

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2022



MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 521
La Junta, CO 81050-0521



STREET ADDRESS

27850 Harris Road
La Junta, CO 81050



ph 719-384-2551
tf 800-332-8634
fax 719-384-7320
web secpa.com



facebook.com/secpaonline

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



FIVE REASONS WE LOVE SERVING OUR MEMBERS

BY KEVIN BRANDON INTERIM CEO
KEVINB@SECPA.COM



KEVIN BRANDON

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it's packed with special observances such as Presidents Day, Black History Month, Valentine's Day, and a host of unofficial "national" days you probably never heard of such as "National Tater Tot Day." But they all have something in common: They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy and, of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them—with or without a store-bought greeting card.

In that vein, we created our list of the top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA).

- 1. We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.** Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible and safe electricity. Simply put, SECPA exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1937 — to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.
- 2. You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back.** A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. One way we give back is through our SECPA/SECOM Charity Classic golf tournament. This tournament has been held for 34 years every July, and over that time we have been able to donate nearly \$250,000 to charitable causes throughout our service territories.
- 3. Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors.** They provide

guidance for setting co-op priorities and for helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they can serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their votes in director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

- 4. You help us get it right.** SECPA members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball; our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support and words of encouragement as we work through storms mean so much to our employees.
- 5. You and other SECPA members make up the communities we serve — and for us, it's all about community.** Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. That's why SECPA donates to local charities, schools and scholarship funds as well as many other charitable organizations. It's also why we invest in economic development and why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors.

As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and to look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community and, just like you, want to see it continue to thrive.



SECPA \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

SECPA is once again making a series of scholarships available to area high school seniors.

SECPA is offering ten \$1,000 scholarships. Eligible applicants must be high school seniors graduating in 2022 who plan to attend a two or four-year college. Students' parents must be members of SECPA.

Students interested in applying for the scholarships are asked to submit the completed SECPA application form (available on the SECPA website at secpa.com/our-community/scholarships/) along with a school transcript, letters of recommendation and a short letter addressing why they deserve the scholarship and what their major will be in school.

Additionally, the SECPA website has information regarding other scholarships SECPA administers through Tri-State Generation and Transmission as well as Basin Electric. Local students are also eligible to apply for both of those scholarships. Tri-State offers one \$1,000 scholarship and Basin Electric provides one \$1,000 scholarship.

Applications for the SECPA scholarships are due no later than FEBRUARY 7, 2022.

For additional information, please visit the SECPA website or contact Debbie Howard at 719-383-1314.

**WE LOVE
OUR CO-OP
MEMBERS!**

*Happy
Valentine's Day*

FROM SECPA

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 Travis Eskew.

You're Invited to Southeast Colorado Power Association's ANNUAL MEETING Thursday, April 28, 2022

Cash prizes given away throughout the meeting.

Please join us at the
Minnick Building, Baca County Fairgrounds,
Springfield, CO 81050

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Registration – 5 p.m.
Dinner – 6 p.m.
Meeting – 6:45 p.m.

WE HAVE THE
*Purr-fect
Internet Plan*
FOR YOU

**CALL 800-657-7149 FOR ALL YOUR
INTERNET AND PHONE NEEDS**
Mention this ad and receive 1/2
off on your installation fee.

Cornerstone Group © 2022

UCHEALTH LIFELINE SAFETY PRESENTATION

On September 23, 2021, UHealth LifeLine 4 provided a helicopter safety presentation to SECOM and Southeast Colorado Power Association staff. The flight crew discussed capabilities of the helicopter and crew, how to request the aircraft to the scene of an injury or illness, and how to properly secure a landing zone prior to the helicopter arrival. Staff had the opportunity to ask the flight crew questions about the aircraft, the medical equipment on board, and the daily mission of the aircraft.

UHealth LifeLine 4 (formerly CareConnect 1) is a critical care air ambulance based in La Junta. Staffed with critical care nurses, advanced practice paramedics, highly skilled pilots and aircraft mechanics, LifeLine 4 is available to provide expert medical care and rapid helicopter air transport when and where you need it. Operating in a 150-mile radius of La Junta Municipal Airport, LifeLine 4 serves all of southeastern Colorado and the southern Front Range. LifeLine 4 will respond to the scene of medical emergencies as part of the local 911 system or can be requested to local outlying health care facilities. LifeLine 4 will then transport the patient to the closest, most appropriate tertiary care hospital, where they can receive the level of care they require. (WIN* Don Alishouse acct. #106820001)

UHealth LifeLine 4 Flight Nurse Jessie Mascarenas (left) presents a helicopter safety demonstration to SECOM and SECPA staff. LifeLine 4 crew members not pictured but present were G Wagner, Flight Nurse and Chris Roach, Pilot.



IT'S AMERICAN HEART MONTH: EVERY STEP COUNTS

February is American Heart Month and a good time to take stock of your activity, or, for some of us, the lack thereof.

Many people have good intentions to move more, but then the day unfolds with little else other than chair time. You get to work and have that sit-down meeting; a nice co-worker brings in doughnuts; and the day is filled with several work fires to put out. You vow to move more tomorrow, but the same cycle continues.

Instead of waiting for another day, find easy ways to increase movement today. The American Heart Association offers seven simple ways to boost your activity level with no gym membership required — although a gym is also a good way to get moving.

1. **Grab the leash and walk your dog.** Both you and your four-legged friend will be healthier for it.

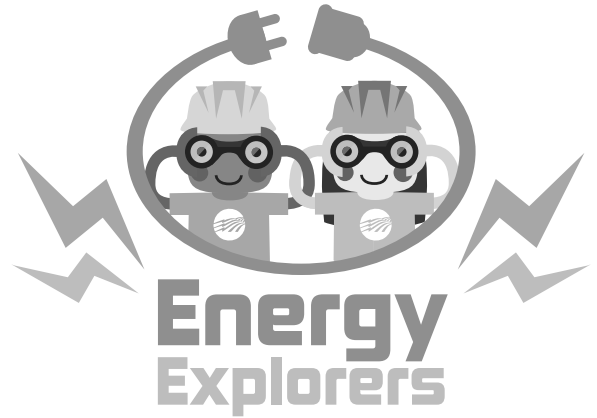


2. **Take a walk with someone you love.** It is a great way to get face time without screens.
3. **Try a 10-minute home workout.** Exercising in shorter increments can improve your health because the time spent moving adds up. People usually have an extra 10 minutes here or there throughout the day but may not be able to find a solid 30 minutes or an hour to exercise.
4. **Walk and talk.** Or walk and work. Walk while you are on the phone or use a walking desk at work. If it is nice outside, have a walking meeting.
5. **Tune into fitness.** Walk or jog in place, lift weights or do yoga while you binge watch your favorite television shows.
6. **Ditch the car.** Park farther away from the building to get in extra steps, or bike or walk to your destination.
7. **Take the stairs, even if just for a floor or two.** The elevator may go up, but your heart rate will not as you press the floor number and listen to nondescript, piped-in music.

Stop putting off until tomorrow what you can do today. Look for opportunities to move more. Your heart will thank you.

ENERGY CONSERVATION BINGO

Cross off a square for each energy conservation task you complete. Share this with your friends and family to see who can get a “BINGO” first!



B	I	N	G	O
Turn water off while brushing your teeth	Use a reusable bag	Pick up trash	Turn off lights when you leave a room	Walk somewhere instead of riding in a car
Unplug unused phone chargers	Collect items to recycle	Use a smart power strip	Carpool with friends	Reuse a water bottle
Take a 5-minute shower	Use solar lights outdoors	FREE	Unplug unused phone chargers	Use a reusable bag
Carpool with friends	Pick up trash	Turn off lights when you leave a room	Take a 5-minute shower	Collect items to recycle
Reuse a water bottle	Use a smart power strip	Turn water off while brushing your teeth	Walk somewhere instead of riding in a car	Use solar lights outdoors

