

2015 BALLOT BOOKLET

ORCAS POWER & LIGHT COOPERATIVE 78TH ANNUAL MEETING ON THE WASHINGTON STATE FERRY

SATURDAY MAY 2, 2015

Dear OPALCO Member-Owner:

This is your 2015 Ballot package. In this booklet, you will find:

- information on the candidates for election to the Board of Directors
- a member initiated bylaw amendment
- your official ballot — see voting options below
(with voter designation forms for partnerships/corporations*)
- ballot secrecy envelope
- reply envelope

* If your OPALCO membership is through a partnership or corporation, please complete the relevant form as printed on your ballot. If your membership is *not* a partnership/corporation, you can ignore those forms.

Election results are announced at the annual meeting and also online at opalco.com.

**All absentee ballots must be *received* by mail or online
no later than 10:00 AM PDT on Friday, May 1, 2015.**

VOTE ONE OF THREE WAYS:

- 1. VOTE ONLINE.** OPALCO offers secure electronic voting in partnership with Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS). This is the preferred method of voting.
- 2. VOTE BY SNAIL MAIL.** See the enclosed ballot for instructions. Be sure to SIGN THE FRONT OF YOUR REPLY ENVELOPE. Without your signature, your vote will not count.
- 3. VOTE ON THE BOAT.** Members can choose to cast their ballots in person at the Annual Meeting on the ferry on Saturday, May 2, 2015. Please do not bring your ballot to the annual meeting. A separate ballot is issued at the meeting.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR BALLOTS INTO THE OFFICE.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT ON PAPER, PLEASE MAIL YOUR BALLOT.

VOTING Q&A

WHO GETS TO VOTE?

Each *membership* gets one vote, no matter how many meters are attached to the membership, regardless of how many people are named on the membership. Each membership gets to vote in every election, regardless of their home district.

HOW MANY CANDIDATES CAN WE VOTE FOR?

Each member may select TWO candidates for the Board on their ballot and also vote YES or NO on the bylaw amendment.

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.

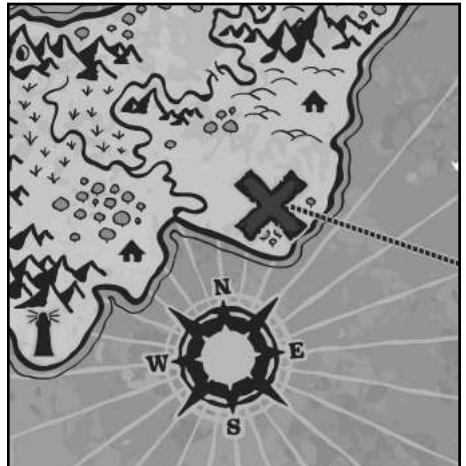
HOW DO YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT?

Please fill out the short survey on this year's ballot. Members are asked to state their preference for an electronic or paper ballot going forward. With this information in hand, we will no longer mail paper ballots to those who select electronic. This is a big cost savings for the Co-op, is less confusing for you, and helps us to limit our carbon impact.

WHERE'S MY ANNUAL REPORT?

The annual report is available online at www.opalco.com/annualreport/. This year, there is a treasure hunt embedded in the online report. Follow the instructions to be entered into a drawing for a \$50 bill credit.

Hard copies of the Annual Report will be distributed at the Annual Meeting, and a limited supply will also be available in OPALCO offices on Monday after the event.



ON THE 2015 BALLOT

2015 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, or appointed by the Board to fill out vacancies. 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 Glenna Hall
- **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):
Dr. Jerry Whitfield

Two board positions in District 2 are up for election in 2015. Please vote for any two candidates from 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 2015 candidates are:

- Winnie Adams (incumbent)
- Randy J. Cornelius
- Ed Sutton
- Chris Thomerson (incumbent)

MEMBER PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

Article IV – Meetings of Directors Section 3

“In addition, the cooperative shall maintain an email list to notify any Energy Member who signs up to be notified when any board meetings are called or scheduled and whether they are open to the Energy Members. Any amendments to these Bylaws shall be emailed to the same email list.”

Cost estimates and statements pro and con are included on page 10.

DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

WINNIE ADAMS (INCUMBENT)



After completing an M.A. from Stanford University, I moved to the San Juans in 1977. I have a background in environmental education and yoga instruction as well as classroom teaching. I joined the OPALCO Board in 2010 to fill out Roger Crosby's term. In 2012, I was elected to the board.

When I moved to Waldron in 1977, I taught in the school and built a small house. I now divide my time between Waldron and Orcas. While living on Waldron I became interested in renewable energy and installed solar power.

Since joining the board I have served on the M.O.R.E. committee, a volunteer group of members who designed and administer our locally generated renewable energy program. Recently we expanded our conservation and efficiency outreach by partnering with the San Juan Islands Conservation District.

The chief challenges I see as important to us in shaping our future involve:

- Better engaging our members in individual energy conservation. Our choices can make a collective impact to help steady the load draw, shave peaks and reduce energy waste to keep us in Bonneville Power Administration's lowest rate schedule.
- Continuing to offer good conservation and alternative energy programs and encouraging growth of locally generated energy through community solar installations.
- Fine-tuning our management of the new wholly owned company, Rock Island Communications.
- Most co-op improvements ahead involve communication. Our investment and build out of a fiber system is essential for communicating with the grid, with BPA, within our own system, and with our members.

In this time of transition the OPALCO membership is served by the following strengths:

- OPALCO is in sound financial condition.
- We have a strong management team and well-trained, ambitious staff.
- OPALCO continues to grow our new Energy Services Department, making good use of energy conservation programs.
- Our excellent web page and social media presence keeps our members informed with blogs of interest, informational and instructional videos.
- And our greatest strength, an alert, intelligent membership.



Randy has a passion for electric utilities and cooperatives that began when he was a teenager working in a warehouse for an electrical contractor. At age 22, he became a journeyman lineman working for various utilities and contractors until 1983. He then attended Oregon State University earning a BS degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Shortly after graduation, he moved to Sitka, Alaska where he accepted the position of Engineer & Supervisor of Generation.

In this position, he oversaw the operations and capital improvements of two hydro-electric dams. Soon he was promoted to Electric Utility Director. Then in 2002, Randy and his wife moved to Orcas Island to become the General Manager of OPALCO until his retirement in January 2015.

He has served on many boards; Alaska Rural Electric Association, Washington Rural Electric Association, Northwest Public Power Association and on the executive committee as vice president for Northwest Requirements Utilities (NRU). While working in Alaska, he spoke before both the State and U.S. congressional delegations regarding rural electric issues.

Randy supports Island Network (Rock Island Communications) as a for-profit entity delivering Internet throughout San Juan County, but feels strongly it must support itself financially. He is committed to working with staff to have Rock Island Communications running in the black and being fiscally strong enough to pay for its own maintenance and capital improvements projects.

As a director, he will work with his fellow board members to direct staff in long-range planning regarding electric utility infrastructure, maintenance and capital improvement projects that continue to keep OPALCO's service reliable and affordable. Finally, he supports the OPALCO Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program and will be committed to supporting and improving the program with a goal of having as many homes and businesses as energy efficient as possible.



Cast your vote for OPALCO Board of Directors online
or by mailing in your absentee ballot. Deadline for receipt is
10 AM on Friday, May 1, 2015

or by attending the
78th Annual Meeting on the ferry
Saturday, May 2, 2015
9:45-11:15 AM



Hello everyone. My name is Ed Sutton. My wife Carol and I have lived on Orcas Island for over 40 years. Our home is in Eastsound. We raised our three sons, Jim, Chris, and Scott here, they all graduated from Orcas High School in the late '80s. I was born and raised in the Philadelphia area, and graduated from Lehigh University in 1966 with a BS in Business Administration and a minor in mechanical engineering. I was employed for eight years by the Rohm and Haas Co. in the marketing and sale of Plexiglas until 1974.

That year, I purchased a food distribution business on Orcas and for nearly 40 years supplied restaurant products throughout San Juan County. My experience and participation in local, county, and State agencies is extensive and varied. My personal philosophy is that every citizen should participate in their community, and contribute to the vibrancy of their own future.

Orcas Power and Light is embarking on a new challenge, not unlike the rural electrification that transformed so many communities over 75 years ago. The Internet and everything encompassed by that technology will have a similar impact on our neighbors throughout San Juan County. I would like to offer my experience as a representative of the community to broaden the governance and oversight of OPALCO's programs in a manner that will emphasize transparency and openness in arriving at decisions that impact so many folks in the islands. Thank you for your consideration in choosing me to represent you.

- Eastsound Sewer and Water District Commissioner (13 1/2 yrs) CURRENT
- Eastsound Water Users Assn (8 years)
- San Juan County Charter Review Committee (Eastsound representative)
- Orcas Island School Board (8 years)
- San Juan County Board of Adjustment (4 years)
- San Juan County Ferry Advisory Committee (20+ yrs. in two periods)
- WA State Ferry Tariff Policy Committee (8 years)

PROJECT PAL thanks our Business PAL Partners

Washington Federal Bank • Islanders Bank • Key Bank
Orcas Island Community Foundation • Country Corner
And the many other businesses who round up every month

Round up for PAL! For an average of **JUST \$6/year**, you or your business can help a Co-op family in need stay warm all winter. Call 376-3500 or go online to **www.opalco.com** and sign up for Project PAL today.

CHRIS THOMERSON (INCUMBENT)



Chris Thomerson 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 a representative to the Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Chris actively encourages collaboration between non-profit 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' 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.

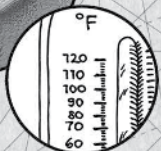
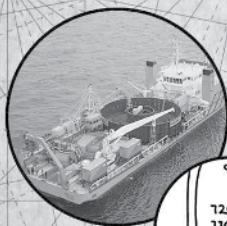
After sailing in this area for many years in their 25' sailboat, Chris and his wife Lynn moved here from Eugene Oregon, where Lynn taught as an Elementary School Librarian.

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. The challenge he sees for coming decades is to manage the dramatically increasing costs of submarine cables, while keeping our electricity bills among the lowest in the nation.

Chris will continue to work to ensure that OPALCO reliably supplies the cleanest, cheapest electricity possible along with advanced high speed internet services to drive our economy and improve island livability while protecting our uniquely beautiful and sensitive environment.

navigating change



Orcas Power & Light Cooperative
78th Annual Meeting
May 2, 2015

Are you paying for wasted energy? How much is that costing you?

**Schedule a Home Snapshot Energy Assessment
and find out.**

Get a **Home Snapshot Energy Assessment** for \$25 and get on the path to savings. If you need help funding improvements, Islanders Bank offers the **Get Connected** home improvement loan to make energy efficiency upgrades that will reduce your energy bills and make your home more comfortable.

Call 360-376-3500 (or go online) to schedule your **Home Snapshot Energy Assessment** today! Then step into your local Islanders Bank and pick up a **Get Connected** loan application.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE 2ND ANNUAL ENERGY FAIRS!

Solar home tours, efficiency and conservation workshops, prizes, light bulb exchanges, and more!

Live Clean, Live Light



- **May 30th** San Juan
Saturday 10 AM to 3 PM
Mullis Community Center
- **June 6th** Orcas Island
Saturday 10 AM to 3 PM
Eastsound Village Green
- **June 27th** Lopez
Saturday 10 AM to 3 PM
Lopez Center for Community and the Arts

CO-SPONSORED BY

OPALCO and Islands Energy



FOR MORE INFORMATION
San Juan Islands Conservation District
www.sanjuanislandscd.org

OPALCO Energy Savings Team
www.opalco.com/energy-savings

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE ON THE BALLOT

INITIATED BY MEMBER PETITION

There is a member-initiated proposal to amend OPALCOs bylaws on the 2015 ballot. The proposed change is included below exactly as presented by the member petition. Members are invited to vote “Yes” or “No.”

Article IV – Meetings of Directors Section 3

“In addition, the cooperative shall maintain an email list to notify any Energy Members who sign up to be notified when any board meetings are called or scheduled and whether they are open to the Energy Members. Any amendments to these Bylaws shall be emailed to the same email list.”

Estimated Cost to Members: \$300-\$500 to set up; \$975/year to administer

Pro Statement: “The board of directors are required to notify our cooperative’s member-owners of changes they make to our bylaws within 30 days of doing so. There is nothing that specifies how this notice is to be made so members have not been informed in past years of such changes. Providing interested members with email notification of bylaw changes is easy to do. Subscribing and unsubscribing to the automated e-mailing list is not costly. Given notice is sometimes published publicly the email address and subscriber do not have to be vetted as to whether they are a member or not. Subscription confirmation can be confirmed with a single click. Unsubscribing need only take a single click, as well. It is the members’ choice whether they sign up for such notifications. A rebuttal statement to the Con Statement is not allowed in the ballot, see <http://www.creativeconnections.com/OPALCObylaws.html> for more information.”

Author: Gray Cope, San Juan Island

Con Statement: “This amendment is not a prudent use of member resources. Notification of meetings and meeting materials - including any proposed changes to bylaws - are posted on our website. The staff time required to set up and maintain this additional layer of notification by email is a cost born by all members for the benefit of very few.”

Author: OPALCO Staff

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.





SAFETY IS OPALCO'S TOP PRIORITY

Your OPALCO crew needs room to work safely on devices in the field and those located on members' property. Please, keep shrubs and structures at least 10 feet away from the front side and at least 3 feet away from all other sides of OPALCO equipment, monuments, and cable facilities.

Thank you
for your
cooperation
and always
Be Safe!



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 is served on the ferry.**

**78TH ANNUAL MEETING
ON THE WASHINGTON STATE FERRY
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015**



TRAVEL SCHEDULE

ORCAS

Register at landing 7:00 AM
Ferry departs 8:45 AM
Return to Orcas 11:45 AM

SHAW

Ferry departs 9:00 AM
Register on board
Return to Shaw 12:40 PM

LOPEZ

Register at landing 8:30 AM
Ferry departs 9:30 AM
Return to Lopez 11:25 AM

SAN JUAN

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

Reservations Required

Call 376-3549 to reserve the limited space available on the chartered boat.

Registration begins at

Spring St. landing 6:45 AM
Board chartered boat 7:20 AM
Disembark at Orcas dock 8:30 AM

Orcas Ferry leaves 8:45 AM
Return to Orcas landing 11:45 AM

Chartered boat leaves Orcas 11:50 AM
Arrive Friday Harbor by 1:00 AM

** The ferry that leaves Friday Harbor at 6:10 AM is also an option.*



If you are disabled or need special accommodations to participate in the Annual Meeting on the ferry, please call Bev Madan at 376-3549.

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