

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2022



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Our primary mission is to provide high-quality, reliable electric service at a reasonable cost to our members, improve their quality of life through new technologies and services, be a visible and active member of the community and serve our members with respect, courtesy and responsiveness.

SOUTHEAST COLORADO
POWER ASSOCIATION IS
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

OFFICES CLOSED

Thursday, April 14
in observance of
Good Friday



THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

BY KEVIN BRANDON INTERIM CEO
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KEVIN BRANDON

You've likely noticed Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA) crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough — but it's a job that's essential and must be done — and often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights,

this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career — because it's not just a job; it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work nontraditional hours, outdoors and in difficult conditions. The job requires technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours (about four years) of training? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts



LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.

THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, SECPA's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their homes and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here in southeastern Colorado, SECPA has 30 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain roughly 5,700 miles of power lines across 11 counties and 13,000 square miles. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information

experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life. WIN*Ed Bignell, acct 219870000

The next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11 and follow **#ThankALineworker** on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



La Junta Linemen (left to right): Jachai Eddy; Patrick Wyckoff; Larry Chavez; Josh Stoker; John Jackson, Serviceman; Anthony Lobato, Staking Engineer; and Keenan Davis. Not pictured: Mark Hall, Chief Operations Office; Mike Trumble, Line Superintendent; Troy Eberhardt, Warehouseman; Garret Wertz, Serviceman; Casey Briscoe, Substations & Metering Manager; Clint Arbutnot, Chief Safety Officer.



Eads Linemen: Jose Ramos (left) and Jacob Barnes, Serviceman.



Springfield Linemen (left to right): Trey Redner; Roman Horn; Taylor Wallace; Phil Hinds, Foreman; and Tyler Schwartz.



Lamar Linemen (left to right): Sebastian Wollert; Jason Lucius, Foreman; and Luis Rodriguez.



ELECTRICAL LINEWORKERS

Lineworkers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems. We rely on their expertise to power our world.

They must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members and themselves.

WHAT THEY WEAR

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Gear can vary depending on pole structure (wood or steel) and weighs up to 45 pounds.



YOU'RE INVITED TO Southeast Colorado Power Association's ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Cash prizes given away throughout the meeting.

Minnick Building, Baca County Fairgrounds
Springfield, CO 81073

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Registration – 5 p.m.

Dinner – 6 p.m. | Meeting – 6:45 p.m.



PLEASE JOIN US!

Special entertainment by Southeast Colorado's own,
Nashville recording artist

CLARE DUNN

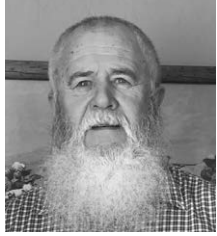


YOU COULD BE A WINNER THIS MONTH

If you find your name in this issue as follows (WIN* your name, your account number), please contact Southeast Colorado Power Association at 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634 to receive a credit on your next power bill. **Last month's winner was George Blotz.**

MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR SECPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1: KENT HOMSHER



I was born in Lamar and raised in Springfield my whole life. My wife, Carmen and I have been married 47 years and have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. I grew up farming and ranching alongside my Dad Forrest, working for Homsher Farms & Ranching. My great granddad came to Colorado in a covered wagon in 1886. My granddad, Herb, stayed in Springfield his whole life and in the early 1900's bought an electric generator and supplied power to Springfield residents in the daylight hours. I've gotten interested in Baca County history and spend a lot of my time posting the history on Facebook (You might be from Baca County if...)

I believe SECPA & SECOM are a vital part of Southeastern Colorado and I would like to be a part of the continued growth and success of the two companies. I have the time and energy that it takes to be on a board of this magnitude and willingness and experience to work with all the Board of Directors to make SECPA/SECOM a success. The most important thing now is when you get your ballots in the mail is to vote for the candidate of your choice, don't just lay the ballots aside and forget. Best wishes to you all and thank you for your time.

DISTRICT 1: TRUMAN WRIGHT (INCUMBENT)



I have been a resident of Baca County most of my life. After a short move away to attend college and work, I moved back in 1997 with my wife Angie. We live southeast of Walsh with our sons, Jacob and Justin.

I, and my parents Bill and Fern Wright, comprise the partners of Wright Farms. Our farming operation consists of both dry and irrigated land. Since returning to SE Colorado I have witnessed the importance of electricity for not only the farmers and ranchers, but also the communities. I understand irrigators and other ag producers interests and will try to keep power costs as low as possible for all SECPA members. I understand that SECPA is a coop and must make a profit to remain viable, but it still must be fair to all of its members by keeping the costs low both now and in the future. As electrical consumption increases, it is vital for this coop to keep a reliable supply for homes as well as the businesses in the area.

In serving as the District 1 representative and having served on several boards I have learned how important board members are in directing the current and future interests of the company. I believe we will need to continue to address changes in both regulation, and Supply and Demand. SECPA has been very successful, and I hope to help guide it into the future for all its members.

DISTRICT 3: BRAD BUCK (INCUMBENT)



Brad and his wife Dreama farm in Kiowa County. He has served on the Board for 26 years.



HIPPITY HOPPITY HAPPY EASTER

Hop to it and enjoy Easter activities with your family. This time of year offers plenty of possibilities.

Express your creative side by decorating Easter eggs and baskets in new ways. Get moving with an egg-and-spoon race in the backyard. Or watch the classic movie *Easter Parade* with Judy Garland and Fred Astaire.

However you decide to celebrate, don't forget to share your favorite moments through video calls and social media posts. Technology helps everybunny stay connected. **Ask us how to receive 1/2 off on your install!**



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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy

