Member Profile: Boys & Girls Club of Marion & Polk Counties

Club members engage in structural engineering design summer camps focused on STEM programs — science, technology, engineering and math.

"The two most important days of your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why," Mark Twain.

For over 45 years the Boys & Girls Club of Salem (Marion and Polk Counties) has delivered on their promise to help the youth who need the most support reach their full potential. Boys & Girls Club serves over 11,000 youth annually through daily programs at eight Clubhouses and Teen Centers, in addition to a Health & Dental Services Center, teen workforce development programs, community athletic leagues and outreach programs.

The Boys & Girls Club programs help to prepare youth for a great future by providing a safe environment that keeps kids engaged, active and happy after school and during the summer.

Club programs help youth navigate the realities of life, succeed academically, discover relevant career pathways and give opportunity for students to develop skill sets that align their academics with future careers and industry trends.

"The Boys & Girls Club is committed to helping youth pursue their why," said Eric Cardella, Director of Operations. "We cannot solve every youth’s problems or address all of their needs but we can create a platform for success through strong partnerships, committed staff and volunteers, and transformational programs that provide relevant, hands-on experiences to the youth who need us the most."

There are forces that work against kids threatening to hold them back in life, in school, and in pursuing their personal and professional goals. With the right people around them in the right environment, kids can begin to realize who they are, explore why they are here and where they want to go in life. The Club provides the platform for youth to broaden their view of what is possible.

"At the end of the day all we’ve done is give youth the tools they need to succeed. It is up to them to pursue their own why, to commit to their own future success and to stick with it for the long haul. It’s up to us to support young people for future success," said Cardella.

To learn more about volunteering or financially supporting Boys and Girls Club programs visit bgc-salem.org.
TOY DRIVE Collection Site

Through December 18, 2015, Salem Electric will serve as a drop-off site for the annual toy drive coordinated by the Salem Police Department. Donations of new, unwrapped toys are needed for children and infants through 12 years of age. Sorry, used toys cannot be accepted. Donations of wrapping paper and wrapping supplies are also accepted.

Toys can be dropped off through December 18 at:
Salem Electric • 633 7th Street NW • Salem, OR 97304

Cash donations may be sent to:
Salem Police Department Toy Drive
Jennifer Graber, Program Coordinator
555 Liberty Street SE Room 130
Salem OR 97301

If you have any questions contact Jennifer Graber at 503-588-6499 Ext. 1 or jgraber@cityofsalem.net.

Take Out the Highs & Lows

If you want to make home budgeting easier by paying a similar amount each month, the Average Pay Plan is right for you. If you’ve been a member for at least six months all you need to do is complete this form and return it to our office or call us at 503 362-3601 to sign up.

AUTHORIZATION FORM
I authorize Salem Electric to bill me using the Average Pay Plan:

Salem Electric Account Number

Name (please print)

Street Address

Phone#

Signature/Date

CHECK HERE TO AUTHORIZE $1 MONTHLY DONATION TO THE SALEM ELECTRIC HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.
The Electrical Safety Foundation Institute (ESFI) has issued a safety checklist to remind everyone to keep electrical safety in mind as the season changes:

- Safely store warm-weather tools like lawn mowers and trimmers and check cold-weather tools such as leaf and snow blowers to be sure they are in good repair. Check power cords for unusual wear and tear and repair or replace worn tools or parts in preparation for the season ahead.
- Unplug and safely store battery chargers that won’t be in use again until spring.
- Only use weatherproof electrical devices for outside activities. Protect outdoor electrical devices from moisture and make sure electrical equipment that has been wet is inspected and reconditioned by a certified repair person.
- Keep leaves from accumulating around outdoor lighting, outlets, heat pumps and power cords.
- Make sure electric blankets are in good repair, certified by an independent testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Power cords should not be frayed, cracked or cut. Electric blankets should not be tucked under your mattress or around children and nothing should be put on top of the blanket while it’s in use such as a comforter, bedspread or sleeping pet.
AMI Pilot Program Update

After studying several products, evaluating different technologies and talking with our peers at other utilities, Salem Electric purchased equipment and has recently completed the installation of 400 new meters for our expanded Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Pilot Project. The pilot project will provide valuable data, remote connect and disconnect capabilities and improved outage management. Participating members will benefit by being able to remotely monitor their usage (down to hourly intervals) and when staff has the automated information at their fingertips they can respond more quickly to members’ questions or requests about their account.

Over the next several months we will evaluate the pilot project to determine if expanding to a system-wide deployment is feasible and beneficial for our members.

SalemElectric.com Wins First Place

Launched in 2015, Salem Electric’s new website—SalemElectric.com—received a first place Excellence in Communication Award at the Northwest Public Power Association’s (NWPPA) 22nd annual Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference held mid-September.

The Excellence in Communications contest recognizes the top communication efforts by NWPPA member utilities and association. This year NWPPA received 176 entries from 37 different utility and association members and presented 94 awards.

Entries are judged by nine volunteer marketing and communication professionals.

Visit SalemElectric.com for more valuable information.
September 22, 2015

Presented by:
Jeff Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer

Board Meeting Summary

Board Action: The board took the following action:

- Approved the revolvement of capital credits from 2000 totaling $1,965,000.
- Approved a minor wording change to one of ten policies reviewed by the Board Policy Committee. Each year the board reviews 20% of their policies.

Workers Comp: Salem Electric’s Workers Compensation insurance modifier continues to be reduced annually, resulting in lower premiums from SAIF. This is a reflection of Salem Electric’s commitment to safety and accident prevention.

Tree Trimming: In preparation for tree trimming in November, staff is currently identifying trees that may interfere with providing reliable electric service.

LED Outdoor Lighting: Our Member Services staff has worked with several auto dealers to replace outdoor lighting with energy-efficient, long-lasting LED lighting.

Information Technology: Salem Electric completed the steps necessary to meet the Payment Card Industry compliance requirements. Ongoing training continues to keep staff aware of cyber and data security risks.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS
November 24
December 16
January 26, 2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Jerry Berger
President
Joe Van Meter
Vice-President
Jeff Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer
Dave Bauer
Carl Beach
Alicia Bonesteel
Paul Ennor

All board meetings are held at 7 PM at Salem Electric, 633 Seventh Street NW, Salem, Oregon

503 362-3601 salemelectric.com

I’m not only an Administrative Services Coordinator

I also ring the bell for charity

Heidi, serving you since 2012
Generator SAFETY

Portable generators are a great tool for providing temporary electricity but you need to take precautions when using them to prevent problems or hazards.

- To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, always use a generator outdoors and place it away from vents, windows and doors. Using a generator in an enclosed space (e.g. garage or outdoor building) even with a window open does not provide adequate ventilation. To ensure proper circulation keep 3 to 4 feet of clear space on all sides and above the generator when in use.

- In order to attach the generator directly into the electrical system of any structure (home, office, garage, etc.), a qualified electrician must properly install the generator and equip it with a transfer switch. You can plug electrical appliances directly into the generator, but make sure you inspect all electrical cords before use to be sure they are not frayed or cracked. Keep generators dry and always use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) especially when conditions are wet or damp.

- Allow the generator to cool completely before refueling to avoid fire hazards. Always keep fuel and other flammable materials stored away from the generator.

- Place generators as far away as possible from work areas or gathering spots. If you are working near a generator, wear hearing protection.

Keeping the Lights On

Salem Electric is responsible for maintaining streetlights within our service area. Since the lights are only on at night, we need your help to know when streetlights are not functioning properly. If a streetlight is burned out, cycling on and off, on during daylight hours or damaged, please report it to our office. Call our office at 503 362-3601 during business hours or visit SalemElectric.com and click on “Contact Us” to report details about the streetlight issue and the nearest street address so we can send a service crew to make the repairs.