



NWPPA eBulletin | December 18, 2017

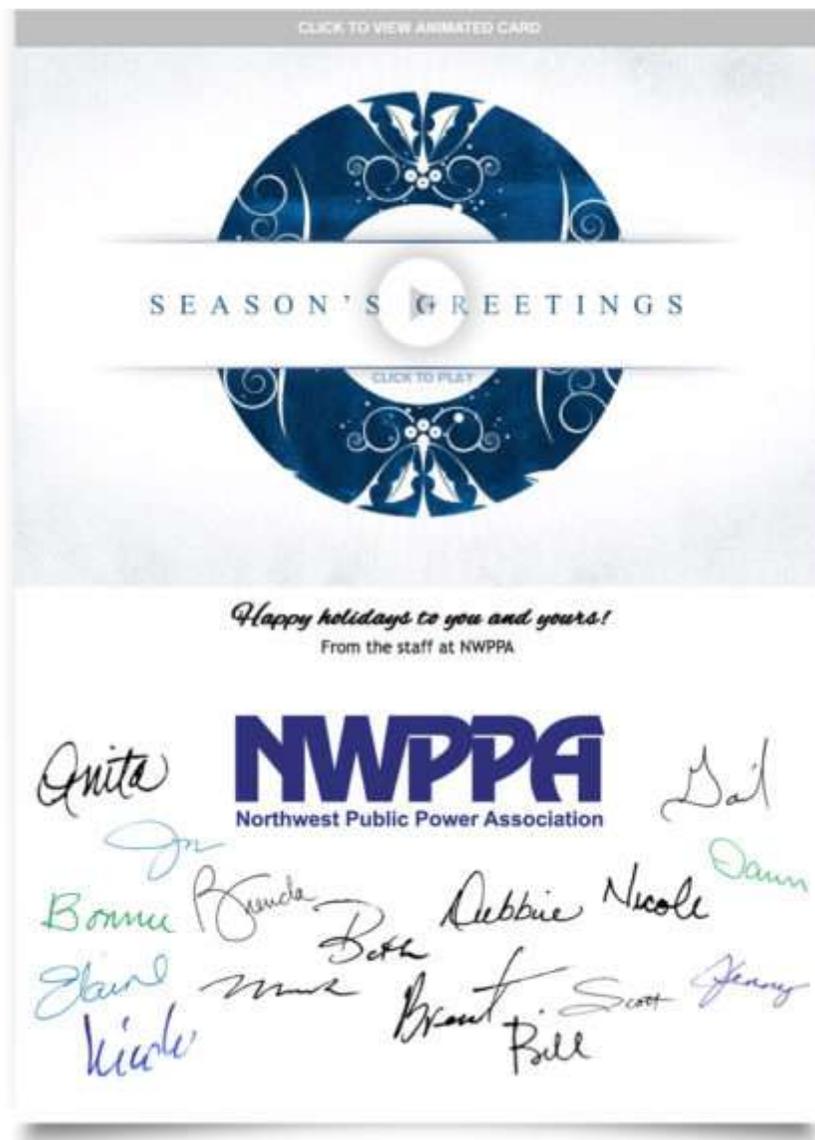
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# eBULLETIN

The word "eBULLETIN" is written in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. The "e" is lowercase and enclosed in a white circle. The "BULLETIN" part is all caps. The letter "I" in "BULLETIN" is replaced by a white silhouette of a person climbing a rope or ladder, with a diagonal line representing the rope or ladder.

There will be no eBulletin sent on Dec, 25. The next eBulletin will be sent on Jan. 2, 2018. Happy holidays from the NWPPA staff!

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## Legislative Announcements

GOP Strikes Deal on Final Tax Reform Bill; DOE Announces Reorganization; Secretary Perry Grants Extension on Grid Pricing NOPR; EPA Overhauls NSR Enforcement; House Passes Two Hydro Bills; and Senate Committee Holds Hearing on Energy Infrastructure.

[read more](#)

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## Public Power Industry Announcements

150 Distribution Lineworkers Needed in Puerto Rico Starting Jan. 8; PUD 1's Denison Receives WPUDA's Lifetime Achievement Award; Spilfogel Named Newest Member of Modern's Management Team; ORECA Elects Officers for 2018; Schneider Named Board President; Barry Bush Elected President of the Benton PUD Commission; Rust Steps Down as President of

Northwest Power Pool; Kalispel Tribe of Indians Creates New Electrical Utility Company; Governor Walker Appoints Members of Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team; Benton PUD Receives Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting; Whatcom and Wahkiakum PUDs Report Clean Audits; Grant PUD Adopts Budget Reflecting Decrease in Net Expenditures; EPUD Powers Up Scholarship Program; SMUD Announces Recipients of \$400,000 in Community Sponsorships; OPALCO Bills Go Up in January; Anglers Remove 191,000 Salmon-Eating Pikeminnow from Columbia and Snake Rivers; and Power Play: How a Small Co-op Wants to Open Nevada's Electricity Market and Own It.

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## Associate Member Announcements

CoBank Announces 2018 Board Officers; AEG Founding Member EnerSys® Supports Boston Launch; and ElectraNet Selects OSI Technology for a New Transmission Management System

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## Call for NWPPA Award nominations

Receiving an award from your industry peers is a high honor and NWPPA is proud to provide the avenue to recognize individuals and organizations throughout our membership. Below is a brief description of the annual awards offered by NWPPA. Please give serious consideration to nominating individuals and/or organizations for the ***Life Member Award, Paul J. Raver Community Service Award, John M. George Public Service Award, Wm. "Bill" McCrorie Distinguished Service Award*** and the ***Homer T. Bone Award*** for a federal legislator's lifetime work on behalf of public power.

**New this year** – utilities have several ways to access nomination forms. You may use the attached fillable nomination form PDF included below or you can also submit nominations for an award by using NWPPA's Survey Monkey nomination forms. Here are links to all Survey Monkey nomination forms:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LifeMemberAward>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PaulJRaverCommunityServiceAward>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JohnMGeorgePublicServiceAward>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WmMcCrorieDistinguishedServiceAward>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HomerTBoneAward>

NWPPA's Awards Committee will consider all award nominations at its March 2018 meeting.

**Deadline for nominations is January 31, 2018.** Here are eligibility requirements for the following awards:

Click here to [view a PDF of the nomination form](#)

read more

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## Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Check out NWPPA's class offerings in the *eCatalog of Events*. Click on the button below.

Don't miss these upcoming training events:

- [Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Training for Utility Personnel](#)  
January 8, 2018 in Seattle, WA
- [Situational Self Leadership](#)  
January 17-18, 2018 in Vancouver, WA
- [Staking Technician Certification Program - NESC & Utility Specifications](#)  
February 5-7, 2018
- [Leadership Skills #2 - Leadership Challenges](#)  
February 7-8, 2018
- [Staking Technician Certification Program - Obtaining Permits](#)  
February 8-9, 2018
- [Staking Technician Certification Program - Phase 2 with Transformer and Conductor Sizing](#)  
February 12-16, 2018
- [Warehousing - Overview, Shipping and Receiving and Safety](#)  
February 13-14, 2018

- [Communication Tune Up Webinar Series - All Three Sessions](#)  
February 13- April 17, 2018
- [Senior Leadership Skills Series – All Five Sessions](#)  
February 27 through December 5, 2018
- [Power Diversion Workshop](#)  
February 27, 2018

**\*\*ATTENTION 2018 E&O EXHIBITORS** - NWPPA has been notified that some exhibitors for the April 2018 Engineering & Operations Conference have been contacted by an individual offering to help them register for early hotel room specials. NWPPA **has not** contracted with anyone to do this. **Do not** give them any credit card information and just hang up. Beware there are people out there always looking for a scam!

[Event Catalog](#)

We are public power. We are  
**MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER.**

[LEARN MORE](#) ►



## Industry Calendar of Events

A list of upcoming industry events and meetings.

[read more](#)

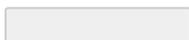
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## RFP's and RFQ's

**Utilities:** NWPPA offers its utility members the opportunity (at no cost) to post RFPs and RFQs on our website at no charge. Reach out to NWPPA's almost 4,000 associate member contacts that supply goods and services to the utility industry and might be interested in responding to your utility RFP/RFQ. To post your RFP/RFQ, visit our [RFP/RFQ page](#). For more information, contact Debbie at [debbie@nwppa.org](mailto:debbie@nwppa.org) or Mark at [mark@nwppa.org](mailto:mark@nwppa.org).

**Associate Members:** Make sure to check out NWPPA's RFP/RFQ Web page to view utility RFP listings. Listings are posted as they are received by NWPPA.

**New RFPs posted December 12, 13, 14, 2017!**



[read more](#)

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## Recent Industry Jobs

View the job opportunities posted to NWPPA's website in the past week.

[read more](#)

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## On This Day in History

Slavery Abolished in America; Director Steven Spielberg Born; The Tokens Earn a #1 Hit with “The Lion Sleeps Tonight”; and Nixon Announces Start of “Christmas Bombing” of North Vietnam.

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## Like us on Facebook

Don't forget to like us on Facebook so you can keep up with what's happening at NWPPA, utility news, and other items of general interest. Visit [www.facebook.com/NWPPAssoc](http://www.facebook.com/NWPPAssoc) and like us today.

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## **GOP Strikes Deal on Final Tax Reform Bill**

*Update provided by Meguire Whitney*

On December 13, Republican members of the tax reform conference committee reached agreement on how to resolve differences between the House and Senate bills. The final bill is expected to cut individual and corporate tax rates while eliminating many tax credits and deductions. Unlike House and Senate bills that cut the corporate rate to 20 percent, the conference bill is expected to set the rate at 21 percent in order to generate enough revenue to avoid eliminating some popular tax credits and deductions.

While text of the final bill has not yet been released, it is reported to maintain existing energy tax credits, such as the credit for electric vehicles and the wind production tax credit, but would not include the NWPPA-supported fix for the nuclear PTC. Further, it is expected to fully repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax, which combined with a lower corporate rate would have undermined the value of energy credits. Some energy provisions may be dealt with in a separate extenders package, but it is not yet clear when that might come together.

The bill is expected to preserve the tax exemption for municipal bond interest, but it is unlikely that the exemption will remain for advance refunding bonds after both House and Senate bills eliminated it. Municipal Bonds for America, of which NWPPA is a member, has pushed for a one-year delay to allow more time to potentially restore the exemption.

The text of the final bill and conference report was expected to be released on December 15. The Senate could vote on the bill as early as today, December 18, with the House expected to follow suit closely thereafter, and the president likely to sign the bill before Christmas. While it's expected to easily pass the House of Representatives, Republicans cannot afford more than two defections in the Senate where their majority is more narrow and several senators' votes are uncertain.

## **DOE Announces Reorganization**

*Update provided by Meguire Whitney*

On December 15, the Department of Energy announced it would reorganize its offices to split the role of the current undersecretary for science and energy into two positions. Power marketing administration offices will still report directly to the secretary; some customers had expressed concerns that a reorganization could place an additional layer of bureaucracy on the agencies.

# Secretary Perry Grants Extension on Grid Pricing NOPR

*Update provided by Meguire Whitney*

In separate news, on December 7, Kevin McIntyre was sworn in as chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and immediately filed a request for a 30-day extension from the DOE regarding its directive to allow coal and nuclear plants to recover their full cost of service in most organized markets. McIntyre argued in his request that the additional time is necessary for new commissioners to come up to speed on the voluminous comment record. DOE Secretary Perry granted the request late on December 8 in a letter that reiterates the urgency of FERC action on the proposal.

FERC will now have until January 10 to act on the proposal, which it can accept, reject, or modify. The request for extension may indicate that Chairman McIntyre is cool to providing support for these generators through an interim plan, which had been floated by Commissioner Neil Chatterjee as acting chairman.

## EPA Overhauls NSR Enforcement

*Update provided by Meguire Whitney*

On December 7, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Pruitt issued a memo regarding the enforcement of New Source Review requirements. The NSR program ensures that major modifications to power plants do not result in significant changes to the known emissions of that plant. Utilities are required to obtain permits before beginning construction that include estimates of the change in emissions, which can be burdensome.

Pruitt's December 7 memo indicates that the agency will no longer conduct its own reviews of emissions estimates; it will instead rely solely on the utility's estimate unless there is a gross error. On December 11, the Supreme Court declined to hear a related, high-profile case brought by DTE Energy in which the EPA brought an enforcement action because DTE failed to properly project emissions, even though actual emissions had not increased. It is not clear whether the court's decision was a result of the move by EPA.

## House Passes Two Hydro Bills

*Update provided by Meguire Whitney*

On December 12, the House of Representatives passed by voice vote two bills to promote hydropower development. The Promoting Hydropower Development at Existing Nonpowered Dams Act (H.R. 2872) would allow FERC to make licensing requirement exemptions for hydropower projects at existing dams. The

Promoting Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Hydropower Act (H.R. 2880) would promote closed-loop pump storage projects, connected to reservoirs, over a free-flowing natural waterway. The bill would limit FERC's authority to only impose licensing conditions that are necessary to protect public safety; or are reasonable, economically feasible, and essential to protect fish and wildlife resources.

Although the bills were seen as non-controversial at the time of the vote, last-minute negotiations altered the bill in ways that concern hydro-focused trade groups such as the National Hydropower Association. It is not yet clear what prospects the bills have in the Senate or whether there will be an opportunity to modify them. NWPPA has supported advancing hydropower interests generally and focused on the broader relicensing reform bill that passed the House last month.

## Senate Committee Holds Hearing on Energy Infrastructure

*Update provided by Meguire Whitney*

On December 12, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing on examining the permitting processes at FERC and the Department of the Interior for energy and resource infrastructure projects. The Administration has promised lawmakers to improve the pace of environmental reviews for energy and infrastructure projects, though witnesses said this is easier said than done. While they want to speed up the review process, they find it equally important to protect the environment from the effects of these projects. James Carson, Interior's associate deputy secretary, said the agency is looking for ways to be more efficient. He cited their goal of streamlining reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act. Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said that the required environmental impact statement under NEPA takes 4.5 years on average to process. Carson agreed, stating that "a lot of contractors get paid by the page."

Terry Turpin, head of FERC's Office of Energy Projects, said the biggest problem with permitting is decentralization, and that "there's a permitting authority with different agencies each with a different mission or take on the infrastructure." The House has already passed two bills to streamline permitting for hydropower and for natural gas pipelines, though concerns from Democrats about environmental standards could prevent the bills from passing the Senate.

# 150 Distribution Lineworkers Needed in Puerto Rico Starting Jan. 8

## *Update provided by American Public Power Association*

As you know, the island of Puerto Rico is still struggling to recover after the utter devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September. Hundreds of thousands are still without power, nearly 100 days later.

We at the American Public Power Association have been working hard to support our member, the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, in the daunting task of power restoration. Since September, various public power utilities have sent personnel and equipment to the island. Our federal government partners (and their contractors), investor-owned utilities, and cooperatives are all pitching in to help.

Last week, seven incident management teams were set up to advance the restoration work in PREPA's seven regions. One of these teams, tasked with overseeing restoration in the Carolina region, is made up of public power personnel from Salt River Project in Arizona and Austin Energy in Texas. They have volunteered to be in Puerto Rico for 60 days, knowing they will be away from home and family over the holidays. We cannot thank them enough.

PREPA, through Carlos Torres, the storm restoration coordinator appointed by Gov. Rossello, is now calling for an additional 1,050 distribution lineworkers to help the troops on the ground. On behalf of the Association's Mutual Aid Working Group, we are asking for your help.

**We are seeking 150 public power personnel to support the incident management team in Carolina. You are badly needed.** Mike Hyland, APPA's senior VP of Engineering Services, was in Puerto Rico last week and reported on how he saw a group of people in San Juan shed tears of joy and dance in the streets when their power was turned back on after being out for nearly 100 days. Hyland says the destruction across the island is unbelievable and getting the poles back up and turning the lights on will take many hands and many months.

**If you can send lineworkers — even a few — with bucket trucks, for 30-60 days starting January 8-15, please let us know right away.** Give us an initial estimate of how many workers you can send by providing information in this [spreadsheet](#). If you can do this today, Monday December 18, by 5 p.m. EST, it would be most helpful. Remember, our goal is to have at least 150 public power lineworkers deploy at this time.

Your lineworkers will work directly under the industry-led Incident Management Teams. Your utility will be able to recover costs under the Memorandum of Understanding negotiated between the electric industry and PREPA. You will of course have questions on logistics and the Puerto Rico team is working to provide answers. But the first step is to know how you are willing to help.

I urge you to consider how you can support this massive mutual aid effort during this season of giving — every little bit counts. If you have any questions, email our team at [MutualAid@PublicPower.org](mailto:MutualAid@PublicPower.org). Thank you for your consideration.

**Complete the form [here](#).**

## **PUD 1's Denison Receives WPUA's Lifetime Achievement Award**



*(L-R) Commissioner Mike Sheetz, PUD Attorney Rob Johnson, Commissioner Ron Gold, Melanie & Karl Denison, General Manager Steven Taylor, Senator Tim Sheldon, Commissioner Jack Janda*

At the annual conference of the Washington Public Utility Districts Association in Spokane earlier this month, former Mason County PUD No. 1 commissioner Karl Denison was presented with the association's Lifetime Achievement Award, citing Denison's exceptional leadership and commitment to the philosophy and purpose of the association and public utilities. General managers Doug Miller of Pacific County PUD and Bob Geddes of Lewis County PUD were also recipients of the award.

Denison thanked the PUD 1 Commission and staff, sharing how honored he was to be nominated for the award by both PUD 1 and Energy Northwest, for whom Denison was a

member of their Participant Review Board for several years. Denison served 12 years as a PUD 1 commissioner, representing District 1. Addressing the crowd of PUD commissioners, managers, and executives, Denison reflected on Washington state energy policy urging the utility leaders to "always ask questions and don't give up local control."

Also notable, another former PUD 1 commissioner, and current state senator, Tim Sheldon was honored with the Legislative Champion Award for his work to promote public utility ratepayers' interests in the state legislature. The WPUA presenter expressed gratitude to Senator Sheldon, specifically noting, "Your voice and leadership in seeking broadband access to unserved and underserved areas of the state demonstrates your commitment to the people of Washington and PUDs."

# Spilfogel Named Newest Member of Modern's Management Team



Modern Electric Water Company (Spokane Valley, Wash.) is proud to announce and welcome Carrie Spilfogel as the newest member of its management team.

As the human resources generalist/executive assistant to the general manager, Spilfogel's responsibilities include managing recruitment, payroll, benefits/compensation, professional development, legal compliance, and providing executive level support to General Manager Joe

Morgan.

Spilfogel earned her Bachelor of Science in health administration from the University of North Florida, before relocating to Spokane. Prior to joining the Modern family on June 12, 2017, she held the role of HR specialist for a local manufacturer in Spokane Valley. She is a member of the Inland Northwest Society of Human Resources Management's Spokane chapter and NWPPA's Labor and Employee Relations Group.

"I am excited to have started this new opportunity, I truly enjoy working for Modern as HR generalist/executive assistant to our GM," said Spilfogel. "I look forward to working with our employees and management team to further develop Modern's commitment of serving reliable electric and water utility services in our community."

## ORECA Elects Officers for 2018; Schneider Named Board President

Dave Schneider, general manager of Midstate Electric Cooperative in La Pine, Ore., was elected to be the new president of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board of Directors. The election took place at the 75<sup>th</sup> ORECA Annual Meeting on November 30, 2017, in Salem. Schneider succeeds Lane Electric Director Chris Seubert who stepped down after the customary two years and will continue to serve on the Executive Committee.

The 2018 ORECA slate of officers includes: President Schneider; Vice President Bob Durham, director, Wasco Electric Cooperative; Secretary/Treasurer Bob MacPherson, director, Umatilla Electric Cooperative; Executive Committee At-Large Alicia Bonesteele, director, Salem Electric; Executive Committee At-Large Shirley Cairns, director, Douglas Electric Cooperative; and Immediate Past President Seubert.

ORECA's mission is to represent the legislative and regulatory interests of Oregon's 18 not-for-profit consumer-owned electric cooperatives.

## **Barry Bush Elected President of the Benton PUD**

### **Commission**

Benton PUD (Kennewick, Wash.) Commissioner Barry Bush was elected president of the Benton PUD Commission for 2018. Jeff Hall was elected vice president and Lori Sanders was elected secretary. Bush became commissioner for Benton PUD in January 2013. He resides in Kennewick.

Benton PUD is directed by a three-member board of commissioners elected by citizens of Benton County. Each commissioner represents a different sector of the county and serves a six-year term. The election of officers takes place annually.

## **Rust Steps Down as President of Northwest Power Pool**

After more than 17 years of devoted service to the Northwest Power Pool Corporation, Jerry Rust is stepping down from his role as president of the NWPP Corporation, effective December 31, 2017. Rust will now serve as special assistant to NWPP Corporation Chair Hardev Juj.

The NWPP Corporation Board will engage a search firm to help identify qualified candidates to succeed Rush; Juj will serve as interim head of the NWPP Corporation during the transition. Rush and Juj will work with the staff to maintain the highest quality of service to its customers, and the board is fully committed to a seamless transition.

If you have any questions, you are welcome to direct them to Juj at (253) 576-8637 or Hardev.Juj@gmail.com.

## **Kalispel Tribe of Indians Creates New Electrical Utility**

### **Company**

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians is proud to announce it continues its cultural connection to the region's rivers by establishing its own electric utility company to service its Airway Heights property. Kalispel Tribal Utilities began officially providing electricity and natural gas to Tribal businesses on October 1, 2017, resulting in energy cost savings and expansion of economic development opportunities for



*(L-R) David Meyer, Avista Utilities; Raymond Pierre, Kalispel Tribe of Indians; Elliot Mainzer, BPA; and John Francisco, Inland Power & Light.*

the Tribe. The signing ceremony on December 12 was a public celebration of the key partnerships between the Tribe, BPA, Avista, and Inland Power & Light.

The Energy Policy Act of 1992 paved the way for tribes across the country to form their own utility companies to serve tribal lands; provide employment; support conservation and resource development; and improve utility infrastructure and service. For the past 10 years, the Kalispel Tribe has been exploring this option and recently signed an agreement to purchase wholesale hydroelectric power

from BPA starting in October 2017.

“The Kalispel Tribe has always relied upon the great rivers of the region to sustain our people and our culture,” said Kalispel Tribal Chairman Glen Nenema. “Our formation of a tribal utility and purchase of hydroelectric power generated at the dams on our rivers is a modern way to continue our ancient cultural connection to the rivers and to remain a protector and participant in all regional decisions affecting the Columbia River and its tributaries.”

The Tribe’s businesses located in Airway Heights have been served for many years by Inland and Avista. Working in cooperation with those companies, the Tribe will continue working to acquire Inland- and Avista-owned facilities on tribal lands in Airway Heights and construct other needed facilities.

Find out more about the Kalispel Tribe’s rich cultural history and their progression at [www.kalispeltribe.com](http://www.kalispeltribe.com).

## **Governor Walker Appoints Members of Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team**

On December 12, Alaska Governor Bill Walker appointed 15 public members and 5 ex-officio members of the Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team, established in October by Administrative Order 289. Gov. Walker announced the team following an extensive internal review of nearly 100 applications. The team will focus on mitigation, adaptation, research, and response for Alaska.

“Naming our team is another critical step in advancing meaningful climate policy,” Gov. Walker said. “I am proud to present a motivated group of leaders, each of whom brings a range of expertise and interests to the table. Our team members not only represent a breadth of experience across the state from the North Slope to

the Southeast, but also have strong networks and resources spanning from Alaska to the rest of the world, giving us a voice in the global dialogue on climate change.”

To build upon past climate policy initiatives while also encouraging new ideas, the team includes six members who were involved with the former Sub-Cabinet on Climate Change. In addition to current and former leaders from local and tribal governments, the group has two emerging leaders who are passionate about climate solutions that will protect and empower future generations.

Lt. Governor Byron Mallott has been appointed by the governor to chair the leadership team.

The first meeting of the team takes place today, December 18, 2017, in Anchorage. The Institute of the North, who has played a key support role for previous efforts such as the Alaska Arctic Council Host Committee, will serve as secretariat for the team. The team will provide the governor and his cabinet with recommendations and guidance on climate change on an ongoing basis.

[Click here](#) for the Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team members.

## **Benton PUD Receives Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**

For the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Benton PUD (Kennewick, Wash.) received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for Benton PUD’s 2016 comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a governmental entity and its management. The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a non-profit professional association serving approximately 19,000 government finance professionals.

## **Whatcom and Wahkiakum PUDs Report Clean Audits**

Wahkiakum PUD (Cathlamet, Wash.) recently completed their 2015-2016 Accountability Audit and Financial Audit. The PUD reports both were clean audits.

In addition, Public Utility District No. 1 of Whatcom County (Ferndale, Wash.) announced that, for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row, another clean *Financial Statements Audit Report* has been issued by the Washington State Auditor's Office.

The audit covered calendar years 2015 and 2016, which were years of operations and facility maintenance and capital infrastructure activity for the District.

Finance Director Annette Smith said, "By continuing to follow policies in place, with dedication and hard work, it takes the whole staff to successfully pass an audit. The quality of all of our employees continues to place the District in a solid position moving forward to ensure excellent service to our customers and community."

## **Grant PUD Adopts Budget Reflecting Decrease in Net Expenditures**

Last week, Grant PUD (Ephrata, Wash.) commissioners unanimously adopted a \$274.2 million budget for 2018 that reflects a \$33 million decrease in net expenditures from 2017.

The budget anticipates a positive bottom line of \$57.3 million which will be reinvested in electric generation, delivery, and environmental assets. The budget also furthers goals to keep the utility financially strong and energy prices as affordable as possible for customers.

"Our 2018 budget delivers on our customer's expectation that we provide reliable and affordable energy," said PUD General Manager Kevin Nordt. "Our healthy local economy depends on affordable power. Grant PUD's low rates are a major draw for businesses moving to our area, leading the way to more job opportunities and services for residents across our county. That's just one of the reasons we're committed to keeping prices low because we know the vitality of our region depends on it."

The approved budget contains \$139.6 million for capital spending on projects that include continued rehabilitation of the aging generators and turbines at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams; needed electric system improvements pushed by the county's growing demand for electricity; the utility's new advanced meter program; and new recreation amenities.

The approved budget meets commission goals of managing overall costs within a small, predictable 2-percent annual increase in electric rates which are slated for implementation this spring. Commissioners will review this rate recommendation and give the public opportunities for input before taking action.

## **EPUD Powers Up Scholarship Program**

The EmPOWERing Scholarship program of Emerald People's Utility District (Eugene, Ore.) just got a power boost; the board of directors voted to more than double annual scholarship giving to \$15,000.

"EPUD was born from the community we serve. It makes sense that we invest back into our customers living in our district," said Kevin Parrish, president of Emerald PUD's board of directors.

Scholarships are available to youth starting and continuing their college or trade school education as well as adults seeking second career training, said Patty Jo Angelini, EPUD public relations coordinator.

"A successful utility draws on the talents of people with a variety of skills. We need engineers, energy efficiency experts, and accountants. But we also need communicators, graphic designers, and customer service-oriented problem solvers. We would like our customers to see their utility as a great place to work and use their skills," Angelini said.

Applications may be completed online or by submitting a completed paper application the end of January 2018.

## **SMUD Announces Recipients of \$400,000 in Community Sponsorships**

On December 14, SMUD announced the recipients of its inaugural Shine community-sponsorship program. Shine is a new program designed to improve and revitalize neighborhoods in the Sacramento, Calif., region. Shine awards range from \$5,000 to \$100,000, and all 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) organizations within SMUD's service territory were eligible to apply. Awards this year totaled \$400,000.

"We're passionate about helping improve the neighborhoods in our region," said SMUD CEO and General Manager Arlen Orchard. "Because we're community owned and not for profit, everything we do is for the benefit of our customers. Shine has given us the chance to learn what our neighborhoods need most, so we can work with other local nonprofits to make positive, lasting changes in ways that our customers will see and experience every day."

SMUD received a wide range of applications and the selected projects were able to successfully demonstrate collaboration and the potential for broad neighborhood impact. Winners are located all over Sacramento County and most of the proposals fit within the following categories: neighborhood revitalization or cleanup; STEM education (science, technology, engineering, and math); environment, energy-efficiency, and energy conservation; and general beautification.

Click [here](#) for the list of winners.

Each year SMUD contributes approximately \$2 million in cash and in-kind services to community based organizations. SMUD's year-round community sponsorship program will continue to fund small events and programs throughout the year. Applications for the 2018 Shine program are expected to open in May.

## **OPALCO Bills Go Up in January**

When OPALCO (Eastsound, Wash.) members open their bills in January, they will be about \$7 higher. Most of the increase is driven by the 2017 installation of George (the new \$15M submarine cable named after George Goff), inflation, and BPA rate increases.

This change represents a 5-percent increase in rates and will be applied equally between the facility charge and the energy usage portion of member bills, for a total of around \$7 more per month (based on the average residential monthly household usage).

"The board continues to study the OPALCO rate structure to deliver its services at a reasonable cost to its members," said Board President Vince Daciunias. "And we went through a rate review process in 2017, with co-op member participation, to make sure we are as lean on expenses as we can be without compromising reliability and safety."

In 2018, OPALCO is scheduled to conduct a cost-of-service study to ensure its rate structure is evenly distributing costs to co-op members. The last cost of service study was in 2014.

The budget forecast for the next five years projects a similar increase for each of those years as well. While the cost of living in San Juan County continues to rise, utility costs (OPALCO included) show a smaller increase than inflation of other necessary household expenses such as housing and groceries.

OPALCO does its best to predict energy costs from year to year, but weather variations make this a challenge. Members will see a credit on their bill this December since last winter was colder than expected, with higher than expected revenue. As a member-owned non-profit cooperative, OPALCO strives to keep member dollars in member pockets.

## **Anglers Remove 191,000 Salmon-Eating Pikeminnow from Columbia and Snake Rivers**

The numbers are in and they're impressive. In 2017, anglers caught and removed more than 191,000 northern pikeminnow from the Columbia and Snake rivers, protecting young salmon and steelhead from predation.

Approximately 1,100 people registered to be part of the northern pikeminnow Sport Reward Program. All together anglers removed 191,483 of the salmon-eating predators from the two rivers, and were paid nearly \$1,542,000 for their efforts. The program, funded by the Bonneville Power Administration, runs from May 1 through September 30.

The anglers' successes mean BPA is also successfully meeting its program goals.

"The program's goal is to reduce the number of pikeminnow that prey heavily on juvenile salmon," said Makary Hutson, BPA project manager. "Annual harvest rate estimates, which are calculated using data from tagged fish caught by anglers, indicate the 2017 season met our program targets, which directly benefits juvenile salmon making their way to the ocean."

The reward program pays registered anglers \$5 to \$8 per fish, nine inches or longer. The more fish an angler catches during the season, the more each pikeminnow they reel in is worth. State fish and wildlife biologists also release more than 1,000 specially tagged northern pikeminnow, each worth \$500.

This year the top 20 fishermen registered with the Sport Reward Program earned an average of nearly \$30,000 each. The top angler earned nearly \$84,000, reeling in more than 10,000 fish over the five-month season.

Northern pikeminnow are voracious eaters, consuming millions of young salmon and steelhead every year. Since 1990, anglers paid through the program have removed more than 4.8 million pikeminnow from the Columbia and Snake rivers. The program has reduced predation on young salmon and steelhead by up to 40 percent since it began.

The BPA-funded program is administered by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The 2018 season is scheduled for May 1 through September 30, 2018. For more information about the program, visit [www.pikeminnow.org](http://www.pikeminnow.org).

## **Power Play: How a Small Co-op Wants to Open Nevada's Electricity Market and Own It**

*Update provided by Daniel Rothberg, Utility Dive (12/14/2017)*

The headquarters for the Valley Electric Association sits off a main highway with billboards advertising the casinos of Pahrump, Nev., a small desert outpost about 60 miles from Las Vegas. As with many rural electric cooperatives, VEA was formed in the 1960s to electrify an expansive but sparsely-populated area unserved by the region's big utility, the Nevada Power Company.

Today the Nevada Power Company is NV Energy, and it is the 800-pound gorilla in the Nevada market. It owns about \$3 billion in generation assets, in addition to dozens of power contracts. It serves more than 1.2 million customers spread across a 46,000 square-mile service territory that includes Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada's urban centers. It has more than 2,500 employees.

By contrast, VEA owns no generation assets. And from its unassuming headquarters in Pahrump, it serves about 45,000 customers over a 6,800 square-mile stretch of desert east of Death Valley.

But it has its sights on NV Energy's service territory.

In a recent filing, it asked utility regulators for permission to sell electricity to large businesses that defect from NV Energy. Under legislation passed after the 2000-2001 Western energy crisis, multiple casinos and data centers have left the utility to buy power from other providers. Through a subsidiary, VEA wants to be a provider of wholesale electricity for commercial customers.

It's also pushing for the Energy Choice Initiative. The ballot measure to restructure Nevada's market, if approved again in 2018, would give all customers the ability to select their power provider. VEA sees an opportunity in being a retail provider, and it wants to be the largest one.

"If energy choice becomes a reality in the state of Nevada, our goal is to become the largest energy service provider in the state," said VEA CEO Tom Husted one Friday in October.

Analysts differ on VEA's prospects for success, but no one denies Husted's ambition.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

## CoBank Announces 2018 Board Officers

On December 13, CoBank, a cooperative bank serving agribusinesses, rural infrastructure providers, and Farm Credit associations throughout the United States, announced board officers for 2018. The CoBank board elects its officers to serve a one-year term commencing January 1 and expiring December 31 each year.

Kevin Riel will serve as board chair, succeeding longtime board chair Everett Dobrinski. A director since 2014 and first vice chair in 2017, Riel is the president and chief executive officer of Double 'R' Hop Ranches, Inc., a diversified farming operation primarily growing hops, together with apples, grapes, and row crops, and of Tri-Gen Enterprises, Inc., an agricultural marketing operation, and managing partner of WLJ Investments, LLC, a land holding and management company, all located in Harrah, Washington.

Jon Marthedal will serve as first vice chair. Marthedal is the owner and operator of Marthedal Farms in Fresno, Calif., a grape, raisin, and blueberry farming operation. He is also president of Marthedal Enterprises, Inc., a provider of farm management and custom agriculture services, and owner and operator of Keystone Blue Farms, a blueberry farming operation. He serves on the board of The Farm Credit Council.

Kevin Still will serve as second vice chair. Still is president and chief executive officer of Co-Alliance, LLP, a partnership of five cooperatives supplying energy, agronomy, and animal nutrition, producing swine and marketing grain in Avon, Ind. Still is also chief executive officer and treasurer of Midland Co-op, Inc., IMPACT Co-op, Inc., LaPorte County Co-op, Inc., Frontier Co op, Inc., and Excel Co-op, Inc., and president of Michiana Agra, LLC, which are agricultural retail cooperatives. Still has served on the CoBank board since 2002; he has served as the Risk Committee chair since 2008 and served as second vice chair in 2015 and 2016.

"I look forward to working closely with Jon, Kevin, and the rest of our directors in the coming year," Riel said. "Our board and executive management team are fully committed to preserving and building the long-term financial strength of the bank so it can continue fulfilling its mission and delivering dependable credit and financial services to our customers."

Riel thanked Dobrinski for his 10 years of service as chair. Dobrinski, a farmer from North Dakota who remains a member of the board with a term expiring in 2019, was first elected as a director in 1999 and has served as chair since 2008.

Riel also thanked directors Gary Miller, Ken Shaw, and Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, all of whom will be stepping down from the CoBank board on December 31, 2017.

CoBank's 2018 board will consist of 21 directors elected by customer-owners from six voting districts around the country, as well as two outside directors and one appointed director.

CoBank is a \$124 billion cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America. For more information about CoBank, visit [www.cobank.com](http://www.cobank.com).

## AEG Founding Member EnerSys® Supports Boston Launch

EnerSys®, the global leader in stored energy solutions for industrial applications, helped support the September 14 launch of the Boston chapter of the Advanced Energy Group, of which EnerSys is a founding, multi-city member.

AEG is a consortium of leading stakeholders in the utilities industry, municipal and state governments, health care, Department of Energy national laboratories, and universities, as well as manufacturers like EnerSys. These stakeholders collaborate on developing energy solutions for urban environments. In addition to Boston, AEG has chapters in Chicago, New York, Washington, and Denver. Leaders and experts in diverse fields are invited to exchange ideas at quarterly stakeholder forums in each city.

EnerSys offers a product portfolio that includes reserve and motive power batteries, battery chargers, power equipment, battery accessories, and outdoor equipment enclosure solutions. It serves a global customer base that includes reserve power applications in utilities, telecommunications and critical power.

“In the reserve power industry, EnerSys offers a selection of lead acid batteries that help to stabilize the electric grid and improve energy efficiency and quality,” said George Brendahl, utilities product manager at EnerSys. “The integration of battery systems into the electrical grid not only helps to prevent power outages, but also monetize peak demand and integrate more renewable energy sources. EnerSys lead acid batteries are non-flammable, reliable and 99 percent recyclable, all of which are key competitive advantages for indoor, urban applications.”

EnerSys, the global leader in stored energy solutions for industrial applications, manufactures and distributes reserve power and motive power batteries, battery chargers, power equipment, battery accessories, and outdoor equipment enclosure solutions to customers worldwide. For more information on EnerSys and its full line of products, systems, and support, visit [www.enersys.com](http://www.enersys.com).

## ElectraNet Selects OSI Technology for a New Transmission Management System

Open Systems International, Inc. has been selected by ElectraNet, South Australia’s transmission operator, to supply a new, modern Energy Management System based on OSI’s monarch™ (**M**ulti-platform **O**pen **N**etwork **A**RCHitecture) real-time automation and visualization platform.

ElectraNet Chief Executive Steve Masters said the new EMS meets the organization's needs for a modern and agile system. "When looking for a new EMS, we required a flexible platform which embraces new technology, reduces system and operational costs, and allows us to streamline internal processes," Masters said. "This new platform will help us effectively manage South Australia's high-voltage transmission network, and we look forward to working closely with OSI over the coming months to successfully deliver and implement it."

"We are very pleased and honored to have won ElectraNet's trust in our company and technology, and we are excited to welcome them to our large family of transmission users worldwide and in particular to our growing Australian user family," said OSI President/CEO Bahman Hoveida. "We consider ElectraNet an important strategic partner. They can count on us delivering our best solutions and services to overcome the challenges facing the South Australia transmission network. We look forward to a successful project execution completed in record time."

Open Systems International ([www.osii.com](http://www.osii.com)) provides open, state-of-the-art and high-performance automation solutions to utilities worldwide. For additional information regarding this news release, please contact [news@osii.com](mailto:news@osii.com).

## 2018 Upcoming Industry Meetings

Send your 2018 meeting dates and locations to Debbie at [Debbie@nwppa.org](mailto:Debbie@nwppa.org).

### January 2018

4 – PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

4 – OMEU joint lunch meeting with OPUDA and ORECA (following PPC Executive Committee Meeting), Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

### February 2018

1 – PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

1 – OMEU Meeting (following PPC Executive Committee Meeting), Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

7-8 – 5th National Conference on Next Generation Demand Response, San Diego, CA

22-28 – NRECA Annual Meeting & Expo, Nashville, TN

26-28 – APPA Legislative Rally, Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.

### March 2018

7-9 – NWPPA Board of Trustees Meetings, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK

8 – PPC Meeting, Embassy Suites Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

25-28 – NRECA 2018 Directors Conference, MGM Grand, Las Vegas, NV

### April 2018

5 – PPC Meeting, Embassy Suites Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

8-10 – NRECA Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.

### May 2018

3 – PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

8-10 – NRECA Connect Conference, Salt Lake City, UT

21 – NWPPA Board of Trustees Meeting, Boise, ID

## **June 2018**

5-6 - WRECA Annual Meeting, Wenatchee, WA

7 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

14 - OMEU Meeting, Canby Utility, Canby, OR

15-20 - APPA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA

## **July 2018**

12 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

## **August 2018**

2 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

## **September 2018**

6 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

12-14 - NWPPA Board of Trustees Meetings, Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conf. Center, Walla Walla, WA

25-27 - NRECA Region 7 & 9 Meeting, Anchorage, AK

## **October 2018**

4 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

18-19 - OMEU Meeting, Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach, OR

## **December 2018**

13 - PPC Annual Meeting & Lunch, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR - 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

13 - OMEU Meeting (following PPC annual meeting), Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

## Recent job openings within the industry in the last week:

Assistant General Manager – Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Business & Financial Management Supervisor – City of Tacoma

Customer Service Supervisor – Grays Harbor PUD

Journeyman Meterman – Peninsula Light Company

Line Installer – City of Ashland

Locator/Groundman – Salem Electric

Manager Real Estate Services – Snohomish County PUD

Mechanical Constructor – Snohomish County PUD

Public Utilities Specialist – Western Area Power Administration – Desert Southwest Region

System Engineer – Benton Rural Electric Association

Temporary Assistant V, Prerequisite Coordination (T17-076) – Portland General Electric

[View all available jobs](#)

# Slavery Abolished in America

December 18, 1865



Following its ratification by the requisite three-quarters of the states earlier in the month, the 13th Amendment is formally adopted into the U.S. Constitution, ensuring that “neither slavery nor involuntary servitude... shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

Before the American Civil War, Abraham Lincoln and other leaders of the anti-slavery Republican Party sought not to

abolish slavery but merely to stop its extension into new territories and states in the American West. This policy was unacceptable to most Southern politicians, who believed that the growth of free states would turn the U.S. power structure irrevocably against them. In November 1860, Lincoln’s election as president signaled the secession of seven Southern states and the formation of the Confederate States of America. Shortly after his inauguration in 1861, the Civil War began. Four more Southern states joined the Confederacy, while four border slave states in the upper South remained in the Union. Lincoln, though he privately detested slavery, responded cautiously to the call by abolitionists for emancipation of all American slaves after the outbreak of the Civil War. As the war dragged on, however, the Republican-dominated federal government began to realize the strategic advantages of emancipation: The liberation of slaves would weaken the Confederacy by depriving it of a major portion of its labor force, which would in turn strengthen the Union by producing an influx of manpower. With 11 Southern states seceded from the Union, there were few pro-slavery congressmen to stand in the way of such an action.

In 1862, Congress annulled the fugitive slave laws, prohibited slavery in the U.S. territories, and authorized Lincoln to employ freed slaves in the army. Following the major Union victory at the Battle of Antietam in September, Lincoln issued a warning of his intent to issue an emancipation proclamation for all states still in rebellion on New Year’s Day.

That day—January 1, 1863—President Lincoln formally issued the Emancipation Proclamation, calling on the Union army to liberate all slaves in states still in rebellion as “an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity.” These three million slaves were declared to be “then, thenceforward, and forever free.” The proclamation exempted the border slave states that remained in the Union and all or parts of three Confederate states controlled by the Union army.

The Emancipation Proclamation transformed the Civil War from a war against secession into a war for “a new birth of freedom,” as Lincoln stated in his Gettysburg Address in 1863. This ideological change discouraged the intervention of France or England on the Confederacy’s behalf and enabled the Union to enlist the 180,000

African American soldiers and sailors who volunteered to fight between January 1, 1863, and the conclusion of the war.

As the Confederacy staggered toward defeat, Lincoln realized that the Emancipation Proclamation, a war measure, might have little constitutional authority once the war was over. The Republican Party subsequently introduced the 13th Amendment into Congress, and in April 1864 the necessary two-thirds of the overwhelmingly Republican Senate passed the amendment. However, the House of Representatives, featuring a higher proportion of Democrats, did not pass the amendment by a two-thirds majority until January 1865, three months before Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

On December 2, 1865, Alabama became the 27th state to ratify the 13th Amendment, thus giving it the requisite three-fourths majority of states' approval necessary to make it the law of the land. Alabama, a former Confederate state, was forced to ratify the amendment as a condition for re-admission into the Union. On December 18, the 13th Amendment was officially adopted into the Constitution—246 years after the first shipload of captive Africans landed at Jamestown, Virginia, and were bought as slaves. Slavery's legacy and efforts to overcome it remained a central issue in U.S. politics for more than a century, particularly during the post-Civil War Reconstruction era and the African American civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s.

## Director Steven Spielberg Born

**December 18, 1946**



On this day in 1946, Steven Spielberg, who will become one of the most successful directors in modern movie history with such blockbusters as *Jaws*, *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Schindler's List* and *Saving Private Ryan*, is born in Cincinnati, Ohio.

After studying film at California State University, Spielberg directed his first full-length feature, the 1971 thriller *Duel*, which starred Dennis Weaver and originally aired on television, to strong reviews. Spielberg's first directorial effort to be released in theaters was 1974's *The Sugarland Express*, starring Goldie Hawn. The young director grabbed Hollywood's attention with his next film, *Jaws* (1975), about a killer shark that terrorizes a beach community. *Jaws*, which co-starred Richard Dreyfuss and Roy Scheider, became the first movie in history to gross over \$100 million.

Spielberg's next film, the UFO-themed *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977), also starred Dreyfuss and achieved similar box-office success. It was followed by yet another massive hit, 1981's *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, which starred Harrison Ford as the adventurous archeologist Indiana Jones. The movie, co-written by George Lucas (*Star Wars*), was nominated for eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. It

became a successful movie franchise, with Spielberg helming the sequels: *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* (1984), *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989) and *Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull* (2008).

Spielberg's Midas touch continued with the 1982 sci-fi drama *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial*, about a boy (played by Henry Thomas) who befriends an alien. The movie was an enormous commercial and critical success, earning nine Oscar nominations. Spielberg turned away from action thrillers and special effects with 1985's *The Color Purple*, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning 1982 novel of the same name by Alice Walker about a young black woman growing up in the South in the early 20th century. The film, which featured Whoopi Goldberg, Danny Glover and Oprah Winfrey, received 11 Oscar nominations.

Spielberg's 1991 film *Hook* was based on J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* and starred Dustin Hoffman, Robin Williams and Julia Roberts. Although *Hook* did well at the box office, it received mixed reviews. Spielberg's next film, 1993's *Jurassic Park*, based on Michael Crichton's sci-fi novel about cloned dinosaurs, featured cutting-edge, computer-generated special effects and became one of the top-grossing movies in history. Also that year, Spielberg helmed the Holocaust drama *Schindler's List*, which starred Liam Neeson in the title role and earned Spielberg his first Best Director Academy Award. He earned his second Best Director Oscar for 1998's World War II drama *Saving Private Ryan*, which featured an ensemble cast that included Tom Hanks and Matt Damon.

Spielberg went on to direct such films as *A.I.: Artificial Intelligence* (2001), *Minority Report* (2002), with Tom Cruise; *Catch Me if You Can* (2002), with Leonardo DiCaprio; and *Munich* (2005), which earned Spielberg another Best Director Oscar nomination.

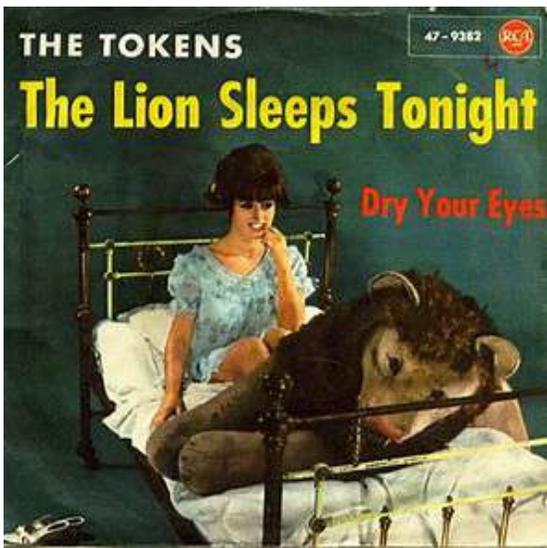
In addition to writing and directing, Spielberg has served as a producer on a variety of television and film projects, including the 2001 HBO series *Band of Brothers* and Clint Eastwood's *Flags of our Fathers* (2006) and *Letters from Iwo Jima* (2006). Spielberg was married to the actress Amy Irving (*Crossing Delancey*) from 1985 to 1989 and has been married to the actress Kate Capshaw (*Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*) since 1991.

## The Tokens Earn a #1 Hit with “The Lion Sleeps Tonight”

**December 18, 1961**

The song that topped the *Billboard* pop chart on December 18, 1961, was an instant classic that went on to become one of the most successful pop songs of all time, yet its true originator saw only a tiny fraction of the song's enormous profits.

The story begins in Johannesburg, South Africa, where in 1938, a group of Zulu singers and dancers called Solomon Linda and the Evening Birds stepped into the first recording studio ever set up in sub-Saharan Africa and recorded a song called “Mbube”—Zulu for “the lion.” “Mbube” was a regional hit, and it helped make



The story begins in Johannesburg, South Africa, where in 1938, a group of Zulu singers and dancers called Solomon Linda and the Evening Birds stepped into the first recording studio ever set up in sub-Saharan Africa and recorded a song called “Mbube”—Zulu for “the lion.” “Mbube” was a regional hit, and it helped make Solomon Linda into a South African star. But the story might have ended there had a copy of the record not made its way to New York City in the early 1950s, where it was saved from the slush pile at Decca Records by the legendary folklorist Alan Lomax. Without actually hearing any of the records in a box sent from Africa, Lomax thought a friend of his might be interested in

the box’s contents. That friend was the folksinger Pete Seeger.

Unable to understand the lyrics of “Mbube,” Seeger transcribed the central chant as “Wimoweh,” and that became the name of the song as recorded by the Weavers and released in early 1952, just as the group was about to be blacklisted thanks to the McCarthy hearings. Eventually, Jay Siegel, the teenage lead singer of the Tokens, would hear and fall in love with “Wimoweh” through the Kingston Trio’s cover version of the Weavers’ song. The Tokens’ label commissioned English-language lyrics for the song, which was re-titled “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” and went on to become not just a #1 song on this day in 1961, but one of the most-covered, most successful pop songs of all time.

In an excellent article for *Rolling Stone* magazine in 2000, South African journalist Rian Malan followed both the music and the money associated with “The Lion Sleeps Tonight,” exposing the sequence of business arrangements that ended up making millions for a handful of prominent U.S. music publishers while yielding only a \$1,000 personal check from Pete Seeger to Solomon Linda during Linda’s lifetime. Because his composition was treated as public-domain “folk” material by Seeger and by the subsequent writer of the English-language lyrics in the Tokens’ version, Linda never participated in the royalty stream generated by either “Wimoweh” or “The Lion Sleeps Tonight.” And prior to reaching an undisclosed settlement in 2006, his heirs received only a tiny fraction of the millions of dollars they might have been due had Linda retained his songwriting credit on what Malan rightly calls “The most famous melody ever to emerge from Africa.”

## **Nixon Announces Start of “Christmas Bombing” of North Vietnam**

**December 18, 1972**

Following the breakdown of peace talks with North Vietnam just a few days earlier, President Richard Nixon announces the beginning of a massive bombing campaign to



On December 13, peace talks between the United States and North Vietnam collapsed. The North Vietnamese and American negotiators traded charges and countercharges as to who was to blame. Infuriated, President Nixon ordered plans drawn up for retaliatory bombings of North Vietnam. Linebacker II was the result. Beginning

on December 18, American B-52s and fighter-bombers dropped over 20,000 tons of bombs on the cities of Hanoi and Haiphong. The United States lost 15 of its giant B-52s and 11 other aircraft during the attacks. North Vietnam claimed that over 1,600 civilians were killed.

The bombings continued until December 29, at which time the North Vietnamese agreed to resume the talks. A few weeks later, the final Paris Peace Treaty was signed and the Vietnam War came to a close, ending the U.S. role in a conflict that seriously damaged the domestic Cold War consensus among the American public. The impact of the so-called "Christmas Bombings" on the final agreement was difficult to assess. Some historians have argued that the bombings forced the North Vietnamese back to the negotiating table. Others have suggested that the attacks had little impact, beyond the additional death and destruction they caused. Even the chief U.S. negotiator, Henry Kissinger, was reported to have said, "We bombed the North Vietnamese into accepting our concessions." The chief impact may have been in convincing America's South Vietnamese allies, who were highly suspicious of the draft treaty worked out in October 1972, that the United States would not desert them. In any event, the final treaty did not include any important changes from the October draft.