

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 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**



WORKING WITH LOCAL LEGISLATORS

BY KEVIN BRANDON INTERIM CEO
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KEVIN BRANDON

“All politics is local.” This observation by the late Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill, Jr., former Speaker of the House of Representatives, means that even national politics have a local impact and people care most about issues that directly affect them. Indirectly, this famous adage underscores the importance and value of local politics.

At Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA), we think it’s critical to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce and vote on legislation that impacts the local business climate, the environment and the quality of life for our community. That’s why we work closely with our local elected officials. After all, our purpose is to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy, but our mission is to enhance our community resilience.

SECPA is a local business that powers economic development and prosperity for our region. As a cooperative, we have deep roots here, and we listen closely to our member-owners to better understand the needs of the community. Our leadership, board members and employees live and work right here in the communities we serve.

We strive to be an advocate for our community, ensuring that local legislators know, understand and act on the issues that are important to our area.

PROVIDING INDUSTRY GUIDANCE AND EXPERTISE

As a practical matter, we recognize that most legislators are “generalists,” yet they vote on a wide range of issues. Their expertise may not include the changing energy industry, which is why SECPA provides guidance and expertise from subject matter experts who have been in the energy industry for many years.

Today’s energy landscape is an increasingly complex topic covering not only the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the industry, but also technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector and more.

Our experts, whether internal or from other members of CREA, our state-wide trade association, offer briefings and background information to legislators, committees and staff, and we often bring expert testimony for hearings and other legislative or regulatory meetings or gatherings. And because we’re involved in economic development and we know local community leaders, we can provide insight on how issues and policies under discussion might impact our region.

CO-OP AS A CONVENER

In addition, we periodically invite legislators and their staff to the co-op so they can see firsthand how we operate, and we have beneficial discussions on topics that are important to our part of the state and to our members such as rural broadband and agricultural and domestic water issues. We also meet with legislators at events organized by CREA and discuss those issues important to us and to you as electric co-op members.

REPRESENTING YOUR BEST INTERESTS

We strive to be a trusted resource on energy issues. Because of our deep roots in the community, we have a firm understanding of local issues and needs. We will continue looking after the long-term interests of our members. This means we aim to cultivate and foster positive, productive relationships with legislators who know and trust us, because we’re advocating on behalf of the community we serve.

We’re proud to power your life and bring good things to the community. We hope you’ll let us know how legislative matters will affect you and your livelihood so we can continue to advocate on your behalf and improve the quality of life for all.

In closing, as we say goodbye to 2021 and welcome 2022, all of us here at SECPA and SECOM wish you and yours a happy and prosperous new year!

SECPA EARNS CERTIFICATES & AWARDS



▲ The Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program recently awarded SECPA national recognition for its dedication to employee and public safety and commitment to regulatory compliance and loss control practices by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



▲ Kevin Brandon, interim CEO, presents Director Lawrence Brase his Board Leadership Certificate. Brase has served as a SECPA Board Director for 24 years. The BLC is an NRECA recognition level earned by Directors for their dedication to professional development.



▲ Clint Arbutnot, SECPA Safety Officer; Curt Graham, CREA Job Training & Safety Instructor; and Jason Lucius, SECPA Foreman. Arbutnot and Lucius were presented a safety award by Graham, for having no lost-time accidents during the year.




**You're Invited to
Southeast Colorado Power
Association's
ANNUAL MEETING on
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.



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 Rochelle Peil.**

ACCEPTING PETITIONS FOR SECPA BOARD DIRECTOR POSITIONS

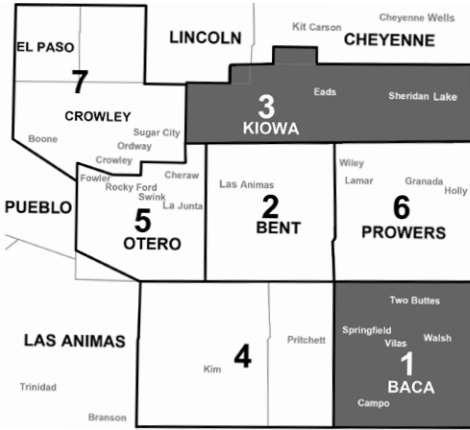
SECPA Board positions up for election in 2022 are District 1 — Eastern Baca County (incumbent Director is Truman Wright); and District 3 — Kiowa County (incumbent Director is Brad Buck). See map.

These positions are for three-year terms, beginning April 2022 and ending March 2025. To be eligible to be a Director:

1. a person must be a SECPA member and bona fide resident of the district he or she is to represent,
2. cannot be an employee or have been an employee of SECPA or its subsidiary within the preceding five (5) years, and
3. cannot be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to SECPA.

Petitions must be signed by 15 bona fide members in the nominee's district and must be returned no later than 5 p.m., January 6, 2022. Petitions are available in all SECPA offices or on the website at <http://secpa.com/annual-meeting-elections>.

Return petitions to Debbie Howard at any SECPA office or mailed to SECPA, ATTN: Debbie Howard, PO Box 521, La Junta, CO 81050. (WIN*Travis Eskew Acct# 505000000)



HAPPY NEW YEAR! As we all look back on 2021, let's focus on what we enjoyed most and bring that positive energy forward. One of the highlights for SECOM was having you for a customer, so thank you for choosing us as your provider.

We hope the new year brings you new opportunities to pursue, new people to cherish, and new places to explore.



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ATTENTION ALL SECPA MEMBERS:

Sign up with SECOM and get your install FREE!



Parade of Lights

SECPA and SECOM participated in the 2021 La Junta Parade of Lights to bring in the Christmas holiday.





SECPA \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

Southeast Colorado Power Association (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 that 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.

Feeling chilled? HEAT your SPACE safely



Before you dust off your space heater and plug it in, consider that most home heating fire deaths (86%) involve space heaters, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). In fact, heating equipment is the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires (cooking is the leading cause).

More than half of the heating-related home fires start when flammable items are too close to the heat source, according to the NFPA. Those items include upholstered furniture, clothing, a mattress or bedding.

Nearly half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.



Here are some space heater safety tips:

- Only use them as the manufacturer recommends
- Do not leave them unattended
- Give them space: remove any flammable items within 3 feet
- Plug them directly into outlets; don't use an extension cord
- Consider using a dedicated circuit to avoid overload
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters at all times
- Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Electric co-ops maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other electric utilities. Even though we power fewer consumers on our lines compared to other utilities, we'll always go the extra mile for you, the consumer-members we proudly serve.

