

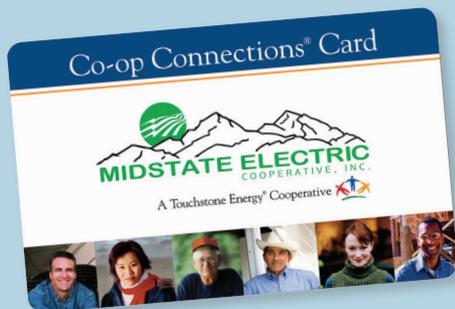


A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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



Touchstone Energy® Co-op Connections® Update

The Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving member benefit program that provides valuable local and national discounts. The most widely used benefit of the card, the pharmacy discount, has saved members \$1,011,071 since June 2009.

For more information call 541-536-2126 option 5.

The Center of Member Engagement



Manage your electric account 24/7 by accessing SmartHub at www.mse.coop.

With SmartHub, you can:

- Pay your bill online
- View billing history
- Monitor energy use
- Receive notifications via email or text message
- Report outages and track outage restoration progress
- Check MEC's newsfeed



Farewell from MEC General Manager Dave Schneider

I hope that spring is in full swing by the time this hits your mailbox. Winter into spring is one of the most-anticipated

changes every year, and a change that many of us readily embrace.

What is interesting is that 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, and 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 and Marketing/Communications Manager, Teresa Lackey, will be retiring 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 out 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 "touchpoints," including social media.

The year 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 that 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 certainly embrace that!

And, as far as 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 do some traveling. We have no plans to leave La Pine – this is home.

In closing, 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 of your co-op.

Friends Stay Connected



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter



MEC Office Closed for Memorial Day

MEC's office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 31, 2021. Our outage line is available 24/7 at 800-752-5935.

Calling all Electric Vehicle Owners!

If you drive a plug-in electric vehicle that is registered in Midstate Electric Cooperative service territory, we would like to hear from you!

As electric vehicle adoption increases, MEC needs to plan for system reliability and design programs that benefit our membership. By taking the time to fill out this short questionnaire, you will help your co-op have a better understanding of EV usage by our members – and you'll earn a \$100 incentive!

For information visit www.mse.coop or call 541-536-2126 option 5.



Join ORECA Grassroots Effort

To keep up to date on issues that could affect you and your cooperative, join ORECA-Action today! As an ORECA-Action grassroots member, you are provided with background material on important state and federal legislative electric utility issues. Sign up at www.ORECA-Action.org. Together we can make a difference.



MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Here are some electrical safety tips to remember:

- Never throw water on an electrical fire! Water conducts electricity. Electricity from the fire can shoot through the water and possibly shock you. Unplug whatever is on fire to eliminate the electricity causing the fire. Use a fire extinguisher.
- Never use electrical cords that are frayed, cracked, or damaged; inspect them monthly.
- Don't overload extension cords; use cords according to their ratings (indoor/outdoor use).
- Install ground fault protection for outlets in the kitchen, bathrooms, garage, crawl spaces and unfinished basements, laundry and utility rooms, and outdoors.
- Replace worn out switches and electrical outlets.
- Don't overload outlets with too many appliances.
- Keep hot irons and curling irons out of reach of small children; and away from water.
- Charge laptop computers, iPads, and cell phones on a hard surface such as a desk

or countertop – never charge them on a bed or chair that could overheat and catch on fire.

- Don't overload electrical circuits. Surge protectors protect equipment, but they do not provide protection from the potential hazards of an overloaded circuit.

Call a licensed electrician right away if you have any of these warning signs:

- Listen to your breaker! A circuit breaker that trips immediately after it is reset shows there is an electrical problem.
- Dim or flickering lights, bulbs that wear out too quickly.
- Unusually warm or overheated plugs, cords or switches.

Electrical Safety Month is sponsored by the Electrical Safety Foundation International, a non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety. For additional safety tips, visit their website esfi.org.



Be on the Lookout for a GREAT SHOT!



The MEC 2021 Member Calendar Contest begins in June.

The contest theme is an open theme which allows for a nice cross-section of photographs taken around Central Oregon. Watch for complete rules and details next month.