

POWERLINES

JANUARY 2018 | KEC MEMBER NEWSLETTER



GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE: LOOK OUT FOR SCAMS

It's unfortunate that in today's world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten us with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to our home. Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The

scammer may use threatening language to create a sense of urgency in order to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams. If someone calls demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from the caller, hang up and contact KEC.

KEC may call you regarding an unpaid balance that you will be able to verify from your last bill; however, KEC will never demand immediate payment via pre-paid credit, debit or gift cards, nor will we ever ask for your bank account number. KEC employees who come to your home for any reason carry company identification badges and generally drive company vehicles. Always ask for identification and/or call us at 208.765.1200 to verify the person is indeed a KEC employee. Should you have any doubt, call local authorities for assistance and do not let the person into your home.

There are other types of scams consumers should watch out for:

- If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang up. This caller's intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer.
- If you receive an email from an unknown sender that is riddled with spelling errors and typos or threatens action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links provided within the email and do not respond it. Simply delete the email or send it to your spam folder.



Don't fall for
scammers
pretending
to be utilities.

- Government agencies like the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. You will always receive this type of information in the mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang up immediately. [1763355]

KEC wants to make sure you avoid any and all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. If you have any questions about your account call us at 208.765.1200, or visit www.kec.com.

Doug Elliott
KEC General Manager

OPERATION ROUND UP® GRANTS



KEC AND PARTNERS DONATE \$20,000 TO LOCAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE

KEC, its lender CoBank and the Kootenai Electric Trust donated a combined \$20,000 to the Community Action Partnership/Project Share program last month. These funds are available to KEC members who qualify for help paying their electric bills. **Photo above (from left):** Len Crosby, Kootenai Electric Trust Board chair; Connie McGee, Kootenai Electric Trust Board member; Kayla Wanous, KEC Member Services Representative; Kim Spencer, Community Action Partnership Community Services Manager; and Lucinda dePaulis, Community Action Partnership Community Services Assistant.

2018 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

\$2,000 scholarships will be awarded by the Kootenai Electric Trust to KEC members or their children who are either seniors in high school or currently enrolled in an accredited college or trade or training institution for fall 2018 or spring 2019. Applications are due February 15, 2018, and winners will be selected by members of the Kootenai Electric Trust Board. The Trust Board disburses Operation Round Up® funds contributed by KEC members. Applications are available at www.kec.com, the KEC office or call 208.292.3270.

The Kootenai Electric Trust Board approved the fourth quarter disbursement of 2017 Operation Round Up® funds. The Trust Board received 24 grant requests and awarded more than \$25,000 to the following applicants:

- \$7,500 to KEC's Project Share program to provide energy assistance to members in need.
- \$2,400 to Chorale Coeur d'Alene to purchase a portable piano. [1832745]
- \$2,000 to the Post Falls Food Bank for the Grocery Rescue Program.
- \$2,000 to Timberlake High School to bring the Rachel's Challenge Program to the school.
- \$2,000 to Lake City High School to enhance the High School Reading Workshop program.
- \$1,500 to the Crane Historical Society for an arborist to care for historical trees in the Harrison area.
- \$1,500 to the Twin Lakes Schoolhouse Foundation to update the plumbing and electrical in the schoolhouse.
- \$1,500 to Children's Village to help children who have been abused, neglected or suffered a family crisis.
- \$1,400 to Greensferry Elementary to purchase tablets for special education students.
- \$1,000 to the Kootenai Environmental Alliance to help fund the Annual Water Festival for 5th grade students.
- \$1,000 to North Idaho STEM Charter Academy to purchase sports equipment for the students.
- \$800 to Woodland Middle School to purchase supplies for their art program.
- \$750 to Lakes Magnet Middle School to provide scholarships to the Trail Creek Camp for 6th graders.
- \$500 to Lemons of Love to purchase comfort items for cancer patients.

The next grant applications are due January 26, 2018, at the KEC office. Applications are available at the KEC office or on www.kec.com. Members who choose not to contribute to Operation Round Up® or who would like to begin contributing may simply "opt-out" or "opt-in" on their bill or contact KEC by phone, letter or email.

2018 ELECTION INFORMATION



The 2018 election is quickly approaching. KEC members will have the option to vote online, by mail or in person at the Annual Meeting on April 30, 2018.











Your ballot package will be mailed this spring so you can review candidate and bylaw revision information. Then you decide if you'd like to vote online, by mail with the postage-paid return envelope or at the Annual Meeting. The votes will be tabulated at the Annual Meeting by the Credentials and Elections Committee and the results will be announced both there and in our newsletter.

The election process is governed by the KEC Bylaws. To receive a copy visit our website at www.kec.com or call 208.765.1200. [1826436]



KEC Board of Directors: Photo above (front to back, left to right): Roger Tinkey, Secretary; Dave Bobbitt, Audit Committee Chair; Terry LaLiberte, Vice Chair; Bill Swick, Chair; Todd Hoffman; Doug Elliott, General Manager; Jim Robbins; and Tim Meyer.

10 QUICK TIPS TO AVOID HIGH WINTER BILLS

-  Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
-  Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
-  Turn off lights when not in use. [1466462]
-  Lower your water heater temperature. The Department of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
-  Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.
-  Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.
-  Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.
-  Use power strips for multiple appliances and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.
-  Wash clothes in cold water and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
-  Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



ANNUAL MEETING SAVE THE DATE

The 2018 Annual Meeting is scheduled for the evening of Monday, April 30 at Lake City Church in Coeur d'Alene. Look for more details about the meeting in future newsletters. [1587220]

CREDIT & COLLECTION REMINDERS

As a reminder, KEC does not mail any final notice of disconnect for past due accounts. Past due accounts will have the amount reflected on the bill with a notation in the account message block stating the account is past due and subject to service disconnection if not paid by the noted date. We will make payment arrangements with those unable to pay in full; however, the number of times those arrangements can be made is limited and must be made prior to any disconnection. Visit www.kec.com to learn about disconnect and reconnect fees as well as agencies in the community that can help with utility payments. Please contact our office at 208.765.1200 if you encounter problems paying your bill.

'ROUND UP' FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

Are you "rounding up" your KEC bill? We need more member participation in the Operation Round Up® program and have a special offer for those who sign up. Contact us at kec@kec.com or 208.765.1200 and tell us you'd like to round up your bill each month. **Sign up by January 31, 2018 and we'll enter you into a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card.** Already "rounding up" your bill? Thank you! We'll also do a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card for those members already participating in Operation Round Up®. For more information contact us at 208.765.1200 or visit www.kec.com. Winners will be announced in the March 2018 newsletter.

80TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO/VIDEO CONTEST

To celebrate our 80th anniversary, KEC is planning a commemorative calendar and video and we need your help. Send us your old KEC-related photos or videos. You may also send a video memory of when power was brought to your home. If we publish your photo or video, we'll give you a \$50 bill credit. Email your historical photos to kec@kec.com. If you have a video you'd like to share, please contact us at kec@kec.com or 208.292.3270 to receive instructions on how to share that video with us. The photo and video deadline is February 1, 2018. [1766525]

BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

KEC BOARD MEETINGS

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

**KEC is an Equal Opportunity—
Affirmative Action Employer**