



Look for Your Early Discounted Capital Credit Program Bill Credit

If you participated in the Early Discounted Capital Credit Program this year you should see a credit on your enclosed billing statement. Thank you for your participation. Capital credits are one of the many benefits of your membership in Kootenai Electric Cooperative (KEC). If you didn't participate this year, there will be another chance next year when KEC mails eligible members a capital credit statement in the summer of 2019. For more information contact us at 208.765.1200. [1833009]

Why Electric Cooperatives Replace Poles

You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout KEC's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network?

Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we have a pole testing program to assess the structural integrity of all poles in service on a 10-year cycle. The program is based on new technology that allows pole integrity to be assessed through less invasive and more efficient techniques than the customary approach of sounding and boring the pole. KEC has over 22,000 poles on our system and approximately 200 were installed/replaced last year. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last 30-40 years and costs approximately \$2,500 to install. Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for reasons other than decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation, upgrades and car crashes are also potential causes for immediate replacement.



Here's a breakdown of how crews replace a utility pole:

- When a pole needs to be replaced, crews start by framing the new pole with cross arms and then fitting it with insulators and ground wires—all of the necessary parts for delivering safe and reliable electricity.
- Then they dig a hole, typically next to the pole being replaced. The depth of the hole must be 10 percent of the new pole's height plus two feet. [1825781]
- Finally, crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job. This work is done energized so members don't experience a power outage.

Currently, about 50 percent of KEC's system is underground and we frequently evaluate our system to look for areas to convert to underground to help improve reliability. So, the next time you come across a KEC crew replacing a pole, use caution and know that this process ensures a more reliable electric system for you, our members.



Year Elected: 2018
District Representing: At-Large
City: Hauser
Occupation: President and CEO of Proven Compliance Solutions Inc., a NERC compliance consulting firm specializing in assisting U.S. and Canadian companies in the area of electric reliability.

Education: BBA in Organizational Behavior and Management from the University of Houston, Master of Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University, Master of Business Administration from Webster University, and Master of Engineering and Technology Management from Washington State University.

Other Training: Credentialed Cooperative Director from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Family: Married to Patrick for 23 years. Two nephews and a niece—all basketball players!

Hobbies: Golf, camping, traveling and entertaining.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT: CRYSTAL MUSSELMAN

Why did you want to be on the board?

I have been fortunate in my career to have opportunities to learn about the utility business and I was specifically looking for an opportunity in the local area where I could give back to my community. Our community is experiencing significant growth and with my education and work experience, I believe I can help KEC navigate through this exciting time. I love taking on challenges. [1549082]

What do you hope to accomplish on the board?

Be open-minded to changes and offer effective solutions to problems and challenges. When I leave, I want to be able to look back and see that I made a positive impact in the board's decision-making.

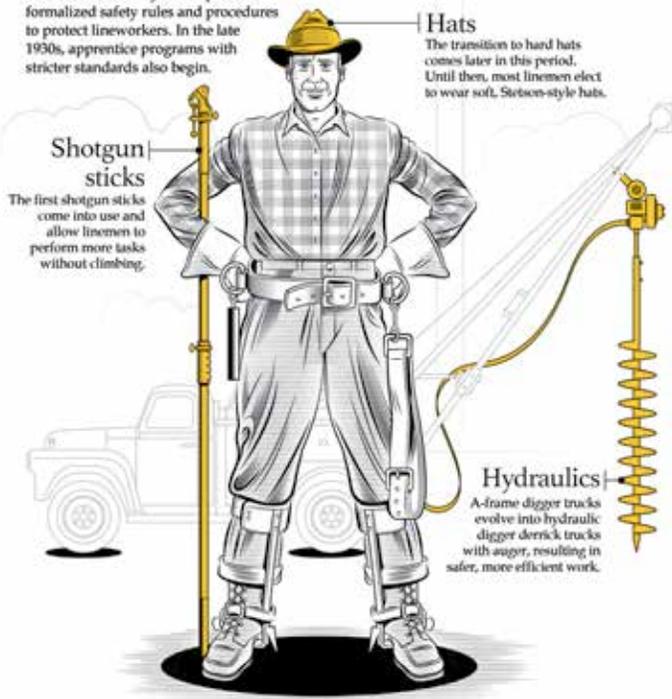
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Lineworker Safety Gear: A look at the evolution of line equipment

1926-1950

Safety training improves

The electric industry develops more formalized safety rules and procedures to protect lineworkers. In the late 1930s, apprentice programs with stricter standards also begin.



1951-1970

New heights and faster communication

Fiberglass sticks evolve to "rubber gloving," with more formalized rules and training. The advent of the bucket truck, utility undergrounding, and improved communications are major steps.



How does the Board of Directors impact members?

Many decisions that the board makes can impact the health of the Cooperative. We need to understand the big picture and be mindful of how KEC can continue to be a healthy cooperative with the growth challenges ahead.

What is the most interesting thing you have learned on the board?

Having been in the electric utility industry for over 20 years, there is something new to learn every day that in some way affects KEC. The decisions that the board makes today could impact future generations.

What do you like most about being on the board?

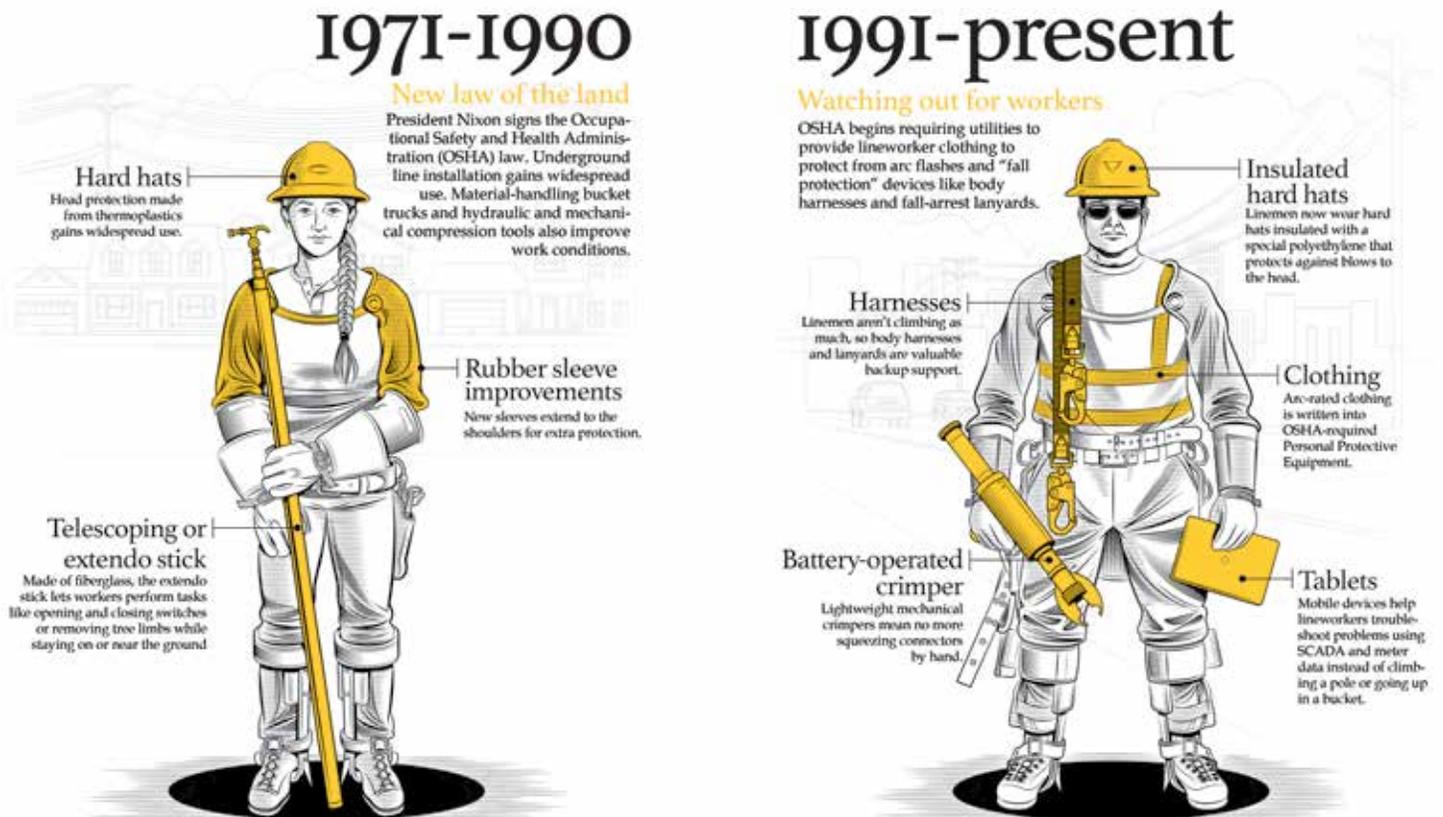
Being able to bring ideas to the table for consideration. Each board member comes from a different business and educational background yet we all have one goal—to do what is best for the KEC members.

What is something you wish members knew about the board?

The KEC board puts in a lot of time and effort to learn about issues affecting the Cooperative. We all show up to meetings prepared to discuss issues on the agenda. We all belong to organizations that support the Cooperative and are constantly trying to improve the already great Cooperative we have today.

From a Board perspective, what do you wish members knew about cooperatives?

That the decisions that are made are first and foremost made with KEC members in mind. Often, we will put aside our own preferences for the good of KEC. [1826214]



NEWS BRIEFS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS CANDIDATES

The KEC Nominating Committee is looking for members interested in serving on the Board of Directors. Candidates must meet the qualifications outlined in KEC's Bylaws, be able to invest a minimum of 60 days per year on board-related activities and be able to periodically attend conferences and director training. Directors should also have strong business acumen and a broad understanding of regional and national energy issues.

There will be two positions up for election in 2019:

- **District 1:** The portion of our system north of the Rathdrum Highway (Highway 53). This position is currently served by Tim Meyer.
- **District at-Large:** Encompasses the entire KEC service area. This position is currently served by Roger Tinkey.

If you would like to be considered, please contact Erika Neff at eneff@kec.com or 208.765.1200.

Applications and bylaws are also available online at www.kec.com. Applications and petition nominations are due November 30, 2018. [1267250]

SAFE DECOR FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

It's almost time to deck those halls! Statistics show that home fires and electrical accidents typically increase during winter months, so keep these holiday lighting tips in mind for a safe holiday season.

Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.



Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.



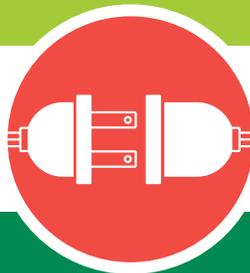
Never mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.



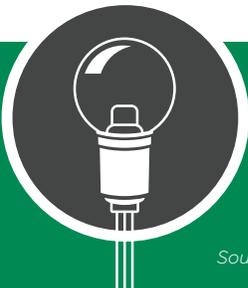
Make sure that cords are not pinched in doors, windows or under heavy furniture, which could damage the cord's insulation.



Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS/CLOSURES

- Dec. 14, 2018: open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Dec. 24, 2018: open 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Dec. 25, 2018: office closed
- Jan. 1, 2019: office closed

ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATE CHANGES

KEC rebates will be changing next year. If you were planning to take advantage of one of our rebates, now is the time to make your purchase. The new rebates will be effective January 1, 2019 and posted online at www.kec.com.

KEC BOARD MEETINGS

Members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings. Meeting dates vary— call Constance Felten at 208.292.3211 for details. [1411605]

WIN A \$50 ENERGY CREDIT

Six KEC account numbers are hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number contact us at 208.765.1200 and receive a \$50 credit on your bill.

Kootenai Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity–Affirmative Action Employer