



Northwest Public Power Association

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NWPPA honors 2017's Annual Award winners

VANCOUVER, WA. – On May 10, at its 77th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting in Sunriver, Ore., Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) presented the following awards to individuals within the public power community.

Homer T. Bone Award

This award honors a state or federal legislator (elected official) who has demonstrated sustained and remarkable work on behalf of public power.

Senator Patty Murray has been a tireless advocate for reliable, affordable, clean energy. She has fought to protect low-cost power in the Pacific Northwest, particularly with respect to maintaining the public power principles that underpin low-cost rates from Bonneville Power Administration. She has pushed back on federal overreach in the region; fought for oversight over energy markets to prevent manipulation that landed Washington state PUDs with unfair rate agreements during the California energy crisis; and has been a bold supporter of nuclear power. As a member of the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, she has also worked to secure funding to bring small modular reactors (SMRs) closer to commercial deployment.

Paul J. Raver Community Service Award

This award honors an individual or company who has demonstrated superior leadership in the betterment of cities, states, or regions.

NWPPA honored both **Silicon Valley Power** (Santa Clara, Calif.) and **Tom Tymchuk** of Central Lincoln PUD (Newport, Ore.).

Silicon Valley Power has been committed to providing the community with highly reliable power at low rates and has worked hard to diversify its resources and continually invest in renewable energy to further reduce its carbon footprint. The utility was the charter member



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forming the Northern California Power Agency in 1968, which worked with other municipal electric utilities in Northern California to gain access to wholesale transmission markets and jointly develop cost-effective generation resources. Over the years, SVP has worked to keep electric rates low for its customers and still has the lowest system average rates in California among utilities with more than 5,000 customers, while remaining committed to doing so with a power mix that exceeds California's Renewable Portfolio Standards.

Tom Tymchuk has made public service to the City of Reedsport (Ore.) and the region a cornerstone of his life. His community service includes serving four terms as mayor of Reedsport (1969-1977), many years on the Lower Umpqua Hospital Board of Directors, and serving eight full terms on the board of directors of the Central Lincoln People's Utility District (serving that board as president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer multiple times). He has represented Central Lincoln PUD on the Oregon PUD Association's board for several years, and served with distinction on the NWPPA Board of Trustees for two terms.

NWPPA President's Award

This award honors outstanding service and work on behalf of the industry and the Association.

Previously the manager of finance and administration, **Heber Carpenter** most recently served as general manager of Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative in Malta, Idaho. At PNGC Power, he served as secretary and treasurer until November 8, 2016, and as a director until January 24, 2017. Carpenter served on the NWPPA Board from 2011–2017 as a trustee, and served as Government Relations chair from 2016–2017 and as Resolutions Committee chair from 2015–2016. He has also served on various other board committees throughout the years.

John M. George Public Service Award

This award honors policymaking officers of a member system that have demonstrated remarkable service to public power.

Former Snohomish PUD Commissioner **David Aldrich** passed away on January 16, 2017. Aldrich was well regarded in Snohomish County (Wash.) for his unflagging commitment to public power and recognized as one of the strongest voices in the region for energy conservation for the past two decades. Aldrich began his first term in 2003 and was subsequently re-elected twice, until retiring from the board in December 2016. Under his direction, the PUD broke its own records for its highest energy savings—now enough to serve more than 75,000 homes annually.



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William “Bill” McCorie Distinguished Service Award

This award honors individuals who have served the interest of public power and NWPPA in an outstanding manner.

John Irwin Jr. is currently serving as director and has been on the Elmhurst Mutual Light & Power Board since 1976. He was born and raised in Tacoma, Wash., and has been an Elmhurst customer for nearly 37 years. He has worked in the electrical industry for 42 years and has been involved in community affairs, mainly with the scouting programs. Irwin has served on the board of the Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association for 13 years, including three terms as president. Irwin is also the past president of the National Electrical Contractors Association, Southwest Washington chapter.

Life Membership Award

This award is presented to policymakers and managers who are retiring from member utilities and have made notable contributions to the Association and public power.

This year there were six recipients: **Bradley G. Reeve** of Kotzebue Electric Association, Inc. (Kotzebue, Alaska), **Werner Buehler** of Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC) (Baker City, Ore.), **Karl Denison** of Mason County PUD No. 1 (Shelton, Wash.), **Roger Sparks** of Kittitas PUD No.1 (Ellensburg, Wash.), **T. James Davis** of Douglas County PUD (East Wenatchee, Wash.), and **Tom Tymchuk** of Central Lincoln PUD (Newport, Ore.).

Congratulations to this year’s award winners. Their work on behalf of the membership and the industry is greatly appreciated!

About NWPPA: NWPPA is an international association representing and serving 153 customer-owned, locally controlled utilities in the Western U.S. and Canada. The Association also serves over 300 associate members across the U.S. and Canada who are allied with the electric utility industry. For more information, visit www.nwppa.org, www.facebook.com/NWPPAssoc, or www.Twitter.com/NWPPAssoc.