



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 Outages 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

Vic Russell, Fall River

##### Vice President

Dick Luebke, Sunriver

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Tanna King, Chemult

Daniel Jansen, Christmas Valley

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Ron Cass, La Pine

Garry Journey, Crescent

Gil Ernst, Gilchrist

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

#### STAFF

##### General Manager

James "Jim" Anderson

##### Engineering Manager

Tom Weller

##### Operations Manager

Terry Dunn

##### CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Steinhauer

##### Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

##### HR and Communications Manager

Sina Streeter

##### Marketing Manager

Joe Hull

##### Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

## Manager's Message

Happy New Year! We look forward to serving you in 2023. I am happy to report your board of directors has approved our 2023 working budget. We are prepared to bring our members another year of safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, we strive to hold down costs while still providing the reliable, quality service you expect. We charge our members only what it costs to provide the service, and nothing more.

When the costs of operating and manufacturing increase due to inflation, we must consider increasing our rates.

Midstate Electric Cooperative had a cost-of-service study conducted to help ensure the long-term financial stability of the co-op. The assessment determined MEC's facilities charge is below what is required to recoup fixed costs. The assessment was brought before your member-elected board of directors. With careful consideration, they approved a new rate structure.

As of April 1, 2023, you will see a \$3 increase on our facilities charge for all rate classes, excluding industrial. There also will be an energy charge rate increase of \$0.003 per kilowatt-hour for all rate classes.

The board of directors and management are working to gradually bring the monthly facilities charge up to the actual cost of doing business. As of today, the cost of doing business is much more than what our members are charged.

The decision to increase our rates for all rate classes was intentional and ensures the fixed costs of providing electric services are shared equitably among all members.

Every time you pay your bill, you are investing in the co-op through the facilities charge. This monthly investment helps cover the costs of delivering electric services to your home or business. These costs—shared by all members—include electrical system and infrastructure maintenance,

wire, poles, equipment, fuel, materials, substations, labor, tree trimming, general administration and outage restoration.

Maintaining our equipment and infrastructure through our facilities charge directly aligns with keeping your lights on and having shorter restoration times when the power does go out. MEC is committed to keeping restoration times as short as possible. I am proud to say the amount of time an average member is out of power each year has decreased from 79.43 minutes in 2021 to 61.90 minutes in 2022.

Despite our upcoming rate increase, MEC rates are well below the national average and are among the lowest in Oregon. MEC will continue working hard to control costs by operating safely and efficiently, and to provide the most reliable electric service possible.

We realize any increase in power costs can cause a hardship. We continue to provide conservation programs to help. We offer rebates for heat pumps, duct sealing, water heaters and weatherization measures. You can monitor your energy use through our SmartHub app. For more information, call the marketing department at 541-536-2126 option 5.

#### Last Call for Youth Tour Applications

We want to send local high school sophomores or juniors to the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 17-23. This all-expenses-paid trip is a unique opportunity for high school students whose parents are MEC members.

We hope to get multiple applicants and send two students on this once-in-a-lifetime trip. For more information, call 541-536-2126 option 5.

Please encourage a high school student in your household to apply. The deadline is Tuesday, January 31.

**CEO/General Manager Jim Anderson**