

April 2010

A Monthly Publication for Midstate Electric Members



One call
does it all.

541-536-2126 • 800-722-7219

After Hours: Office Hours:
Outages/Emergencies 8 am to 5 pm
541-536-2165 • 800-752-5935 Closed Weekends and Holidays

Touchstone Energy® Co-op Connections® Update

The Co-op Connections Card is a member benefit card that allows members and their families to access pharmacy discounts, local and national business discounts and coupons. The Co-op Connections Card was distributed to Midstate Electric members in late June. Visit www.co-opconnections.com to view available discounts.

The biggest benefit for our members is the pharmacy discount. In the eight months that we have provided the Card, members have filled 4,550 prescriptions for a savings of \$86,030.

We recently received this anonymous comment, "When I took a prescription to BiMart, the pharmacist told me about Midstate's discount program. While my prescription was being filled, I drove to your office and picked up a Connections Card. It was well worth the extra few miles. I saved almost \$20 on one prescription. Thank you!"



Let us know how the Co-op Connections Card has helped you. If we print your testimonial, we will give you a \$50 credit on your electric bill.

If you do not have a Co-op Connections Card, call the Marketing Department at 541-536-2126.

Midstate Electric's 58th Annual Meeting

Midstate Electric is preparing for the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Members. This year's meeting will be held on Saturday, May 15, at the LaPine Middle School.

The annual meeting is an event for the entire family. It gives you, the member/owners of Midstate Electric a chance to participate in the business of your electric co-op. It also provides you with a first-hand look at the various programs and services available through the cooperative.

In keeping with tradition, there will be prize drawings held throughout the meeting with hundreds of dollars of gifts to be given away. Be watching your mail for more detailed information about the meeting.

A Spring Tradition...Don't Miss It

AGENDA	
11:00 am	Registration Health Fair & Displays
11:30 am	Barbecue Lunch
12:30 - 2:30 pm	Business Meeting



\$2,500 Scholarships Available May 7 Deadline for Applying

Midstate Electric is offering six \$2,500 college/trade school scholarships and two line worker school scholarships for the 2010-11 school year.

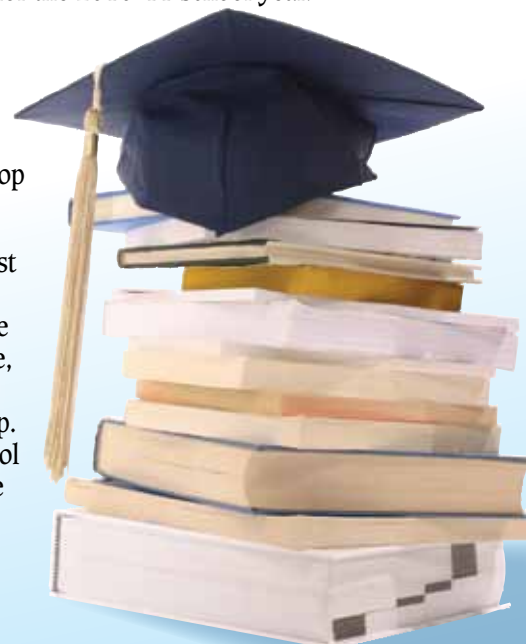
Applications are available:

- At area high schools
- At Midstate Electric's office (16755 Finley Butte Rd)
- Online at www.midstateelectric.coop

Scholarship Eligibility:

- Applicants' primary residence must be served by Midstate Electric.
- Applicants must meet the entrance requirements of the elected college, trade school or line worker school before applying for the scholarship.
- Any accredited college, trade school or line worker school is acceptable to qualify for the scholarship.

For additional information, contact Marketing at 541-536-2126.



WHEN YOU DIG **DIG SAFELY**

Call the Oregon One-Call Center
1-800-332-2344



- Wait for the Site to be Marked
- Respect the Marks
- Dig With Care

State law requires 2 business days notice if you dig deeper than 12 inches.

Paperless Billing...No More Bill Stubs, Envelopes, Stamps or Checks

Life is a little easier and greener with paperless billing. With this online resource, you can manage your account at your convenience, anytime, anywhere!

Benefits include:

- 24/7 access to your account information
- Automated e-mail notification indicating that your monthly statement is available
- Ability to view or print your statement
- Review your billing, payment and usage history
- Have your payment drafted through any bank, savings and loan or credit union, as well as your VISA, MasterCard or Discover

To sign up:

- Go to www.midstateelectric.coop
- Click on Pay Your Bill
- Enter Your E-mail Address
- Enter Your Password
- Click on Stop/Start Print Bill
- A Confirmation of Sign Up Will be E-mailed to You

Please note: Paperless Billing is not available to Invoice/Summary Billing Customers at this time.

Conservation Program Rebates Are Continuing

April 1 – September 30, 2010

Heat Pumps	ENERGY STAR®
Duct Sealing	Appliances
Weatherization	Compact Fluorescent Lights
Water Heaters	New Homes

Rebates may only be available for specific periods and may end anytime. For details, call the Marketing Department at 541-536-2126.

Power of Community Update

2010 Oregon Legislative Session - Energy legislation took a back seat to other priority bills this session, with a few exceptions. The Legislature spent considerable time debating modifications to the Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC), which is a program designed to provide incentives for renewable projects. The BETC was costing far more than legislators ever imagined and benefiting out-of-state entities with little economic ties to Oregon communities. Ultimately, the Legislature placed some caps on the BETC and instituted new accountability measures.



The Legislature maintained their interest in providing incentives for solar energy deployment and helping consumers finance projects that will make their homes more energy-efficient. Oregon's electric co-ops continue to remind lawmakers that we have been at the forefront of weatherization and efficiency programs for years.

2011 Oregon Legislative Session - The 2011 Legislative Session is shaping up to be an interesting one for electric co-ops and their members. Oregon will have a new Governor and Chief Executive, whoever that will be, will undoubtedly have a vision for Oregon's energy future. They will be working with a Legislature that continues to support renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. Through the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association, we will work with legislators to keep electricity bills affordable for our members.

Cap and Trade Legislation is Stalled in Washington D.C. - The health care debate and jobs legislation have taken the life out of climate change legislation in the U.S. Congress. The House of Representatives passed a cap and trade carbon reduction bill last year, but the full Senate is not expected to take a vote on cap and trade this year. The action on climate change has turned from the Congress to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Electric cooperatives are concerned that the EPA will use the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gases. We believe that Congress, not a government agency, has the responsibility for this issue. A contingent of Oregon electric co-op leaders will make their annual trip to Washington D.C. this May to meet with their congressional delegation. As always, they will remind lawmakers that electric co-ops offer electricity that is over 90 percent emission free, but that we need flexibility on future energy resources to meet increased demand.

Contact Us - If you have questions or comments, please contact us at (503) 585-9988 or oreca@oreca.org.

