

SWANS ISLAND ELECTRIC COOP NEWSLETTER

From the Manager:

Just a reminder this month of some of your responsibilities to allow us to efficiently and safely operate your Coop.

There are a large number of meters that are difficult to read because of vegetation growth. It is the responsibility of each of our members to keep their meters cleared of vegetation. A good rule of thumb is to keep a 3 foot cleared area around the meter.

Another question that many of you have raised is that of responsibility for keeping electric lines cleared of trees and branches. The simple guide is that our members are responsible for keeping lines clear on the member's side of the transformer (secondary lines) that feed your house and the Coop is responsible for all lines on the "feed" side of the transformers (primary lines). Do NOT attempt to do any cutting near your electric lines before checking with us at the Coop. We will shut off power to allow you or your contractor to safely do the work. The Coop is equipped to do work on secondary lines as resources allow but must charge for the work.

I mentioned at the Annual Meeting that the Town of Swans Island and the Coop are cooperating on identifying unsafe installations that are not compliant with current electric codes. We have been focusing on the lines and equipment between the transformer and where the electric lines enter the buildings. We work together with the impacted property owner to agree upon the least costly way to bring the electric installation into code compliance. Just as in the case of

keeping electric lines clear of trees and branches it is the responsibility of the Coop member to maintain their electric services from their transformer all the way to your house. This includes the meter enclosure. We must all work together to ensure that our system is safe to ourselves and the public. Please keep the following things in mind on your property. The use of extension cords to provide electricity to secondary buildings on an ongoing basis is unsafe and a violation of the electric code. Exposed electric cable lying on the ground (whether in a foot traffic area or otherwise) is very dangerous and upgrades are necessary to bring it into compliance with the electric code. There are too many safety tips to describe in a newsletter. Please contact the Coop if you have any concerns about your service line safety and we will do our best to help sort out a plan of action.

From Your Board of Trustees:

The Annual Meeting on July 21st was a successful gathering of the membership with a good exchange of updates on the financial and operational health of the Electric Cooperative. A packed crowd on the first floor of the Odd Fellows Hall had a chance to be introduced to Tom McAloon, the new manager, and hear

His perspectives on what is planned in the coming months. The membership also bid a fond farewell to Howard Dentremont – a long time Board member – with thanks for his ten year service on the Board. Suzannah Roe, full-time resident and proprietress of the Swans Island Tea Room, was elected to fill Howard's Board seat for a three year term. Jason Matthews and Jeffrey Ellison were re-elected to their positions on the Board to begin serving new three-year terms.

The membership heard an update on the Wind Power Feasibility Study beginning this Fall on the proposed Big Mountain Site – presented by President Ed Schwabe and Susanne Pude from the Island Institute.

The membership's questions from the floor centered around the actions that the Cooperative was taking to tackle the problems associated with the "Legacy Debt" of some members, who in past years were allowed to accumulate sizeable indebtedness on their electric bills. President Ed Schwabe described the Voluntary and Involuntary Lien programs instituted in 2009 to secure this debt using liens against the property of affected members and pledged that the Cooperative would continue to work with members to reduce this debt load over time in a fair and equitable manner. Tom McAloon emphasized that current collection practices and disconnection actions

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were being tightly enforced. It was the general sense of the membership that none of the Legacy Debt should be written off – and that policies to collect what was owed to the Cooperative should be continued.

The membership was also updated on the status of the new Work Plan and the pending R.U.S. Loan.

Town of Swans Island Notice:

There is now a 48 hour maximum parking time in the "back" line for the ferry. Please display the time and date of your anticipated departure in your vehicle window. Forms are available at the ticket office.

- ELECTRIC CO-OP OFFICE HOURS
- PHONE # 526-4336
- 7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM MON - FRI
- OFFICE MAY BE CLOSED BETWEEN 11:00 AM AND 12:00 PM FOR LUNCH.
- OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS.

AFTER HOUR
EMERGENCY
NUMBERS:

TOM MCALOON

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BONNIE TURNER

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