



# Okanogan County Electric Co-op Newsletter

April 2018

## Office Info:

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Summer Office Hours:  
Mon - Thurs.  
7 am - 5:30 pm

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Our customer service call center is available 24/7/365 to handle most electric & propane concerns.

(509) 996-2228

## OCEC Board:

**Chuck Armstrong**  
(carmstrong@oceec.coop)

**Sara Carlberg**  
(scarlberg@oceec.coop)

**Curtis Edwards**  
(cedwards@oceec.coop)

**John Kirner**  
(jkirner@oceec.coop)

**Ray Peterson**  
(rpeterson@oceec.coop)

**Dale Sekijima**  
(dsekijima@oceec.coop)

**Alan Watson**  
(awatson@oceec.coop)

## Contacts:

**General Manager**  
David Gottula  
(dgottula@oceec.coop)

**Information**  
(info@oceec.coop)

## 79th Annual Meeting

Monday, April 16th, at the Barn in Winthrop.

Registration begins at 6 PM with the meeting beginning at 7 PM.

The first 100 memberships to register will receive a "Cube Extension Cord" shown below.

Among the topics of discussion are:

- Election of two Board positions
- Update on electric operations
- Update on propane operations
- Presentation on Smart Thermostats



Election for the two open Board positions will be conducted. You should have already received your election package as it was mailed 3/27/18.

The American Legion Auxiliary #120 will be serving pie and ice cream after the meeting.

Please plan to attend. Your cooperative works best when you have an active staff, an active Board and an active membership!

See you there.

## Smart Thermostats



Member Jacob Young and his son Jack of Old Schoolhouse Brewery were excited to make their home more efficient with a smart thermostat and were the first members to receive a \$100 gift card rebate from OCEC. Rebates are still available for members who heat with a forced air electric furnace or heat pump and who purchase and install a qualifying smart thermostat.

Details can be found at:  
[www.ocec.coop](http://www.ocec.coop)



## Tree Trimming Season

To provide SAFE and RELIABLE electricity service to our members, Okanogan County Electric Cooperative seeks to maintain a minimum of 10' to 15' clearance from overhead conductors. In some cases, trees will be trimmed heavily.

Where feasible and necessary, we will seek to remove fast growing or hazardous trees from under power lines. Tree removal candidates include the following:

- Fast growing trees that interfere with primary conductors.
- Deciduous trees that require excessive trimming.
- Dead, dying, diseased or defective trees which have a high probability of falling and contacting primary conductors.
- Trees with tree houses or climbable trees in close proximity to transmission or primary conductors at or near homes, schools, parks or any other locations where people frequently visit.
- Naturally seeded trees or smaller trees that will eventually interfere with primary conductors.

Considering these conditions, trimming trees and allowing them to remain within the right-of-way or in hazard areas under or adjacent to overhead conductors is not cost effective or safe. The Co-Op will make site specific decisions regarding the treatment or removal of these trees. Trees that are determined to be defective or damaged under these guidelines are candidates for removal.

If you have any questionable trees on your property please give us a call at (509) 996-2228.

## Capital Credit Check Info:

If you received a capital credit check in December of 2017 and haven't yet cashed it: you have until April 15, 2018 to cash or deposit your check. Checks were issued on December 15, 2017 and are good for 120-days after issued. If you have a check that is past the 120-days of issue you can return it to OCEC and ask for it to be re-issued.

## Time for a Life Goal

OCEC General Manager David Gottula will be taking three months off this spring and summer to pursue a life-long goal - hiking a large portion of the Pacific Crest Trail. He has already walked the trail through Washington and this time hopes to cover all of the California section of the trail. "I've wanted to do this for years," said Gottula, "and I would really like to do it while I still have the legs for it." The OCEC Board of Directors approved David's request to use saved up vacation time for the one-time long absence. OCEC Chief Financial Officer Lynn Northcott will be the acting General Manager while David is gone. True to the times, however, David will be in touch from the trail for much of the hike and able to return if needed. Happy trails, David. Stay safe.

