelectric.coop](http://www.tannerelectric.coop)  
Email: [mail@tannerelectric.coop](mailto:mail@tannerelectric.coop)

### **Chief Executive Officer**

Steven Walter

### **Operations Manager**

Nick Himebauch

### **Controller**

Steve Chamberlin

### **Executive Assistant**

Lisa Peabody

### **Board of Directors**

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**John Saatela**

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**Steve Nicholes**

An electric utility owned  
by those we serve in:

North Bend

Ames Lake

Anderson Island

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

WA-50



## **Tanner Members Can Help Their Neighbors**

Since its formation in 1936, Tanner Electric Cooperative has been dedicated to improving the quality of service to members not only by providing affordable electric service, but by involvement in a number of altruistic endeavors.

Higher electricity use can burden families struggling to pay their bills. At TEC, we understand members are spending more time at home because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of our members' budgets are stretched to the brink. I would like to encourage everyone who is able to consider participating in Operation Round Up.

Operation Round Up is an energy-assistance program funded by donations from cooperative members. All funds received into the program stay within the membership, helping local families in TEC service areas that need assistance. The Salvation Army screens all applicants to ensure they meet income and other required criteria. The goal of the program is to assist members facing unexpected financial crisis.

How can you contribute? There are two easy ways to give:

- Round up your bill amount to the nearest dollar.
- Have a small amount added to your bill. It can be just \$1 or \$2 per month.
- Make an annual one-time contribution of any amount. All gifts are welcome.

Place your bill on Operation Round Up, which rounds up bills to the nearest dollar, and allocates the difference into a fund to help others.

Each January, a statement of yearly contributions is provided to participating members.

No matter which option you choose, your gift is tax-deductible and is a great way to show you care. If you wish to participate, call our main office at 425-888-0623 or visit our website, [tannerelectric.coop](http://tannerelectric.coop). Under member services you will find Operation Round Up information and how to sign up.

It is our hope that we can all work together to overcome these difficult economic times. Please consider signing up for Operation Round Up and lending a helping hand to the neighbors in your cooperative.



Owned By  
Those We Serve

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

[www.plw.coop](http://www.plw.coop)

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

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Susan Cutrell

Incorporated in 1914—  
The country's oldest  
mutual cooperative



## Our Power Is Water

Parkland Light & Water's core mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable service in accordance with sound business and environmental practices. Hydroelectric power helps us achieve this mission by supplying clean, renewable and reliable electricity. More than 80% of the power flowing to your home comes from hydroelectric power.

**Affordable Energy for All**

Thanks to hydroelectricity, Northwest communities pay some of the lowest energy bills in the nation.

**Investments in Salmon**

Billions of dollars have been invested in habitat restoration and dam improvements to support salmon populations across the region.

**Reliability for Renewables**

Hydroelectric dams help balance the fluctuations of solar and wind, which helps us achieve our clean energy goals.

### Northwest Hydro By The Numbers

**14M**

The approximate number of U.S. households that could be served by the Northwest's hydroelectric output in an average year.

**34.3K**

The generating capacity of Northwest hydroelectric dams, in megawatts.

**16.2K**

The Northwest dams generate 16,200 megawatt-hours each year.

**80%**

The percentage of the Northwest's carbon-free annual electricity production made up by hydroelectricity.

**47%**

The percentage of the Northwest's average total electricity production that comes from hydropower.

**0**

Hydropower production generates no carbon emissions.

### Board of Directors

Tom Firth, President  
 Stephan Lauzier, Vice President  
 Steven Silkotch, Secretary  
 Harold Burdick, Treasurer  
 Chillie Ainsworth  
 Ryall Stewart  
 Michael Machado

### General Manager

Kevin Short

### EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

#### September and October Congratulations!

- ▶ Celena Downey ..... 5 years
- ▶ Yuri Gudino ..... 5 years
- ▶ Sherri Stafford ..... 5 years
- ▶ Scott Davies ..... 16 years
- ▶ Paula Crawley ..... 10 years
- ▶ Michael Gervais ..... 8 years
- ▶ Laura Snider-  
Manseau ..... 8 years

### IMPORTANT DATES

- ▶ September 7—Labor Day,  
office closed
- ▶ September 19—Virtual  
Annual Membership  
Meeting
- ▶ November 1—Daylight  
Saving Time ends

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

## A Message From the Manager

# The Times We Live In

How many ways have you heard current events described lately? I've been tracking the news a lot, listening to reports that started like this: "In these challenging times ..." Or maybe like this: "During these uncertain times ..." Have you noticed these descriptions of the multiple challenges we face all start to blend into the background noise?

Here's a partial list of these types of words: Difficult, demanding, perplexing, trying, tough, hard, grim, complicated, frightening, alarming. It's possible that all these descriptions are correct in one way or another. It all depends upon your personal perspective.

I believe—from the perspective of our cooperative—the community we all share can make it through these times, however they may be described. We will all face our own unique challenges, to be sure, but the most important thing we can do now is work together for the common good. This is at the very heart of what makes a cooperative the best possible business model ever created—our concern for our community.

This space in Currents magazine is routinely dedicated to a brief discussion of Cooperative Principles, and the one I keep coming back to is this: Concern for Community. As a provider of utility services to our members, we are a significant part of the community we serve. We demonstrate this by what we do, not by simply speaking platitudes and happy talk. The times ARE hard, challenging and even frightening. However, by remaining aware of each other's needs, being sensitive to those needs and helping where we can, we will emerge from these times into better times as a better community.

Thank you for being kind to one another. Please be safe.



Kevin Short

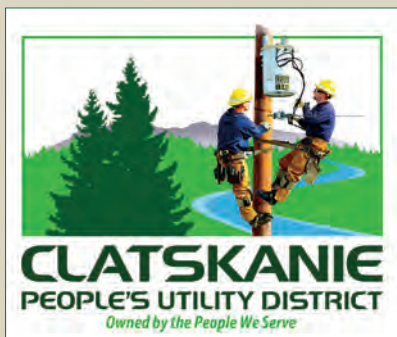
# ANZA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 391909 • Anza, CA 92539

Phone: 951-763-4333 • Fax: 951-763-5297 • aec@anzaelectric.org • www.anzaelectric.org

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





495 E. Columbia River Highway  
PO BOX 216

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

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

Please call to report outages  
503-728-2163

Automated Secure Payment Center  
1-844-262-2431

#### 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 #90083401

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

## Community Calendar

**September 3: Clatskanie Chamber - Zoom meeting noon.** See the Clatskanie Chamber Facebook page for more information.

**September 7: Labor Day - CPUD Office Closed**

**September 10: Rainier Chamber - Zoom meeting at noon.** See the Rainier Chamber Facebook page for more information.

**September 16: Clatskanie PUD Board Meeting Workshop 5:30 pm and Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 pm.**

OR-60

In September we will begin phase one of replacing our old mechanical meters with new solid state digital meters. This is a normal process we go through to update and upgrade our equipment and system for continued reliability. As I mentioned in a previous article, the majority of our meters are over 40 years old and have far exceeded their life expectancy. We will be replacing them over the next two and a half years in a three phase process, completing our entire system. This year phase one will be the Clatskanie east to Alder Grove areas. We will notify our customers located in phase one with a letter, and then a follow up phone call will be made during the week we will be in your neighborhood.



When the installers are replacing your meter, you will experience a short loss of power. We will do our best to let you know when the installers arrive, as they will knock on your door before they begin the meter replacement. That way you can be prepared for the disruption in power for a few minutes as we swap meters. In some cases, this could be longer if there are any serious issues with the meter base. We will have electricians standing by to resolve any issues as quickly as possible.

I had a couple of people inquire as to why the PUD is already replacing the metal roof on our building, since it's not very old. The roof had to be replaced due to a manufacturing defect that needed to be resolved. The good news is that the work is being covered under the warranty and will resolve the issue, so the building will remain protected and secure from weather for years to come.

I also wanted to congratulate and welcome our newest Board Member, Jeannie Mustola. Jeannie, who works for Wauna Credit Union, was appointed as the Subdivision 3 Board Director to replace Linda Hooper. Linda had to resign after she moved out of Subdivision 3 to another Subdivision in our District. We look forward to working with Jeannie.

I would like to personally and professionally thank Linda Hooper for her service to the District and our customers. Linda was an exemplary Director and served her constituency very well. Linda was very engaged, professional in her approach, and represented the PUD on the Oregon People's Utility District Association Board. Thanks Linda!

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that Clatskanie PUD received a \$50,000 grant to install EV charging stations at the Clatskanie Middle/High School. We will be moving forward with the project as soon as we receive the final paperwork. The charging stations will be available to staff, students, and visitors.

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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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

# Make Your Voice Heard

There's an old political saying, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "Why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate who shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we encourage all electric cooperative members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on September 22, 2020.

Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote, or helping members of our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

While local elections may not be as exciting as a high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and quality of life.

As at the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community and, more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, state representative, school board or an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures a diverse number of views are represented. The entire community benefits when more people participate in the process because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state and local elections, you are a role model for your family, friends and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues on the ballot, and get out and vote! ■

*To learn more about National Voter Registration Day or to get involved, visit [www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org).*



September 22, 2020



## Board of Directors

### Chairman

Fred Sagoonick, Shaktoolik

### 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  
Bryan Rookok Jr., Savoonga

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

## A Message from Meera

### Vitus to the Rescue

AVEC was in a bind, trying to ship hand sanitizer to our power plants across the state and running into major roadblocks with the postal service as well as all of the air cargo companies. The challenge was the alcohol content in the hand sanitizer. That is when Vitus Marine stepped into the breach. "We visit all your communities," they said, "why don't we deliver hand sanitizer for you?"

We were so very grateful for their offer of assistance and even more grateful when they insisted on providing and delivering the shipments without charge to AVEC. That generosity reflects the deep relationship that we have with Vitus. When we have a pressing need that Vitus can help with, they are there for us. Thank you!



Dennis McLean, left, Vitus Marine, hands over hand sanitizer to Robert Tokeinna Jr., Wales Alternate Power Plant Operator. AVEC tug Cavek is in the background.

## Bryan Rookok Jr. Appointed to AVEC Board of Directors

At a special board meeting held on August 12th, the AVEC board reviewed letters of interest submitted by four well qualified individuals from across our communities. After much discussion, the Board selected Bryan Rookok Jr. from Savoonga to fill the seat vacated recently by Walter Sampson of Noorvik. Bryan has been a delegate from Savoonga since 2006 and has faithfully attended all AVEC annual meetings and has represented his community well. With this appointment, Bryan now represents all members of AVEC, not just his fellow Savoonga members. He will be sworn in at the next regular Board meeting.

Until next time,

Meera Kohler  
President and CEO



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

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

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##### **Assistant General Manager**

Pat Holley

##### **Administrative Services Manager**

Karen Rollings

##### **Electric Operations Manager**

Cort Cortez

##### **Public Relations Manager**

Theresa Phillips

##### **IT Manager**

Nick Dominguez

##### **Senior Accountant**

Catherine Schroeder

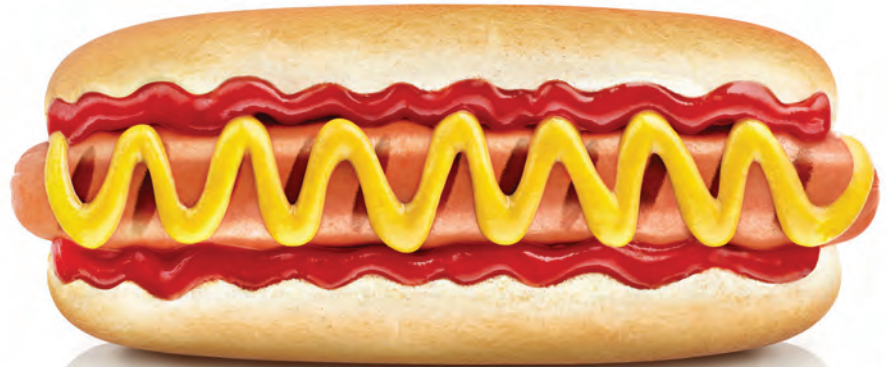
##### **Customer Service Supervisor**

Christina M. Nystrom

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

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

CA-106



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY YETI STUDIO

# Customer Appreciation Celebration

Mark your calendar for Thursday, September 17, and plan to join the LMUD staff, management and board members for our annual Customer Appreciation Celebration.

Instead of our traditional event, we will fire up the grill from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a grab-and-go lunch. As always, we will serve our famous quarter-pound, all-beef hot dogs, cold drinks, chips and cookies. Due to social-distancing guidelines, we will not offer a seated lunch. Instead, customers are invited to walk through the line and grab a pre-packed meal.

You can still pick up a swag bag full of LMUD goodies and enter to win a \$100 LMUD energy gift card. We look forward to seeing everyone. For details and photos from past events, visit us on Facebook at [facebook.com/lassenmud](https://facebook.com/lassenmud).



## LINCOLN COUNTY POWER

DISTRICT NO. 1

201 Bullionville Road  
Panaca, Nevada 89042

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

Email: [lcpd1@lcpd1.com](mailto:lcpd1@lcpd1.com)

### DIRECTORS

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

### General Manager

David Luttrell

Board meets the second Tuesday  
of each month.

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

NV-107

## Rate Increase Delay and the General Election

In the last edition of Ruralite, I indicated we were going to have to raise rates for electric service this October. New information has delayed this action. Nearly half of our operating cost is for the power used in Lincoln County, most of which comes from Hoover Dam. Plans announced by the Bureau of Reclamation last winter showed the cost of Hoover hydropower was going to increase significantly October 1.



Because of COVID-19, the Bureau of Reclamation has delayed some of its planned maintenance activities and postponed some of the replacement projects. Consequently, the cost of hydropower won't be changing much this October. The planned work at Hoover Dam must be done and is being rescheduled for next year, meaning the cost increase has only been postponed—not eliminated.

At the June meeting of the board of trustees, we discussed the impacts of this change in our expected cost of Hoover hydropower. Although we will likely still post a financial loss for the fiscal year—even without the increase in Hoover hydropower costs—our reserves can cover the shortfall. Consequently, we have decided not to move forward with an increase in our electric service rates this year.

We are proud of our record of fiscal responsibility. By effective management and planning, Lincoln County Power District has only adjusted its base rates four times in more than 30 years. When the new plans for Hoover Dam are released this winter, we will reevaluate the need to raise our electric rates and will schedule meetings to answer consumers' questions at that time.

### Question 6

There will be five questions on the November general election ballot for consideration. Interestingly, Nevada seems to be following the approach of California to legislate by ballot measure. I wonder if this is the best approach for Nevada. It only takes 98,000 signatures to get a measure on the ballot—a pretty low bar. Four of the measures on the ballot this year are new, but one was on the ballot in 2018. Under Nevada law, voters must approve a ballot measure twice to amend the constitution.

Being voted on a second time is Question 6—a proposal to amend the Nevada constitution to require electric utilities to generate or acquire at least 50% of the power used in Nevada from renewable resources by 2030. Primarily sponsored by California billionaire Tom Steyer and his political action committee, NextGen Climate Action, \$10.35 million was poured into the 2018 campaign.

Once in the constitution, it will be difficult to change. Nevada already has SB 358—a law requiring electric utilities to acquire 50% of their electricity from renewable resources by 2030. We have a law requiring renewable energy standards, so why amend the constitution to do the same thing? Give this some serious thought before casting a yes vote. During the next few months, we will provide more information regarding the pros and cons of Question 6.

**David Luttrell, General Manager**



# Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc.

[www.MarlboroElectric.coop](http://www.MarlboroElectric.coop)

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

### GENERAL INFORMATION

843-479-3855  
800-922-9174

### OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Monday–Friday

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William L. Fleming Jr.

### CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Sam P. “Bo” McInnis Jr.

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*Vice Chairman*
- Sam P. “Bo” McInnis Jr., *District 6*  
*Chairman*
- Jeff Quick, *District 7*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*
- W. Ronald Quick, *District 8*
- Janelle Sauls, *District 9*

### ATTORNEYS

Doug Jennings  
Paul Conway

### CO-OP NEWS EDITOR

Matt Haynie  
email: [mhaynie@marlboro.coop](mailto:mhaynie@marlboro.coop)

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

# Join Us at MEC’s Annual Meeting

For the past 80 years, our annual meeting has been a much-anticipated occasion where members gather and have a good ol’ time. After registering and receiving their annual gift, everyone spends time reconnecting with friends and family. Then, after the official business meeting, raffle prizes are drawn, which most would agree is the highlight of the event.



I have some déjà vu as I invite you to attend MEC’s annual meeting Saturday, October 3. This is my second time asking you to attend this year because the coronavirus pandemic forced cancellation of the original April date. Who could have imagined back in March that we all would have been ordered to stay home, with local businesses, restaurants and schools closed? The entire world as we know it has been affected in some way by the virus.

Similarly, our celebration also has been impacted. We hoped to hold an annual meeting exactly like those the eight decades before it. This gathering will go on, and it will feature many of the highlights you look forward to enjoying—but in a safe, socially distanced manner.

This year, the fun starts at the MEC truck shed, as usual. However, rather than gathering there together, everyone will drive up in their own vehicle, register and receive their gift curbside. Those who wish to stay for the official meeting and raffle afterward will continue driving through the truck shed to an expansive outdoor parking area.

Reminiscent of the drive-in movie theaters of yore, there you will find a stage and at least one large LED screen. Think of it as some retro fun—audio from the meeting and prize drawings will be transmitted via your car radio and concert-style speakers. Please note, as always, you must be present to win the drawn prizes. While we cannot offer food for sale like in the past, there’s nothing to stop you from bringing your own soft drinks, snacks or even a big bowl of popcorn.

Despite the inconveniences, these changes define what is truly important.

I’m so proud of all the first responders, health care workers and essential employees who have put their health and safety selflessly ahead of the people they serve. Likewise, your cooperative never missed a day of work during all of this. I can’t express in words how proud your board is of them. Every employee was determined essential and worked diligently to provide you, our members, with the most reliable, safe and affordable electricity possible.

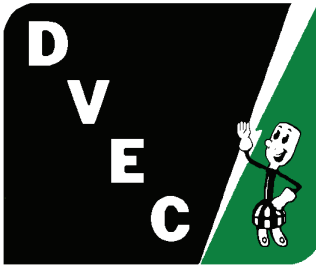
Last year, I noted that your cooperative had the lowest rates in the state of South Carolina. I’m pleased to tell you this is still the case. In fact, your rates were lowered by 8% in March, April and again in May. All told, MEC has lowered rates for seven years in a row. In addition, MEC temporarily suspended disconnects for nonpayment to help folks who are facing unexpected difficulties due to the pandemic.

Last year’s raising of the American flag during our annual meeting made national news because it was so special. This year’s event will be different from those before it, but we hope to make it just as memorable. To start the meeting off right, I am excited to announce MEC is providing another 8% decrease on your residential bills for September. We pray this news finds you well and boosts your excitement for our upcoming—albeit different, but still special—80th annual meeting, where I’m sure more great news will be shared.

**SAM P. “BO” MCINNIS**  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

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





# Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative Inc.

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frank Downs  
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Vance Lee  
*Vice President*  
Johannie Frie  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
Larry Avila  
Frank Downs  
Judy McKinley  
Tom Powers  
Leon Reynolds  
Dustie Robinette

## ADMINISTRATION

Steven Lunt  
*CEO*

## BOARD MEETINGS

September 21  
October 19  
November 16

*Generally the third Monday of the month*

Owned By Those We Serve—  
Incorporated June 1947



Touchstone Energy®  
*The power of human connections*

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

## CEO's Message

# Spotlight on Education

One of the guiding principles of cooperatives is the education of members, elected representatives and employees. These past few months, the cooperative has seen a number of milestones in education.

In the spring, at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis when schools shut down, Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative donated \$5,000 to Duncan Unified School District to buy tablet computers to loan to students who needed a way to participate in distance learning.

Even though the completion of the school year was different than in past years, DVEC awarded scholarships to three graduating seniors from Duncan High School: Eli Frie, Kaitlyn Lunt and Megan Van Sickle. The scholarships can be used at a college or trade school of the student's choice.

An additional scholarship was given this year to a post-high school cooperative member who is enrolled in a college or trade school. Amy

Evans received this year's continuing education scholarship.

Since 1985, DVEC has sponsored a group of high school juniors from its membership for a weeklong all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. The 2020 participants were Lauren Basteen, Melissa Claridge and Jason McGrath. Because of the pandemic, the trip was canceled. This year in lieu of the trip, DVEC will provide a scholarship for these students to use at a college or trade school upon graduation from high school.

Within our cooperative family, we have marked a couple of other educational milestones. One of our linemen, Jimmie Hughes, completed his apprenticeship program and earned his journeyman lineman certificate. This is the first time in our history that we



Steven Lunt

have three certified journeyman linemen working for us. I look forward to our other two apprentices completing the program before I retire.

Our other milestone, is that our newest board

member, Larry Avila, has completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director program. This is a requirement of all our elected directors in their first term of service on the board.

It is a pleasure to work for an organization that places a high priority on education. Individuals who continue to learn and acquire new skills provide an increased value to the cooperative and the communities in which they live, work and serve.

Congratulations to those awarded these scholarships and certificates.

Keep up the good work.



# Electrical District No. 2

P.O. Box 548  
Coolidge, AZ 85128

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

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

## DIRECTORS

*CHAIRMAN*  
Jacob Roberts

*VICE CHAIRMAN*  
Jack K. Hennes

*SECRETARY*  
David Wuertz

*TREASURER*  
Eugene Anderson

*AUDITOR*  
David Gladden

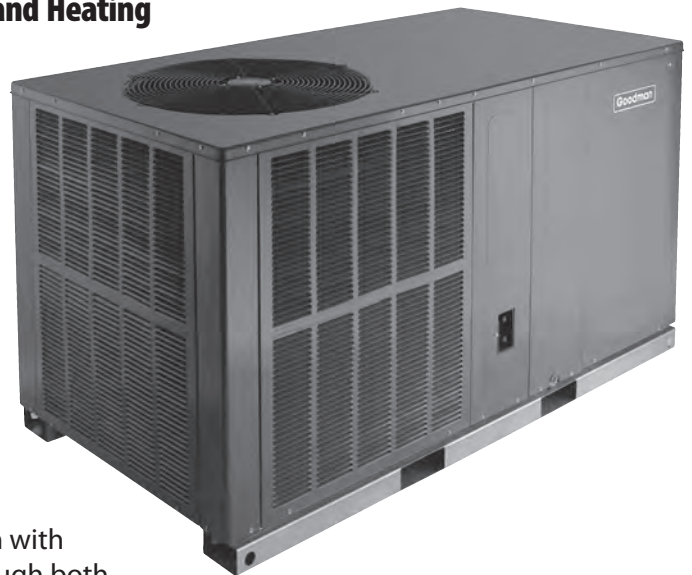
**GENERAL MANAGER**  
Kenneth W. Robbins

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

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

# Maintain Your Equipment

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



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

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

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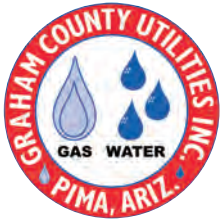
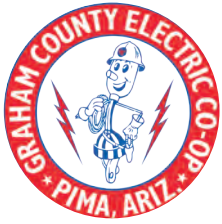
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AZ-145 Postmaster: Send address changes to Currents, 5625 NE Elam Young Pkwy. Ste. 100, Hillsboro, OR 97124

**Assistant General Manager's Message**

# Communicating With You

Maintaining essential services such as electric, gas and water utilities takes a lot of work by many dedicated employees. The co-op maintains more than 1,030 miles of energized electric line, more than 288 miles of gas line and 72 miles of main water line.

System problems are inevitable. They can be caused by a variety of reasons, including weather, fire, falling tree limbs, digging incidents, traffic accidents and aging infrastructure.

When a system outage is reported, personnel are dispatched 24/7/365 to make emergency repairs. They take the necessary steps to assess the problem, secure the area, and work safely and efficiently to restore services.

After the well-being of our employees and members, the cooperative's priority is restoring services to members in the shortest amount



of time. Remember, please do not attempt to remove trees or debris you see in power lines or communications lines. Our crews have the proper equipment, training and safety gear to safely correct these types of issues.

In the few months I have been here at the co-op, I have been impressed with our employees and their ability to work as a team to restore services after unplanned outages. This includes our employees in dispatch, communications and the field crews. In the storm season, we have experienced some weekends with 14 or more emergency calls, which is a challenge to

our on-call crews. Simultaneous outages during a storm can occur in different locations and be many miles apart. This requires multiple crews communicating and working together to solve system problems.

As always, we appreciate your patience as our crews make repairs. We do our best to keep members informed whenever possible. When you have service disruptions, please call our dispatch personnel at 928-485-2451. Helpful information includes the type of emergency and details to help our crews identify the cause of the outage.

When an outage is reported, information about the outage is posted to our Facebook page. We continually update the page with pertinent information until services are restored. Please follow us on Facebook to help us communicate with you.



It takes the coordinated effort of linemen to install a new power pole.

**Phil Cook, Assistant General Manager**



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

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#### **CEO**

Tyler Carlson

### **What's Happening**

- **September 7** Labor Day. MEC offices closed.
- **September 12** Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Phone-only sales for Operation Cool Shade tree sales. See [mohaveelectric.com](http://mohaveelectric.com) for details.
- **September and October** Budget Payment Plan sign up.
- **November 3** VOTE!

**AZ-146 Postmaster:** Send address changes to Currents, 5625 NE Elam Young Pkwy. Ste. 100, Hillsboro, OR 97124

## **A Message from the CEO**

# Currents and Cookbooks

Welcome to the second issue of our new Currents member magazine. We are hearing positive comments about the publication. Best of all, members are reading and enjoying Currents.

MEC members are ordering cookbooks. One member ordered 10 of them. Several members have submitted calendar contest photo entries.

This publication wouldn't happen for MEC's members without the help and professional efforts of the publisher, Pioneer Utility Resources. PUR is a not-for-profit cooperative like Mohave Electric, with the same values and business practices.

An MEC reader said, "I loved getting the magazine and read it cover to cover, finding it very interesting and informative. Thank you for such a good magazine."

Currents is part of our enhanced member communication goal. In the past few months, we have gone from one social media channel to four: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Follow us!

A bigger project is a complete overhaul of our website. The all-new [mohaveelectric.com](http://mohaveelectric.com) is expected later this year, and is something to look forward to.

In this issue of Currents, our cover story is on pages 4 and 5. The Moss Mine power line project provides reliable and cost-effective electricity for the mining operation and will have a significant positive impact on air quality by replacing the existing diesel generators at the mine.

I want to join Golden Vertex/Moss Mine and thank Rep. Paul Gosar for his help clearing hurdles for this project to move forward. Our members and community benefit by his support for a local business that is forward-thinking to improve air quality and create more than 100 good jobs.

More MEC and Arizona generation and transmission content is found on pages 8, 25, 28 and 29.

Last month, our board of directors made the difficult decision to cancel our district and annual member meetings for 2020.

Uncertainty and changes surrounding health concerns and risks have made it impossible for us to secure a facility for our meetings, and make it difficult to provide physical distancing at meetings. A few other considerations affected the decision: There is no outstanding business to conduct, no proposed changes to MEC's bylaws and there were no applications received for a board position.

MEC's annual report document is available to view at [mohaveelectric.com](http://mohaveelectric.com). I am preparing a video presentation of the year's highlights which will be added soon to the website. Click on About Us, then Annual Meeting.

We enjoy spending time with members at our meetings each year and will miss that. On a bright note, we are planning MEC's 75th anniversary in 2021 with a celebration at next year's annual meeting and lots of gifts to make up for this year. We hope to see you next year. Maybe you'll win a cookbook!



**Tyler Carlson**

# Florida Currents

September 2020 • Volume 9, No. 11

**CEO** Michael Shepard  
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**FLORIDA CURRENTS EDITOR** Pam Blair, CCC  
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**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** David Herder  
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**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT** Alyssa McDougle  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Duy Mai

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

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

**HOW TO CONTACT FLORIDA CURRENTS**  
**Subscription services:**  
 Nonmember subscriptions \$15 U.S. a year; \$25 foreign a year. Prepayment required. Allow 4-8 weeks for first issue. Identify local edition desired. Have a problem receiving your magazine? Utility members should contact their utility office. Nonmembers call 503-718-3717.  
**Back issues:**  
 Back issues and extra copies are \$3 each, prepayment required. Supply is limited. Identify edition, month and year. Call first to check availability. Contact Pioneer Utility Resources: P.O. Box 1306, North Plains, OR 97133-1306; 503-357-2105; email: info@pur.coop.

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING INQUIRIES**  
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## Message From the CEO

# Preserving the Night Sky

In the August edition of Florida Currents, I encouraged readers to submit topics of interest for this column each month. I want to thank members for the responses we received. I look forward to addressing them in future messages. Please keep the requests coming.

This month's message regards preservation of the night sky. I am interested in this topic because I enjoy outdoor activities and just being outside in general. I have always found looking up at the stars to be an awe-inspiring pastime.

Today, we have what is referred to as "light pollution" of the night sky that can diminish or even eliminate that amazing view. We are fortunate to live in a rural community where light pollution is not as invasive as in large cities, but it is still a factor to contend with in this area. Light pollution can be defined as excessive use of artificial light that unnaturally brightens the sky and dampens the stars. Causes include exterior building lights, advertising or commercial lighting, streetlights and illuminated sports venues.

EREC provides streetlights and, upon request, residential night lights for members at a nominal fee. Our current lights were chosen after extensive research and field testing of several models from different manufacturers. Having zero light escaping into the sky was an important consideration. The lights also had to be reliable for members who count on them each night. Our current cobra head-style streetlight has zero uplight. The residential night light does have a small amount of uplight, but it is very minimal. The manufacturer of these lights assures us the new model available in the fall will have zero uplight.

It can be a balancing act to provide the devices our modern world requires while preserving the natural beauty we enjoy in our rural area. Escambia River Electric Cooperative strives to achieve that precise balance of providing safe illumination for the protection of our members and preserving the protection of the night sky so we can share that amazing splendor for generations to come. ■



Ryan C. Campbell, P.E.

To submit topics for consideration as future CEO columns, please email [CEOMessage@erec.com](mailto:CEOMessage@erec.com). Outages and any other cooperative business must be reported through the contact information on the back of this magazine.



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Tapping the Sun for Cooking Fun  
 In the Kitchen, Page 16



# FKEC NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2020

[www.FKEC.com](http://www.FKEC.com)

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Mailing Address:

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### MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

To help make solar power generation more accessible to FKEC members, FKEC offers Solar Net Metering and a Solar Loan Program. [www.FKEC.com/green-power](http://www.FKEC.com/green-power)

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

## Adjusting To the New Normal ... Again

As we move forward, we continue to adjust our operations to work safely amid the COVID-19 pandemic. At FKEC we are continually monitoring local, state, and national health recommendations and modifying our daily work practices to keep our employees and community healthy. Most recently, this meant closing our lobbies to the public... again.

### FKEC Lobbies Closed

Due to the recent spike in local cases of COVID-19, we decided to once again close our office lobbies to the public on July 20. This measure not only protects the health of our front office employees and visiting members, but it also enables us to work even when the virus has impacted staffing levels.

I encourage use of our health-safe online services. Just about anything you can do in person, you can do at [www.FKEC.com](http://www.FKEC.com).

You can also reach us at (305) 852-2431 or [member.service@fkec.com](mailto:member.service@fkec.com). A drive-through at either office is also available Monday-Friday, although hours may vary.

At FKEC we also continue to implement best workplace practices based on CDC and health official recommendations. I appreciate our staff's diligence in creating plans and adjusting strategies as we navigate this ever-evolving process.

Currently, our employees must complete a daily health quiz online before coming to work and have their temperature taken before entering the building. Crews are also organized to work in "pods" to keep contact between crewmen limited to small groups.



**SCOTT NEWBERRY**

*Chief Executive Officer*

### Maintenance and Construction Resumes

Thanks to these workplace health initiatives, we can safely resume routine maintenance and construction projects. Our crews, as well as contract crews, are back out clearing vegetation away from power lines and hardening our electric system through various construction projects. If you see crews working in the field, please remember to keep a safe distance to protect everyone involved from electrical and health hazards.

### Thank You

I extend my sincere gratitude to you, our members, for your support and understanding. We are all learning to address this situation together, and your appreciation and kindness to our team make it that much easier.

I also thank our employees for their efforts to stay healthy so that they can keep serving our members.

**CONTACT US**

863-946-6200 (member services)  
 844-201-7203 (24-hour phone payments)  
 www.gladeselectric.com

**OFFICES**

*Mondays through Thursdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.*  
 26733 U.S. Hwy. 27 East  
 P.O. Box 519  
 Moore Haven, FL 33471

214 SR 70 West  
 Lake Placid, FL 33852

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

**POWER INTERRUPTION NUMBER**

Moore Haven..... 863-946-6200  
*Phones are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including weekends and holidays. Please have your location or account number handy when you call.*

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*The Board’s next meeting is at 9 a.m. September 24 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

**CEO Message**

# COVID-19 Impacts Our Storm Restoration Plans



**Jeff Brewington**

Long before it was named, we were focused on the many forecasts available to us for what would become Hurricane Isaias. Early on, projections indicated this system was headed to Florida. Forecast discussions included the potential of a weak tropical storm tracking along the west coast of Florida, or a stronger storm—potentially a hurricane—moving up Florida’s east coast.

Either way, our territory was in the heart of the cone.

When Isaias came to fruition and its track became more discernable, the Florida State Storm Team took action. Led by the CEO of the Florida Electric Cooperatives Association, statewide conference calls began in earnest. As usual, FECA’s CEO reached out to the other statewide electric cooperative organization CEOs in the Southeast to prepare for mutual aid—a fine example of the sixth cooperative principle, Cooperation Among Cooperatives.

These calls revealed this hurricane season was going to be different than all those before.

Throughout the area where we seek storm restoration help, there was already a major storm well underway: COVID-19.

The statewide inquiries didn’t return the usual comforting news that each state had plenty of crews available to help. Instead, we heard the likes of, “Well, our pandemic protocols won’t allow us to send anyone,” or were met with a list of 20 questions such as:

“Are there confirmed cases at the cooperative?”

“How will you house our employees?”

“How will meals be provided?”

“What are your working conditions?”

“Have any employees cared for someone or had a family member test positive?”

These were never concerns before COVID-19. I could see Florida electric cooperatives would have to rely on themselves for storm restoration in the 2020 season.

During Hurricane Irma restoration, we had nearly 250 employees from other cooperatives and contractors from as far away as Oklahoma. I am not counting on that level of help this season, which will lead to longer restoration times. I say these things so you consider revamping your personal storm preparation plans. You may already have quite a stockpile of survival staples because of COVID-19. But consider what we may be facing with limited storm restoration manpower, and stock up for the possible one-two punch of a hurricane and COVID-19.

Be prepared, be safe and stay well.



# COVID Heroes Work Here, Too

**By Gary Smith**  
President and CEO  
PowerSouth Energy Cooperative

A sign at the Andalusia, Alabama, post office honors the heroes who work there.

I was told postal customers placed the sign there. There should be other signs.

These are really crazy times. There hasn't been a global pandemic in more than 100 years and, outside of world wars, the world's economy has never been shut down like the last four months. We have likely not yet seen the worst of the economic suffering.

There is no manual on how to operate a business or our personal lives through a crisis like this.

Even with the shutdowns, shut-ins and shelter-in-place orders, essential services have to carry on every day and, at times, every minute of every day. The heroic efforts of nurses and doctors were seen daily as they fought to save the lives of COVID-19 patients while New York hospitals were overrun with cases. Likewise, health care professionals in Alabama and every other hospital in most of the world continue to respond with courage to treat and save the lives of COVID victims. Those efforts have been less publicized, but no less real.

Nursing homes have been ravaged by COVID outbreaks. At one point, more than 50% of the COVID deaths in New Jersey originated in nursing homes. In Alabama, a nursing home experienced more than



100 cases between patients and staff. Nursing home staff are truly heroic going to work every day, knowing the virus is in the facility, yet risking their own safety by caring for patients. Many of those workers contracted the virus. They could have avoided exposure by staying home. They are COVID heroes.

Pharmacy workers meet the public and dispense medicines to families of COVID victims. Some customers have been exposed to the virus and have the potential to pass it on to pharmacy workers. Those workers accept the risk of exposure to help their customers. They could stay home, but they don't. They are COVID heroes.

There are many others. The postal workers I mentioned earlier deliver the mail.

Grocery workers keep shelves stocked. Waiters and waitresses serve our food if we eat out. Hardware store and other retail workers are exposed to so many people each day.

If you look around, you



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will see many COVID heroes providing essential services so our lives can continue at some level of normalcy.

This brings me to our people and our members' employees. It is difficult to understand the complexity of electric service or the electric grid. Electric service is instantaneous, moving at the speed of light. Reliable service requires skilled people to monitor and control the system at all times. Power plant workers are needed to operate generation plants around the clock. The transmission grid requires constant monitoring to prevent overloads in peak periods or from outages. Transmission and distribution lines have to be repaired when they are damaged or fail. Bills have to be processed and paid, and administrative duties have to be handled.

PowerSouth's power plant employees, transmission line crews, substation crews, telecommunication crews, information services employees, energy control center personnel and other employees have worked through the COVID crisis, exposing themselves to the risk of infection to do their job and keep electric service available.

Two storms on back-to-back

weekends in April damaged parts of our transmission system and large parts of some of our members' distribution systems. Our people and our members' people responded quickly to repair damage and restore electric service. It would have been easy for them to stay home and avoid exposure in the public to protect themselves and their families, but they went to work and repaired the systems as quickly as possible.

We have all learned from this experience. We have learned more about the exposure risks and dangers of the virus. We have learned how to better protect ourselves, our families and our co-workers.

When this all started, we heard about essential and nonessential employees. We heard how we needed to protect our essential workers so essential services could continue. I have learned there are many more essential services and essential workers than I had imagined.

The longer we are in the pandemic, the more services we find to be essential. We should all be thankful people are willing to put themselves at risk to provide those services.

I have also recognized how good PowerSouth people are. They have done whatever was needed or asked of them. They have changed their routines and put themselves at risk of exposure to make sure their jobs were done—all without complaint. Heroes work here. I couldn't ask for better teammates or better people. ■



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Gary Cox  
Kinneth Daniels  
Carl Goodson  
Eddie Jones

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

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

FL-154

**GCEC President's Message**

# Make Your Voice Heard

There's an old political saying, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "Why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate who shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we encourage all Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on September 22.

Whether registering yourself or others to vote, or helping community members organize, there are many ways to get involved.

Local elections may not be as exciting as a high-profile presidential election, but they are just as critical. They have a direct impact on your community and quality of life. As at the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community and, more importantly, where we want to go.

Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board or electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, GCEC board members provide strategic guidance on the direction of the co-op and how it serves the community. Local board members embody the voice and identity of the community. Ultimately, the role of the co-op board is governance.

While day-to-day decisions are made by our employees, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is look out for the vitality of the co-op and the members we serve. GCEC board members provide their perspective on community priorities, enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments. We depend on you and your neighbors to vote so we stay on course and are in sync with the community we serve.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures diverse views are represented. The entire community benefits when more people participate because greater numbers better reflect a consensus on the will of the people.

Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research national, state and local candidates. Learn about issues on the ballot. Be sure to get out and vote!

To learn more about National Voter Registration Day or to get involved, visit [www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org).



**Doug Birmingham**

Access your account or report a power outage 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by visiting [www.gcec.com](http://www.gcec.com) or calling our automated system:

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



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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

[www.preco.coop](http://www.preco.coop)  
800-282-3824

## TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

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

## CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

210 Metheny Road  
Wauchula, FL 33873

## MANATEE SERVICE CENTER

14505 Arbor Green Trail  
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

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### District 8

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### District 9

WILLIE DAWES

## BOARD MEETINGS

September 22, 2020

October 27, 2020

November 17, 2020

Any PRECO member may attend a board meeting. Due to building security requirements and to facilitate attendance, members should contact the cooperative in a timely manner for logistical information regarding the meeting.

## ONLINE E-ZINE

Prefer to receive Florida Currents online? Sign up through your online account or call us at **800-282-3824**.

FL-155

## CEO Message

# Summer Can Heat Up Your Power Bill

Each year, just like clockwork, the hot, humid Florida summer heats up your monthly electric bills. As temperatures soar into the 90s, your air conditioner works overtime to keep you comfortable by using more energy. Your refrigerator fights to beat the summer heat, too.

At Peace River Electric Cooperative, we strive to help our member-owners use electricity efficiently. But you don't have to sacrifice comfort to use less energy and save money. Just trimming your electricity use in small ways can add up to big savings. Reducing your electric bill by \$5 a month saves you \$60 a year. Shaving \$10 a month off your electric bills will save you \$120 a year.

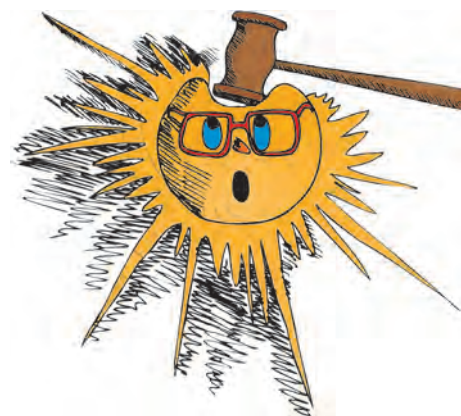
Since heating and cooling is responsible for up to 60% of your home's energy use, that is the first place to look to save energy.

### Heating and Air Conditioning

- Have your HVAC system checked annually by a qualified technician.
- To keep air flowing freely, change your HVAC filter monthly.
- Keep the inside and outside coils clean and free of debris.
- During the summer, set your thermostat at 78 degrees or above.
- Install a smart thermostat. It will learn your weekly schedule and adjust the air to meet your comfort level accordingly.

### Refrigerator

- Don't set the freezer below 0 degrees or



the refrigerator below 37 degrees.

- Make sure door seals fit tightly when closed.
- Keep exterior coils clean.
- Eliminate "extra" refrigerators, if you have any.

### Water Heater

- Don't set the thermostat higher than 120 degrees. Every degree higher can increase energy use between 3% and 5%.

PRECO recommends members consider the co-op's PrePaid Power program. With PrePaid Power, you add kilowatts to your meter like you add gas to your car. Pay for power in advance, and when the balance gets low, add more kilowatts.

Some PRECO members find using PrePaid Power encourages them to use less energy by controlling their use.

Finally, call PRECO's Energy Services Department at 800-282-3824. Our trained technicians will help you determine where most of your energy dollars are going and guide you in using electricity efficiently.

PRECO is more than your energy provider. We are your trusted energy partner.

*Randy Shaw*

# ALEC Annual Meeting, COVID-19 and Concern for Our Community

On July 27, the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives held its first-ever virtual annual meeting. It seems we have gone from one calamity to the next this year in Louisiana, with tornadoes, lawsuits, the COVID-19 pandemic and an active hurricane season.

In the early days of the coronavirus outbreak, it was clear the pandemic would change our perception of normal. As concepts such as social distancing first circulated among health officials, electric cooperatives looked ahead to identify and confront the possible impacts of COVID-19.

Throughout this new COVID-19 reality, our Louisiana electric co-ops have taken necessary extreme measures to protect employees so they can keep the lights on. The services they provide are vital across Louisiana in our homes, businesses and hospitals. Damage from multiple storms and the ongoing impact of the pandemic have made this a challenging year, but our co-ops have risen to the challenge and served their communities with compassion and pride.

As our co-ops responded to local concerns and circumstances, we at ALEC worked to present a unified front to our

political leaders in Baton Rouge and Washington, D.C., and urged them to address the specific needs of our communities and their cooperatives. Working alongside the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, our national trade organization, we informed policymakers about the challenges faced on the ground in Louisiana.

The pandemic has caused reduced income for many of our member co-ops, but they have responded by helping their communities, working with members on extended payment plans, promoting local businesses and expanding broadband access.

Helping member co-ops accomplish those goals is the ALEC team, which is dedicated to supporting Louisiana's electric cooperatives through safety training, employee education, member engagement, communications, Youth Tour, community outreach, government relations and legal affairs—anything that helps your cooperative better serve you and your communities.

It is unclear what the coming weeks, months or years hold, but I am absolutely confident our co-ops will be there serving their communities, leading with compassion, and trying each and every



CEO Jeff Arnold

day to do the right thing for their members and their employees.

One of the Seven Cooperative Principles—Concern for Community—looms large right now in the minds of America's electric co-ops. It has governed our response to the pandemic from the beginning, and will continue to serve as our primary focus as we seek additional ways to help our co-op members.

Despite the challenges, our annual meeting was a success. Guest speakers included Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards and NRECA CEO Jim Matheson. Following their presentations, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, CoBank and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp., presented checks to ALEC. Member co-ops were recognized for their previous year's accomplishments and involvement in the Action Committee for Rural Electrification.

The annual safety and awards banquet will be held at a later date due to social-distancing restrictions. ■

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#### CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

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#### Dixie Electric Membership Corp.

Daniel Berthelot      Leslie Falks

#### Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative Inc.

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#### South Louisiana Electric Co-op Association

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#### Washington-St. Tammany Electric Co-op Inc.

Joe Jarrell      Dennis Glass

### Associate Member

Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative Inc.



## Embrace the Gulf

Louisiana joins coastal states in a yearlong celebration of the many ways the Gulf of Mexico contributes to life in the region

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- Kevin Aycock** | Vice President of Engineering and Technical Services
- Scott Deshotel** | Vice President of Operations and Construction Services

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**Main office**

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DeRidder, LA 70634  
Phone: 800-367-0275

**Moss Bluff**

975 North Perkins Ferry Road  
Lake Charles, LA 70611  
Phone: 337-855-6684

**New Llano**

12542 Lake Charles Hwy./P.O. Box 367  
Leesville, LA 71446  
Phone: 337-239-3451

**Volume 37, Issue 5**

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# An Eye on the Horizon

We live in an ever-evolving world of technology, social trends and instant gratification. Things look very different than they did in my day—and your day, whenever that may have been.

There are those among us who place a premium on stability and predictably who may find it hard to understand why those of the generation that followed us seem to buck at the reins of “settling down.” But I think there is something to be said about the benefit of both—longevity and spontaneity, routine and innovation, the old way and the new way.

We recently have seen this changing of the generations within our ranks at Beaugard Electric. After 40 years of service, Vice President of Finance and Corporate Services Ronnie Marshall has announced his retirement. Ronnie has provided the cooperative and its members with his expertise in accounting and finance since 1979.

He oversaw the modernization of our billing cycle from pencil and paper to digital, allowing members to enjoy the ease and convenience of online bill payments and a variety of billing options. He secured Federal Emergency Management Agency funding that allowed BECi to rebuild its infrastructure after the devastation of Hurricane Rita and, in more recent years, Ronnie played a critical leadership role in updating the cooperative’s metering system from human-read meters to an automatic digital meter infrastructure. He has served as a champion of the co-op’s contribution to numerous community service projects and donations throughout his career and has represented the co-op in DeRidder’s Kiwanis Club.

Ronnie’s work ethic, level of expertise, vast knowledge and calm demeanor in times of adversity have left an impression on our co-op family. We thank him for his many years of service. In keeping with his mission of preparing our cooperative for the future, Ronnie has served as an adviser and mentor to many of our young BECi professionals, namely former Finance Manager Ashley Mazilly.

Ashley has served the cooperative for the past nine years under Ronnie’s tutelage in the accounting department. We are happy to announce Ashley was chosen as the new vice president of finance and corporate services. She holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting from McNeese State University and is certificated as a Cooperative Financial Professional by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. While Ronnie has left very large shoes to fill, I have no doubt Ashley is capable of filling them and providing the vital leadership needed to usher our cooperative into the next generation.

While our country, community and cooperative may look different from the early days of 1939, there is a co-op culture that has remained the cornerstone throughout the changing decades: to continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to our members—electric power that seems to be more vital with each passing day—and to do so with integrity, community-mindfulness and ingenuity while keeping an eye on the future horizon.



**Ronnie Marshall is retiring after 40 years with BECi.**



**Ashley Mazilly is BECi’s new vice president of finance and corporate services.**

**Kevin Turner**  
General Manager



12525 Hwy. 9, Homer, LA 71040  
Phone: 318-927-3504  
www.our.coop

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# We Are Better Together

First, I want to thank our members again for being so supportive in a year where nothing has seemed normal. As you all know, after a year of planning, preparation and promotion, our 2020 Annual Meeting had to be canceled due to COVID-19. This was a disheartening decision because it's a day we look forward to each year, but it certainly was the safest and best decision for our members and employees. We are grateful for your understanding, and we hope to see you in April 2021!

Next, I want to draw your attention to some of the items in this issue of Louisiana Country. This issue is packed with news you need as a Claiborne Electric member-owner. You will find an announcement about our 2020 college scholarship recipients, information on Board elections and upcoming office closings on page 5. On page 8, you will find news on how we are easing financial burdens through payment arrangements on delinquent debt, and with refunding nearly \$700,000 in deposits. Operation Round Up news is on page 17.

On pages 20-21, I hope you take time to read about our Action Committee for Rural Electrification program. During the past 15 years as Claiborne Electric's general manager and CEO, I have seen the importance of this program grow exponentially, especially as the number of rural Americans decreases with every Census and our voices grow harder to hear in state and federal government.

ACRE works to make it easier for Baton Rouge and Washington, D.C., to hear our rural voices. For more than five years, I've been telling members how ACRE can help make us better together. I have worked for electric cooperatives for many years, in different states and regions, and I can say undoubtedly that Claiborne Electric's members are some of the most generous people I have ever met. Time and again, our members have shown when the cause is worthy, they stand as a community and make things better together.

Being heard requires joining together. An effective way for rural Americans—specifically electric co-op members—to make our voices heard is to join and support ACRE. Please give the information on pages 20-21 some thought. As always, I appreciate you. If I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to email me at Mark@our.coop or call me at 318-927-3504.

**Mark Brown**  
CEO, General Manager



Mark Brown

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

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

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

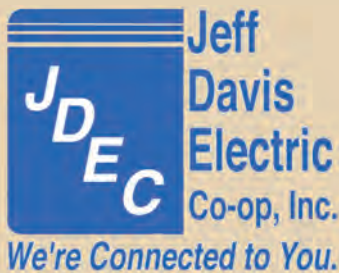
- Name
- Account number
- Email address

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

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

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

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



906 N. Lake Arthur Ave.  
 P.O. Box 1229  
 Jennings, LA 70546  
 337-824-4330 • 337-824-8936 (fax)  
 Branch office:  
 815 Hwy. 27, Bell City, LA 70630  
 337-598-5700  
 www.jdec.org

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**Winnie L. Farris** | Administrative Assistant/  
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**Heath Lemieux** | Superintendent, Jennings  
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# Let's Celebrate the Cooperative Difference



**Michael Heinen**

Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative is different than most other companies with which you do business. Unlike investor-owned utilities motivated by profits, the co-op belongs to you. Without you, we would not exist. Our overriding concern is to serve you and make a difference in local communities.

October is National

Cooperative Month—a time to

reflect on a business model where you and your interests come first. Through a board of directors comprised of neighbors you elect to represent you, and meetings open to members, JDEC gives you a seat at the table when rates and policies are set. Consumers decide how the cooperative is run, and the services it will offer.

As a locally owned and operated business, JDEC provides neighborly service and strives to better our communities. Cooperatives are advocates for their consumers. What hurts consumers hurts co-ops. What is best for consumers is best for cooperatives.

When the electric co-op movement began in the 1930s, neighbors banded together for the common good. That philosophy continues today. People who know and live in your community— and may even know you personally—resolve service and billing questions.

Because your co-op is a local business owned by its member-consumers and staffed by local professionals, it listens to and responds to your needs. That keeps us focused on your priorities. It is a special relationship—one no other electric utility can offer.

As a member of an electric cooperative, you are far more than a customer. You are a member and an owner. You belong. You have a voice in how things are run. You matter, and we appreciate you.

**Michael Heinen**  
**General Manager**

**Thank you for taking the time to vote by mail in our board of directors election. More than 1,300 members submitted ballots. There is no greater example of support shown from co-op members. Your participation helps ensure Democratic Member Control—one of the seven principles that guide co-ops.**





**PANOLA-HARRISON  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

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

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

**GENERAL MANAGER**

**Kathy Wood**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**District 2: Albert Tiller** | President

**District 3: Jay Goswick** | Treasurer

**District 4: Robert Ortigo**

**District 5: Debbie Burch**

**District 6: Jerry L. Holmes** | Vice President

**District 7: Gene Stough**

Year organized: 1937

Counties and parishes served:

Harrison, Panola, Caddo and Desoto

Connected meters: 19,854

Members: 13,684

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

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

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# Electricity Is a Value

Even though I work in the energy industry, 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 coffemaker to work each morning.

Since many of us have been spending more time at home the past few months, we likely have been using more energy. And yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we really think about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Like many of you, I have a cellphone to stay connected, and I subscribe to cable channels so I can enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern-day life. We can see what we're getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services.

When we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all we're getting for our money. But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets.

Electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day. It is a great value, especially compared to other services and expenses.

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. Unlike most other consumer goods, the cost of



**Kathy Wood**

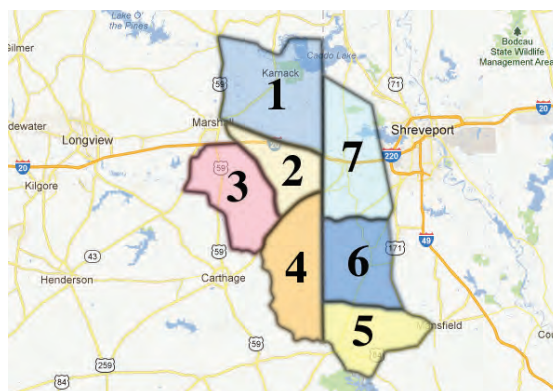
electricity has remained largely flat. The average rent increase was nearly 4% from 2014 to 2019, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price index. The cost of medical care increased 3% during this time, and education was not far behind at 2.6%. According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4%.

The bottom line: Electricity brings everyday value. At the same time, we strive to increase our service reliability, reduce brief interruptions and reduce costs. We continually work to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid, and explore more renewable energy options where possible.

Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued co-op members. As your trusted energy adviser, we also want to help you save energy and money.

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

**Kathy Wood, General Manager**



**BILL PAYMENT INFORMATION**

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

**Roger Dale DeHart***District 5*

The Dularge native was elected to the SLECA board in 1997. He also serves on the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc. board. DeHart has been a member of the Terrebonne Parish School Board for 30 years. He served more than seven years as a commissioner for Fire District 10. He is active in his community. He serves all of Bayou Dularge and Ashland North Subdivision.

**Eroy Acosta***District 8*

The Stephenville native was elected to the board in 1987. He owned a restaurant and lounge for many years. The Stephenville Volunteer Fire Department was established through Acosta's fundraising efforts. He served 21 years as its president. Acosta is on the board of the combined St. Martin Parish sewage and water districts. He serves Stephenville, Bayou L'Ourse, Deadwood and parts of Gibson, Morgan City and Greenwood. He also has represented SLECA on the ALEC board.

**Trevor Benoit***District 9*

The Amelia native and longtime resident is a semi-retired mechanic who is in the hotshot trucking business, making deliveries to local, regional and national locations. Benoit worked for the city of Morgan City in the Central Garage Department, where he was responsible for maintaining more than 100 pieces of specialized equipment. He retired as supervisor of the department. Benoit is a member of the Knights of Columbus and has served as Deputy Knight, Grand Knight and District Deputy. He represents Amelia, Siracusville and part of Bayou L'Ourse. Benoit follows in the footsteps of both his parents, who served on the SLECA board.



## Saluting Our Businesses

If the culture of our area gives us a distinct character, then the labor of our people defines who we are. For generations, because of our location in southeast Louisiana, we have been associated and identified with oil and gas production, the seafood industry, shipping and all its supporting businesses and enterprises.

We should be proud of this distinct and one-of-a-kind commerce. After all, our "homegrown" seafood is the envy of the nation. Our offshore oil and gas production literally helps fuel large swathes of the country, and ships manufactured in our own backyard help protect our citizens and contribute to the national defense.

This is indeed unique work produced by unique people that powers our unique local economy. SLECA is fortunate to be the electric provider for many of these businesses and industries, which makes us unique among the electric cooperatives in the state.

One sector of the local economy that so many people in our area depend on for their livelihoods, and has been handed down from one generation to the next, is the offshore oil and gas industry. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that for the last seven years this industry has experienced an historic meltdown that has yet to rebound.

In 2019, 72% of the employment in SLECA's service territory was directly tied to one commodity: oil and gas. This is the highest dependency in the state on one industry and four times the statewide average. In the last five years, SLECA's service territory lost 17,500 jobs. That is a remarkable 17.5% decline. In 2019, another 2,400 jobs were lost, with more predicted to come in 2020.

Those aren't just numbers. They represent real people with real families.

Though present times may be trying, the good news is we are a resilient people. We have been through this before and didn't just survive. We were made stronger because of it. [90114001](tel:90114001)

SLECA salutes our local businesses and is proud to serve you. Whether a large multimillion dollar corporation or a small locally owned and operated small business enterprise, we thank you for the valuable services you provide and the contribution you make to the health, stability and morale of our community.

**Joseph A. Ticheli**  
General Manager

**Joseph A. Ticheli****Lloyd Gibson***Adviser to the board*

A resident of Gibson and consultant for Cookie's Construction Co., Gibson has advised the board since 1984. He served as Terrebonne Parish Constable for 41 years and chairman of Terrebonne Parish Recreation Board for 19 years. Gibson is a member of St. Luke Baptist Church of Houma, serving as president of the Building Fund, and is an associate member of St. James Baptist Church. Gibson is concerned about his community and actively involved in its development.

**SLECA Sweepstakes**

Did you know SLECA gives away cash just for reading **Louisiana Country**? In each issue, four account numbers are randomly selected by computer and hidden in articles on SLECA's pages (4, 5, 8, 17, 20 and 21). If you see your account number, call SLECA and win \$25 cash or have the money applied to your bill.

If you are not reading **Louisiana Country**, you're missing out on great articles and the chance to win money.

**SLECA offices are closed Monday, September 7, in honor of Labor Day. Standby crews are on call.**





WST Electric

**WASHINGTON-ST. TAMMANY ELECTRIC OFFICES**

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Franklinton, LA 70438  
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www.wste.coop

**Additional offices**

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# Be Prepared When Disaster Strikes

Disasters don't plan ahead, but you should be prepared. It's a Scout's timeless motto and sage advice for all of us. September is National Preparedness Month. It's a good opportunity to stress the importance of planning for the unexpected—particularly harsh storms—while affirming our commitment to doing the same in our own backyard.

A critical component of preparedness is having an emergency communication plan for your family. Something as simple as a list of names and phone numbers tucked away in a wallet or purse could make all the difference if the power goes out and your cellphone battery dies.

Co-ops have their own detailed communication plans for crises, when staying in touch becomes particularly important and our employees have to be able to reach one another and our members.

While a written contact list is vital, we also use technology to stay updated in the event of a rapidly unfolding situation.

Electronic notifications are available for everything from changes in weather to voice messages from local law enforcement. Check with your parish office of emergency management or sheriff to sign up for alerts for your area.

Finally, assemble an emergency supply kit to see you through a few days, with or without electricity. The kit should include essential items such as water, nonperishable food, a battery-powered or hand-cranked radio, flashlight, batteries, a first-aid kit, medications and copies of important personal documents.

While a written contact list is vital, we also use technology to stay updated in the event of a rapidly unfolding situation.

Keeping your vehicle's gas tank full and some cash on hand are also prudent steps. Maps of the area, pet supplies and activities to keep kids occupied could be important as well.

A few moments of rounding up many or all of these things into a bag or container and informing everyone in your home of its location could make a potentially dangerous situation merely unpleasant or, hopefully, just inconvenient.

Just as we take steps to be ready for whatever disasters may come our way, we encourage you to prepare now for your safety and that of your family.



**Charles Hill**

**Charles Hill**  
General Manager

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**The Lucky Account Number Contest** continues this month with two winners included in this edition of Louisiana Country. Before you continue looking through this edition for your winning number, look for your account number printed above your mailing address. Locate this number anywhere in this issue and win a \$50 prize. To claim your prize, call 985-839-3562.



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## Mission

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

## Volume 35, Issue 5

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

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

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

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

DEMCO is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## Manager's Report

Randy Pierce  
CEO & General Manager

While the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the heroism of doctors, nurses and others who protect the public, it has also brought out scam artists who prey on consumers.

Since the mid-March lockdown, a reported rise in scammers is happening across the nation and right here at home. Unfortunately, scammers take advantage of people during hard times. They make demands, incite worry and somehow get the attention of good people.

Beware of callers who say they are calling from DEMCO and demand immediate payment to avoid service disconnection, or who advise you to pay now with a credit card or to mail a money order.

If you get a call from someone claiming to represent DEMCO demanding immediate payment, or who gives you instructions to pay a certain way using a specific method, hang up and report the suspected scam to the Federal Trade Commission at [FTC.gov/complaint](http://FTC.gov/complaint) or at 1-877-382-4357. You can also report it to the governor's office and to DEMCO to make state and local officials aware of particular schemes targeting our communities.

Regarding payments, DEMCO regularly works with members as needed to prevent disconnection for nonpayment. For members who were unable to pay their electricity bill during the height of the COVID pandemic, DEMCO is making payment contracts available to residential members to levelize payments up to 12 consecutive months to satisfy their outstanding balance. Members who received a notification through the mail should call 1-844-MyDEMCO Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss their situation and the options available.

There are many other resources available to help members through hardship as a result of the pandemic. I encourage you to visit the DEMCO website to learn more about national, state and local programs and resources. Visit [www.DEMCO.org/member-services/COVID-19](http://www.DEMCO.org/member-services/COVID-19).

The DEMCO Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization funded by DEMCO members to assist DEMCO members in need. Since 1997, the DEMCO Foundation has granted more than \$5.5 million to help our members through hard times. Although the foundation does not pay utility bills, funds may help pay for rent or a mortgage, repairs and maintenance on homes, pharmacy and medical supplies, and other needs. For information or to apply, visit [www.DEMCO.org/community/DEMCO-Foundation](http://www.DEMCO.org/community/DEMCO-Foundation).

DEMCO has been a part of this community since 1938. In the past eight decades and in all the days to come, I can assure you, DEMCO will do everything possible to work with members through challenging times. Thank you for your past and continued patience as we navigate these times together - the closings and openings and reclosings and reopenings. We will power through together for the health and safety of our community.

## Official Notice: Annual Meeting

In accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 3.03 of the Bylaws of DEMCO, notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of the corporation is scheduled at DEMCO Headquarters, 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, Saturday, September 12, 2020, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with Article IV, Section 4.05 of the corporation Bylaws, notice is hereby given that the following persons qualified and were elected to fill the four positions on the board of directors that were up for election this year.

**Stephen Irving**

East Baton Rouge Parish, Board District 4

**Mike Anderson**

East Feliciana Parish, Board District 5

**Dennis Lott**

Livingston Parish, Board District 8

**Richard Sitman**

St. Helena Parish, Board District 10

The annual meeting will be presented on Facebook Live to allow members to watch the proceedings. Following the meeting, a recording can be accessed via hyperlink at [DEMCO.org](http://DEMCO.org).



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OR-400

## Case in Point

I thought for sure Gov. Kate Brown's staff would cancel our meeting. She is, after all, an exceptionally busy leader dealing with multiple crises: COVID-19, budget shortfalls and tense confrontations in downtown Portland that captured the attention of the nation.

On this day in late July, she was also in a bitter and very public dispute with President Donald Trump over use of federal police in Oregon's largest city.

With all that was going on, it seemed realistic she would show up on CNN or some other cable show. Surely our meeting with her and Oregon consumer-owned utility leaders to talk about the importance of the Lower Snake River dams would be postponed for something more pressing.

But the call to postpone never came, and she was there at her desk via Zoom at the appointed hour, ready to listen to eight articulate Oregon consumer-owned utility leaders discuss why keeping the four Snake River dams aligns with her priorities for our state: a low-carbon future, a thriving economy, and protection for vulnerable populations and communities of color.

Gov. Brown appeared interested and asked good questions on a day when it was easy to be distracted. I certainly learned a lot participating in the call, and I am certain she did, too.

While a more comprehensive synopsis of this meeting can be found on pages 4-5, I am hopeful this is the beginning of collaborative relationship with the Brown administration over the future of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

We have not always agreed with the state's position on our incredible hydro system. Breaching the Snake River dams, in our view, is costly and harms the environment. But common ground often can come in small ways we often overlook—such as an important state leader graciously taking a meeting on a hectic day when the easiest thing to do was not have the meeting at all.



**Ted Case**

**Executive Director**