

# POWERLINES

OCTOBER 2017 | KEC MEMBER NEWSLETTER



## GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE: OUR HISTORY, OUR FUTURE

George Santayana was famously quoted as saying, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Yet sometimes remembering our history with the goal of repeating it can actually be a good thing. As the nation's 30,000 cooperatives

celebrate National Co-op Month this month, it is a great time to take a look back—and a look forward.

Take the history of your electric co-op. KEC was founded in 1938 when a group of farmers worked together to bring electricity to our rural community. Big investor-owned power companies thought they couldn't generate enough profit so they bypassed rural areas. Back then, there were frequent meetings among neighbors to discuss the formation of the Cooperative. The co-op—on behalf of the member-owners—committed to provide the community with electricity.

Fast forward to today. KEC now serves more than 24,000 members and has returned more than \$12 million in capital credits to our members. We understand the spirit that helped create our Cooperative must be continually nurtured. While times and technology will continue to change, our commitment to you will not. The cooperative model of member helping member and operating on a non-profit basis remains as relevant today as it was when we were formed.

Although we started out to provide electricity, our impact has grown with your support. As we look toward the future, you can be confident that KEC will continue fulfilling our mission: to provide our member-owners exceptional service and dependable electric power at competitive rates. [1445358]



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS BOARD 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 three positions up for election in 2018:

- **District 2:** That part of the system South of the northern boundaries of Sections 31 through 36 of Township 52N, West of Huetter Road and North of the Spokane River. This position is currently served by Jim Robbins.

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## OPERATION ROUND UP® DISTRIBUTES GRANTS



The Kootenai Electric Trust Board approved the third quarter disbursement of 2017 Operation Round Up® funds. The Trust Board received 9 grant requests and awarded more than \$5,000 to the following applicants:

- \$1,799 to Atlas Elementary School to purchase equipment for their Robotics and Computer Sciences Clubs. [1817839]
- \$1,250 to the Coeur d'Alene Symphony Orchestra to help reduce ticket prices for senior citizens in the area.
- \$2,150.40 to Northwest Expeditionary Academy for the implementation of a multi-faceted sensory room to help students' functionality.

The next grant applications are due October 27, 2017 at the KEC office. Applications are available at the KEC office or [www.kec.com](http://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.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### IMPORTANT PAYMENT INFORMATION

Recently, we've heard from a few members that they have inadvertently made a KEC payment using a third party website (such as Doxo). In some cases, these third party sites charge fees to make payments (KEC does not charge a fee to make payment online or by phone). KEC respects your online privacy and has taken measures to protect your personal information. We cannot guarantee the same of the online bill payment services. We encourage members to visit [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com) to make a payment. Members should be cautious when clicking links in search engines and only enter personal information on sites they are familiar with. Please call us at 208.765.1200 if you ever have a question about paying your bill. [1559222]

### KEC BOARD MEETINGS

Members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings. Meeting dates vary—for details please call 208.292.3211 or visit [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com).

### KEC 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, 2018 and posted at [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com). For more information call 208.765.1200.

### 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! Like us on Facebook for more chances to win!

### NOVEMBER 2017 HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The KEC office will be closed November 10 for Veteran's Day and November 23-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

## RATE ADJUSTMENTS



### SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGE

In 2016, KEC's Board of Directors implemented a rate change that included an annual adjustment to the Service Availability Charge (SAC) through 2021 for the residential and general service rate classes. Effective with the October bills, the residential SAC will increase by \$3.25 per month and the general service SAC will increase by \$2.80 per month. To ensure KEC's revenue remains neutral with the change to the SAC, the energy charge (or kWh charge) will be reduced by \$0.00285/kWh for residential rate classes and by \$0.008/kWh for general service rate classes.

### HOW YOUR BILL WILL BE AFFECTED

The net effect of these changes to the average residential member using 1,100 kWh per month is about a \$2 increase. This change is almost exclusively driven by increases in the cost of purchasing power from BPA on behalf of our members. To help temper this impact on rates, KEC has been diversifying its power supply by purchasing short-term blocks of power at market rates well below BPA's cost. Visit our website at [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com) to review rate schedules and learn more about the SAC. You can also use our rate calculator to see how your bill will be affected by these changes. Please contact us at 208.765.1200 if you have any questions about your electric bill.

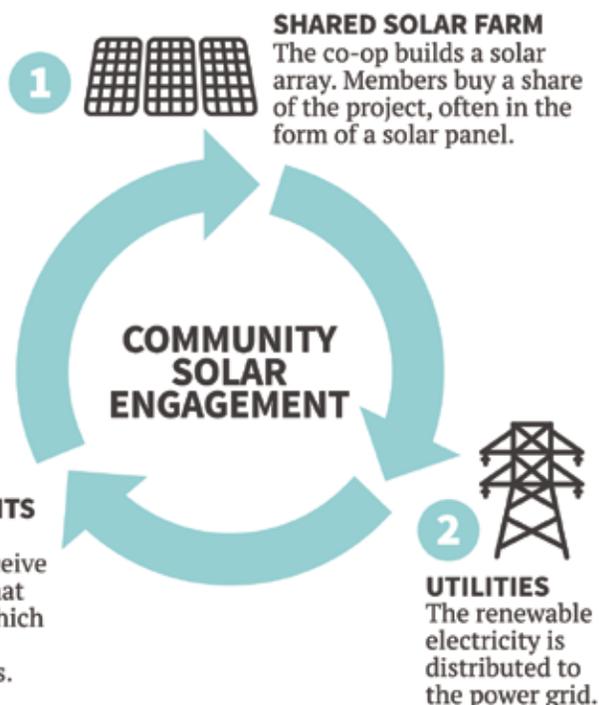
### POWER COST ADJUSTMENT

Separately, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) announced an increase of approximately 5% to the cost of wholesale electric rates effective October 1, 2017.

This increase will be paid by members through the power cost adjustment of \$0.00173 per kWh purchased.



## HOW COMMUNITY SOLAR WORKS



### KEC'S COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT

Earlier this year we shared plans to build a community solar project and we're happy to announce it is currently under construction. The KEC Community Solar project will be located at a sunny location on Setters Road in Worley. This project provides an easy and affordable way for members to participate in a solar energy project and support renewable energy development. KEC takes care of installation, maintenance and insurance fees, making it easy for members to participate. [1821779]

Watch for more details in next month's newsletter. Interested members may reserve a share now. We expect construction of the project will be complete in late 2017. For more information, or to reserve shares, please call 208.765.1200.

# INSPIRED BY A MEMBER OF YOUR CO-OP COMMUNITY?

YOUR NOMINEE COULD WIN UP TO \$5,000

[1833309]



#WhoPowersYou is an online contest sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. Co-op members (and employees) across the nation are invited to submit photos and stories about fellow members who are making a positive impact in their co-op community. Nominees are eligible to win a cash prize. This is your chance to honor someone in your community. To enter, visit [www.whopowersyou.com/enter](http://www.whopowersyou.com/enter) between October 2, 2017 and November 4, 2017 and submit a photo of your nominee. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on their impact to the community. All entries must be submitted by November 4, 2017. Winners will be announced January 2018.

Visit [www.whopowersyou.com](http://www.whopowersyou.com) for full contest rules. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

## CONTEST PRIZES

GRAND PRIZE	\$5,000
SECOND PLACE	\$2,000
THIRD PLACE	\$1,500
HONORABLE MENTION	\$500

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS CANDIDATES CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

- **District 5:** The parts of the system South of the northern boundary established by Township 47N, as well as those parts of the system East of Lake Coeur d'Alene and South of I-90. This position is currently served by Bill Swick.
- **District at-Large:** Encompassing the entire service area of Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc. This position is currently served by Terry LaLiberte.

If you or someone you know would like to be considered, please contact Erika Neff at [eneff@kec.com](mailto:eneff@kec.com) or 208.765.1200. Applications are also available online at [www.kec.com](http://www.kec.com). Applications and petition nominations are due November 30, 2017. [1275258]