



# Okanogan County Electric Co-op Newsletter

December 2018

## Office Info:

Winter Office Hours:  
Mon - Fri  
8 am - 4:30 pm

Our customer service  
call center is available  
24/7/365 to handle most  
electric & propane  
concerns.  
(509) 996-2228

## OCEC Board:

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Contacts:

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

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

## Capital Credit Checks Coming Soon

Capital Credit checks will arrive soon for members who used power in 1998. OCEC is paying capital credits based on usage during 1997 & 1998. Below are common Capital Credit Q & A's.

### ***What are Capital Credits?***

A cooperative does not earn profits in the sense that other businesses do. Instead, any margins, or revenues remaining after all expenses have been paid, are returned as capital credits, to the members in proportion to their patronage during each year. Capital credits represent each member's share of OCEC's equity.

### ***What do cooperatives do with capital credits?***

Every business needs to maintain a suitable balance of debt to equity to ensure its financial health and stability. Capital credits are the most significant source of equity for most electric cooperatives. Equity is used to help meet the expenses of the co-op, such as paying for new equipment to serve members and repaying debt. Capital credits help keep rates at a competitive level by reducing the amount of funds that must be borrowed.

### ***How does the OCEC notify me of capital credits earned?***

OCEC notifies you on your March or April billing statement.

### ***How does the cooperative determine who receives capital credits?***

Capital credits are allocated to each member of the cooperative every year based on patronage in the cooperative.

### ***How much does OCEC pay in capital credits?***

OCEC will return approximately \$221,000 to members in December.

### ***What happens to my capital credits when I leave the OCEC service area?***

Your capital credits remain on the books in your name and member number until they are retired. Because payments are made approximately 20 years after credits are earned, you should ensure that OCEC always has your current mailing address.

### ***How are capital credits handled when a member dies?***

No member will receive a total payout of their capital credit accounts - although if a member(s) is deceased an estate payout may be requested by the heir(s) at a discounted amount. As long as there is a surviving spouse to receive payments there can be no estate payout.



## OCEC Board Changes By-Laws

The OCEC By-Laws can be changed by either a vote by the membership or an unanimous vote by the Board of Directors. Major changes to the By-Laws are typically approved by the membership while the Board will approve minor, clarification type changes. At the October Board meeting, the Board unanimously made a minor, clarification type change to the by-laws concerning the qualifications needed to be a Director.

**Article III Directors: Section 3 Nominations** currently reads 'a committee on nominations consisting of 3 Members.'

Alan Watson moved to change the sentence to read, 'a committee of nominations consisting of a minimum of three Members'. Second. Carried unanimously.

Dale Sekijima moved to accept the proposed changes to the OCEC By-Laws as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

## Revolving Load Fund

OCEC recently awarded 2 Revolving Loan Fund loans. One to Smiling Woods Yurts for business expansion in the amount of \$40,000 and another to Winthrop Ice & Sports Rink to help in the purchase of the new Zamboni for \$63,500.



*Pictured are David Gottula, OCEC GM and Rink Manager Steve Bondi*



*David Gottula, OCEC GM and Hanz Scholz, CEO Smiling Woods Yurts and Barbara Magers, Part Owner & Bookkeeper.*

OCEC has loaned out over \$1.4 million since the Revolving Loan Fund program started in 1998. Examples of equipment and improvements funded by this program are ambulances, jaws of life, new sewer systems, backhoes, pool improvements and braille equipment. OCEC would like to thank the USDA for their support of this program.

