

# 2012 BALLOT BOOKLET

ORCAS POWER & LIGHT COOPERATIVE'S  
75<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
ON THE WASHINGTON STATE FERRY

SATURDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> 2012



*Celebrating 75 Years*  
of ENERGY INDEPENDENCE  
*in SAN JUAN COUNTY*



MEETING TIME:  
9:45 - 11:15 A.M.

## *Take Part in History*

- RECEIVE A \$7.50 CREDIT ON YOUR BILL JUST FOR SHOWING UP!
- RECOGNIZE THE CO-OP FAMILY MEMBERS WHO BUILT OUR CO-OP  
SPECIAL GIFTS FOR OUR:
  - 75 LONGEST-STANDING MEMBERS
  - PAST BOARD MEMBERS & OPALCO STAFF
  - MEMBERS WHO ARE 75 YEARS OR OLDER
- RECEIVE LIMITED EDITION 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GIFTS
- ENJOY A CATERED BRUNCH FOR CO-OP MEMBER FAMILIES
- ELECT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (ORCAS DISTRICT)
- WITNESS THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STATE OF THE CO-OP ADDRESS  
BY CHRIS THOMERSON, BOARD PRESIDENT
- PARTICIPATE IN A Q&A SESSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER RANDY J. CORNELIUS
- WIN GREAT DOOR PRIZES, INCLUDING SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS

Dear OPALCO Member-Owner:

**THIS IS YOUR 2012 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.

**NEW! ONLINE VOTING.** Members have asked for a way to vote online, and OPALCO has responded with a new online option 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 4<sup>th</sup>**. Members can also cast their votes in person at the annual meeting on the ferry on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Election results will be announced at the annual meeting and also online at [www.opalco.com](http://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, it is available online at [www.opalco.com](http://www.opalco.com). This year's report is a special 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Historical Publication. This collector's item will be distributed at the annual meeting, and limited copies of the report will be also available in OPALCO offices and county libraries.

**CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.** The history of power in our rural islands is steeped in the stories of the local people who dedicated their lives' work to creating the electric cooperative, to building the system across twenty islands, and to continually maintaining and improving the power grid and friendly offices that serve us today. Please join us in celebrating our co-op story by attending the annual meeting, attending the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House on your island (see page 7), and enjoying the special 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Historical Publication, timeline, story, photo and video galleries online at [www.opalco.com](http://www.opalco.com).

If you have a story to tell or memorabilia to share, it's not too late. Call Suzanne Olson at 376-3537. The historical collection will continue to grow online.

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!** *We get our power from you!*

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



## 2012 BOARD ELECTION: DISTRICT 2

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 Dauciuinas 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 2** are up for election in 2012.

Absentee Ballots are enclosed with this report and must be received online or via the mail no later than noon on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Ballots can also be cast in person at the annual meeting on the ferry, Saturday, May 5<sup>th</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 2. 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 2012 candidates nominated by committee are: Winne Adams (incumbent), Lance Evans and Chris Thomerson (incumbent).

**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.



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 4<sup>th</sup>) or by attending the **75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on the ferry** **Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**  
9:45-11:15 a.m.

# DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

## **WINNIE ADAMS** (INCUMBENT)

---



Winnie Adams moved to the San Juans in 1977, where she has served the community as a public school teacher, environmental educator and yoga instructor. She holds an M.A. from Stanford University. Two years ago she stepped onto the OPALCO Board to fill out Roger Crosby's term.

For many years she lived on Waldron Island and now divides her time between Waldron and Orcas. While living on Waldron she became interested in renewable energy technology. Since joining the OPALCO board she has been the board liaison with the MORE committee, a volunteer group of members who designed the program for locally generated renewable energy.

The chief challenges Adams sees as important to us in shaping our future involve:

- Better engaging our members in individual energy choices that help hold our load growth steady, thereby avoiding Tier II pricing.
- Expanding our fiber network to make use of the new technology for smart grid and AMR (automated meter reading) information. With this information we can increase our awareness of energy use patterns and reduce peak use spikes.
- Exploring the feasibility of greater broadband availability for community use.
- Continuing to offer good conservation and alternative energy programs.

Excited by this time of transition in OPALCO, Adams has worked to support policies and changes that favorably position our Co-op to effectively respond to current challenges. The OPALCO membership is especially well served by the following strengths:

- OPALCO is in sound financial condition.
- We have a strong management team and well-trained, ambitious staff capable of making bold steps. Linemen are extremely proficient. We have excellent engineers.
- We have improved our ability to make accurate local use forecasts.
- During the last few years, our new Energy Services Department developed a record that shows our membership is capable of making good use of energy conservation programs.
- Our excellent web page and social media presence inform our members of the programs we offer.

# LANCE EVANS

---



Lance Evans and his wife Janet Brownell have been residents of Orcas Island for 15 years. Supporting and giving back to the community through service have been important parts of Lance's time in the San Juan Islands.

Currently in his sixth year as the Executive Director for the Orcas Island Chamber of Commerce, he sits on the board of directors for the San Juan County Arts Council and San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau, serves as a Commissioner for the San Juan County Land Bank, and volunteers as an EMT with the Orcas Island Fire Department. Previously, Lance served on the Board of Directors for the Orcas Island Community Foundation, Orcas Island Medical Center, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services of the San Juan Islands, and other nonprofit organizations.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Lance graduated from UCLA in 1977 with a degree in Communication Studies. Prior to moving to Orcas Island, Evans worked in the entertainment industry as an executive with CBS and Turner Network Television in Los Angeles, Atlanta and New York City.

Lance feels OPALCO has done tremendous outreach to all the islands in recent years. Given his experience with the business community, he feels there is much to do in connecting with local businesses, allowing them to be more energy aware and save on associated costs. Broadband connectivity for the San Juan Islands will continue to grow as an issue for business and future economic development locally. OPALCO's leadership on this issue will provide another community benefit for all of San Juan County.

## **The 2012 Annual Meeting is EARLY due to the spring ferry schedule**

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

Brunch served  
on the ferry.



## CHRIS THOMERSON (INCUMBENT)

---



Chris Thomerson, currently serving as Board president, sees OPALCO as a crucial part of Island livability and is committed to providing our communities with safe, reliable utility services with exemplary resource stewardship at low cost.

As representative to the Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Chris actively encourages collaboration between nonprofit Rural Electric Cooperatives throughout the Pacific Northwest. He travels to Olympia and Washington DC when necessary to protect our local interests.

He brings technical experience and perspective to ensure we meet the challenges ahead, including technologies to efficiently manage our power distribution network; and encourage members to adopt sensible money saving energy efficiency measures.

Chris's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manchester in England was sponsored by a scholarship from the Eastern Electricity Board. He trained as a field engineer in the distribution system in north London, including system operations and generation technology.

Chris and his wife Lynn moved here from Eugene, Oregon, where Lynn taught as an Elementary School Librarian, after sailing in this area for many years in their 25' sailboat.

His business, developing team collaboration and creative decision making skills, provided trainings for major Northwest companies. He spent the best part of a year training BPA groups ranging from the top executives to field groups on the outskirts of their operations.

Chris wants OPALCO to be a leader in deploying appropriate cost effective technologies to increase reliability, safety and energy efficiency while protecting our uniquely beautiful and sensitive environment.

His priorities for OPALCO to achieve this continue to be:

- Harness appropriate technologies
- Work safely and effectively
- Promote energy efficiency

# OPALCO CELEBRATES 75 YEARS



*Early Generator Plant, Eastsound.*



*Jerry Cadden, Jack Cadden and Eber Bruns.*

**Please join us for 75th Anniversary Open Houses** over the summer. These events will include refreshments, limited-edition commemorative gifts for all attendees, and special recognition for the co-op family members on each island (longest-standing members, past and present OPALCO Board and staff members). OPALCO “elders” are invited to speak about their experiences and memories of the electrification of the islands.

## **June 4: San Juan Island**

Friday Harbor OPALCO Office

1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

## **June 20: Shaw Island**

Community Meeting Hall

1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

## **June 29: Orcas Island**

Eastsound OPALCO Headquarters

1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

The Eastsound Headquarters Open House will include the unveiling of a historical monument and permanent historical timeline display.

## **July 18: Lopez Island**

Lopez OPALCO Office

1:00 – 3:00 P.M.



## TRAVEL SCHEDULE:

### *Orcas*

Register at Landing: **8:00** A.M.

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

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

### *Shaw*

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

Register on board

Return to Shaw: **12:25** P.M.

### *Lopez*

Register at Landing: **8:40** A.M.

Ferry Leaves: **9:30** A.M.

Return to Lopez: **11:25** A.M.



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

### *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 and let us know if you need special accommodations to participate. The chartered boat is *not* wheelchair accessible. Riders must be able to walk up the ramp from the Orcas county dock to the Orcas ferry landing and board the ferry.

Arrive Spring St. Landing: **7:00** 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.

**For more information:**

**[www.opalco.com](http://www.opalco.com)**

**75<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
ON THE WASHINGTON STATE FERRY  
**SATURDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> 2012**