



Northwest Public Power Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NWPPA Honors 2018's Annual Award Winners

VANCOUVER, WA. – Last week, at its 78th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting in Boise, Idaho, 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.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R–Alaska) has been a champion of public power rights during her time in public office, starting as an Alaska state representative and throughout her 15 years in the U.S. Senate. She was a co-sponsor of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Two years later, in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, Murkowski sponsored several improvements to spur renewable energy development, particularly for hydroelectric, marine hydrokinetic, and geothermal power projects. She is now the lead sponsor of the Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017, which is the first major effort to modernize energy law in over a decade.

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 three individuals this year: Gary Hicks (posthumously) of Asotin County PUD (Clarkston, Wash.), Bryan Wolfe of Umatilla Electric Cooperative (Ore.), and Randy Smith of Chelan PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.).

Gary Hicks served the Asotin County PUD and the community for 32 years. He was elected into office in 1984 at the same time the Asotin County PUD No. 1 was authorized by the voters. Previous to the authorizing vote, Hicks was a champion for the formation of the PUD, actively working and campaigning to see it become a reality. Since its inception, Hicks guided the PUD with exceptional leadership and commitment. His dedication to the philosophy of



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publicly owned utility districts and its customer-owners never wavered. At the time of his death, he was the only living PUD commissioner in Washington state to have helped successfully form a PUD and serve on its board of commissioners.

Bryan Wolfe of Hermiston, Ore., has represented District No. 3 on the Umatilla Electric Cooperative Board of Directors since 1997; he transitioned to board president in 2011. Wolfe has been a UEC Board officer during a period where the cooperative is expanding and rebuilding at a pace not seen at UEC in 40 years. Driven by growth in farming, food processing, and industry, UEC has become the largest electric cooperative in the 10 western states in terms of power sales. Wolfe has championed his city, state, and region through over 40 years of volunteer service. In the public power industry, he has served on local (UEC), state (ORECA), and national (NRECA) boards of directors.

Randy Smith has been a Chelan County PUD commissioner for 12 years. In that time, he has held every leadership role on the commission, including president. He was elected during a tumultuous time at the utility, providing a steady hand and reasoned approach. His wisdom helped guide the utility through the tough years of the 2008-11 recession, helping Chelan PUD rebound financially and in reputation with local customer-owners, as well as the broader region. The energy community outside of Chelan County also knows his deep commitment to public power. In 2017, he was secretary of the Washington Public Utility District Association, as well as chair of WPUA's Energy Committee.

NWPPA President's Award

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

NWPPA honored two individuals this year: Duke Harris of Clearwater Power Co. (Lewiston, Idaho) and Jim Petersen of Vigilante Electric Cooperative (Dillon, Mont.).

Duke Harris retired from the Clearwater Power Company Board of Directors on March 1, 2018, after serving over 39 years. Since joining the board in 1979, he had held the offices of president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer over the years. He had also completed the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership, and Director Gold Certifications. Harris was chosen by the Clearwater Power Board of Directors to be their Idaho Statewide Association representative as well as to represent the State of Idaho on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board of Directors, serving for six years. He also served on the NWPPA Board of Trustees.



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Jim Petersen has been a member of the Vigilante Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees for over 40 years. During that time, he has served as president, vice president, and trustee with the cooperative. He has also served as president and trustee of Montana Energy Alliance, a propane subsidiary owned partially by Vigilante Electric Cooperative. Petersen and his wife own a ranch and feedlot south of Dillon. He is a very strong family man, businessman, and community-involved leader.

William “Bill” McCorie Distinguished Service Award

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

NWPPA honored two individuals this year: Ben Frantz of Barrow Utilities & Electric Cooperative (Alaska) and Doug Hardy of Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative (Great Falls, Mont.).

For more than 46 years, **Ben Frantz** has served the public power industry through his long and distinguished career in the electric utility industry and through extensive volunteer service to his community and the industry. His career is a solid path of ascension at North Slope Borough Power & Light and later at Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative, where he has served as its general manager for nearly 20 years. He is now in his third, two-year term as president of the APA Board and he serves on the following committees: Executive Committee, Managers’ Forum, Government Affairs Committee, ACRE CARE Political Action Committee, and the Membership Committee.

General Manager **Doug Hardy** is well respected in the utility service by many. He is a leader and go-to guy for questions on anything pertaining to co-ops and power. Outside of Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative, Hardy has participated on various industry boards and committees over the years, including the Montana Electric Cooperatives’ Association Power Supply Committee, Legislative Committee (chairman), and Dues Formula Committee; ACRE Committee and its board of directors; NWPPA Board of Trustees; Mid-West Electric Consumers Association Board of Directors (vice president), Organization Committee (co-chair), and Water & Power Planning Committee; Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee; and NRECA Nominating Committee.



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Associate Member Plaque of Appreciation

This award honors an associate member for outstanding service and work on behalf of the Association and its membership.

Dan Kessler of Cooperative Finance Corporation has been a strong supporter of NWPPA over the years and his organization has been an annual meeting sponsor many times throughout the years. He has a long, successful history in the Northwest with utilities, having also worked at a utility before being scooped up by CFC as their Northwest representative. Many have seen him on the golf course, but more have seen and experienced his helpfulness and training over the years via CFC.

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 five recipients: **Bill Gaines** of Tacoma Public Utilities (Wash.), **John Gerstenberger** of Hood River Electric Cooperative (Ore.), **Terry Kelly** of Salem Electric (Ore.), **Mark Reddemann** of Energy Northwest (Richland, Wash.), and **Les Teel** of Columbia REA (Walla Walla, Wash.).

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 more than 150 customer-owned, locally controlled utilities in the Western U.S. and Canada. The Association also serves nearly 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.