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Winter Hours:

Office hours Monday - Thursday
7:00 am - 5:30 PM

Okanagan County Electric Co-op

May 2020 Newsletter

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

There were four open positions on the Board of Directors for the 2020 elections. Three positions of 3-year terms and one position of a 2-year term.

The voting tally was completed on April 22, 2020. The results of the 2020 election are as follows:

Travis Thornton – Elected to a 3-year term
(627 votes received)

Dale Sekijima – Elected to a 3-year term
(623 votes received)

Sara Carlberg – Elected to a 3-year term
(579 votes received)

Cara Godwin – Elected to a 2-year term
(468 votes received)

Tracy Ross - (347 votes received)

- 5 Write-in votes received
- 688 Ballots Received and Accepted
- 66 Ballots Disqualified (voided due to missing, incomplete or inaccurate signature or membership information)

OCEC would like to thank the nominees and members who participated in this election. Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions through elected directors.

TREE TRIMMING

To provide SAFE and RELIABLE electricity service to our members, OCEC 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.

Fire Adapted Methow Valley

By: Kathryn Heim for Fire Adapted Methow Valley

May is Washington's Wildfire Awareness Month. It's time to prepare our properties before wildfire season arrives.

Thinking about wildfire is not easy. COVID 19 has stretched all of us thin and has made the vulnerable in our community even more vulnerable.

Firefighters grapple with how to protect us and our property without risking infection of COVID-19.

But we are a resourceful and resilient community, fully capable of helping prepare for and defend against wildfire devastation. Here are a few small ways each of us can help reduce the risks of wildfire or embers igniting our own or our neighbor's yard and home:

- Pay attention to wind conditions and forecasts and to local restrictions about burning before you light a burn pile.
- Keep windblown embers that land near your home from setting it on fire, by making a five-foot wide circle around the outside walls of your house and removing anything in that circle that can burn.
- Since embers easily ignite wood piles, move all piles at least 30 feet from your home, porch or propane tank.
- Get a reflective address sign from Fire District 6 so first responders can find you.

Taking these few steps now can pay off in a big way. Additional resources can be found at <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire> and <https://methow-conservancy.org/discover/fire-prep-recovery>

Did you know?

Did you know that you can "Round Up" your electric bill to help fellow OCEC members in need?

OCEC supports The Cove food bank by offering a "Round Up" program. Sign up and we'll round up your electric bill to the next dollar, not to exceed \$12 per year. While this might not seem like much money, the pooling effect every month from coop member who join the program provides a significant impact. The Cove uses these funds to assist local families who need help paying their electric bill. Currently The Cove is seeing a higher than average volume of members needing assistance due to the COVID-19 shut down.

Call the office during business hours to sign up for the Round Up program.