

March 2019

REU EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

THE INSIDE *line*

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Sweating While Freezing: Lineworkers Restore Power After Snowstorm

An unusual winter storm dropped up to 12 inches of snow in parts of Redding on February 12th, causing an estimated 30,000 customers to lose power.

The heavy wet snow brought down trees and tree limbs, snapping power lines and power poles. Toppled trees blocked surface streets and damaged vehicles.

REU's two dozen lineworkers joined tree crews and mutual aid crews from half a dozen utilities to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. All field workers put in 16-hour days restoring power.

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REU Linemen **Dustin Hamilton** and **Jake Pearson** work in a bucket truck to reattach a line following the February 12th snowstorm.

Brains Battle at Science Bowl

Teams from Buckeye School of the Arts Middle School and University Preparatory High School won their respective categories at the Far Nor Cal Regional Science Bowl February 23rd. Both teams will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl, April 25th to 29th.

A record 49 teams from eight Northern California counties entered the competition, which was held at Simpson University in Redding. The City of Redding hosted this intense, timed, science and math competition.

(Continued on Page 2)

REU

Redding Electric Utility

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The winning team from Buckeye School of the Arts Middle School consisted of (left to right) Mavryk Early, Ryan Phan-Fong, Garrett Lomeli, Cassie Simons (coach), Aiden Varga (captain), and Nathan Lu.

Newsletter team: Lynn Arts, Carmen Bahr, Dan Beans, Justin P Day, John Egan, and Damon Seely

Newsletter Board:
Ben Goehring, Electric Distribution
Jessie Baker, REU Power Production
Jordan Michaud, Electric Distribution
Kevin Burke, Electric Distribution
Kelly Dunbar, Financial Services
Lisa Casner, Compliance
Sam Marvin, Field Service Meter Reading
Tonia Gale, Energy Management
Vince Karlson, Customer Services

Please send story ideas, photos, and info for "Comings & Goings" to REUComm@reupower.com

Photo credits

Page 1: Jeff McInnes
Page 2: KIXE-TV
Page 3: Jeff McInnes, Kevin Burke
Page 4: Valerie Ibarra, Justin P Day
Page 5: Valerie Ibarra
Page 6: Employees' friends and family members

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REU Employees Volunteered

About two dozen REU employees volunteered to keep score, track time, train officials, and provide logistical support for this annual event.

Insert Image, "Middle School Science Bowl Winners," across margin and left-hand column at top of page 2, as per page 2 in February issue of newsletter

Caption: The winning team from Buckeye School of the Arts Middle School consisted of (left to right) Mavryk Early, Ryan Phan-Fong, Garrett Lomeli, Cassie Simons (coach), Aiden Varga (captain), and Nathan Lu.

☐ Kamryn Hutson, an electric utility analyst in Resources, said: "I have volunteered for this event for several years. This year I was a timer. I'm always impressed with how quickly the students answer the questions!"

Another employee, Sarah Isring-

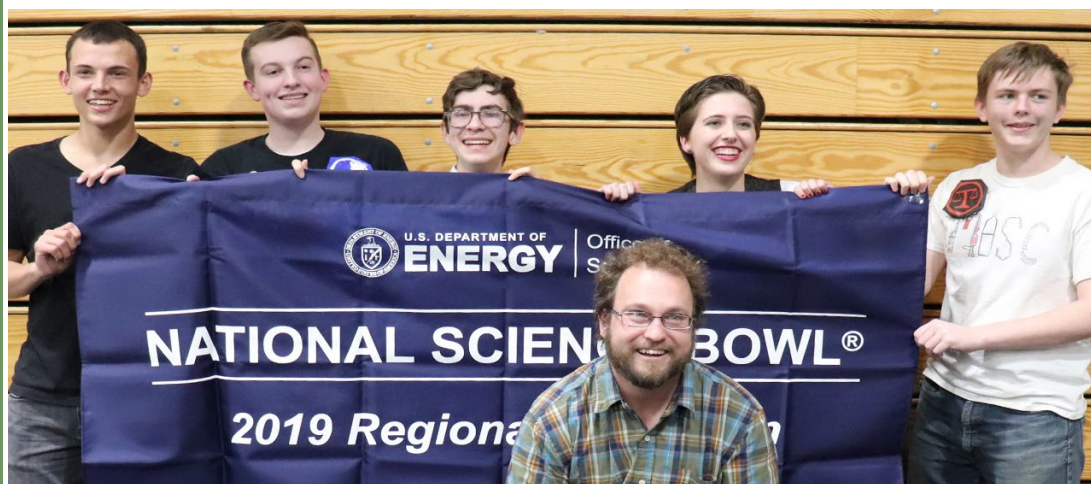
hausen, a management analyst in Customer Services, said, "This was my first year as a volunteer at the science bowl. I was incredibly impressed with the skill and dedication of our North State kids as well as the support they receive from our community. What an awesome event!"

Luisa Klapperich, a customer service representative (CSR) in Customer Services, told us "this was the first time I volunteered at the Science Bowl, and it was an absolutely wonderful experience! I was a scorekeeper. I had so much fun watching the students work together to get the answers. I look forward to volunteering again next year!"

This was also the first science bowl for another CSR, Clara Quon, who noted that "I was a timekeeper for the middle school students, and I really enjoyed volunteering. I will definitely be back next year! I was really impressed with how quickly the students could answer some of the questions."

REU supports the Far Nor Cal Regional Science Bowl, as well as other events focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education, to support academic achievement in our community. As a growing proportion of jobs within REU are STEM-related, our support for these events is another way we are working to recruit the next generation of potential employees. **TIL**

The winning team from University Preparatory High School consisted of (left to right) Nate Crummett, Thomas Neill, Alexander Woodworth, Claire Rogers, and Gustav Blankenberg. Team coach Cory Poole is in the front row. Not pictured: The team's other coach, Brian Murphy.





An unusual snowstorm on February 12th dropped as much as 12 inches of snow on some areas in Redding.

(Continued from Page 1)

Utility Manager-Line Darrell Christensen reported no workers were injured during the power restoration. "At REU, safety is our top priority," he said. "Our team, with a lot of outside help, did a terrific job."

Major Outage Event

"This was a major event, the biggest snowstorm to hit Redding in about 50 years," commented Darrell. "It affected about 75% of our customers."

Power was restored to about 90% of affected customers within 24 hours. By February 21st, power had been restored to all customers.

"It took longer to restore power to some customers because of downed trees and tree limbs, which had to be cleared before utility workers could begin to repair equipment and restore power," Darrell said. "All the downed trees made it very difficult to gain access to and repair the lines and equipment that had been damaged by the storm."

Power Restoration Follows a Process

"The storm temporarily shut down the Redding Power Plant, so the restoration process had to begin there," Darrell explained. From there, workers moved downstream to transmission poles and lines before getting to neighborhood distribution poles and lines. Insert vertical image in margin of page 3: "Floating Pole" Caption: The February 12th storm snapped 14 transmission poles in REU's service area.

When working at the neighborhood distribution-line level, lineworkers focused on restoring power to public health and safety facilities first, then to the greatest number of customers as safely and quickly as possible, Darrell explained

Mutual Aid Crews Help REU

REU's line crews were aided by crews from Roseville Electric Utility, Riverside Public Utilities, the Western Area Power Administration, Modesto Irrigation District, Lassen Municipal Utility District, and Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative. Utility arborists and contracted arborists worked with, and ahead of, the line crews, clearing downed trees and branches.

In press releases and media interviews, REU officials emphasized the need to be safe around downed power lines. "If you see a powerline down on the ground," Regulatory Affairs Manager Pat Keener told the media, "STAY AWAY from it and assume it is live."

During the outage, several customers posted "THANK YOU" messages on REU's social media platforms after their power had been restored. But there also were many who expressed frustration that their electricity hadn't yet been restored to their home. We understood — and shared — their frustration; several of our lineworkers were among the last customers to get their power restored. **TIL**



The February 12th storm snapped 14 transmission poles in REU's service area.



In many areas around the city, distribution lines were brought down during the February 12th snowstorm.



Pat Keener

Pat's and Leslie's jobs are some of the many positions in REU that are eligible for the Cross Exposure Program (CEP), which provides an opportunity for employees to job-shadow other employees for part of a day, working alongside them to learn more about their positions and functions within the utility. Please see the REU Shared Drive (REU Public\Cross Exposure) for everything you need to know about the Cross Exposure Program.

California's state legislature in Sacramento.



A Day in the Life ... of Legislative and Regulatory Services

California has a new governor and new members in the state legislature. New policies are being proposed. New priorities are being pursued. And laws passed last year are now being implemented. That means Pat Keener and Leslie Bryan's lives are kicking into high gear.

For the nine months each year that the legislature is in session, Pat and Leslie spend the vast majority of their time interacting with legislators and fellow legislative and regulatory representatives, meeting with elected officials and their staffs, as well engaging in regulatory proceedings with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the California Energy Commission (CEC), the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and other agencies, to protect the interests of REU and its customer-owners.

State Actions Could Increase REU's Electricity Prices

This dynamic duo spends most of their waking hours educating elected and appointed officials — and their all-important staffs — about how proposed legislation and regulation could affect Redding Electric Utility and its customer-owners.

"What is done in Sacramento has the distinct potential to raise our electric prices," commented Pat, a 19-year REU veteran and manager of legislative services. "I do our best to inform lawmakers of the potential consequences of their actions, while ensuring that REU's leadership is kept apprised of ongoing legislation allowing us to have a voice at the capitol."

He cited last year's Senate Bill 100, passed and signed into law

by then-Governor Jerry Brown. It requires the state's utilities to provide customers with 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045.

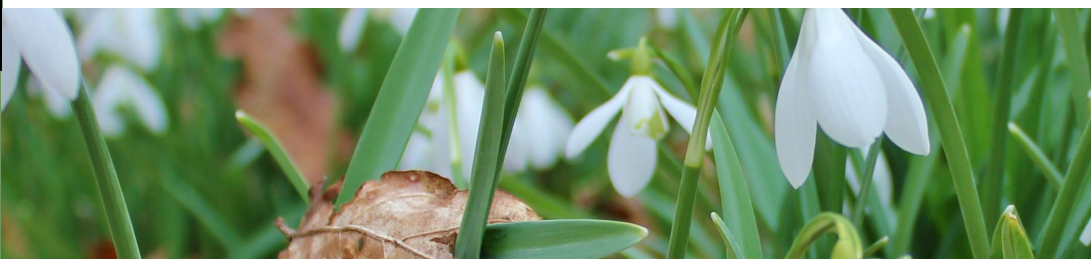
"Most people focus on the 100% by 2045 mandate," Pat continued, "but of far greater concern to REU, and other utilities throughout the state, is the requirement that 60% of all electricity come from renewable sources by 2030. That date sounds like a sensible milestone with a lot of time to comply, but it's really not."

The real challenge in getting to 60% by 2030, and to 100% by 2045, has to do with energy storage, he explained. "Right now, commercial deployments of battery energy storage systems are just beginning. The first generation of the technology is expensive, and there are significant questions about the operational reliability and lifespan of lithium-ion batteries used in most storage projects."

S.B. 1110 Affected Redding Power Plant

Pat was one of many public-power people involved in another critical piece of legislation that was adopted last year — Senate Bill 1110, which will reduce REU's renewable energy requirement to approximately 50% by 2030 by ensuring the Redding Power Plant (RPP) is allowed to run at a minimum amount in the 2026-2030 time period. This will provide time to pay off the bonds REU floated to finance the RPP and avoid a "double purchase" scenario of renewable energy on top of the existing RPP commitment.

In their enthusiastic embrace of renewable energy in recent years, California lawmakers and regulators have also taken a dim view of gas-fired electric generation.



Their reasoning is that although natural gas produces fewer carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions than other fossil fuels like coal and oil, it still emits greenhouse gases. So reducing reliance on gas-fired electric generation must be part of the state's efforts to combat global climate change.

Left unaddressed, the state's effort to reduce greenhouse gases could have prematurely closed RPP due to excessive carbon emission costs and saddled REU customers with tens of millions of dollars of debt without a matching revenue stream to pay it off. Pat was one of several publicly owned utility leaders who testified regarding S.B. 1110 last year. He said efforts on that front will continue this year, with a proposed bill that recognizes the reliability benefits of gas-fired generation.

After Legislation, Regulation

And once the governor signs into law a bill passed by the state legislature, the focus shifts to Leslie Bryan, an electric utility analyst in Regulatory Services, who has worked at REU for three years.

"Regulatory Services picks up after Legislative Services finishes its work," Leslie said. "The regulatory arena is our second chance to provide information and insight to decisionmakers about the operational challenges that could be created by a piece of legislation."

Hydro Still Disrespected

Leslie continues to work on efforts to ensure hydropower is recognized as a carbon-free electric resource. For over 20 years, California has said that large hydropower generators (defined as larger than 30 megawatts) cannot be counted as a "renewable" or "carbon free" electric resource.

A significant portion of REU's electric resource mix comes from large hydro projects such as the federally owned Central Valley Project, which supplies REU customers with about 250,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity per year. If REU is not allowed to include that generation in its "renewable" or "carbon free" portfolio as California moves to economy-wide carbon neutrality, it may be forced to find other carbon-free electric generation to comply with state law.

"For hydropower, we continue to work with a veritable alphabet soup collection of state agencies, including the CPUC, the CEC, the Air Resources Board (ARB), and others," she noted. "We're still working to make sure hydro generation is treated fairly."

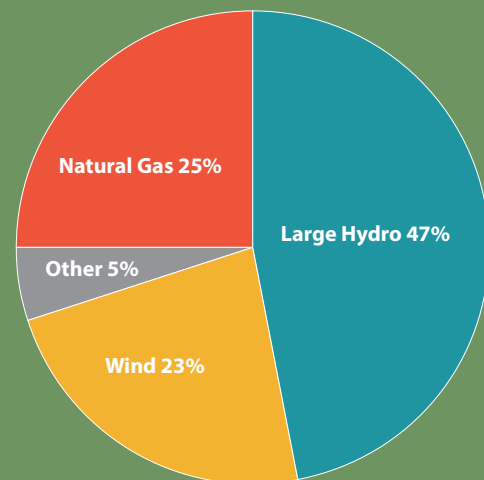
Job #1: Preserving Local Control

In 2019, as in prior years, Pat and Leslie will be focused on preserving REU's ability to make decisions locally. As a publicly owned utility (POU), REU is owned by the customers it serves, not shareholders. Therefore, REU wants to keep decision making at a local level, rather than have its customers' dollars, and operational control, be transferred outside Redding.

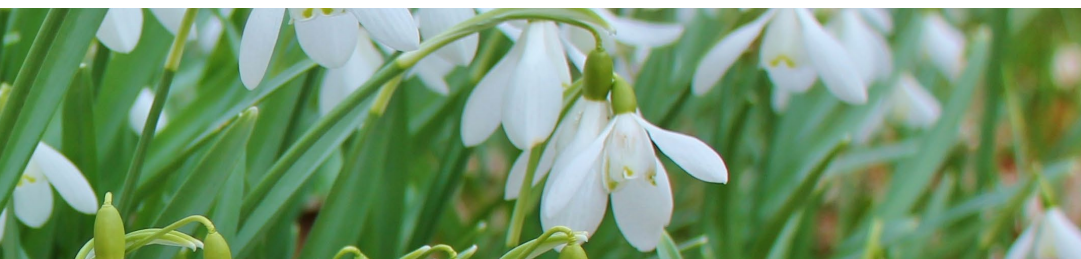
"We think we do a pretty good job providing for the electric needs of our customer-owners, and we don't take kindly to outside voices telling us what to do and how to do it," Leslie said. "As a publicly owned utility, we operate exclusively for the benefit of those we serve. We are accountable, first and foremost, to our customer-owners and the people they elect as city council members. That business model has worked for over 100 years. We want to preserve that." **TIL**



Leslie Bryan



Electricity generated by large hydropower generators, such as Shasta Dam, provided nearly half of REU's electricity in 2017.



Comings & Goings



The Customer Services group has added **Brittany Weinberger** as the team's newest customer service representative. Fortunately for us, she abandoned her earlier career plan to be a singer. She started crooning to REU customers in December.

In addition, we'd like to welcome another new employee, **Reagan Ruiz**, who recently moved to Redding. A Thai food fan and a former member of the U.S. Air Force, Reagan is an instrumentation and electrical technician. He is married and has two children.

Editor's Note: The last issue of The Inside Line incorrectly identified two new employees. We apologize for the error. Below are the correctly matched photos and captions.



Adam Harvey joined REU as a power plant maintenance mechanic in January. When he's not at the power plant, you can find him riding, or fixing, his motorcycle.

Mark Your Calendars

APR 2019

April 18 National Lineman Appreciation Day

April 20 Shade Tree Give-away 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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				