

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2024



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



MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE MERRY AND BRIGHT

BY KEVIN BRANDON CEO | KEVINB@SECPA.COM



KEVIN BRANDON

As November kicks off, it's hard to believe we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

Our team at Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA) cares about your well-being. This month, I'd like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

SAFETY FIRST.

Many families truly enjoy decorating their homes for the holidays. Before you deck the halls, I always recommend that you check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. This gives you peace of mind, knowing your holiday lights are ready to safely brighten your home. You should also double check the lights you use outside to make sure they're rated for outdoor use.

This time of year, many households enjoy using holiday-scented candles. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. Manufacturers recommend testing on the first of each month, so it's easy to remember. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so make it a habit.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR SAVINGS

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your bills.

I like to remind my family members to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling makes up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home — literally and figuratively.

Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy-efficient lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs. (WIN* Nicholos S. Lovato acct 22024xxxx)

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food — not just the meals, but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers, and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtime and energy savings.

I hope you will implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans. For additional advice, visit our website at www.secpa.com. We're here to help you with safety and savings year-round.

From your friends at SECPA, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright.

ACCEPTING PETITIONS FOR SECPA BOARD DIRECTOR POSITIONS

Southeast Colorado Power Association Board positions up for election in 2025 are District 1— Eastern Baca County and District 3 – Kiowa County. See map below.

Director elections are for three-year terms, beginning April 2025 and ending March 2028, for District seats 1 and 3.

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 years;
- 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, 2025. Petitions are available in all SECPA offices or on the website at secpa.com/annual-meeting-elections.
- Return petitions to Debbie Howard at any SECPA office, or mail to SECPA, ATTN: Debbie Howard, P.O. Box 521, La Junta, CO 81050.



SAVE THE DATE!


Southeast Colorado Power Association will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2025. Cash prize drawings given away throughout the meeting.

Please join us in Lamar. Location to be announced.

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Two SECPA board positions are up for election in 2025: District 1, Eastern Baca County and District 3, Kiowa County.


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



ARE YOU THE 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.

SECPA offices will be closed on **November 28** to celebrate **Thanksgiving.**





ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS:

Win a Trip to Washington, D.C., or a week at Leadership Camp at Glen Eden Resort!



Each year Southeast Colorado Power Electric Association (SECPA) sponsors two students to attend the Washington D.C. Youth Tour held June 16-22, 2025. High school students who are 16 by June 1 and, whose families are SECPA members are eligible to apply to go on the trip. The tour provides students with an adventure that offers in-depth exposure to the electric cooperative network while exploring our nation's capital and connecting with students from across the country. The selected student's expenses — including airfare, lodging, meals, and all tour admission fees — are paid by SECPA. Students will tour the U.S. Capitol, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, war memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Archives, the White House, and the Smithsonian Museums. They will also attend a Potomac River dinner and dance cruise and visit with Colorado's U.S. senators and representatives.

If you're not chosen to attend the Washington, D.C., trip, you may be the recipient of a trip to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp held at Glen Eden Resort, located just outside Steamboat Springs. At this camp, held July 12-17, 2025, students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Wyoming will gather at a beautiful resort on the Elk River and spend the week at an outstanding leadership camp. You'll participate in activities to improve leadership skills and get an inside view of the state and national legislatures. There is also time for swim parties, barbecues, whitewater rafting, and dancing. Many of the attendees call this camp a "life-changing experience."

For more information and to apply, go to our website at secpa.com/youth-programs or contact Debbie Howard at 719-383-1314.

Applications must be received by December 31 to ATTN: Debbie Howard, SECPA, PO Box 521, La Junta, CO 81050.



We thank you for your service!
This month, Veterans receive **FREE** installation on internet service with **NO** contract!
(proof of service required)



Local in Southeast Colorado for more than 25 years.

A SOUTHEAST COLORADO VETERAN REMEMBERS PEARL HARBOR

BY ANNE BOSWELL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

On December 7, 1941, Orville Mousel was 19 years old and serving in the Navy on the USS California. Many know that date and ship mark a significant event in United States history: the attack on Pearl Harbor.

“We were just sitting there, and the Japanese were just strafing us as they’d come through. They’d drop bombs, and they would fire their small arms before they dropped their bombs,” Mousel recalled.

When a bomb struck the ship, the guy next to Mousel went down. “He just folded over forward with no motion at all, I thought he got killed. But if something hits you right on the solar plexus, you’re out for a few minutes and don’t know anything, which is what happened to him.”

The USS California was sinking straight down slowly, and Mousel recalled that he didn’t expect they would have to abandon ship. “We didn’t think we were going to come out of it alive, there wasn’t any chance, hardly.”

However, as events unfolded, the commander ordered everyone to abandon the ship.

On his way to the ship’s edge, Mousel encountered a man who was badly hurt. “He was in bad shape — he’d been burnt and when he tried to talk, his lips stuck together and his legs stuck together. I didn’t know how in the world he’d ever made it to the top side.” Mousel was ordered to help get a life jacket on the injured man.

Things happened fast, he said, and the next thing he knew, he was ready to jump. “There were puddles of oil floating from the sunken Arizona. Some were burning, some were catching fire, some were just clear oil floating by.”

“I was going to try to pick an area to swim through that wasn’t yet burning.” He said he could swim underwater well, but the gas mask he was wearing made it difficult. Diving through a thick pool of oil helped him escape a fire on the ship, but the mask slowed him down. He took it off and when he came up for air, three other soldiers surfaced with him.

Once Mousel reached the shore, the Marines were there to help the men and tend to any injuries. Mousel joked that he got to be a Marine for the day, as they provided them with clean, dry clothes to wear.

After the attack, Mousel lived in the recreation center of a military post on the island and slept on the floor with the other survivors. He was reported missing in action; his family thought he died that day.



▲ Pearl Harbor Survivor and SECPA member Orville Mousel.

There were thousands of survivors there with him. The Red Cross wanted a quarter for a telegram to send the news back home that he had made it safely to shore. “They wanted a quarter, and my money was already sunk, we didn’t carry any money with us around on the ship,” Mousel recalled.

The Naval crews were assigned to get the guns off the USS California and then train the Army to take over before they were sent home.

Mousel, now 103, lives at home in Eads with his wife Rita and dog Snoopy.

Please join us in thanking him and other veterans for his service.

