

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Brenda Dunn (brenda@nwppa.org)

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(360) 816-1453

NWPPA Honors Curtis Condon with 2017 Lacy Peoples Award

Vancouver, Wash. – The Northwest Public Power Association’s 2017 Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference (NIC) Planning Committee has selected Ruralite Services’ Curtis Condon as this year’s winner of the Lacy Peoples Award for his lifetime commitment to the public power industry and remarkable work in the areas of marketing and communication. The award was presented to Ruralite Services on his behalf on Tuesday, September 19, at NWPPA’s NIC awards banquet at the Embassy Suites in Sacramento, Calif.

Condon worked for Ruralite Services and was in the public power business for 27 years until his retirement this July; Condon was their longest-tenured editor, holding the record at 25 years. During his time, he saw the *Ruralite* magazine circulation go from 250,000 to more than 440,000.

He was an advocate for public power communications, stressing to his staff that *Ruralite* magazine is here to serve the members.

“As a boss, Curtis was brilliant at finding ways to put staff in positions where they could grow, pushing them to discover skills they might not realize they have. He had a way of knowing what everyone was working on without anyone feeling like he was looking over their shoulder,” said *Ruralite* Assistant Editor Mike Teegarden. “He also always looked for ways to save utilities money on their communications needs. Profit was never his motivation, nor personal glory. He looked for ways to pass credit on to the utilities so their members would look favorably on them.”

In 2010, the Statewide Editors Association awarded *Ruralite* an Award of Merit for Best Magazine Design. In 2015, *Ruralite* and Condon were honored as the best statewide magazine, winning the prestigious George W. Haggard Memorial Journalism Award presented by the



Above: Curtis Condon. Below: Ruralite Services’ Victoria Hampton, Duy Mai, Megan McKoy-Noe, and Jennifer Brown accepted the 2017 Lacy Peoples Award on Condon’s behalf.





Northwest Public Power Association

9817 N.E. 54th Street, Ste. 200 • Vancouver, WA 98662
(360) 254-0109 • Fax (360) 254-5731
E-mail: nwppa@nwppa.org
Website: www.nwppa.org

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. In 2016, *Ruralite* received a Gold Award for Magazine Design as well as an Award of Merit for an editorial he wrote.

Condon is a Certified Cooperative Communicator and was a board member for the Statewide Editors Association until he retired. In 2015, he headed up a committee for Oregon to host the SEA Institute; it attracted statewide editors from around the country and helped shine a national spotlight on the Northwest.

First given to Lacy Peoples of Cowlitz PUD at the Consumer Services/Communications Conference in 1978, the award is now presented to recipients at the annual NIC. Current or former employees of NWPPA member utilities are eligible to receive this award. The NIC Planning Committee selects recipients based on accomplishments through at least 10 years of marketing and communication experience; at least 20 years of service to the industry; and promotion of public power through efforts such as community service and energy efficiency.

Recent Lacy Peoples Award winners include Barbara Johnson of Tillamook PUD (2016), Larry Owens of Silicon Valley Power (2015), and Teresa Lackey of Midstate Electric Cooperative (2014).

About NWPPA: *NWPPA is an international not-for-profit trade association representing and serving over 150 customer-owned, locally controlled utilities in the Western U.S. and Canada. The Association also serves approximately 300 associate members across the U.S. and Canada who are allied with the electric utility industry. Visit www.nwppa.org, follow us on [Twitter](#), and like us on [Facebook](#) for more information.*