



# ORCAS POWER & LIGHT COOPERATIVE

## 2010 BALLOT BOOKLET

*We get our power from you!*

Dear OPALCO Member-Owner:

**This is your 2010 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 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.

**Your Co-op is doing its part to save energy and money.** In our 2009 Member Survey, we found that a strong majority (90%) of OPALCO members have access to the internet, and most (82%) were willing to receive the annual report electronically.

Instead of mailing the 2010 Annual Report to our 11,000 members, it is available at [www.opalco.com](http://www.opalco.com). Printed copies of the report will be available in OPALCO offices, county libraries and senior centers. If you are not able to access the annual report otherwise, please give us a call at 376-3500 and we will send one out in the mail.

**Voting remains the same.** You can vote by absentee ballot, or cast your vote in person at the annual meeting. Election results will be announced at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting on the ferry on **Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**, and also at [www.opalco.com](http://www.opalco.com).

In addition to eliminating tons of paper waste (see the recycling bins at the post office filled with annual reports), OPALCO will save 25% on printing costs and an estimated 40% on postage.

We realize that our membership represents a diverse population of people with varying needs and preferences. We apologize if in our efforts toward greater efficiency and cost savings we have inconvenienced you. Please give us a call at 376-3500 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Your OPALCO Member-  
Owner-Employees*

**The 2010 Annual Meeting is EARLY  
due to the spring ferry schedule**

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

Breakfast served  
on the ferry



# 2010 BOARD ELECTION: DISTRICTS 3 & 4

OPALCO's governing board consists of seven directors 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): David Hylton and George Mulligan
- **District 2** (Orcas, Armitage, Big Double, Blakely, Fawn, Little Double, and Obstruction Islands): Roger Crosby 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

District 3 and District 4 Directors are up for election in 2010.

Absentee Ballots are enclosed with this report and must be received at OPALCO no later than Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at noon. Ballots can also be cast at the annual meeting on the ferry, Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. The election results will be announced at the annual meeting and subsequently published at [www.opalco.com](http://www.opalco.com) and in local papers.

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

In this year's election, incumbents Jim Lett and Bob Myhr are running for two positions in District 3. In District 4, nominee John Ashenurst and incumbent John Bogert are running for one position. Please see the following pages for statements from each candidate.

**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 effect all Co-op members.



Cast your votes for the OPALCO Board of Directors by mailing in your absentee ballot (deadline is noon on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>) or by attending the **73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting on the ferry** **Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** 9:45-11:15 a.m.

## DISTRICT 3

### JAMES LETT (INCUMBENT)

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Jim Lett was appointed at the beginning of 2009 to fill the remaining term of retiring OPALCO Director, Ed Marble. Since then, Jim has completed the five part certification program offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperation Association and received credentialed Director Certification. Additionally, Jim's 35 years of commercial insurance experience allowed him to provide counsel and guidance in the 2009 renewal of OPALCO's complex insurance program.

He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University, was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, and retired as Regional Vice President of a national property/casualty insurance company. For several years, he served as a member of the Washington State University's School of Business Advisory Board.

Jim and his wife Shanley have been full time residents of Lopez Island and active in the community for the past 15 years. They have been appreciative recipients of OPALCO's efficient, affordable electrical service and are members of the OPALCO Ambassadors, Project PAL, and subscribers of Green Power.

OPALCO has been a leader in supporting new technology, energy efficiency, and conservation methods such as plug-in electrical vehicles, solar and wind power for home use, automatic meter reading, and power management systems. Jim is committed to further strengthening OPALCO's programs and its reputation as a model northwest utility by promoting energy efficiency programs where members can participate and implementing proven cost effective technologies that support conservation, enabling OPALCO to continue providing affordable, efficient, reliable power while protecting our special environment.

### ROBERT MYHR (INCUMBENT)

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As director and past president of the OPALCO Board of Directors, I advocate the long established policy of the cooperative - to make reliable electric energy available to our members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy, good management, and the public interest. I believe this includes meeting the following objectives:

- Make sure our co-op's long-term plan provides for a strong and reliable transmission and distribution system, including the investment needed for repair and replacement of

lines, poles, transformers, sectionalizing equipment, and submarine cables.

- Continue cost- and energy-efficient conservation programs that encourage wiser use of electric power, support local innovative renewable generation, and prepare to serve a growing number of electric-powered vehicles.
- Expand our use of proven new technologies, including load management systems, remote meter reading, and automatic internet bill paying, to achieve costs savings and maintain co-op efficiency.
- Continue to place the distribution system underground, where economically feasible, to maintain both system reliability and the natural beauty of the islands.
- Work closely with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to successfully manage our long-term contracts for power and transmission to assure the lowest possible wholesale costs for our members.

I am a long-time property owner on the islands and have been a co-op member since 1967. My wife, Joyce, and I have been permanent residents of Lopez Island for the past 25 years. I am a member of the San Juan County Council, past executive director of The San Juan Preservation Trust, and active in several civic organizations. I respectfully ask for your support to continue my service on the Board of OPALCO.

## DISTRICT 4

### JOHN ASHENHURST

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John Ashenhurst and his wife Yvonne have been Crane Island residents for three years and lived in Deer Harbor, on Orcas Island for ten years before that. John has degrees from Princeton University and the University of Chicago and founded four technology companies, one that is very successful in electronic publishing. John has significant experience in management, budgeting, marketing, operations, publishing, development, and technology.

John has served on the boards of the Orcas Island Public Library, the Orcas Island Yacht Club, the Cayou Valley Home-owners Association, and now the Crane Island Association, where he is incoming water system manager.

Interested in conservation and the appropriate use of technology, John installed OPALCO's off peak heating system in his Deer Harbor house and since moving to Crane Island has used TED (The Energy Detective) to lower his usage by 40%. John believes that OPALCO is a well-run organization. Over the last ten years OPALCO has improved the efficiency and reliability of its services and has instituted prudent financial policies that ensure its long-term viability.

Three areas stand out that could benefit from a stronger OPALCO focus:

- OPALCO should become more effective in helping its members become significantly more energy efficient – a better alternative than acquiring more power.
- OPALCO should encourage and support the extension of its power system communication network into other community uses, for instance linking distributed infrastructure like water systems.
- OPALCO should improve its member communications especially in understanding the real issues and practical strategies of power generation, transmission, government regulation, conservation, and the connection to climate change.

## JOHN BOGERT (INCUMBENT)

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John Bogert is currently serving OPALCO as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board and is dedicated to the cooperative model as the best, most efficient and cost-effective method of supplying the island communities with reliable, low-cost electric power. A member of the Shaw Island community since 1988, John currently serves on the Shaw Inc. Board of Directors since moving to Shaw full time in 2006.

John brings technical experience and a strong commitment to conservation and energy efficiency to the Board. He holds degrees in Electrical Engineering from Princeton University and a Master's Degree in Electric Power Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and has extensive experience in the electric industry. John has also completed course work with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and is a "Credentialed Cooperative Director."

His work history encompasses all aspects of the small hydroelectric industry: development, operations, contract negotiations, control system design and manufacturing. John has worked with the NRECA as a consultant in rural hydroelectric development and has had the opportunity to work with small independent power producers, BPA and municipal utilities throughout the country.

John's focus as a board member is to ensure that OPALCO continues to provide our co-op members with safe, reliable, cost-effective electric power while remaining at the forefront of appropriate technology to achieve that end.

His priorities for OPALCO continue to be:

- Enhance and expand efforts to encourage and support energy efficiency and conservation
- Continuous monitoring of new power supply opportunities, both conventional and alternative, to meet the growth needs of our co-op
- Provide excellent communication and service to all our members
- Collaborate with community organizations, businesses and legislative entities to expand our knowledge base and achieve our cooperative goals

SET YOUR COURSE . . .

FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

*What is your energy savings plan?*

OPALCO'S 73<sup>RD</sup>

ANNUAL MEETING

ON THE GOOD SHIP W.S. FERRY

SATURDAY, MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

- \* A SHIP'S FEAST (FREE MEAL) FOR MEMBERS AND FAMILIES
- \* DISCOVER HOW TO SAVE \$\$ ON YOUR POWER BILL
- \* ELECT THE DIRECTORS WHO STEER THE SHIP
- \* GET A \$5 CREDIT ON YOUR BILL
- \* FIND TREASURE (GREAT PRIZES)



PICK UP YOUR GREEN TREASURE MAP - A GUIDE TO  
OPALCO'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICES - TO HELP  
YOU SAVE MONEY AND STEER YOUR HOUSEHOLD  
TOWARD A HEALTHY ENERGY FUTURE!



*Meeting Time: 9:45 - 11:15 a.m.*

*See back page for travel info*

ORCAS POWER & LIGHT COOPERATIVE: MEMBER OWNED AND OPERATED

# 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

## SATURDAY, MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

### *Travel Schedule:*

#### **ORCAS**

Register at Landing: **8:00 am**

Board Ferry: **8:45 am**

Arrive at Orcas: **11:40 am**

#### **SHAW**

Board Ferry: **9:10 am**

Register on board

Arrive at Shaw: **12:25 pm**

#### **LOPEZ**

Register at Landing: **8:40 am**

Board Ferry: **9:25 am**

Arrive at Lopez: **11:25 am**

#### **SAN JUAN**

Because of the spring ferry schedule, people coming from San Juan Island will sail to Orcas by chartered boats and get on the ferry. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.** Call 376-3549 to reserve the limited space. The chartered boats are *not* wheelchair accessible and riders must be able to walk up the ramp from the Orcas county dock to the Orcas ferry landing. Please call 376-3549 if you need special accommodations to participate in the meeting.

Arrive at Spring St. Landing: **7:10 am**

Board Charter: **7:20 am**

Register for Annual Meeting onboard

Disembark at Orcas County Dock: **8:30 am**

Board Orcas Ferry: **8:45 am**

Disembark at Orcas Landing: **11:40 am**

Board Charter: **11:50 am**

Arrive in Friday Harbor by **1:00 pm**



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