



Okanogan County Electric Co-op Newsletter

August 2017

Office Info:

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

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

(509) 996-2228

OCEC Board:

Chuck Armstrong
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Sara Carlberg
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Curtis Edwards
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Contacts:

General Manager
David Gottula
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Information
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OCEC Member Meeting to Discuss Increase in Rates Set for August 7th

What: OCEC Member Meeting to Discuss Rate increase

When: August 7th, 6:00 PM, Upstairs at the Barn

Why: BPA is increasing the cost of power for all its customers across the Northwest

An OCEC Member meeting to discuss the potential 2018 rate increase is set for August 7th at 6 PM at the upstairs room at the Barn.

Another expected increase in the wholesale price of power that OCEC buys has the Board of Directors considering raising members' rates to cover the cost. The increase would start in January, 2018 and would first show up on electric bills received in February.

About half of OCEC's total costs is purchasing power for its members. If rates do need to be increased next year we expect the rise to be less than 5% and to affect only the kilowatt hour portion of your bill, not the fixed base charge.

OCEC has been able to absorb past increases in the wholesale power price by cutting operating costs and changing to the system of electric rates we now use.

As of the deadline for this printing, the actual increase is not known and will be determined by the final BPA increase. OCEC will post the actual increase on its website and e-mail members with this information before the August 7th meeting.

In September, after hearing what members have to say, a final decision will be made.

If you have questions or comments please contact OCEC General Manager David Gottula at 509-996-2228.



Chuck Armstrong Selected as New Director for OCEC

OCEC Board of Directors selected William (Chuck) Armstrong of Mazama as the replacement for Paul Taylor who resigned in June. Chuck and his wife, Robin, have lived in the valley for three years, moving here from Friday Harbor, Washington where they lived for seven years. He graduated from Oregon State University and Stonier Graduate School of Bank Administration, Rutgers University.

He was a commercial banker for 25 years and worked many years in Oregon and some in Hawaii. He retired in 1997 as Chairman and CEO of Bank of America Oregon.

He previously was the President and COO of HONFED Bank in Hawaii and before that President and Chairman/CEO of Oregon First Bank in Portland.

He served on the Board of Directors of Pacific Corp (a large investor owned electric utility). Beginning in November, 1996 until the utility was sold several years later to Scottish Power. He served on the Finance and Audit Committees for PacifiCorp.

He served 6 years on active duty with the US Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer and Instructor at the US Naval Academy. He completed 31 years total service mostly in the Reserves, retiring in 1997 with the rank of Captain.

He is currently Treasurer of the Edelweiss Homeowners Association.

Chuck will be up for election as part of the normal election cycle for Directors this coming April.



*New OCEC Board Member
Chuck Armstrong*

Electronic Billing & Payment Options

Starting with the September 1, 2017 statements, members who sign up for E-Bill notification only and set up an Auto-Pay directly from their checking account will pay no fees on the monthly transaction. To set up an E-bill notification and Auto-Pay from your checking account log onto your account through the Pay Online Tab at www.ocec.coop.

OCEC office staff will be happy to help you whether signing up for E-Bills or setting up text notifications for outage updates. We are in the office Monday – Thursday, 7am-5:30pm.

