



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

16755 Finley Butte Road
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La Pine, OR 97739

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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:

When you think about Midstate Electric Cooperative, you probably associate us with the local community—and you are right in doing so. Our leadership team, board of directors and employees live and work right here in the community we serve. What you may not realize is that MEC is part of a much larger cooperative network with a guiding principle of cooperation among cooperatives.

Co-ops work together to meet bigger challenges, such as power restoration after severe events. In the past, MEC has needed to call upon our neighboring co-ops to help restore power after severe winter storms blasted our area.

MEC reciprocates by assisting other electric co-ops when they request help. This was demonstrated most recently when we sent crews to assist Consumers Power Inc. to restore power after wildfires devastated their service area.

We've all seen the pictures—the damage was unspeakable. But through this system of mutual aid, we were able to coordinate with CPI to bring additional trucks, equipment and manpower to the affected areas, with the common goal to get power restored quickly to their members.

Wildfires

The risk of wildfire presents challenges to any community. In response, MEC has developed programs to address fire mitigation and safety. These measures include an aggressive vegetation management program, annual detailed inspections of distribution lines and transmission lines, selectively replacing

wood poles with iron or steel poles in high risk areas and strategically converting overhead lines to underground when feasible.

MEC's transmission and distribution systems allow MEC staff to operate and monitor the electrical system in real time and respond quickly to changing conditions. For example, if a limb hits a power line, the system can automatically reenergize after a limb has fallen off the line.

During severe wildfire conditions, MEC may opt to turn off this feature, which means the system is less likely to cause dry limbs to catch fire. However, the downside is power restoration will take longer because every section of the line must first be physically patrolled to ensure no fire hazards exist before the section is reenergized.

Rest assured, we are always looking for new methods and the best technology to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective power for our members and communities. After all, we live and work here too.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Our office is closed Thursday, November 26. In case of an outage, call our 24/7 outage line at 800-752-5935.

Dave Schneider
General Manager

Clarification: The September cover photo was taken by Matti Wilson.



Your 2021 member calendar is included in this edition of Ruralite.