



# The Info Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 2018

## Member Appreciation Night



**T**hanks to everyone who braved the heat and joined us at the West Salem Park on July 26. Members who attended the event received SE cooler bags and free giveaways, were entered in a drawing for a chance to win one of three iPads, and enjoyed strawberry shortcake, hot dogs, and music performed by the Gail Gage Jazz Band.

Electric cooperatives provide electric service to nearly three-quarters of the nation's landmass. Salem Electric wants to thank you, our members, for the privilege of serving you. 



## Coming Soon — Salem Electric Member Survey

Salem Electric is committed to providing affordable and reliable electricity



while maintaining financial integrity, and good customer and employee relations. In our quest for continuous improvement, we have hired the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to conduct a member survey via phone and email starting October 8. By participating in the survey, you will help us make decisions that benefit you, your family, and your neighbors. Not all members will be contacted. If you would like to participate, please contact us by October 1 so we can make sure you are included in the survey. 

For more information visit us at [SalemElectric.com](http://SalemElectric.com)



Like us on Facebook

# Are You Prepared?



**E**mergencies are unpredictable and disasters can strike at any time. The what-ifs and unknowns can be especially scary if you are unprepared. During a disaster, you will need to send and receive information from your family. By creating a family emergency communication plan you will be better prepared when an emergency occurs.

## COLLECT

Write down phone numbers and email addresses for everyone in your household. Having this important contact information written down can help you reconnect with others in case you do not have your mobile device with you or if the battery runs out. You should also include numbers for emergency services, utilities, service providers, and medical providers. It is also important to identify an emergency out-of-town contact, someone outside of your community or state, who can act as a central point of contact.

Decide on a safe, familiar meeting place to go for protection or to reunite with family members. Choose a meeting place in your neighborhood, outside your neighborhood, and outside of your town or city.

## SHARE

Make copies of your family emergency communication plan for each household member to carry in their wallet, purse, or backpack. Enter household and emergency contact information for all household members' mobile devices and store at least one emergency contact under the name "In Case of Emergency" or "ICE" for all devices. This will help someone identify your emergency contact if needed.

## PRACTICE

Once you have completed your family emergency communication plan, distribute it to household members, discuss it, and practice putting it into action.

Practice gathering at each meeting place and discuss how each family member will get to each location safely. Practice texting or calling household members and your designated out-of-town contact and discuss what information will be communicated for different types of emergencies. During an emergency, mobile networks may be congested or unavailable; a text message may get through when a phone call will not. Remember to review, update, and practice your plan at least once a year, or as contact information changes. 



*From a director* ALICIA BONESTEALE

## The Educated Member/Director

**D**o you wonder how directors of your electric cooperative keep up with the ever-changing landscape of energy issues facing us today and into the future? As an electric cooperative, we are part of a unique group who provide electricity to 42 million members across 47 states. As your elected directors, we are committed to providing you with cost saving programs and services to make your lives more comfortable.

Guided by our five goals and the co-op model, directors, working as a team, take advantage of training opportunities available through various industry associations. Salem Electric board members are encouraged to attend four outside meetings a year. Knowledgeable industry professionals present up-to-date information through forums and classes. Returning home, attendees share what they have learned with the entire board. A valuable add-on is the time spent networking with co-op directors from other utilities whose issues may or may not be the same as ours. Continuing education programs provide information on various topics that give us the tools to make decisions that are beneficial for our members including:

- The advantages of renewables such as wind and solar, their feasibility, and the costs associated with implementation of these resources;
- The benefits of clean, low cost, carbon free hydropower and how Northwest ratepayers benefit from this resource;
- The need to update aging dams and modernize the power grid and how the Bonneville Power Administration plans to address these issues;
- How environmental issues and the Endangered Species Act affect public power costs;
- Proposed legislation in Oregon and D.C. that could negatively affect ratepayers;
- The impact of legalized recreational marijuana on our power supply load;
- How electric cars charging at home add load and who is responsible to install and maintain charging stations in our territory.

As we navigate the future, one size does not fit all. Many challenges are ahead and there are many reasons why it is important for your elected directors to continue to seek ongoing educational opportunities. 

### **MORE THAN A BUSINESS. BUILDING COMMUNITY.**

As an electric cooperative, Salem Electric is a community-focused organization that delivers affordable, reliable, and safe energy to our members.

We are public power.  
We are **MORE** POWERFUL TOGETHER



# Six Ways to Save Energy This Fall

With cooler weather just around the corner, it is time to gear up for the heating season! These energy-saving tips will help you stay comfortable and reduce the cost of your bill during the heating season.



**1. Let the Sun Shine In:** During the heating season, open south-facing window coverings during the day. Close all window coverings at night to keep the heat in.



**2. Change Ceiling Fan Direction:** If you have a ceiling fan, change the direction of airflow. During the colder months, position the blades clockwise to help push warm air from the ceiling down to the floor to redistribute the heat.



**3. Adjust Water Heater Temperature:** Water heating accounts for approximately 18% of your home's energy use, lower the temperature on your electric water heater to 120° (F) to help save on your bill.



**4. Lower Your Thermostat:** For optimal heating and energy savings, set your thermostat no higher than 68 degrees while at home, lower it at night and when you are not at home.



**5. Replace Your Filter:** Check your furnace filter once a month and replace the filter as needed. Changing dirty air filters will reduce stress on the fan and allow air to flow properly, saving you money.



**6. Find and Seal Leaks:** Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows. 



## Board Meeting Summary July 24, 2018

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

Presented by:  
**Joe Van Meter**  
Secretary/Treasurer

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS  
October 23 November 19 December 19

### Board Action:

The board appointed Dave Bauer as the NRECA Region 9 voting delegate and Cindy Condon as the alternate.

### Special Guests:

Ben Busch from McNary High School's Makerspace Club attended the meeting with one of his students to discuss projects the club was able to fund after receiving Salem Electric's technology grant.

### Administrative Services:

Using virtual meter groups and our Meter Data Management System (MDMS), Salem Electric will be able to assist members in ways that were unavailable prior to AMI meters.

### Engineering & Operations:

In an attempt to deter drivers from using our parking lot as a pass-through street, signs are posted on both ends of Salem Electric's parking lot.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Anderson  
President

Dave Bauer  
Vice-President

Joe Van Meter  
Secretary/Treasurer

Alicia Bonesteele  
Cindy Condon

Jerry Berger  
Paul Ennor



PO BOX 5588  
633 7TH STREET NW  
SALEM, OR 97304-0055

PH: 503 362-3601  
FAX: 503 371-2956  
E-MAIL: [se@SalemElectric.com](mailto:se@SalemElectric.com)  
[SalemElectric.com](http://SalemElectric.com)