



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

16755 Finley Butte Road  
P.O. Box 127  
La Pine, OR 97739

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info@midstateelectric.coop  
541-536-2126 • 800-722-7219

#### Departments

Member 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

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

##### Vice President

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Vic Russell, Fall River

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Robert Reed, La Pine

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

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 Steinhauer

##### Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

##### Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

## Manager's Message

### Dear Member:

As I write this, we are finishing our ninth week of operating under our pandemic plan, which calls for the closure of the office lobby to the public and separation of our employees. While operating under these conditions has been challenging, the dedication of the hardworking Midstate Electric Cooperative employees to continue providing you—our members—with the best service possible has not changed.

It was disappointing for all of us to have to cancel our in-person annual meeting of the members for the first time in the history of the co-op. We value and miss the one-on-one engagement the day brings.

Gov. Kate Brown released seven prerequisites for a Phase 1 reopening of Oregon. Counties that met the prerequisites could enter Phase 1 on May 15. The specifics of the plan were recently released, and we are reviewing the details to determine how it impacts MEC operations. It is uncertain when we will bring our employees who are working from home back to the office and reopen the lobby to the public. It will be at least two weeks, maybe longer, as we analyze the reopening requirements.

When the time is right—and following guidance from the state, county and Centers for Disease Control—we will gradually transition employees back to the office. The lobby will open to the public when appropriate.

In preparation of opening the lobby, we will put temporary plexiglass barriers at the counters to separate employees from the public. In addition, as many other businesses have done, MEC will rope off and place marks on the floor to indicate the required 6 feet of social distancing.

Precautionary signage will be in place and there will be limited access.

We do not know when operations will be back to normal, but we are preparing for and looking forward to that day.

The employees and I thank you for your patience and understanding during these uncertain times. Rest assured, we will continue doing our part to provide services and to keep your lights on.



### Passing of Director Lee Smith

It is with heavy hearts that Midstate Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors and staff announce the death of Director Lee Smith. MEC has lost a great friend and leader. Lee had been on MEC's board since 2006.

Lee was active in cooperative programs at the local, state and national levels. He was a Credentialed Cooperative Director and held a Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He served as chairman of the government affairs committee of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association and represented electric cooperatives in both Salem and Washington, D.C., supporting beneficial legislation while lobbying against proposals that would increase rates or compromise services.

Lee's leadership left a mark both at MEC and industrywide that will not be forgotten.

**Dave Schneider**  
General Manager