



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

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

Now Accepting 2023-24 Scholarships Applications

MEC wants to help students achieve their career goals. We have scholarships available for members attending accredited colleges, technical schools, or line worker school. Scholarships are available in the following categories:



Graduating Senior Scholarships

We offer scholarships to high school seniors seeking to continue their education. When the scholarship is awarded, the recipient will have the option of a one-time \$2,500 scholarship, or a 4-year scholarship of \$1,250 per year (equaling \$5,000). Scholarships are available to seniors who will graduate from La Pine, Gilchrist, and North Lake County High School, as well as high schools located in Klamath, Lake, and Deschutes Counties (including home school).

Continuing Education Scholarships

We offer \$2,500 scholarships for continuing education. These scholarships are available to members who have already graduated high school and are seeking to continue their education.

Line Worker Scholarships

We offer one \$20,000 scholarship for members to attend line worker school. Recipient must put forward \$5,000 for the remainder of the lineworker tuition. MEC will reimburse the \$5,000 once schooling is completed.

We have developed a new ONLINE application to streamline the process for applicants. Paper applications will also be accepted in person at the Midstate office at 16755 Finley Butte Rd in La Pine or by mail to Midstate Electric, P.O. Box 127, La Pine, Oregon 97739.

Please visit our website at www.midstateelectric.coop/scholarship-programs for more details or contact us at 541-536-7220.

Attention Local Business Owners

**BECOME A PARTICIPATING BUSINESS IN
OUR CO-OP CONNECTIONS® PROGRAM**



We have an exciting opportunity for your business. We'd like to invite you to join our free member benefits initiative, the Co-op Connections Program.

This program gives you the opportunity to offer our cooperative members valuable discounts and **increase traffic to your business**. In exchange for your participation, we promote your business and discount offers to our members at no cost to you. We can do this in our Midstate Connection Newsletter, Ruralite magazine, Midstate website, social media, member welcome packets, and on the program app. The program is designed to benefit your business and our members.

Midstate Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with other Touchstone Energy® cooperatives around the country, has developed the Co-op Connections program to deliver more value to members

and assist participating businesses in increasing customer visits.

The program allows members to see participating businesses through the mobile app on their phone, smart device, or computer. To redeem the local discount, members can either show a plastic Co-op Connections card, print a coupon or, redeem on their phone.

We will closely monitor the program's success and give you the opportunity annually to opt in or out of the program. This program gives your business exposure to over 17,000 members and millions more served nationally by our fellow Touchstone Energy cooperatives.

Visit www.midstateelectric.coop/co-op-connections-business-sign for more information. The process is simple; just fill out a business application and MEC will do the rest!

Let's get connected on social media so you'll never miss an update on MEC activities, programs, and contests.



Board Districts 5, 7 and 9 Up for Election in 2023

Director positions on the Board of Midstate Electric Cooperative for Districts 5, 7 and 9 are up for election at the Annual Meeting on May 20, 2023. Candidates to represent those districts may be nominated for director by filing a petition signed by at least 15 members of the cooperative who reside in that district. Below is more information regarding the districts up for election:

DISTRICT 5:

Current Director – Tanna King

District 5 (Chemult) is described as: North boundary is an East-West line one mile north of Highway 58 Junction. West boundary is the Douglas-Klamath County line. South boundary is a line four miles south of Hub City Chrome (formerly Thunderbeast Park) on Highway 97. East boundary is the Klamath County and Lake County line.

DISTRICT 7:

Current Director – Alan Parks

District 7 (Fort Rock) is described as: North boundary is the Deschutes County and Lake County line. West boundary is the Klamath County and Lake County line. East boundary extends due north from the centerline of the intersection of Oil Dry Road and the Christmas Valley Highway and due South down the centerline of the intersection of Oil Dry Road,

extending to Picture Rock Pass. South boundary is the Lake County and Klamath County Lines, with a jog North to Picture Rock Pass.

DISTRICT 9:

Current Director – Dick Luebke

District 9 (Sunriver) is described as: North boundary is the Cascade Lakes Highway. West boundary is the Lane County and Deschutes County line. East boundary is eight miles east of Highway 97. South boundary is Spring River Road (and its extension east and west.)

Petitions may be obtained at MEC's office and must be filed on or before Thursday, March 2, 2023. For more information about the qualifications and duties of directors, call 541-536-2126, option 5.



5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy—and money!

Mind the thermostat. If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

Get cozy. Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

Don't block the heat. If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

Take advantage of sunlight. Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

Block air leaks. Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

Electric Co-ops Go the Extra Mile for You



Electric co-ops serve **8 consumers** per mile of power lines. Other electric utilities serve **32 consumers** per mile.

Even though we serve fewer consumers along the lines, that won't stop us from going the extra mile for you, our members we're proud to serve.

Rate Increase Coming April 1st



As of April 1, 2023, you will see a \$3.00 increase of our Facilities Charge for all rate classes (excluding Industrial). There will also be an Energy Charge rate increase of \$0.003 per kilowatt-hour for all rate classes.

Despite our upcoming rate increase, MEC rates are well below the national average and are one of the lowest rates in the state of Oregon. MEC will continue working hard to control costs by operating safely and efficiently and to provide the most reliable electric service possible.

We realize that any increase in your power cost can cause a hardship. We are continuing to provide conservation programs that can help.

Rebates are offered for heat pumps, duct sealing, water heaters and weatherization measures. You can also monitor your energy usage through our SmartHub application.

For more information about these programs, call the Marketing Department at 541-536-2126, option 5.