



The Info Bulletin

JUNE 2018

Member Profile: **Walter Lofton**



"This will be my first Oregon summer and I've heard they are beautiful," says Walter Lofton when asked how he likes living in Oregon. Moving from Glen Falls, New York eight months ago to accept the Food Services Manager position at the Union Gospel Mission (UGM), Walter's friendly personality, warm smile, and boisterous laugh put you at ease as soon as you meet him.

Born in Texas, where his two sons still live, Walter has been in the food service industry for more than 35 years. He has worked in nine different men's missions throughout the U.S., the most recent in Glen Falls, which, according to Walter was "more of a soup kitchen." He said it was a good break but he prefers running a larger operation.

One of his goals is to start a culinary arts program at UGM. The program, which Walter has established at other mission sites, includes classroom and hands-on training. The UGM kitchen is nearly ready for certification as an approved training facility

through the American Culinary Federation. The one missing piece is a new six-burner range. "I have until August to get things underway," says Walter, "I'm pretty confident we'll be able to meet the goal." The culinary program would provide vocational training for mission residents involved in the New Life Fellowship Recovery Program. The other piece of the equation is securing sponsorships for those joining the culinary arts program. "Sponsorships are \$150 per student. When I left the program in Colorado Springs we had over \$10,000 in reserves," says Walter, "I've seen the generosity of the Salem area and I feel we'll have no problem finding people willing to provide sponsorships."

When asked if he had plans to explore the Northwest, Walter replied, "Well, I've already been to the Coast and I have a few day trips planned here and there, but I'd like to get back to Seattle for a weekend. I've been there once before and I really enjoyed it," smiles Walter. 



Save the Date

Member Appreciation Night

Salem Electric is hosting a Member Appreciation Night on Thursday, July 26, 6:30 p.m. at the West Salem Park (265 Rosemont Avenue NW). The evening will include swing, jazz, and Latin-inspired music by The Gail Gage Jazz Band, along with hot dogs and strawberry shortcake. Members can enter into a drawing for the chance to win one of three iPads given away that evening. Mark your calendar — you won't want to miss it! 

For more information
visit us at
SalemElectric.com



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Facebook



2018 Scholarship Recipients

For the past 15 years, Salem Electric has awarded ten scholarship to individuals who reside in our service area. This year's recipients received a \$1,500 award certificate at May's Annual Meeting.

Applicants must be high school graduates (including home-school graduates) and plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate program. 



Lya Chandler
Brigham Young
University - Idaho



Andrew Debban
Chemeketa
Community College
& Oregon State
University



Emma Fagan
Vanderbilt
University



**Kaylan-Magnolia
Helmer**
Portland State
University



**Carlos Martinez
Rangel**
Western Oregon
University



Rachel Snyder
Western
Washington
University



Addis Wagener
Seattle University



Elizabeth Wenger
University of
Oregon



Hannah Whitlow
University of
Portland

Navigating Change and Looking Ahead – Tony Schacher

This past year has been a time of major change for your cooperative. Several long-term employees retired totaling 117 years of combined service. Despite the changes associated with long-term retirements, our staff is prepared and ready to take on the challenges and opportunities ahead.

We are halfway through the deployment of our Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system. AMI provides valuable data that helps us better monitor equipment, explore different billing and payment options, and increase the efficiency of our operating system; combined with SmartHub, members can make payments and view billing information, monitor their electricity usage, and receive electronic notifications. The benefits of AMI cross all departments and provide data that helps us make informed decisions for your co-op.

Safety has always been and remains at the forefront of everything we do — safety of our employees, members, and the public. Ensuring our staff have proper equipment and training

is essential to respond quickly and safely in all situations.

This year we plan to survey our members for feedback on the services we provide. Your comments, along with our strategic plan, will guide your board and staff as we serve our members and plot a course for the future. Thank you for being part of the process.

As your new general manager, I look forward to working alongside our members, directors, and staff to keep Salem Electric moving forward as we continue to provide you, our members, with safe, reliable, clean, and affordable electricity. 



MORE THAN ONE VOICE. MANY.

You know your neighborhood. When you see tree limbs too close to power lines, or other potential problems, contact us. Don't wait for the power to go out. Help our crews tackle hazards before damage is done.

We are public power.

We are **MORE** POWERFUL TOGETHER



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Before picking up a shovel to plant new shrubs or trees or install that new fence, call 811 to have underground utilities located at no charge. Not only is it the law, but you can also avoid serious injury and the expense and inconvenience of a power outage.

Call 811 at least 48 hours before you plan to dig.

It's free, it's easy, it's one call — just dial 811.





From a director CINDY CONDON

Your Active Participation Can Help Navigate Our Future

Salem Electric was formed in 1938 as an electric cooperative. Different from other business models, our cooperative structure requires participation of you, our member/owners. Your seven board members are elected to represent owner interests when discussing direction and policies that best serve the needs of the cooperative and its owners. A cooperative business is the most democratic form of business organization. Every member of the cooperative can and should feel free to share their views about the future of the cooperative.

For those of you who read *The Info Bulletin*, go to the **Salem Electric website**, or recently attended the **Salem Electric Annual Meeting**, you know some of the challenges and opportunities facing Salem Electric. In

order to develop policies representing your interests, it is important to know what you, our owners, think should be priorities for the cooperative moving forward. **Member engagement is critical as we navigate our future.**

Before the end of this year, Salem Electric will survey the membership about a variety of issues. We want to hear from each one of you. A 3% survey return rate is considered "good." We think we can beat that return rate. After all, this will be a survey of **owners** and our **owners take their responsibility seriously.**

In the meantime, if you would like to discuss issues with board members or management, contact us at 503-362-3601 or email us at SE@SalemElectric.com. We want to hear from you. 



Board Meeting Summary April 24, 2018

All regular board meetings are held at 6 PM at Salem Electric, 633 7th Street NW, Salem, Oregon

Presented by:
Alicia Bonesteale
Secretary/Treasurer

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS
July 24 August 28 September 25

Audit Report:

Salem Electric was issued a clean, unmodified opinion; the best opinion that any entity can earn.

Budget:

A review of the quarterly financial statistics showed expenses are on target with the budget. Energy efficiency programs had heavy activity the first quarter due to large commercial projects.

Safety Award:

Salem Electric received a second place safety award at the Northwest Public Power Association's Engineering & Operation's Conference.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Anderson
President

Dave Bauer
Vice-President

Joe Van Meter
Secretary/Treasurer

Alicia Bonesteale
Cindy Condon

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