

## Hood River's Libby Calnon Receives 2022 Champion of Communications Award

(Oct. 5) Congratulations to Hood River Electric & Internet Co-op General Manager Libby Calnon for receiving Northwest Public Power Association's Champion of Communications Award. The award honors an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to the public power industry, communications, and public involvement. The award was presented Sept. 21 during the Northwest Innovations in Communications (NIC) Conference at the Marriott Anchorage Downtown in Anchorage, Alaska.



“I am honored and humbled to have been chosen as this year’s recipient,” said Calnon. “I admire the communicators who have been chosen in the past, and hope to continue contributing in ways that reflect the excellence of their endeavors to our public power community.”

Calnon began working in the public power industry more than 20 years ago, starting at Columbia River PUD first as its communications specialist and then as its community and public relations supervisor. She is now the general manager of Hood River Electric & Internet Co-op, a position she has held since 2018. During her time in the industry, she has a long history of contributions to public utility communications as well as service to NWPPA. Calnon is currently a member of the NWPPA Board of Trustees, and she previously served on the NIC Planning Committee and presided as the 2017 NIC chair. During her time at Columbia River PUD, the PUD twice received the Tom Hougan Award for Overall Excellence in Communications. This year, under Calnon’s leadership, Hood River Electric & Internet Co-op won its first Excellence in Communications award—a first-place one in Website, Group A.

“I had the pleasure of working with Libby for the last 19 years on countless community events and committees,” said Sarah Johnson, Clatskanie PUD customer relations & member services manager. “She is a wonderful example of communications excellence and is a stellar champion for the importance of communications in public power.”

The NIC Planning Committee selects recipients of the award 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. Recent winners of the award (formerly the Lacy Peoples Award) include Lena Wittler of Clark Public Utilities (2021), Debbie Bone-Harris of Franklin County PUD (2019), and Joel Myer of Mason PUD 3 (2018).

**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 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](http://www.nwppa.org) or follow @NWPPAssoc on our social channels.

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