



**District Offices**

4005 23rd Street  
Baker City, OR 97814  
523-3616

567 West Pierce  
Burns, OR 97720  
573-2666

400 Patterson Bridge Road  
P.O. Box 575  
John Day, OR 97845  
575-0161

107 Elm Street  
P.O. Box 790  
La Grande, OR 97850  
963-3155

www.otecc.com  
editor@otecc.com

**Report Outages at  
1-866-430-4265**

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**Officers/Directors:**

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Union County  
Vice President Charles Hofmann,  
Baker County  
Sec./Treas. Greg Howard,  
Union County

David Baum, Union County  
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Peggi Timm, Baker County  
Ralph Ward, Baker County

Werner Buehler, General Manager  
Henry Lorenzen, Attorney

OR-48

## Manager's Message



**Dear Member,**

Nowadays, cell phones and personal digital devices are a part of our culture. Everyone, it seems, is connected on the go—whether they are making phone calls, text messaging or checking email. Such communication freedom is a luxury we pay for, generally, without grumbling.

So why is it that when it comes to electricity—a necessity in our modern world—many of us grumble and complain when the electric bill comes every month? We expect electricity to be there at the flip of the switch, and when it's not, we get angry or frustrated.

Hey, I'm no different. I expect the lights to come on every time, too. As the general manager of OTEC, I have a special responsibility to make sure your electric service is safe, reliable and affordable. But I also believe that when compared with other commodities, electricity remains a great value.

For example, during the past 10 years, gasoline has shot up 10.9 percent on average every year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. A loaf of white bread has increased 4.2 percent annually, and a dozen eggs 6.5 percent per year.

In comparison, electricity has increased just 3.7 percent nationally during the past decade. OTEC has an even more impressive record, with only a 1.4-percent increase over 10 years. When you consider how reliable electricity is, the value goes up even more considering electricity is a 24-hour-a-day commodity.

While skyrocketing energy costs and federal and state regulations make it ever more difficult to maintain rates at such low costs, we will work hard to make sure electricity remains a great value for our members.

Those cell phones I mentioned earlier? Nearly one-third of all U.S. households have four electronic devices, such as cell phones, plugged in and charging, according to the Residential Energy Consumption Survey by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. In the past 30 years, the amount of residential electricity used by appliances and electronics has increased from 17 percent to 31 percent. More homes than ever use major appliances and central air conditioning. Digital video recorders, computers and multiple televisions are ubiquitous.

Clearly, our appetite for electricity shows no signs of slowing down. So the next time you flip a light switch, use your toaster or run your washing machine, remember the value electricity holds. And know that we at OTEC are looking out for you by working together to keep electric bills affordable, controlling costs through innovation and putting you, our members, first.

With warmest regards,

**Werner Buehler**