



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  
Tanna King, Chemult

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

#### STAFF

##### General Manager

Dave Schneider

##### Operations/Engineering Manager

Ned Ratterman

##### 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,

I hope spring is in full swing by the time this Ruralite hits your mailbox. Winter into spring is one of the most-anticipated changes every year, and a change many of us readily embrace.

In some contexts, the mere thought of change can be scary. Change can be hard, but it also can provide challenges and opportunities.

I am thinking about the concept of change now because I am embarking on a pretty big change myself. I will be retiring from Midstate Electric Cooperative in early June. This is my last column to you, the membership. It will be a change for you to see a new face and name on this page.

Many years of experience and expertise are leaving the co-op, as two other members of my management team are also ending their careers at MEC. Operations/Engineering Manager Steve Hess retired at the end of 2020. Marketing/Communications Manager Teresa Lackey will retire in early June. The three of us have extensive experience at the co-op: 26, 41 and 36 years, respectively.

Ned Ratterman has been hired as the new operations/engineering manager. Plans are in place to hire experienced and qualified applicants to fill the general manager and marketing/communications manager positions.

These are big changes for any organization, especially one the size of MEC. I hope you will consider these changes not as scary but as opportunities.

During my career at MEC, there have been many positive changes. It was not so long ago that members had to send in their own meter readings, the only system maps we had were printed once a year, and the only way for members to interact with the co-op was to dial the phone or stop by. Now we have automated meters, digital maps and multiple interaction touch points, including social media.

2021 marks MEC's 70th year as an organization. This milestone of honoring our past also looks forward to the future. I can confidently say the future of the co-op is in good hands with well-educated and highly trained employees. The one thing that will never change is the most important thing: MEC has and always will provide excellent service to the membership. You are our reason for being, and all employees embrace that.

As for my future, I look forward to greater flexibility afforded by retirement to enjoy time with family and friends. With our children grown, my wife, Lori, and I plan to travel. We have no plans to leave La Pine. This is home.

I would like to thank you for making MEC one of the most outstanding electric co-ops in the nation. It has been such an honor and privilege to serve you as general manager.

**Dave Schneider**  
**General Manager**

