



A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative 

16755 Finley Butte Road  
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La Pine, OR 97739

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(541) 536-2126 • (800) 722-7219

#### 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

##### President

Vic Russell, Fall River

##### Vice President

Bud Kendall, La Pine

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Robert Reed, La Pine

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Leland Smith, Sunriver

Ken Wilson, Chemult

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:

It's time to put away winter gear and step out into spring. As the weather warms up and outdoor activities beckon, please consider these safety tips.

**Cut trees safely.** A careful site evaluation is important before you begin any tree-cutting project. Look up and around for power lines. Contact with a power line while falling a tree could be fatal. Take a few minutes to make your tree-cutting project safe.

**Power poles have only one purpose.** It is easy to forget that power poles have only one purpose: to provide support for overhead power and communication service. They often seem to be convenient for attaching signs and posters, which can create hazardous working conditions for our linemen. Nails, tacks and staples attached to poles make it difficult for linemen to climb, and can seriously injure them if they slip or fall. These objects also may puncture the safety equipment used by our linemen, making them vulnerable to electrocution.

For the safety of our linemen, please look for other places to hang signs or posters.

**Call before you dig.** Don't forget the danger of underground power lines. If you are planting shrubs, digging fence-post holes or doing other excavation work, remember to call before you dig. A simple chore can be deadly if you contact an underground power line.

State law requires two business days' notice if you plan to dig deeper than 12 inches. Call the Oregon One-Call Center at 811. This number does not work for all areas, so you may need to call (800) 332-2344. The center will arrange for

someone to mark buried lines on your property.

### National Lineman Appreciation Day

MEC depends on its entire staff to keep the co-op running smoothly, but on April 10, we honor our electric linemen.

Our dedicated linemen repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do they.

Perhaps you have seen linemen raising their bucket trucks when winds are howling, heavy rain or snow is falling, or conditions are freezing or icy. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community.

Please join us in thanking our linemen. Your power works because they do!

### MEC's 65th Annual Meeting

I hope to see you at our annual meeting Saturday, May 6, at La Pine Middle School. You will receive details about the meeting by mail this month.

### Co-op Sponsored Programs

If you own your own home, heat with an air-source heat pump or electric forced-air furnace and have Wi-Fi in your home, we would like to hear from you.

The Peak Hour Rewards pilot program is limited to 300 members. See page 25 for complete details.

Turn to page 8 for scholarship, conservation rebate and other program information.

**General Manager Dave Schneider**