

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2019

**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** www.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



Touchstone Energy®



THE COMMITMENT OF LINEMAN

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 8, 2019

BY JACK JOHNSTON CEO



JACK JOHNSTON

National studies consistently rank power line workers among those doing the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But our linemen are up to the challenges and committed to all necessary safety.

Our linemen are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of linemen who often set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Family support system

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. Their family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

This means in times of prolonged outages, when conditions outside of their homes can be worrisome, they may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

Community commitment

In southeastern Colorado and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' service-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities and serving on local boards.

Thank you

Given the dedication of our lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members out and about in town, please offer them a thank you as well. (WIN* David Martinez, acct #1305520000)



Offices will be closed
Friday, April 19
in observance of
Good Friday.

GROW

THE MESSAGE OF SAFETY

Planting season is a busy and stressful time for farmers. **Safe Electricity** reminds farmers to:

- **STAY IN** your vehicle or machinery if it comes in contact with a power line; **DO NOT** get out.
- **LOOK UP** to avoid machinery/power-line contact (long extensions or tall antennas can get caught).
- **ALWAYS HAVE 10 FEET** of clearance surrounding the live lines — even if no contact is made, an electrical current can arc or jump.
- **STAY AWAY** from a sagging or downed line; call 9-1-1 to have the utility dispatched.
- **USE A SPOTTER** with a broad vantage point when operating machinery around power lines.
- **TEACH** the 10-foot clearance rule to anyone working on your farm and review power line locations.

Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

 Safe
Electricity.org



You're invited to
SECPA's ANNUAL MEETING!

**Southeast Colorado Power Association
will hold its annual meeting on**

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019

**Lamar Community College
2401 S. Main St., Lamar**

******Cash prize drawings throughout the day****
Grand Prize – VIZIO HDTV**

BOARD ELECTIONS

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

NO FOOLIN': APRIL IS SAFE DIGGING MONTH

April showers bring May flowers, but digging on your own this spring could spell big trouble. Even if you think you could get lucky or that digging one small hole (or two) won't matter, don't take for granted what lines might lurk beneath the soil in your yard or easement.

Before you use that posthole digger or other digging tools, stop and call 811 to request buried electric, gas, cable and other live lines in or near your yard be marked. The service is free but digging in an unmarked yard may not be.

You might think you don't have time to call and ask yourself, "What's the worst that could happen?" Simply put: You could die or become seriously injured, which makes that yard project less pressing, doesn't it?

Other consequences of blindly digging and taking a chance include:

- Causing a power outage.
- Hitting a gas line, which could burn your skin or cause an evacuation in your neighborhood.
- Getting a fine.
- If you hit a telephone line or fiber optic line, you might lose your telephone, cable television or internet service. (WIN* Joan Melcher, acct #1312970000)

Take a deep breath, look over your landscaping or fence plans and call 811 before you dig. Each state has its own call center to help you get digging safely. By calling 811, utilities or the companies they contract with will come to your home and mark your yard before you dig.

As call811.com says, "Know what's below." Then dig safely. For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

**Committed to the job.
Committed to safety.
Committed to you,
our members.**

Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 8, 2019



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.

