

Meet Foster Hildreth, Incoming General Manager

At the May 3, 2014 Annual Meeting of the Cooperative, General Manager Randy J. Cornelius announced his retirement effective September 1, 2014 and announced his successor, Foster Hildreth, who has been in the role of Assistant General Manager for the past four years.

“We have been grooming Foster for this transition since 2010. He is fully up to speed and very knowledgeable about all aspects of our Co-op business – in fact, his contributions to date have placed us in the impeccable financial position that we enjoy today. The membership is in good hands.”

—Randy J. Cornelius, Outgoing General Manager

Hildreth joined OPALCO in 2006 with a master’s degree in finance and a background in executive management. He brings particular expertise in governmental agency relations, financial team management and tracking, budgeting and scheduling of large capital projects. In 2010, Hildreth was promoted to Assistant General Manager as a part of the Board’s succession plan. He has represented the Co-op in Olympia for the past two years and serves on the Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association board of directors. Hildreth resides on Orcas Island with his wife and two children. His full bio is available online at www.opalco.com.

“My commitment is to always look out for our members first.”

—Foster Hildreth, Incoming General Manager

During the annual meeting, Foster Hildreth spoke of his commitment to base co-op decision making on what best serves our membership – now and into the future. He encouraged all members to take the member satisfaction survey (www.opalco.com/survey) to help us stay in touch with their needs and priorities, to subscribe to our email newsletter - and asked for invitations to speak at community meetings, service clubs and neighborhood association gatherings. “The success of our cooperative relies heavily on good communication with our members. Please help me to realize my goal of continually improving our connection with you, our members.”

Hildreth praised the work of the OPALCO board and staff teams and the progress being made to do our part for energy savings: “We are walking our talk, making sure we are doing the best we can to eliminate energy waste in our buildings and on the grid. We will lead the way and, working cooperatively, we can influence our future power demand and rates through conservation and efficiency gains.”

Gesturing toward his children, Hildreth spoke to his desire to contribute to the sustainability of our island communities. “We will give members access to our communications backbone to protect our safety and provide connections to work, education and family. We will be forward thinking and proactive in planning for what tomorrow will require and protect our core business of providing safe, reliable and environmentally responsible power. Our Co-op team will always work hard and work smart to ensure that our members needs are met.”



Foster with wife Chantelle, children Stormy and Burly at the Annual Meeting in 2013