

Keeping Pace



December 2012

Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Volume 4, Issue 6

Important ORECA Dates

January 31
ORECA Board meeting—Salem

February 18-20
NRECA Annual Meeting—New Orleans

March 12
ORECA Board meeting—Salem

March 12-13
ORECA Legislative Days—Salem

April 10-11
CFC Director Financial Training—Salem

April 29-May 1
NRECA Legislative Conference—Washington, D.C.

Mid-May (TBD)
ORECA Board Meeting—Salem

July 16-18
ORECA Mid-Year Meeting—Salishan Resort

October 15-17
NRECA Regions 7 & 9 meeting—Portland

December 3-5
ORECA Annual Meeting—Salem

December 5
ORECA Board Meeting—Salem



ORECA 2012 Annual Meeting: Reflecting on Our Mission



Ted Case moderates the well-attended Legislative Panel.

With an agenda built around looking ahead—and looking back—nearly 200 electric co-op leaders gathered at the Salem Conference Center for ORECA's 70th annual meeting. There was discussion of emerging technology, legislation, BPA rates and even what it was like to land on the moon. CRN's **John Hewa** spoke about emerging technologies such as smart meters and their impact on electric co-ops.

"It's the collection of technologies that will have a huge aggregate impact for us," Hewa said. "This is a huge opportunity for us."

ORECA Executive Director **Ted Case** led a panel discussion of Oregon Legislators, including Rep. **Val Hoyle**, Co-Speaker **Arnie Roblan**, Rep. **John Huffman** and Sen. **Alan Olsen**.

The panel outlined priorities for the upcoming session, including jobs, energy and education, but there was also talk about the process. Rep. Hoyle, who was

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Members elected Central Electric CEO **Dave Markham** as the new ORECA President and West Oregon CEO **Marc Farmer** as Vice-President.



NRECA Selects Congresswoman as new CEO

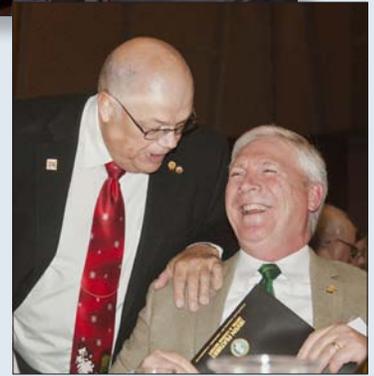
Jo Ann Emerson was chosen as the fifth CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Emerson will succeed **Glenn English**, who has served 19 years as CEO. She will join NRECA on February 11, and assume her duties as CEO on March 1. Emerson will be officially introduced to the membership at the NRECA Annual Meeting in New Orleans the week of February 18.

NRECA President **Mike Guidry** said, "I can honestly tell you that we conducted an exhaustive search to identify the very best individual to lead our great association. As a unified board we are convinced that we found that person in Jo Ann Emerson."

Guidry added that Emerson's background as a member of Congress and a trade association executive—coupled with her extensive knowledge of the issues facing electric cooperatives and rural America—made her eminently qualified to lead NRECA.



From left: George Horning, long-time CPI director, receives the Rural Electrification Award from ORECA President Roman Gillen. Shirley Cairns, Douglas Electric director, talks with "Cooperator of the Year" Sen. elect Arnie Roblan. Cheryl McMahan, Coos-Curry director and Boyd Keeton, Central Electric director talk with Sen. Alan Olsen about the upcoming legislative session. Bryan Wolfe, Umatilla Electric director, shares a laugh with Lane Electric CEO Rick Crinklaw.



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recently named House Majority Leader, said the leadership was committed to "keeping the bipartisan spirit" from the last legislative session. Later, Roblan was presented the ORECA Cooperator of the Year Award by Coos-Curry CEO **Roger Meader** "for his accessibility and common-sense approach to energy policy."

Astronaut **Alan Bean**, the fourth man to walk on the moon, captivated the crowd with his recollections of the Apollo Space Program.

"I didn't think there was a place to land," he recalled as they attempted to navigate the lunar module.

Bean also displayed his art work and gave out a signed personal print.

The afternoon session was dominated by the 70th Anniversary Legends Panel and ORECA awards (see related story). Salem Manager **Bob Speckman** led a retrospective of former ORECA executive directors **Mark Glaess**, **Sara Baker-Sifford** and **Sandy Flicker**, along with legendary managers, **Howard Crinklaw**, **Jere Overs** and **Russ Dorran**. Crinklaw recalled

lobbying a Congressman after President **Richard Nixon** terminated the REA loan program in December 1972. "Call off your people," the Congressman said. "I got the message."

Speckman also served as the 70th anniversary chairman and prepared a range of historical materials to help ORECA prepare for its upcoming 75th anniversary.

ORECA Elects Slate of Officers for 2013

The ORECA Board elected new members of their Executive Committee at the ORECA Annual Meeting in Salem. Central Electric CEO **Dave Markham** was elected ORECA president to succeed CPI CEO **Roman Gillen**, who stepped down after two years.

"I am truly honored to succeed Roman as president of ORECA," said Markham. "Roman's leadership and contributions to the organization leave us well positioned to continue addressing the challenges that Oregon's electric co-ops face in the coming year."

Gillen was recently elected to the CFC Board, but will stay on the ORECA Executive Committee as the immediate past president. **Marc Farmer**, the CEO of West Oregon was elected vice president. **Bob McPherson** of Umatilla Electric will continue on as ORECA secretary-treasurer. The other members of the ORECA Executive Committee include Lane Electric Director **Chris Seubert** and Harney Electric Manager **Randy Whitaker**.



Roman Gillen was honored for his service as president with an ORECA "golf tour" jacket.



Clockwise from top left: Three generations of Crinklaws working in the electric industry, from left, Rick, Carla, Belle, Garrett and Howard. Gordon DeArmond and Diana Cox, Midstate directors, and Bob Speckman, Salem Electric CEO, view the 70th anniversary displays. Capt. Alan Bean, fourth man to walk on the moon, delighted the crowd with his stories about space technology, teamwork and his passion for painting. Mark Glaess, former ORECA executive director and Howard Crinklaw, former Douglas Electric general manager, participate in the Legends Panel.

ORECA 2012 Award Recipients



PIONEER AWARD
Jim Dyer, Salem Electric



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AWARD
George Horning, CPI



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Bill Kopacz, Midstate Electric



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Henry Lorenzen, Attorney at Law



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Dan Silveria, Surprise Valley

ORECA 2013 Preview: Legislative Session will Dominate Year

The Oregon Legislature will convene briefly in January and then meet again in February for a long-haul session that will likely not end until late June. There will be many proposals of interest to Oregon's electric co-ops, including net metering, transmission and carbon legislation.

"This is a legislative session that people will be talking about a long time," said Ted Case, ORECA's executive director.

One of the centerpieces of the session will be ORECA Legislative Day in Salem on March 12-13. Additional information on issues will be made available as soon as the session convenes.

Director training will continue to be a priority in 2013. ORECA will partner with CFC for a two-day session on financial issues for directors on April 10-11 in Portland.



House Majority Leader Val Hoyle discusses her work with Blachly-Lane Electric Co-op. Hoyle stressed the importance of reaching out to legislators before the session begins. All the panel members expressed an interest in a session steeped in bipartisanship.

Hood River Crews Reciprocate After Hurricane Sandy

Report from John Gerstenberger, manager of Hood River Electric

Hood River Electric Cooperative was clobbered last January with rain, snow and ice. We were assisted by Oregon cooperatives to restore service to our members. Two linemen were able to reciprocate later in the year by helping Harney Electric replace lines burned in wildfires. These experiences, and the vital role and benefit of outside help, were still fresh in our line crew's minds when Superstorm Sandy hit the eastern United States.

Our five linemen all volunteered to assist with power restoration on the East Coast following Sandy. I contacted Ted Case to see if he knew of an opportunity for our guys. Through contact with former ORECA Executive Director Mark Glaess—now leading the Minnesota Rural Electric Association—Ted identified a way for our personnel to participate.

Ted learned that Minnesota Electric

Cooperatives were sending crews and equipment to Long Island to assist with recovery. Mark made arrangements and two of our linemen, **Clinton Curtis** and **David**

Porter, joined and worked with crews from Lake Region Electric Co-op for a seven-day tour of duty on Long Island.

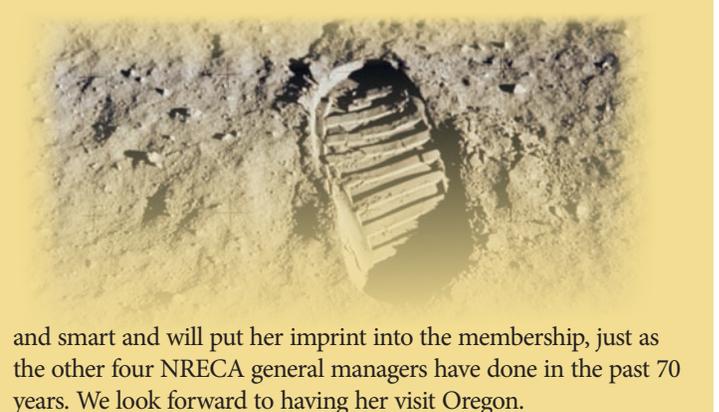


Crews from many utilities, including HREC, worked day and night to restore power before predicted frigid temperatures arrived in the Northeast after hurricane Sandy hit in early November.



Case in Point

The ORECA Annual Meeting was all about legends. We had Alan Bean, a legendary moonwalker, and many of the giants of the Oregon electric co-op program. They aren't celebrated as NASA astronauts, but men like Crinklaw, Overs, Glaess and Dorran built a statewide that, with hard work, will be as enduring as footprints on the moon. I was honored to be in their presence. Another co-op legend, Glenn English, will soon step down and be replaced by Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson. It's a good pick. She is tough



and smart and will put her imprint into the membership, just as the other four NRECA general managers have done in the past 70 years. We look forward to having her visit Oregon.