

from the editor

Did any of you notice how great our city streets were looking the last week right before Jamboree? Those freshly - and brightly - painted curbs, fresh yellow lines down the center of Bridge Street and re-done crosswalks all added a sort of gussied-up look that was hard to miss. Even our storm drains got a little brightening up. In a sort of synchronicity, the crews from ODOT came through at just the right time and Youth Corps members painted colorful stencils reminding us not to dump waste in storm drains. But the best part was the curb painting that took place. The Vernonia Kiwanis, together with the Vernonia Downtown Association, took it upon themselves to get paint from the city and organize a group of

volunteer citizens and business owners to get the job done-- a job that the city didn't have the funds to accomplish this year. This was Vernonia at its best-- people working together to make our city look and feel better. People, instead of complaining about what is wrong and pointing fingers, joining forces and finding a solution. People rolling up their sleeves and pitching in. The results speak for themselves.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with this project. Your spirit and willingness to contribute is what makes this a great community.

Scott Laird
Editor and Publisher

WOEC Employees Take a Voluntary Wage Freeze

By Marc Farmer
WOEC General Manager

The salaried and union employees of West Oregon Electric Cooperative have voluntarily elected to adopt a one year wage freeze, and to donate half of the cost savings to energy assistance to help those who are struggling through these economically difficult times. The Board of Directors enthusiastically accepted their generous offer and willingness to help out the financial well being of the Co-op and its members.

"This is a magnanimous gesture by all of the employees of the Co-op to willingly freeze their own wages for a year in the first place, and then to request that half of the cost savings go to energy assistance to benefit our members who are experiencing hard times is truly heartwarming," stated Robert VanNatta, WOEC Board President. "It is reassuring to see such a wonderful act of charity and caring within our own

community and staff. We wish to thank all of our employees for taking the initiative and we fully support their efforts to help our members who are in serious need at this time."

As the General Manager of WOEC, I am so very impressed with the unified desire of the employees to come together to make a statement with this generous decision to freeze our own wages for the benefit of the Co-op, most importantly, to the members we serve. We experience firsthand every day the struggles our members go through to pay their bills. Our hearts go out to all of our members who are dealing with rising costs, fewer jobs, fewer hours at work, and economically uncertain times. This is one way that we can give back to the community and show them we care and want to help out our friends, neighbors, and members.

In the 2010 budget, the Board of Directors approved a matching fund of up to \$6,000 to

match whatever the employees raised to donate to energy assistance. We will combine the Boards matching funds with the employee's donation from their wages and will then make a contribution to Care to Share and Oregon Heat on behalf of the employees of WOEC. This will provide many of our members with the help they need to keep their homes comfortable and bright.

I would like to conclude this article with my personal thanks and gratitude to the wonderful people I have the privilege of working with at WOEC. This gesture and decision they have made shows what kind of people they really are and what is in their hearts. Thank you my friends!

The WOEC Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday August 21, 2010 at the Vernonia Scout Cabin. Registration begins at 10:00 AM; call to order is at 11:00 AM.

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VERNONIA'S
voice
reflecting the spirit of our community

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VERNONIA'S
BIGGEST
CLASS REUNION

Sunday, August 15th - 10AM-5PM

Prizes ~ Entertainment ~ Tours ~ Food ~ Fun!
This is a fund raiser for Vernonia's new schools.
Bring a comfy outdoor chair and join the fun.
\$5 ~ Registration begins at 10AM in the school cafeteria.
RSVP to vernoniareunion@yahoo.com

For more information visit: www.vernoniaclassmates.com
or our facebook group: Alumni & Friends of Vernonia Schools ~ Vernonia's Biggest Reunion

Now at the
New Hong Kong
Restaurant

Saturday
August 14

TEXAS HOLD 'EM
TOURNAMENT

Registration at 5:30 Play starts at 6:00PM

50% of fees go to local charities
\$40 buy-in with \$20 re-buy 35 player limit

For more information contact
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Presented by the Vernonia Lions Club

