



Doug Elliott

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Annual Meeting Update

KEC's 83rd Annual Meeting of the Membership took place at Lake City Church on May 17, 2021. At the meeting, members could view a pre-recorded video of my annual state of the cooperative update, visit with staff and board members and learn

more about our energy efficiency programs. In addition, the business meeting was streamed live. Visit our website at www.kec.com to watch the videos.

Election Update

Director districts 2, 5 and at-large were up for election this year. Only three candidates sought election, all incumbents, and each was nominated by the Nominating Committee. In lieu of seating these candidates by acclamation, an election was conducted online and by mail for the purpose of facilitating a quorum for the annual meeting. Specifically, state law requires a quorum of members participate in person or by ballot for a meeting such as ours to be considered properly held and therefore valid. Failure to reach a quorum requires the meeting to be rescheduled, which is unnecessarily costly. KEC's quorum requirement is 150 members. With the COVID-19 restrictions that were in place at the time our meeting was planned, the meeting venue was limited to 50 members attending in-person, rendering it impossible to have a properly held meeting without members voting by ballot. Through KEC's leadership, we were able to have this state law amended during the recent legislative session such that in the future members will be able to participate in KEC's annual meeting virtually as well as in person.

Congratulations to District 2 director Jim Robbins, District 5 Director Bill Swick and District At-Large director Crystal Musselman, who retained their seats.

After the meeting, the board held a meeting to appoint the following officers: Bill Swick, Chair; Tim Meyer, Vice Chair; Roger Tinkey, Secretary and Dave Bobbitt, Audit Committee Chair.

Bill Credit Winners

Members who cast their

votes online and had a KEC SmartHub account were entered into a drawing for a \$300 KEC bill credit. Congratulations to Bryce Proctor and Jeanie Prince, Coeur d'Alene, for winning this prize. We also offered a drawing for three \$100 KEC bill credits for participating in the election. Congratulations to winners Brad and Julie Murray, Rathdrum; Pete and Peggy Mahoney, Plummer; and David and Donna Nix, Coeur d'Alene.

KEC is accepting comments on the draft 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes through August 2, 2021. Minutes are posted at www.kec.com and printed copies are also available at the KEC office. Comments may be submitted by:

- **Email:** cec@cec.com
- **Mail:** Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Attn: General Manager, 2451 W. Dakota Ave. Hayden, ID 83835

Photos below (from left): Julie Turbin, Vice President of Operations and Operational Services, with her granddaughter. Bill Swick, Board Chair and Doug Elliott, General Manager/CEO, welcome members at the meeting.





Employee Spotlight: Cameron Hall

Cameron Hall is a foreman. He has worked for KEC for nearly 20 years.

What made you interested in line work? How did you train to prepare for work in this field?

I worked as a tree trimmer prior to my career as a lineworker. I completed my apprenticeship through the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee program and then worked for a few years as a journeyman lineman before getting hired at KEC as a journeyman lineman. Last year I was promoted to Foreman.

What does a day look like for you as a foreman at KEC?

Right now, my crew is working on utility relocations on the Highway 41 corridor construction project. Prior to Highway 41 we worked on the construction projects to improve Ramsey and Scarcello Roads and the Garwood Road and Highway 95 interchange.

Tell us about how the growth in our area has affected infrastructure.

Our area is growing rapidly and it's no surprise that KEC is growing as well. The growth is requiring KEC to move lines for new roads, add infrastructure for new homes and increase capacity on existing lines. We are going to great lengths to ensure our distribution system is designed to meet our members' needs both now and

into the future. KEC recently completed a four-year construction work plan to evaluate our system's ability to effectively serve load growth forecasted over the next four years and to outline the system improvements necessary to accommodate that growth. KEC began implementation of this plan in 2021 and will invest nearly \$70 million in its distribution system over the next four years.

Tell us about recent road moves in our area.

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is expanding Idaho Highway 41 from two lanes to four lanes to help meet the growing traffic demands between Rathdrum and Post Falls. Construction is expected to last until 2022. Utility line relocations are a significant part of this project and KEC has been involved from the beginning. To start, KEC constructed a new power line along Highway 41 from just north of Mullan Avenue to Poleline Avenue to make room for the highway construction. Line relocation will continue north to Boekel Road in Rathdrum as the road construction moves north. The new poles you see along the west side of the highway are shared with Avista Utilities. They are taller and stronger than the previous poles and are constructed from ductile iron, which gives them a 75- to 100-year life cycle. The added height provides additional vertical separation between the KEC and Avista circuits to allow safer working distances. Learn more about ITD's project at www.itdprojects.org/projects/id41corridor/.

What has your role been in these road moves?

Currently, my crew is transferring electric service from the old line to the new line for members—we call this a cut over. In some cases, we complete cut overs during the night to limit power outages for commercial buildings during business hours. I also work with road construction contractors to coordinate schedules and projects.

What is the biggest challenge in your job?

The growth in our area is definitely a challenge. Our crews are working five 10-hour days each week to keep up with the demand. In addition, the storms we have faced in the last 6-12 months have been a challenge.

What is the best part of your job?

Although I find my work in the line trade fulfilling, my coworkers really make the difference.

NEWS BRIEFS

DON'T PLACE SIGNS ON POWER POLES

Signs placed on our poles are a safety hazard for our crews and are illegal. To help keep our linemen safe, KEC does not allow the placement of signage on its poles or other electrical equipment. This includes real estate signs, garage sale signs, political/election signs and sales or promotional materials. Our crews routinely remove and dispose of signs posted on KEC's property. Please help us keep our crews safe by not using our poles for signage.

KEC BOARD MEETINGS

Members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings. Meeting dates vary—call Constance Felten at 208.292.3211 for details.



WIN A \$50 ENERGY CREDIT

Below are 10 KEC account numbers. If you find your number contact us at 208.765.1200 and receive a \$50 credit on your bill. **1267170, 1612297, 1850293, 1848760, 1850596, 1249116, 1263232, 1846811, 1831466, 1254375**

About Your Service Voltage

Did you know the voltage levels that KEC provides to you are governed by a national standard? When members call and report a power quality problem, one of the first things we look at is whether the voltage meets the standards set by the American National Standards Institute, or ANSI. ANSI C84.1 is the standard for regulating electric service utilization voltage levels.

Sometimes members have the misconception that their voltage should always be 120 volts or 240 volts. In reality, there are several industry ranges for acceptable voltage. The reason for this is electric loads on a grid change by time of day and with the season. These changes create variances in voltage. At KEC, we routinely analyze our electrical system and evaluate its ability to provide power to our members within the ranges specified by the standard. When that analysis forecasts a problem maintaining this voltage in the future, necessary upgrades are made well in advance. The graphic to the right gives the steady state Range A for typical household voltage at the meter base and at the outlet.

If you have questions about voltage ranges, contact us at kec@kec.com or 208.765.1200.



At the Meter Base

Service Voltage	Normal Range A
120V	114-126V
240V	228-252V



At the Outlet

Utilization Voltage	Normal Range A
120V	110-126V
240V	220-252V

Suds and Savings

10 ways to save energy in the laundry room

Your clothes washer and dryer account for a significant portion of energy consumption from major appliances, and let's face it—laundry is no one's favorite chore. Make the most of your laundry energy use! There are several easy ways you can save energy (and money) in the laundry room. The Department of Energy recommends the following tips for saving on suds:

- 1. Wash with cold water.** Switching from warm water to cold water can cut one load's energy use by more than half, and by using a cold-water detergent, you can still achieve that brilliant clean you'd normally get from washing in warm water.
- 2. Wash full loads when possible.** Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up if you can.
- 3. Use the high-speed or extended spin cycle in the washer.** This setting will remove more moisture before drying, reducing your drying time and the extra wear on clothing.
- 4. Dry heavier cottons separately.** Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.
- 5. Make use of the "cool down" cycle.** If your dryer has this cycle option, you can save energy because the clothes will finish drying with the remaining heat in the dryer.
- 6. Use lower heat settings to dry clothing.** Regardless of drying time, you'll still use less energy.
- 7. Use dryer balls.** Dryer balls, usually wool or rubber, will help keep clothes separated for faster drying, and they can help reduce static, so you can eliminate dryer sheets.
- 8. Switch loads while the dryer is warm.** This allows you to take advantage of the remaining heat from the previous cycle.
- 9. Clean the lint filter after each drying cycle.** If you use dryer sheets, remember to scrub the filter once a month with a toothbrush to remove excess buildup.
- 10. Purchase ENERGY STAR®-rated washers and dryers.** When it's time to purchase a new washer or dryer, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. New washers and dryers that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating use about 20% less energy than conventional models.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source: www.energy.gov

