



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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#### Departments

Customer 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

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Leland Smith, Sunriver

##### Vice President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

##### Secretary/Treasurer

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Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

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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 Bartunek

##### Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

##### Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

## Manager's Message

### Dear Member:

What do 1,800 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The answer is the Washington, D.C., Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

The Youth Tour got its inspiration from Lyndon B. Johnson when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting in Chicago in 1957. The future president declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending teens living in rural cooperative service areas to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

It has been more than 60 years since those words were uttered, and the Youth Tour has never been stronger.

Each June, electric cooperatives across the country send students to D.C. to learn about the cooperative business model and enjoy a week of sightseeing.

The week is interspersed with visits to many monuments and historical sites, including Capitol Hill. Youth Tour activities enable students to meet a broad spectrum of cooperative kids and make lifelong friends.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Student delegates engage in leadership training, returning home with a deeper understanding and skill set of what it takes to be a leader. They have a chance to meet with elected officials and discuss issues that are important back home in their state and hometown communities. The chaperones are always impressed with the questions the students ask, and the interactions between legislators and students.

Youth Tour concludes in an evening featuring national co-op partner organizations from the financial and insurance sectors and NRECA International, an organization that brings electricity to rural areas in developing countries. The evening centers on challenging and inspiring teens to make an impact in their communities.

The selection process for Youth Tour participants is up to each cooperative. Midstate Electric holds an annual contest for high school sophomores and juniors in our service area to see who will represent us. Students can submit an essay or video, and must complete an application. A panel of judges evaluates each essay/video, and students are chosen to come in for personal interviews.

The judges look not only for applicants' knowledge of rural electrification and the co-op but, most importantly, they want to learn about each student's interests and ambitions and why they should represent MEC.

This year, MEC awarded the trip to Kerrilee McMahan from Gilchrist High School. Upon her return, Kerrilee said, "Being able to attend the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour was an amazing experience, and I so appreciate the opportunity. I learned so much about the history of this great nation. I encourage other students to take a chance to broaden their horizons with this amazing opportunity."

In November, we will begin the recruiting process to select a student to attend Youth Tour 2019. For more information, call (541) 536-2126 option 5.

**Dave Schneider**  
General Manager