



# the Lakeview Light

lakeviewlight.com

The Newsletter of Lakeview Light & Power

Spring, 2014

- In this issue:
- Annual Meeting
  - Meet Our New General Manager
  - Metal Theft
  - Project Help
  - Lucky Numbers and more...

12591-001

## **LLP's 92nd Annual Meeting~ New GM Introduced; Rate Hike Explained.**

Lakeview Light's 92nd Annual Meeting was held March 18 at Clover Park Technical College.

In keeping with tradition, the meeting began with the flag ceremony, performed by members of the color guard from Clover Park High School's Junior ROTC. Deacon George Mounce of St. Francis Cabrini Church gave this year's invocation.

LLP Vice President Linda McDermott presented the scholarships, noting that there were just two eligible applicants this year.

Bob Truesdell, our financial controller, gave the financial report. "Our biggest single expense is the cost of power. It's approximately 60 percent of our budget," he explained. He added that White Creek, LLP's first and largest wind farm, continues to do very well, but Harvest Wind is up for sale.

Mr. Truesdell also noted the cost-saving measures LLP has implemented, including eliminating nearly all travel and switching to a four/ten work week. He pointed out that BPA increased its rates 9.5 percent last October. "We have been absorbing that increase but we can't continue to do so," he said. Consequently, LLP will raise its rates effective May 1. "Some of our major components, such as substations, are coming to the end of their life expectancy," he said. "We're trying to build up our reserves, so we need to have a rate increase this year."

Board President Tom McDonald introduced Ray Grinberg who will become LLP's new General Manager on April 21. (See "Meet our New GM" story on page 2.)

The featured speaker for the Annual Meeting was Jason Whalen, Deputy Mayor of the City of Lakewood who gave an overview of the city's

history, demographics, civic engagement, land use and current legislative and economic priorities.

Mr. McDonald provided additional information about the upcoming rate hike. "We had a substantial rate increase from BPA and we also had a loss from Harvest Wind," he said. "In order to insure reliability and maintain fiscal responsibility, we are reluctantly forced to increase our rates. No increase is popular and we would not have done this unless it was absolutely necessary."

He added that all of LLP's board members are also af-

ected by the increase, and explained that, for the average residential customer, the increase will amount to about \$16 per month.

The biggest increase is in the "base rate" (basic service charge). The base rate covers approximately 50 percent of LLP's actual cost to distribute and maintain power including reading meters, replacement of aging underground lines, tree trimming and routine maintenance. "When it comes to things like the transformers at our substations, we can't buy those off the shelf," Mr. McDonald ex-

*continued on next page ...*



The LLP Board of Directors (l-r): Treasurer Bob Schibig, Secretary Robert Estrada, Attorney Durham McCormick, President Tom McDonald, Director Laura Speight and Vice President Linda McDermott.

## Annual Meeting ... continued

plained. "We have to order them a year in advance."

Mr. McDonald also noted that LLP is not offering any conservation programs this year. "Conservation is a double-edged sword," he said. "Customers can save money by conserving, but it also means less revenue for the company."

The meeting also featured several interesting displays including two by West Pierce Fire and Rescue. At one display, LLP members could sign up to receive free smoke alarms – including special alarms for the hearing impaired. They could also learn about Pierce County's Community Emergency Response Team which will hold training sessions in September.

There was also an interactive display about power line safety, presented by LLP staff.

Because of a change in LLP's bylaws that allows voting by mail, there was a quorum for the board elections for the first time since 2010. The official election results were as follows:

Tom McDonald – 167 votes; Bob Schibig – 121 votes; Tony Aparicio – 83 votes.



(L-r) President Tom McDonald, scholarship winner Jessica Pena and V.P. Linda McDermott. Louise Kemman, our other winner, was performing at a concert and unable to attend the Annual Meeting.

### **Metal Theft Still a Problem ~ Please Report Unusual Activity.**

Metal theft continues to be a problem for LLP and other businesses. According to Operations Manager Mark Hadman, thieves recently broke into several areas on our system and stole wire.

If you see any strange or suspicious activity around our equipment or power lines – especially if an LLP service truck isn't present – please call our office immediately at (253) 584-6060. We thank you for your help.

### **Meet Our New General Manager ~ Ray Grinberg Joins LLP On April 21.**



Starting April 21, there will be new hands on the helm of Lakeview Light and Power.

On that day, Ray Grinberg will become our new General Manager. He has worked for nearly 30 years in the power industry. He began his career at BPA in 1985 and most recently worked as Power Resources Director at Peninsula Light Co. in Gig Harbor.

In his introductory remarks

at the Annual Meeting, Mr. Grinberg noted that he was very impressed with LLP's staff and Board of Directors. "That's probably what took me over the top in making my decision to accept the job as General Manager," he said.

Mr. Grinberg and his wife, Diana live in Gig Harbor with their son, Eric and two dogs. Their daughter, Sarah, attends college in Billings, MT. Mrs. Grinberg teaches elementary school in Gig Harbor. In their spare time, the Grinbergs like to garden, cook and play golf.

"I look forward to getting to know Lakeview Light and meeting our members and customers," he said. "And I look forward to working together to make this the best utility we can be."

### **Project Help**

Every month, many of our customers have trouble making ends meet.

Project Help provides relief for qualified families by helping them pay their power bills. As of Feb. 28, we've received \$438.47 in donations this year. LLP doubles every donation, so the total contribution to Project Help is \$876.94 so far.

Donations in 2013 totalled \$10,095.99 – significantly less than in 2012. Please consider making a contribution to this important program. Just fill in the box on your enclosed statement.

Every donation counts. *We thank you for your help!*



### **Find Your Account Number, Win \$20**

In each issue of *The Lakeview Light*, we hide five randomly chosen account numbers (like 12345-678). If you find yours, call us at 584-6060 before the next newsletter is published and you'll receive a \$20 credit on your next bill.

Good luck!

*the*  
**Lakeview  
Light** is written and  
designed by Sunburst Studios.

Please send comments or  
story ideas to:

Lakeview Light & Power  
11509 Bridgeport Way SW  
Lakewood, WA 98499-3041  
or email: [LLP@lakeviewlight.com](mailto:LLP@lakeviewlight.com)



40313-001