

APRIL 2019

REU EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

# THE INSIDE *line*

## WHAT'S NEW AT REU?

Not Their First Rodeo p. 1

Catching Up with Kristen Schreder p. 1

Oregon Street Substation Project Nears Completion p. 3

Mark Your Calendars p. 6

## Not Their First Rodeo

On March 29th and 30th, REU will send a four-person lineworker crew to compete in the Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo, to be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Our crew is composed of Jordan Michaud, Chris Bryant, Jarrod Gregory, and Matt Drew. The event is promoted by the American Public Power Association (APPA).

Three members of this year's team participated in last year's rodeo, held in Raleigh, North Carolina. Looking back at last year's competition, Jordan said, "We had a great time and learned a lot but ummmm ... we have room for improvement."

*(Continued on Page 4)*



Lineworkers Jarrod Gregory and Chris Bryant (on the pole) sharpen their lineworkers rodeo skills while Jordan Michaud, another lineworker, supports them from the ground.

## Catching Up with Kristen Schreder

Kristen Schreder, the Redding City Council's liaison to REU, has spent most of her adult life in public service. Prior to her election to the city council in 2014, she was an elected school trustee for 17 years.

She's also a huge believer in communications and education, having worked for decades with her husband, Jack, in an educational consulting firm.

### Going Behind the Scenes

Kristen has high praise for REU. "When I became the liaison, I wanted to go behind the scenes at REU to understand how things worked. I toured the power plant, visited the Walden Street Substation project, and attended Public Power Week Open House last October."

*(Continued on Page 4)*

# REU

Redding Electric Utility

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*Chris Hanna, project coordinator of the Oregon Street Substation Modernization project, stands near a security beam.*



*This new transformer at the Oregon Street Substation will receive power at 115 kilovolts (kV) and step it down to 12 kV for distribution to local homes and businesses.*

## Oregon Street Substation Project Nears Completion

As the modernization of the Oregon Street Substation nears completion, Electric Utility Project Coordinator Chris Hanna took a moment to reflect on the \$4.3 million construction project.

"We couldn't take the substation out of service during the summer peak months," Chris explained. "So the start and completion dates were pretty much determined by our summer peak electric demand. We'll need the new substation up and running before this summer."

The modernization project began last September and is scheduled to be operating by May of 2019.

### Security Upgrades

Under the old security system, there was a single security beam placed about a foot off the ground. Cats and other animals that entered the substation regularly tripped the beam and, at other times, the beams did not detect a human. Now, a series of beams placed at different heights along each wall will enable us to securely detect intruders. In addition, the old chain-link and barbed-wire fencing surrounding the substation is now being replaced by a solid masonry block wall.

The revamped substation will be unstaffed; operations will be remotely controlled by distribution operators working at the Redding Power Plant.

### Nearly Everything Replaced

Asked to describe the modernization project, Chris said, "We've pretty much replaced everything." The new substation receives power at 115 kilovolts (kV) and steps that down to 12 kV, which is suitable for distribution to nearby homes and businesses. The overall improvements include:

- New control building, relays, and control panels.
- New masonry wall, gates, and security system.
- New 115-kV circuit switcher and circuit breakers.
- New 12-kV circuit breakers.
- New bus work and bus support structures.
- New ground grid system.
- New 115-kV/12-kV power transformer.
- New station backup batteries and battery charging system.
- Accessibility improvements and landscaping on Oregon Street.
- Newly undergrounded utilities on the east side of the 1200 block of Oregon Street.
- Decorative street and pedestrian lights on the east side of the 1200 block of Oregon Street.

The new substation will also allow room for another transformer and bank of four circuit breakers, should they be needed to serve future growth.



*A piece of heavy equipment working at the Oregon Street Substation.*



## Oregon Street Substation *(Continued from Page 2)*

In addition, REU substation electricians have been fabricating the control cabinets designed by the REU Engineering group. The electricians will also install all interconnecting cable and assist in the start-up testing along with the Operational Technology engineers and Electrical engineers. The Line workers have also been a huge support in reconfiguring the power lines throughout the area and coordinating their work to minimize impacts on the contractors' schedules.

### Area To Be Made More Visually Attractive

As many as 20 contract workers are hard at work on the substation and right-of-way area outside the perimeter wall. Seven wooden utility poles are now being removed, overhead lines are being undergrounded, streetlights and pedestrian lights will be installed, and the area in front of the substation will be landscaped.

*One of several utility poles near the Oregon Street Substation that will be removed and the lines undergrounded, to improve the area's appearance.*



### Worked Hard To Be A Good Neighbor

"This significant construction project is taking place right next to commercial customers on Oregon Street," Chris noted. "Traffic is heavy during business hours and parking is at a premium. We need to be the best neighbor we possibly can be during the construction process."

"We have worked hard to minimize the impact the work has and will have on the nearby merchants and homeowners," he continued. For example, Woody's Brewing Company, a popular brewpub, is closed on Mondays, so Chris has tried to schedule right-of-way work and equipment deliveries on Mondays.

"The truck and nine-axle trailer that delivered the new transformer was over 100 feet long," he recalled. "It took an entire day to maneuver it on Oregon Street so a crane (delivered on three tractor trailers) could lift the 140,000-lb transformer onto its new foundation."

Chris observed that local merchants and homeowners "have been super — they see the need and they understand that the inconvenience will be temporary."

"Maintaining good relations with the merchants and homeowners along Oregon Street is important to REU. Of course, the landscaping, undergrounding, street lighting, and removal of utility poles will make the area more visually attractive, which the neighbors will appreciate. Being a good neighbor is important to REU," Chris commented.



*Bo Murrell, a contract worker from Stephens Electrical, takes a break at the Oregon Street Substation Modernization project.*



*A sign outside Woody's lets utility workers know they are appreciated.*





Lineworkers **Jarrod Gregory** and **Chris Bryant** practice a work task in preparation for the Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo, to be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 29th and March 30th.

## **Not Their First Rodeo** *(Continued from Page 1)*

### **Team Has Been Practicing Hard**

For weeks, Jordan, Chris, Matt, and Jarrod have been hard at work practicing the rodeo's five events. These competitions are the Hurtman Rescue, the 4-kilovolt (kV) Alley Arm Insulator Change-Out, the 12-kV Pole Transfer, the 12-kV Arrestor Change-Out, and the Underground Residential Distribution Install.

The entire competition is done on un-energized lines. Points are deducted for a variety of reasons, including not following event-specific rules, dropping things, and not following safety rules and practices. The teams with the fewest point deductions are then ranked based on their fastest times. "Performing each task safely, properly, and quickly are the keys to winning the competition," Jordan said. Judges are drawn from across the public power community.

Asked about representing REU among at least 50 other public power lineworker crews, Jordan said, "We're going to do our best, learn all we can, and have a good time."

### **Competition Is Intense**

APPA gives out information about all the competitive events so that teams can practice before the rodeo. The competitions are based on different linework scenarios that workers are all familiar with, but don't do very often. "Team members have been practicing these events for weeks," Jordan said. "Climbing poles fast is one of the best skills you can have. Having every team member performing fast and flawless is important to a successful rodeo."

"The competition is intense," he continued. "Last year in Raleigh, many teams had zero deductions. A team could have record speed in every event, but if they dropped one tool or performed one task unsafely, that would completely knock them out of the running."

Why does REU participate in the rodeo? Jordan explained, "It's a mixture of pride and community; we want to show that we have talented lineworkers who can compete with the best of them. And the rodeo allows us to connect and reconnect with other public power lineworkers. We compete because we enjoy it. It's fun to test your skills and show that you are the best lineworker you can be. Also, it's fun to travel to new places, meet new people, and see how other teams perform the work." REU PHOTO LIBRARY

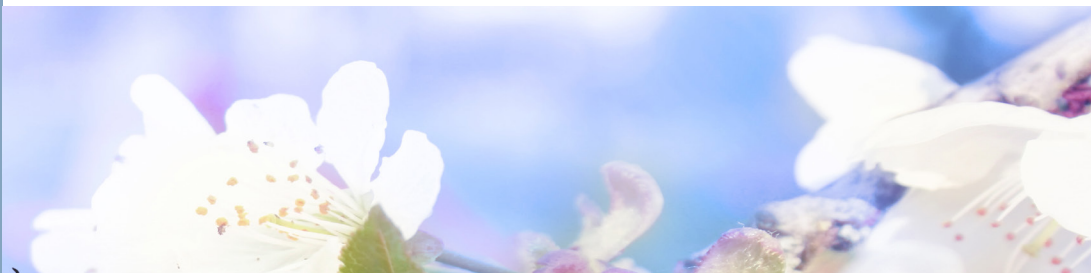
## **Catching Up with Kristen Schreder**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

She also attended one of the Integrated Resource Plan workshops last year as well as one strategic planning offsite meeting.

"Buying and selling power — and setting electric prices — is very complicated," she noted in a recent interview. "The leadership team and the staff do a great job pulling together information and holding community meetings. They really want to engage the public in important decisions that will have a long-lasting impact on residents and businesses in Redding."

*(Continued on Page 5)*







Redding City Councilwoman **Kristen Schreder** (right) presents a laptop computer to a winner of the laptop raffle at the Far Nor Cal Science Bowl February 23.

## Catching Up with Kristen Schreder

(Continued from Page 4)

### Serving the Community

The mother of two adult children, Kristen said she “values the opportunity to serve the community.” Re-elected to a second four-year term in 2018, she says her biggest challenge is having so much to do, and so little time.

“As REU’s liaison to the city council, I take the lead in presenting electric utility issues to my elected colleagues,” said Kristen. “It’s important that the city council makes decisions that balance short-term and long-term considerations, weighing the impact of each choice on residential and business customers.”

### \$50 Million Less than PG&E, and Counting

She’s not shy about informing her city council colleagues, and friends and neighbors, that REU’s residential customers would pay at least \$50 million more per year for their electricity if they were served by neighboring Pacific Gas & Electric.

“That’s like a \$110 per month saving for our residential customers. And REU’s reliability is high, even though its electric prices are low.”

That didn’t just happen by accident. Kristen recognizes that REU has worked hard for years to lower its costs. This year, our staffing cost is expected to be at least \$1 million less than in 2018.

### Wildfire Mitigation Plan Coming

Later this year, Kristen and the other city council members will be reviewing a wildfire mitigation plan, as required by state law.

Born and raised in Redding, Kristen returned home in 1994 after completing college at California State University at Chico. Aside from public policy, her other passion is fundraising to refurbish the Schreder Planetarium, founded by her husband Jack. The original circa-1979 projector and sound system need to be replaced to ensure continued exceptional astronomy and science education for both students and the public.

When not tending to city council business or fundraising, Kristen can be seen riding her electric bike around town and on the Sacramento River trail. She’s also a devotee of kayaking. “We live in such a beautiful area,” she said. “I love being outdoors!”



Redding City Councilwoman and REU Liaison  
**Kristen Schreder**



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# April 18, 2019, is National Lineman Appreciation Day.

#thankalineman



REU lineman **Randy Sandifer** working in his third-floor office.

## APR 2019

4/6 Rev, Rumble & Roar

4/11 Sequoia Career Day

April 18 National Lineman Appreciation Day

April 20 Shade Tree Give-away, [www.reddingtrees.org](http://www.reddingtrees.org)

April 20 Whole Earth and Watershed Festival, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Redding City Hall

April 20-28 Kool April Nights, Redding Civic Auditorium

April 25 Take Your Child to Work Day

4/26 Emergency Preparedness Fair

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APR 2019

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