

2013 BALLOT BOOKLET

ORCAS POWER & LIGHT COOPERATIVE'S

76TH ANNUAL MEETING

ON THE WASHINGTON STATE FERRY

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH, 2013

Dear OPALCO Member-Owner:

THIS IS YOUR 2013 BALLOT PACKAGE. Within this booklet, you will find information on the candidates for election to the Board of Directors, as well as your ballot, ballot secrecy envelope and reply envelope. If your OPALCO membership is through a partnership or corporation, please complete the appropriate forms as included and return them with your ballot. Please **SIGN THE FRONT OF YOUR REPLY ENVELOPE.** Without your signature, your vote will not count.

ONLINE VOTING. OPALCO is once again offering the opportunity to vote online in partnership with Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS). Members can vote by absentee ballot online or via the mail. See the enclosed ballot for instructions. Absentee ballots must be received no later than 12:00 noon on **Friday, May 3rd.** Members can also choose to cast their votes in person at the annual meeting on the ferry on Saturday, May 4th. Note: Please do not bring your ballot to the annual meeting—a separate ballot will be issued. Election results will be announced at the annual meeting and also online at *www.opalco.com*.

YOUR CO-OP IS DOING ITS PART TO SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY. Instead of mailing the Annual Report to our more than 11,000 members, we have made it available online at *www.opalco.com*. Hard copies of the report will be distributed at the annual meeting, and a limited supply will be also available in OPALCO offices after the annual meeting.

WHY VOTE? OPALCO members are owners of their electric cooperative. You have the **POWER** to elect your Co-op Board of Directors, who make the policies that affect all Co-op members. If you have questions, please call Bev Madan at 376-3549.

Orcas Power & Light Cooperative
183 Mt. Baker Road
Eastsound WA 98245
www.opalco.com
360-376-3500

2013 BOARD ELECTION: DISTRICTS 3 & 4

OPALCO's governing board consists of seven directors from four districts who are elected for three-year terms, with the elections staggered. Each director is elected by a vote of OPALCO members, and **ALL** members may vote in every election, regardless of their home district.

Present directors are:

- **District 1** (San Juan, Brown, Henry, Pearl and Spieden Islands): Vince Dauciunas and George Mulligan
- **District 2** (Orcas, Armitage, Big Double, Blakely, Fawn, Little Double and Obstruction Islands): Winnie Adams and Chris Thomerson
- **District 3** (Lopez, Decatur, Center and Charles Islands): Jim Lett and Bob Myhr
- **District 4** (Shaw, Bell, Canoe and Crane Islands): John Bogert

Two board positions in **District 3** and one board position in **District 4** are up for election in 2013.

Absentee ballots are enclosed with this report and must be received online or via the mail no later than noon on Friday, May 3rd. Ballots can also be cast in person at the annual meeting on the ferry, Saturday, May 4th. The election results will be announced at the annual meeting and subsequently published at www.opalco.com and in local papers.

Please vote for any **two** candidates for District 3 AND **one** candidate for District 4. Each membership gets one ballot regardless of how many meters or accounts a member may have.

Candidates for the Board are nominated by committee or by petition. The 2013 candidates nominated by committee are:

District 3: Michael Karp, Jim Lett (incumbent) and Bob Myhr (incumbent)

District 4: John Bogert (incumbent)

The 2013 candidates nominated by petition are:

District 3: Jerrold R. Gonce and L. Dwight Lewis Jr.



Cast your vote for the OPALCO Board of Directors online or by mailing in your absentee ballot (deadline for receipt is noon on Friday, May 3rd) or by attending the

76th Annual Meeting on the ferry

Saturday, May 4th

9:45-11:15 a.m.

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES

NOMINATED BY COMMITTEE

MICHAEL KARP



Michael Karp and his wife Anne have lived full time on Lopez Island since 2007. They designed and built a sustainable passive solar home anchored by solar hot water and photovoltaics that is net-metered with OPALCO and allows them to exclude home energy costs from their annual budget.

As founder, President and CEO of A World Institute for a Sustainable Humanity (A W.I.S.H), Michael has worked with over 130 projects in 40 countries since 1995. As the principal of a public interest consultancy for the past 20 years, he specialized in public and private electric utility issues that impact residential customers, especially those unable to represent themselves in the regulatory forums. Michael was also an administrator for 18 years with the Opportunity Council, delivering social service programs addressing the affordable housing and energy needs of those living in San Juan, Island, Whatcom and Skagit Counties.

As a founding board member and two-term Chair of the Northwest Energy Coalition, the board of The Last Mile Electric Coop, POWER, and many other groups, he has consistently and successfully worked with a diverse group of stakeholders to model some of the most progressive energy policies and programs in the country.

The opportunity and challenge Michael sees for OPALCO is to find new and different ways to creatively partner with local government, the private sector and non-profits to saturate the service area with optimum energy efficiency retrofits and renewable energy, with thoughtful consideration that emphasizes creative public involvement in discussing Smart Grid and communication technology. OPALCO has the potential to more aggressively contribute in its role as an engine powering the local economy by keeping more of its money for energy local, while protecting our local environment and quality of life.

JAMES LETT (INCUMBENT)



Jim has served as an OPALCO Director since 2009. He is the current Vice President of the Board of Directors and has completed the coursework for the National Rural Electric Association and received Credentialed Director Certification.

Jim is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and has an honorable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. His career spanned 35 years with a national insurance carrier,

including as Director of Loss Control, Underwriting Vice President for Commercial Insurance, Marketing, and Reinsurance. He also served on the Business School Advisory Board for Washington State University for several years. This background has been helpful in managing OPALCO'S complex insurance programs.

Jim and his wife Shanley are natives of Washington and have lived on Lopez for nearly 20 years. Jim says they are thankful every day that they are able to do so. Since retiring Jim has been an active member of the community, participating in the Mentor Program of the Family Resource Center and at Lopez Children's Center. He is past chairman of the Lopez Library Board, is twice past Commodore of the Lopez Island Yacht Club, served as the business representative on the San Juan County Salary Commission, and is the current chairman of the Board of Commissioners of San Juan Fire District #4.

In 2012 OPALCO celebrated its 75th anniversary of supplying affordable, reliable power to the islands, which is now more than 80% underground. OPALCO's commitment to the membership has remained steadfast and has earned respect throughout the industry. Regular inspections and audits by federal and state authorities give OPALCO the highest possible marks.

OPALCO has been a leader in supporting new technology, energy efficiency and conservation methods such as solar and wind power for home use, automatic meter reading and power management systems. Jim is committed to further strengthening these programs and our Co-op's reputation as a model Northwest utility.

Jim says, "Our strategic directives provide a path for continuing improvement and our charge remains to provide reliable power and related services to improve the quality of life for our members. I am proud to be part of this team and, with your support, I hope to continue with another term."

BOB MYHR (INCUMBENT)



Bob Myhr is an experienced and dedicated member of the OPALCO Board. He is an enthusiastic advocate for our electric cooperative and has worked to help make OPALCO the reliable, financially sound, and innovative utility that it is today. He is an active participant in continuing education programs of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), CoBank, and other industry associations.

Bob brings business, government and nonprofit management experience to the Board. He holds a degree in economics from Amherst College and a PhD from Columbia University, and taught at the University of Washington before becoming an executive in the forest products industry. Here in the islands he has served on the San Juan County Council and was Executive

Director of the Preservation Trust. Bob and his wife Joyce have been full-time Lopez residents and volunteered in the community for the past 28 years. Bob's priorities for OPALCO include:

- Provide our members with safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity.
- Strengthen our successful energy efficiency and conservation programs—encourage opportunities for more local generation of wind and solar power, weatherization programs, wise-use energy education, electric vehicles, and green power.
- Ensure that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) provides OPALCO with the lowest possible wholesale power rates for our members and that our need for more expensive BPA Tier 2 power is minimized.
- Continue to add proven new technologies to manage our electric power loads, avoid outages, protect submarine cables, facilitate energy conservation, and further streamline administrative functions to achieve even greater cost savings and efficiencies.
- Expand OPALCO's existing fiber optic network, working with partners to help bring high-speed internet access at affordable prices to the islands. Before making a major broadband investment we must listen carefully to and have widespread support from our members, and make sure we minimize the business, technological, and environmental risks for our co-op.

DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES

NOMINATED BY PETITION

JERROLD R. GONCE



Jerry and his wife Barbara retired to Lopez ten years ago, fulfilling a long-term dream. Both Jerry and Barbara have a long history with the islands. Jerry started vacationing in the San Juans in 1954 and Barbara purchased property on Shoal Bay in the late sixties. They chose Lopez because of its exceptional beauty and the sense of community expressed by those who live here.

Retired after a long career in governmental management, he did not retire his interest in “good management.” It was this interest that caused him to pay attention to how OPALCO was addressing its service responsibilities to the members of the Cooperative.

If elected to the OPALCO Board of Directors, Jerry is committed to sharpening, even more, the board's and management's focus on the mission statement contained in the Cooperative's By-Laws: TO SERVE San Juan County by providing electric utility service that is efficient, economical and adequate for our members.

He believes that more effort must be made to involve members in discussions about the activities of the cooperative; that the long-term financial stability of the cooperative must be guaranteed through a countywide, in-depth needs assessment of the cooperative's infrastructure and power availability; that all employees should be evaluated annually to ensure that they are adequately trained in the performance of their assigned duties; and that as technological advances are made in providing electrical power the cooperative is ready to implement them.

Working together as a team, the members, the Board and the staff, we can continue to build on the cooperative's accomplishments of the past 75 years!

L. DWIGHT LEWIS JR.



Dwight has been a property owner on Lopez since 1969 and is one of the island's most successful businessmen. Dwight and his wife Shirley established Windssock Farms & Excavation in 1977 and they continued expanding the excavation business at the same time as he expanded the farm.

Along with his excavation work for islanders, Dwight has worked with OPALCO and CenturyLink for more than 30 years. His projects include nearly 40 miles of undergrounding work installing telephone, power and fiber optic lines. This experience

has provided him with a solid foundation for helping with the decision making process as a member of the OPALCO board.

Having a deep concern for community issues, Dwight has been involved in many civic events. Being a pilot for more than 50 years, Dwight provides the use of his airstrip as an alternate landing location for other pilots and the Medivac helicopter. Most recently, as a member of the Lopez Booster's Club, Dwight led the fundraising efforts to provide equipment for school athletics.

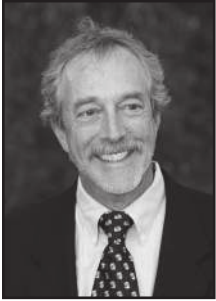
Known as a man of endless energy, he will always have an opinion to offer. He can be frequently found in conversation with other islanders, soaking up information on a diverse range of topics—finding out the best way to solve problems and get things done. Dwight's pragmatic approach to life makes him an excellent candidate to serve on the OPALCO board.

Currently, Dwight is "neutral" on the broadband issue, but if elected he will ensure that all of the facts regarding this matter—pro and con—will be provided to OPALCO members. "It should be up to the members," he said. "They should be the ones to determine if OPALCO should be involved in this project."

DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES

NOMINATED BY COMMITTEE

JOHN BOGERT (INCUMBENT)



John Bogert has served as Secretary / Treasurer of the OPALCO Board of Directors since 2008 and has been a member of the Shaw Island Community since 1988.

Trained as an electrical engineer, holding degrees from Princeton University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), he has a career history in management and operation of small hydro-electric plants and other forms of alternative energy.

John has been, and continues to be, an active advocate of energy efficiency and conservation and has worked extensively with the island community toward achieving a new awareness of conservation in our county. He serves as a voting member of the Regional Technical Forum of the NW Power Council, which sets policy and conservation initiatives for the BPA.

John's priorities as an OPALCO Board member include:

- Ensure OPALCO maintains its strong financial condition and is responsive to its member/owners.
- Pursue an aggressive energy efficiency and conservation program throughout the islands.
- Provide support and oversight to OPALCO management in sustaining and enhancing its excellent level of electric service, member satisfaction and safety.
- Promote new ideas and technologies that will best serve our members and our community as a whole, now and in the future.

The Annual Meeting is EARLY due to the spring ferry schedule

Check out the travel schedule on the back page of this booklet.

Please arrive at your ferry landing with plenty of time to park and register for the meeting. Lunch will be served on the ferry.





TRAVEL SCHEDULE:

ORCAS

Register at Landing: **7:00 A.M.**

Ferry Leaves: **8:50 A.M.**

Return to Orcas: **11:45 A.M.**

SHAW

Ferry Leaves: **9:05 A.M.**

Register on board

Return to Shaw: **12:35 P.M.**

LOPEZ

Register at Landing: **8:30 A.M.**

Ferry Leaves: **9:35 A.M.**

Return to Lopez: **11:30 A.M.**

SAN JUAN

Members coming from San Juan Island will sail to Orcas by chartered boat and get on the ferry.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

Call 376-3549 to reserve the limited space available.

Arrive Spring St. Landing: **6:45 A.M.**

Register for Annual Meeting

Board Charter: **7:20 A.M.**

Disembark at Orcas Dock: **8:30 A.M.**

Orcas Ferry Leaves: **8:50 A.M.**

Return Orcas Landing: **11:40 A.M.**

Board Charter: **11:50 A.M.**

Arrive Friday Harbor by **1:00 P.M.**



If you are disabled or need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please call Bev at **376-3549**.

NOTE: The chartered boat is *not* wheelchair accessible and requires a steep walk up (and back down) the ramp from the Orcas county dock to the Orcas ferry landing to board the ferry at Orcas. If this would present a challenge, please take the 6:10 a.m. ferry to Orcas (arrives 7:35 a.m.).

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