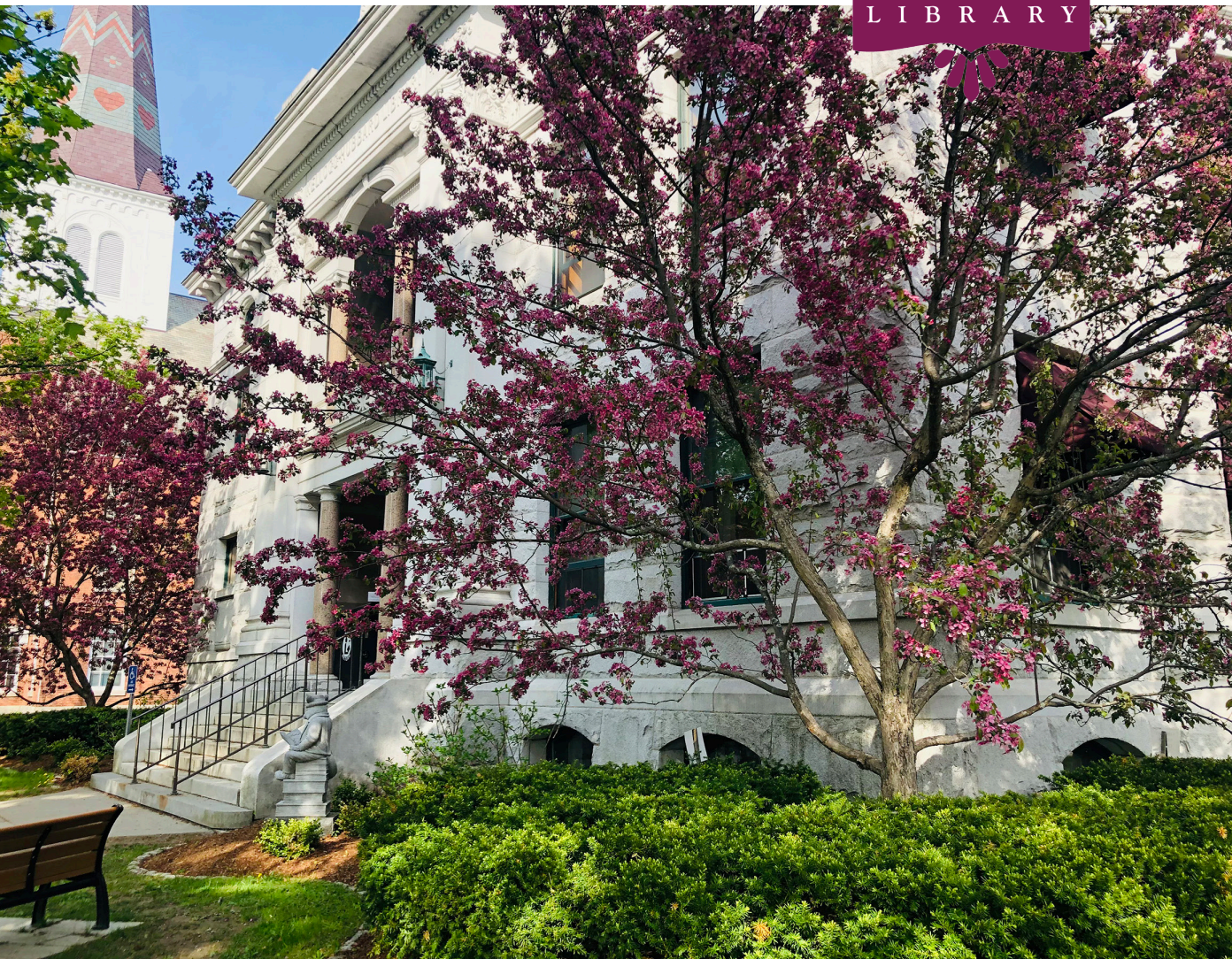


# ANNUAL REPORT FY2021

JUNE 2020–JULY 2021



## Kellogg-Hubbard Library

135 Main Street | Montpelier, Vermont 05602 | 802-223-3338 | [kellogghubbard.org](http://kellogghubbard.org)

*Serving Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Montpelier and Worcester*



# 2021 Co-Directors' Report

Jessie Lynn

CO-DIRECTOR, NONPROFIT DIRECTOR

Carolyn Brennan

CO-DIRECTOR, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

*"It is in changing that we find purpose."*  
—Heraclitus

Libraries have a paradoxical nature: even as they change, they remain steadfast. During the first phases of the pandemic in 2020-2021, we had to adjust our hours, our lending methods and the format for library programs. These changes created opportunities to expand our digital collections, make library services more equitable by eliminating fines on overdue materials and increase access to library programs by offering them digitally or with a mix of in-person and digital viewing.

We added regular Outreach stops in our member communities, so that patrons who can't make it into Montpelier can have library materials delivered closer to home. When patrons could not access the Library stacks, we selected and recommended thousands of books, filled requests and delivered books to homeschooling families.

While our building was closed, we moved forward with several *Give the Library a Lift!* projects; completing our long-awaited elevator overhaul, repairing and refinishing our crumbling basement walls and floors and upgrading our public toilets. We installed new awnings on our historic windows and had areas of the mortar on our building repointed and repaired.

Fiscal year 2021 was an unpredictable year for fundraising. When we set the fiscal year's budget, we weren't sure what kind of winter fundraiser we would be able to have and we weren't sure how the pandemic would affect our donors. By the end of the year we exceeded our fundraising goal; our donors clearly expressed their love of the library and their interest in our continued success. Our member communities also showed their clear support of the Library at Town Meeting Day. Out of respect for the fiscal uncertainties we all faced, we once-again sought level-funding in each of our towns, and each vote passed with a significant margin.

As we look forward into fiscal year 2022, we are preparing for a financial audit, a strategic planning process with our board, and the continuation of our beloved library services and programs. We hope to remain steadfast in the face of continued Covid variants as the year progresses.



KELLOGG-HUBBARD LIBRARY

HAS GONE  
FINE-  
FREE!

THANK YOU to our community members and sponsors who helped the Library go fine-free for FY22 and forever!



## FY2021 BY THE NUMBERS



### Circulation

**290,246** physical books, DVDs, CDs, and magazines circulated

**33,662** materials circulated digitally (e-books, audio downloads, Flipster and Kanopy)

**3,764** interlibrary items borrowed & loaned



### Digital Circulation

**27,777** digital e-book and audiobook circulations

**1,300** digital magazine circulations

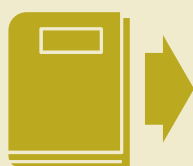
**4,585** streaming video uses



### Programs

**69** adult programs held with **2,342** total attendees

**151** children's library programs held with **7,611** total attendees



### Outreach

Outreach volunteers and staff made:

**302** outreach visits to member towns

**221** home delivery visits

# President's Report

## Bridget Asay

### BOARD PRESIDENT



The months that the Library was closed to the public last year is the longest time I've gone without visiting a library. Just before lockdown, I checked out a stack of books—books that were a comfort during those uncertain early days. As the unread stack dwindled, I wondered when I would be able to get more. But our incredible staff members were soon putting books outside and delivering them to all of our towns.

The books came back, but still, I missed the Library. I missed disappearing into the mystery section, looking for something new or reading chapters in old Amelia Peabody novels. I missed chatting with George at checkout. Daydreaming in the travel section. Finding cookbooks in the basement sale. Seeing friends. Stealing a moment with Atkinson or Adichie in the back of the fiction room. My first visit back to browse upstairs was pure joy.

Over the past year and a half, we learned how much that space means to us as a community. But we also learned that as much as we treasure our building, the Library is not a building. In the building or out, we have continued to support each other, to learn and explore new ideas, to welcome new members of our community, and yes, to read. I am grateful for the support that our communities continue to provide for the Library and for the extraordinary service provided by our co-directors and staff. Because of that support and hard work—because of all of you—the Library remained a vital community resource throughout this time.

As a Board, we are looking forward while acutely aware of the challenges of the present. We will develop a new strategic plan in 2022 with input from our communities, donors, and staff. We devoted our summer meetings to developing a sharper focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion—concerns that will be critical to our planning process. And thanks to your financial support, we are catching up with much-needed building maintenance. We are fortunate to be facing the challenges of the coming year with a strong leadership team, committed staff, and supportive communities.

*Find all of our Board meeting minutes and information at [kellogg Hubbard.org/board-meetings-agendas-and-minutes](http://kellogg Hubbard.org/board-meetings-agendas-and-minutes).*

# Treasurer's Report

Tim Donovan

BOARD TREASURER



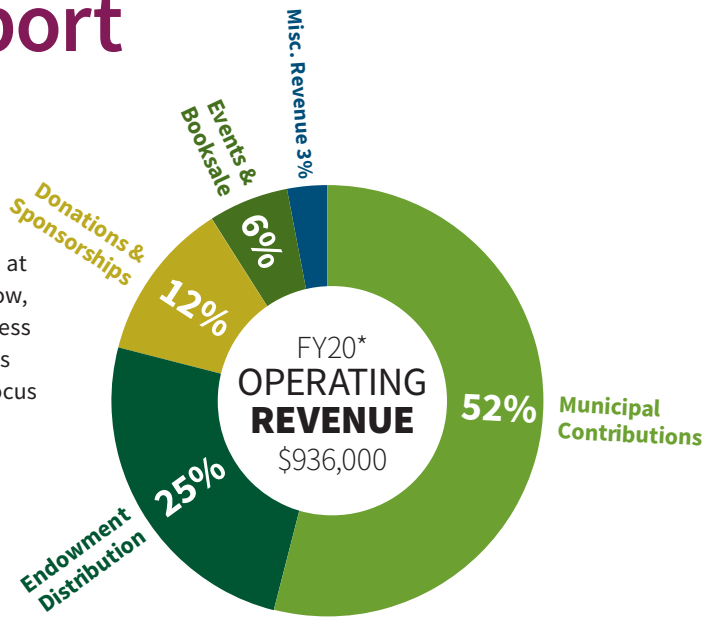
Circumstances like the past year test an organization at its core — plans out the window, services disrupted, and business models irrelevant. Revealed is the organization's ability to focus strategically while adapting without hesitation.

Past annual reports focused on stewardship of the Library's fiscal assets. Instead, I'd like to give you examples of how the Library's co-directors, staff, board, and communities creatively stepped up to exit FY2021 stronger than ever.

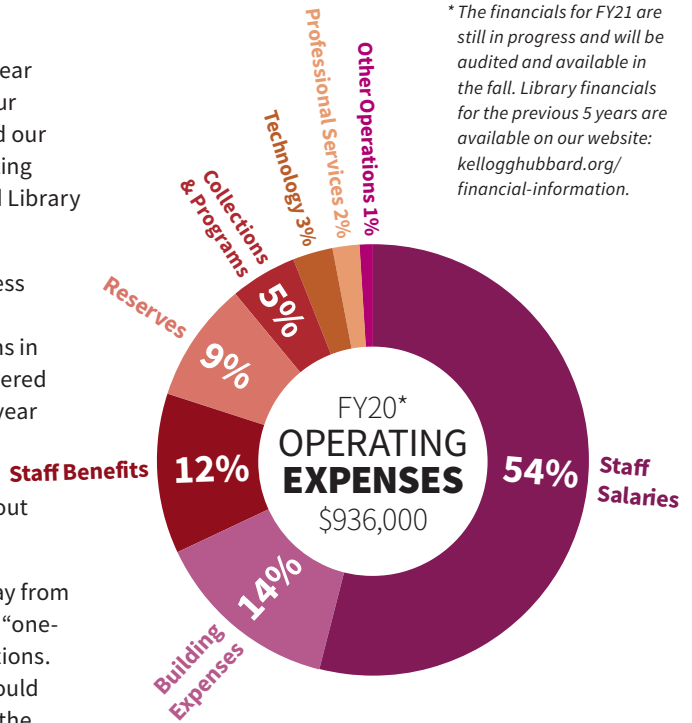
Income from the six towns we serve was secure before the March 2020 lockdown. Even after a year reconfigured and reinvented library services, our towns again, in March 2021, decisively approved our FY22 budget requests. Even with many competing demands, our donors kept the Kellogg Hubbard Library among their giving priorities.

This was not a time to expect or insist on business as usual. The Library's employees did neither. Instead, they demonstrated creative innovations in services, adapted work approaches, and discovered opportunities hidden in the disruption. As the year progressed, the staff, co-directors, and board crafted a new collective bargaining agreement and completed major renovation projects without inconveniencing our visiting public.

Finally, unanticipated public funds came our way from federal recovery programs. The challenge with "one-time" money is to avoid recurring future obligations. Our priority was to find "one-time" uses that would enhance our future fiscal position. To that end, the Library retired and paid off existing liabilities — an investment that will serve us well into the future.



\* The financials for FY21 are still in progress and will be audited and available in the fall. Library financials for the previous 5 years are available on our website: [kelloggghubbard.org/financial-information](http://kelloggghubbard.org/financial-information).



## FY21 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Re-opening the library** fully on May 17 after a long year of curbside service and limitations on in-person services.
- Waiving overdue fines during the pandemic and then the board voting to go **fine-free** starting July 1, 2021.
- Adding **outreach stops** in each of our five member towns.
- Upgrading and modernizing our **elevator**.
- In addition to the elevator, successfully completing 7 other **Give the Library a Lift!** projects.
- Re-opening the **booksale** in early June in a new ongoing, perpetual booksale format.





# Give the Library a Lift! Updates

We are pleased to share the tremendous progress on our *Give the Library a Lift!* campaign. With thanks to more than 200 donors, we successfully fundraised over \$600,000 to address critical building projects in the Library, the completion of which will allow us to continue to serve many thousands of patrons for generations to come.

## DONE AS OF JULY 1, 2021!

- ☑ Refinished the **exterior woodwork** on the addition
- ☑ Upgraded the **HVAC computer** controls
- ☑ Restored the 31 **historic windows** in the 1894 section
- ☑ Renovated the **basement meeting room** space
- ☑ Replaced the **exterior awnings**
- ☑ Repointed the **masonry** on the historic building
- ☑ Repaired and recapped a leaking **chimney**
- ☑ Installed a **heat pump** for cooling in the Hayes Room
- ☑ Replaced the **bookdrop** outside the Main Street entrance
- ☑ Repaired and repainted the crumbling **basement walls**
- ☑ Upgraded the **toilets** in the 4 public bathrooms
- ☑ Upgraded and modernized our 40-year old **elevator** (see before and after photos at right)

## IN-PROGRESS 2021

- ☐ Completing **lighting efficiency** upgrades
- ☐ Upgrading our **electrical circuit breaker** organization
- ☐ Replacing the **stair coverings** in our School Street stairwells
- ☐ Replacing worn **carpeting**
- ☐ Cleaning the **friezes** in the Fiction room
- ☐ Producing a **documentary booklet** about the friezes
- ☐ Repairing the **front entryway** to the Main Street entrance


## STILL TO DO

- ☐ Paint the exterior **basement and attic windows**
- ☐ Address the **overheating issues** on the 2nd floor under the skylight
- ☐ Maintain the **exterior metalwork** on the addition
- ☐ Repair the broken **windows** in the addition
- ☐ Maintenance on the **interior wood** throughout the building
- ☐ Repair the **velvet curtains** in the Reading Room
- ☐ Create a new **outdoor seating area** with landscaping




## STAY CONNECTED TO THE LIBRARY

Follow KHL on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, or sign up to receive the e-newsletter:

 /KelloggHubbardLibrary

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 Sign up for Library eNews:  
[kellogghubbard.org](http://kellogghubbard.org)



# The Library Makes a Big I



Outreach Coordinator, Heather, showcases the KHL Car Library.

“Our homeschooling family was so grateful for the support from Kellogg Hubbard Library during the pandemic. **A librarian hand-chose books for us based on our requests and delivered them to our home each week.** We were also able to get interlibrary loan requests from around the country. When summer came around, my children were very enthusiastic to do summer reading with the library program.”

—Devon Bonady

“My children and I would not have survived the isolation of the pandemic without our weekly drop-off of books to the co-op in Adamant. The support from all the librarians who helped us — Steve & George for my grown-up books and Nicole, Melissa and Heather for the children’s books — was truly essential to our thriving during the pandemic. Each week we were rewarded with the most diverse array of gems: books in all shapes and sizes about every topic under the sun. I have been repeatedly astounded by the riches the library can offer us over the years, but it was the pandemic that highlighted the absolutely essential service the library provides to our wide community. A thousand thank-yous to all.”

—Sarah Lipton



Three witches and Hecate from Shakespeare summer camp’s production of Macbeth.



Above, Miss Melissa takes story time outside.

“I had two kids eagerly go browse the new books section in the Children’s Library and **heard ‘YES!’ a couple of times** when they found something they were particularly excited about.

—KHL librarian



Dog agility demonstration.



# Impact in the Community



During the height of the pandemic, Sarah disinfects books in the quarantine room.

“A patron walked in [when the library reopened] and said, ‘I just have to remove my mask a second. I’m fully vaccinated!’ and before I could reply, took a deep whiff of the library, replaced their mask, and said, **‘I just missed that smell so much!’** (I recommended they look into library scented candles on Etsy.)”

—KHL librarian



One of the many stops our Outreach team makes to our member towns.



“I have autism and use an alternative type of communication called supported typing. I write poetry to express myself. I am happy that I can type, but it used to be very frustrating for me to make my needs known. **Now I can share my thoughts and poetry.**”

—Scott Brodie

“This is my fourth year participating in PoemCity. **I feel honored to have my work displayed in the community.** Thanks for letting me play!”

—Greg Robertson

“Having settled our young family in Montpelier just a few weeks before the pandemic, we found connection and equilibrium through the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. The creative, caring concierge service offered by the children’s library team was the highlight of every week—a mini catalog of exactly the books that our 8- and 11-year old wanted to fight over and curl up with! The book discussion group coordinated by the outreach team encouraged me to read books I might not otherwise have selected and, more importantly, spend a bit of time talking with new people about new ideas at every virtual meeting. In a time of isolation behind closed doors, **KHL and the wonderful team of librarians and staff kept our minds open through access to books and activities.**

Thank you!”

—Elvira

“When it seemed that absolutely everything was forced to cancel, Nicole found a way not only to continue Shakespeare camp, but to **bring a new and fresh way to create and present the experience.** Bravo!”

—Eileen (parent) and Elena, age 12



PoemCity 2021.



# New Library Trustees

## Craig Durham



### What made you want to become a library trustee?

I wanted to get more involved with the Montpelier community and I thought there would be no better way than to become a trustee at one of the first institutions I was drawn to when my

wife and I moved here a few years ago. It's been a great experience.

### What are you reading?

I'm currently reading a book of short stories by Haruki Murakami that I found at the library as well as a book called *Fridays with Red: A Radio Friendship* by Bob Edwards. I usually have one fiction and one non-fiction on the go at any given time.

### What is the most surprising thing you learned about the library since becoming a trustee?

I think the most surprising thing I've learned since becoming a trustee is what a broad range of services the library offers. Personally, I use the library for a fairly narrow set of purposes, but it's neat to see how the library serves everyone in a different way.

## Tai Nixa Peterson



### What made you want to become a library trustee?

I've always had a passion for the resources and safe space libraries provide. After recently moving to Central Vermont, it was the perfect time to fulfill a lifelong dream to become more involved with my

library and in the community. I am beyond honored to have the opportunity to serve as a trustee.

### What are you reading?

I recently finished N. K. Jemisin's *the Broken Earth* trilogy. I am now catching up on a large stack of books I've collected over the past year, including a few from some Vermont authors. My favorite genres besides novels are memoirs and anything about dance/arts!

### What is the most surprising thing you learned about the library since becoming a trustee?

It's been heartwarming to learn more about the community. Everyone has a deep love for the KHL, and I'm grateful to be part of such a special place. Additionally, I've learned more about structure and best practices, and how the board can influence positive change. I'm proud KHL went fine-free during my first year!

**KHL Sustainers** support the library with ongoing monthly contributions so we can keep our essential services and programs free and accessible year-round. Visit [kelloghubbard.org/khl-sustainers](http://kelloghubbard.org/khl-sustainers) to become a KHL Sustainer today!



Nicole hands out goody bags to kids during the wintertime Drive by and Wave "Hi!" event.



# Library Staff



**Carolyn Brennan**

*Co-Director,  
Library Director*



**Jessie Lynn**

*Co-Director,  
Nonprofit Director*



**Katelynn Averyt**

*Development  
Coordinator*



**Autumnn Bissonette**

*Circulation Librarian*



**Meliss Bunce**

*Youth Services Librarian*



**Jason Kass**

*Building and Grounds  
Assistant*



**Carol Minkiewicz**

*Assistant Circulation  
Librarian*



**Sarah Rogers**

*Technical Services  
Librarian*



**Steve Picazio**

*Head Circulation  
Librarian*



**Michelle Singer**

*Adult Programs  
Coordinator*



**George Spaulding**

*Interlibrary Loan  
Librarian*



**Nicole Westbom**

*Youth Services Librarian*



**Sarah Wisner**

*Assistant Circulation  
Librarian*



**Rachel Wykle**

*Assistant Circulation  
Librarian*

## TRANSITIONS

Thank you so much to our departing Trustees and Staff! We wish them all the best in their new endeavors!

## TRUSTEES

**Amy Cunningham**

**Steve Gold**

**Bonnie**

**Johnson-Aten**

**Rachel Muse**

## STAFF

**Joanne**

**Breidenstein**

**Laura Franske**

**Diane Grenkow**

**Heather Kralik**

**Rachel Senechal**

**Martha Wales**

# Donors

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*by William P. Herbst*

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## Program Innovation Fund

*In honor of newly retired staff member Rachel Senechal, donors set up the Program Innovation Fund to kick start new programmatic initiatives. Thank you!*

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## Businesses, Foundations & Groups

Bear Pond Books  
 BHHS Vermont Realty Group,  
 Montpelier  
 Broadlake Financial Management  
 Capitol Copy  
 CenterPoint Financial, Inc.  
 Central Vermont Municipal  
 Employee's Union Local 1369  
 Colin McCaffrey Sound  
 Community National Bank  
 Concept 2  
 Denis, Ricker & Brown |  
 Hickock Boardman Insurance  
 Everett Insurance Agency  
 Fothergill, Segale & Valley  
 Gay & Lesbian Fund  
 of Vermont, Inc.  
 Global Gifts  
 Green Mountain Druid School  
 Hunger Mountain Coop  
 KINNEY DRUGS  
 Kiwanis Club of Montpelier Inc  
 Maple Corner Woodworks  
 National Life Group Foundation  
 NECPUC  
 Network for Good  
 NorthCountry Federal Credit  
 Union  
 Northfield Savings Bank  
 Onion River Animal Hospital  
 Poetry Society of Vermont  
 rbTechnologies  
 Rice, Heard & Bigelow, Inc.  
 Rich Cassidy Law, P.C.  
 S/R Janitorial Service  
 Seidman Family Foundation  
 Seymour H. Knox Foundation  
 State of Vermont  
 Sundog Poetry Center Inc  
 Tarrant, Gillies & Richardson  
 Law Offices  
 The New York Community Trust  
 Union Mutual Companies  
 Vermont College of Fine Arts  
 Vermont Community Foundation  
 Vermont Community Loan Fund  
 Vermont Department of Libraries  
 Vermont Mutual Insurance Group  
 VSECU  
 Washington Electric Co-op