



MIDSTATE CONNECTION

Office Hours: 7:00 am-5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday
Closed Fridays & Holidays

Business Hours: 541-536-2126
After Hours Outages: 800-752-5935



Last Call for *Scholarship* Applications

MEC wants to help students achieve their career goals. We have scholarships available for members attending accredited colleges, technical schools, or line worker school.

We have developed a new ONLINE application to simplify the process for applicants. Paper applications will also be accepted in person at the Midstate office at 16755 Finley Butte Rd in La Pine or by mail to Midstate Electric, P.O. Box 127, La Pine, OR 97739.

Please visit our website at www.midstateelectric.coop/scholarship-programs for more details or contact us at 541-536-7220.

APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 24TH

Rate Increase April 1st

This month, you will see a \$3.00 increase of our Facilities Charge for all rate classes (excluding industrial). There is also an Energy Charge rate increase of \$0.003 per kilowatt-hour for all rate classes.

We realize that any increase in your power cost can cause a hardship. We are continuing to provide conservation rebate programs that can help.

For more information on our rebates, call the Marketing team at 543-536-2126 option 5.

Please Join us for Midstate's 71st Annual Meeting



Save The Date!
Midstate Annual Meeting
MAY 20th
9:00am-12:00pm
Free BBQ & Prizes!

MEC's 71st Annual Meeting of the Members is on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at our Midstate Headquarters. The annual meeting is an event for the entire family. It gives you, the member-owners, a chance to participate in the business of your electric co-op. It also provides a first-hand look at the various programs and services available through the co-op.

During the meeting, board election results for Districts 5, 7 & 9 will be announced. Please watch for your ballot, candidate information and "Quick Check Registration" postcard in the mail. Hold on to your postcard because you will bring that to the event registration table to be entered to win a door prize for a \$100 electric bill credit.

The annual meeting is also a great time to socialize with your neighbors and the people who keep your lights on!

There will be a free health fair, giveaways, safety demonstrations, raffle prizes and complementary tri-tip and chicken barbecue. See you all on May 20th!

Students Take interest in a Co-op Career

On February 16th, Midstate hosted 55 students from Gilchrist, La Pine, and North Lake High Schools for our annual Career Day. The event took place from 9am-1:30pm at the Midstate Headquarters.

Students learned about the history of Electric Cooperatives, what it means to be a cooperative, and about the wide range of careers in the utility industry. (There are over 130 different types of jobs in the electric co-op industry).

Students were introduced to each of Midstate's Managers and then split into three groups to attend presentations and demonstrations on the following careers: Lineworker, Mechanic, Substation Wireman,

Meter Technician, Distribution Technician (Staker), Engineer, GIS Analyst & GIS Technician.

During lunch, there was a presentation by Wiggins Tech, a drone company that Midstate contracts with to help monitor our powerlines.

At the end of the day, the students answered some quiz questions and won coffee gift cards. We also had three grand prizes that we raffled off to the students: a \$100 gift card, a Drone, and a Meta Virtual Reality Headset.

We are so happy that local high school students are thinking about their future and the possibilities of having a great career right in their "backyard"!

Let's get connected on social media so you'll never miss an update on MEC activities, programs, and contests.



Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

April is National Safe Digging Month.

Digging without locating underground utilities could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or cause severe electrical shock. This is true regardless of how much area your project will cover or whether you consider the job to be large or small. To help stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 8-1-1.

The 8-1-1 "Call Before You Dig" number will route you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities, and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

Universal utility marking colors:

Red - Electric
Orange - Communications, Telephone/CATV
Blue - Potable Water
Green - Sewer/Drainage
Yellow - Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line
Purple - Reclaimed Water
White - Premark site of intended excavation

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 8-1-1, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

It is important to understand that 8-1-1 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Some examples of private utilities include: underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Once all of your underground utilities have been located, it is time to start digging, but be sure to wear all of the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.

For more information about 8-1-1 and digging safety, visit Call811.com and SafeElectricity.org.



LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY IS APRIL 10

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) recognizes the second Monday of April as Lineworker Appreciation Day. MEC proudly recognizes our hardworking electric lineworkers for the services they perform around the clock to keep the power flowing and protect the public's safety. Lineworkers don't always get the recognition they deserve. They work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions far from their families, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities. MEC invites members to take a moment to thank a lineworker for the work they do. Join us in showing support for the men and women who light our lives!

WHAT DOES A LINEWORKER DO?

On any given day or night, in all kinds of weather conditions, lineworkers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems.

We entrust our lineworkers with your safety, so they hold a very important job. We also rely on their expertise to power our world.

SAFETY COMES FIRST

Lineworkers must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members and themselves. They spend thousands of hours in safety trainings each year and must learn and apply numerous safety regulations.

THEY ARE SPECIALLY TRAINED TO:

- Climb poles to service power lines in areas inaccessible by trucks.
- Stand in an elevated bucket to assess and repair overhead lines.
- Install poles, overhead lines and other equipment.
- Work on both energized and deenergized lines.
- Install and service underground lines.



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