




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 an electric cooperative, our priority is to provide safe, affordable and reliable power to our consumer-members. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich members' lives and serve the long-term interests of our communities. This mission has never been more critical than in recent months.

One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is Concern for Community. To me, this principle is the essential DNA of Midstate Electric Cooperative, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we "Power On." We play an essential role in serving our communities.

Who would have fathomed in March that COVID-19 would have such an unprecedented effect on our communities and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have challenged how we operate.

As an essential service—and to ensure the reliability of your power supply—we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews are separated from other employees and even from each other. Crewmen were assigned to permanent crews and report to separate locations at the headquarters facility. We separated office employees for social distancing.

To the extent possible, employees are working from home. For employees unable to work from home due to technical and other limitations, we established working areas per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

We also temporarily closed our lobby to the public to ensure the health and safety

of our employees and our members.

We also made the difficult decision to cancel our in-person annual meeting.

For the health and safety of everyone, we believe these measures were prudent courses of action.

Even though COVID-19 changed how we interact, it did not change what we do. Line crews still respond to outages, work continues with service orders, bills are processed and mailed, and our employees are available to answer your questions and concerns during business hours at 541-536-2126.

In support of our members impacted by COVID-19, MEC temporarily suspended late fees and disconnections. We worked with members to receive energy assistance from local agencies and have helped them with special payment plans.

We also offered payment assistance through our relief fund—a fund made possible through member/employee donations.

I remind you of these efforts not to boast about MEC, but to explain how much we care about our members and communities. We have seen other local businesses rise to meet similar challenges during this time, because that is what communities do.

While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, I am inspired to see how everyone is pulling together.

Thank you for your continued support. We will continue to Power On.

See page 8 to enter this year's Co-op Month Contest.

General Manager Dave Schneider

Clarification: The September cover photo was taken by