



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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Vice President

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Secretary/Treasurer

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Ken Wilson, Chemult

Bud Kendall, La Pine

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:

Anyone who has ever bought a new vehicle knows there are many factors to consider before deciding on the model that's right for you. Should you go for space or fuel economy? Manual or automatic? What options should you add? And now, an added key question on the minds of many consumers is, "Should I go electric?"

For Midstate Electric Cooperative, the answer to that question—in reference to a new fleet vehicle for the co-op's marketing department—was a resounding "yes." MEC bought an all-electric Chevy Bolt in April to replace an aging marketing fleet vehicle.

We thought it was time to buy an electric vehicle because the technology has finally matured to the point the economics work. We want to continue to reduce the co-op's carbon footprint, and this was a great way and a great time to do that.

EVs are a bit more expensive than comparable petrol-fueled vehicles, but those prices are expected to even out during the next few years as EVs become more prevalent.

There are incentives to get in on the technology ahead of that curve, though. At least through 2018, new EVs may qualify for a federal income tax credit of up to \$7,500. The credit amount may vary based on the capacity of the battery used to power the vehicle. Additional state and local incentives may also apply.

And, of course, there are the environmental benefits of driving an EV. With no tailpipe emissions, EVs produce far less pollution than petrol-fueled vehicles. Charging the car still generates emissions, but with our electric power supply

of clean, renewable, hydropower from the Bonneville Power Administration, we are close to 100 percent carbon-free. The total greenhouse gasses emitted to power an EV remain significantly lower than petrol-fueled vehicles.

Part of the reason we bought an EV is Gov. Kate Brown's executive order to increase EVs in the state to more than 50,000 by 2020. We want to be able to speak intelligently to interested members about them and have one available for them to see. The new Chevy Bolt will be on display at our annual meeting. Stop by and take a look.

MEC's 66th Annual Meeting

This edition of Ruralite features our 2017 annual report. Review of this material will take place at our 66th Annual Meeting of the Members on Saturday, May 12, at La Pine Middle School. Registration, health fair, safety trailer demonstrations and bucket truck rides are from 10 a.m. to noon. The business meeting begins at noon.

This year's guest speaker is Ted Case, executive director of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Ted will provide a narrative of his book "Poles, Wires and War," a remarkable story of rural electrification and the Vietnam War.

May is Electrical Safety Month

Safety remains the highest priority at MEC. Educating employees about electrical safety is important, but it is just as important that the public understands how to live, work and play safely around electricity. See page 25 for electrical safety tips.

General Manager Dave Schneider