

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2019



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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



Touchstone Energy®



SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING!

BY JACK JOHNSTON CEO



JACK JOHNSTON

Most of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking and constantly checking our phones to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks remotely to be more efficient. With so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time. So invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether or not our time and effort to attend would be beneficial. I believe attending our annual meeting would prove to be so.

We exist to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our consumer-members along with broadband services to an even larger customer base. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all residents and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities.

As a member of those communities, you have a perspective that is valuable and we invite you to share it with us. At the annual meeting, we will discuss priorities and challenges plus our financial health for the coming years. Every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and we want to hear from you to better inform us as we plan for the future.

We are one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. The health of the co-op and the well-being of the community are closely intertwined.

Finally, the annual meeting is also the

place to vote for board members who will represent you — democracy is one of the core principles of a cooperative. Although we have seven representative districts, every member gets to vote regardless of geography. This year, both Districts 1 and 3 will have candidates seeking your support.

If you have never attended our annual meeting before or if it's been awhile, please stop by. There will be food, fun and door prizes, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting on **Thursday, April 11, at Lamar Community College**. We look forward to seeing you.



March 2019

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

A/C TIP:

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

Source: energy.gov

Three Easy DIY Projects to Save Energy

BY ABBY BERRY

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills and pocketbook. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this.

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

Make the most of your water heater

Start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. If your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated, but if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or

blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly, tape it permanently in place and then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, as it can cause overheating. Setting it at 120 degrees will save on heating costs.

Seal air leaks with caulk

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills. Unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing saves energy and money.

There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof and flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterward, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

Weather strip exterior doors

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which keeps out drafts and helps you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, so ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and general wear and tear for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the moldings with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy while increasing the comfort level of your home and impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

**You're invited to
SECPA's ANNUAL MEETING!**

Southeast Colorado Power Association
will hold its annual meeting on
Thursday, April 11, 2019

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

PLEASE JOIN US AT
Lamar Community College, 2401 S. Main St., Lamar

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS
Board candidates featured in this issue of *CCL*

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



◀ Jace Noe (left) and Bruce Barnhart (right) show students some of their safety equipment

Story Behind the Switch

Kayla Bay's fourth grade students at Cheraw School had the opportunity to learn about electricity from a program presented by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Education Program Advisor Michelle Pastor.

SECPA Journeymen Linemen Bruce Barnhart and Jace Noe demonstrated some of the equipment they use to keep them safe when working on energized power lines. Barnhart thought it was interesting that one of the questions a student asked the linemen was how much money they make. (Barnhart is a graduate of Cheraw High School.)

Electricity classroom session for your students

If you are a K-12 teacher who lives in or teaches in the service area, we can bring a one-hour, interactive education program called Story Behind the Switch to your classroom. Our co-op power supplier, Tri-State, offers Story Behind the Switch to our members at no cost, including related classroom materials.

Your kids will learn:

- How we make electricity
- What we mean by a diverse energy mix
- Why electricity safety matters

"A great opportunity for kids to see and experience!" said Matthew M., science and social studies teacher.

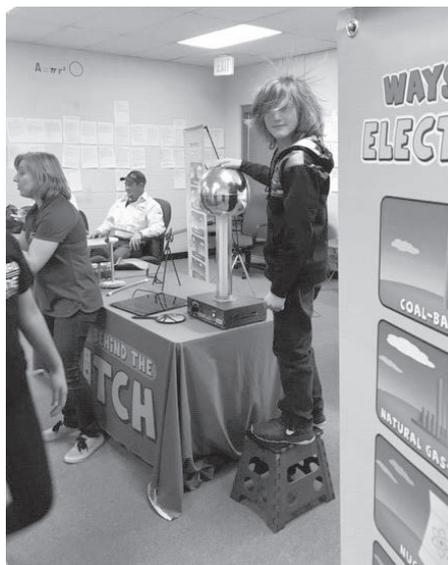
To schedule Story Behind the Switch, email Debbie Howard at debbieh@secpa.com.

FIT FOR FLYING?

As the arrival of spring approaches, kids can't help but head outdoors. Be sure your children know about the electrical dangers surrounding them. For example, kites, model airplanes and drones could make contact with an overhead power line. A kite in the line could cause an electric shock. And kids could get electrocuted trying to retrieve an airplane or drone. Teach kids to look up before their toys take flight.

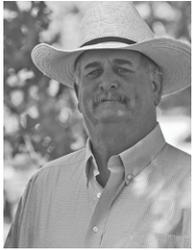
BE ALERT

Those who steal copper are not only risking their own lives, but also the safety and well-being of others. Report suspicious activity near common targets, which include farm equipment, air conditioners, vacant buildings, construction sites and electric utility properties, including substations and power poles.



▶ Student at Cheraw School enjoys the hands-on Story Behind the Switch presentation.

MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR SECPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DISTRICT 1: TRUMAN WRIGHT

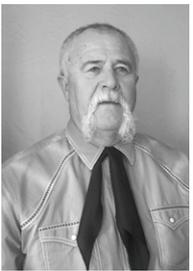
My name is Truman Wright. I grew up near Walsh, Colorado, and have been a resident of Baca County most of my life. After a short move from the area to attend West Texas State University, I moved back in 1997 with my wife Angie Wright. We live southeast of Walsh with our two sons, Jacob and Justin.

I, along with Bill and Fern Wright, comprise the partners of Wright Farms. Our farming operation consists of both dry and irrigated land. Since returning to southeast Colorado I have witnessed the importance of electricity for not only the farmers and ranchers, but also the communities. As the District 1 representative I would understand irrigators' interests as well as the other ag producers and try to keep power cost as low as possible for all SECPA members.

I understand that SECPA is a cooperative and must make a margin to remain viable, but it still must be fair to all of its members by keeping the cost low both now and for the future. As electrical consumption increases, it is vital for this board to keep a supply for homes as well as farm and ranches in the area.

I serve on the Baca County Fair Board, Cactus Kids Play Days, Baca County Weed Board and Plainsman Ag Research. I am a Baca County 4-H leader and was awarded a 10-year 4-H leader pin.

Having served on several boards, I know how important the board members are in directing the current and future interests of SECPA. I believe there are many changes in both regulation and Supply and Demand that will have to be addressed. SECPA has been very successful and I hope to help guide it into the future for all its members.



DISTRICT 1: KENT HOMSHER

I have lived in Springfield my entire life, and worked on the family farm and ranch for several years. I attended Denver Baptist Bible College where I met my wife, Carmen. My wife and I have three adult children.

I went to work for SECPA in 1976 as a truck operator, became a journeyman lineman in 1982, and was promoted to working foreman the following year. I was staking engineer when I retired in 2017.

I decided to run for the board director position in District 1 believing the experience of over 41 years provides insight in the electric industry. I know how rural electric cooperatives operate from the ground

up, and if elected, I can use this experience in trying to make SECPA/SECOM a better led company from the start. I know the SECPA system and have met many SECPA members over the years. My experience, including understanding different rate structures, will allow me to represent the membership.

My goal is to keep electric rates as low as possible, but also to budget conservatively, being accountable and keep borrowing to a minimum. I will represent the members faithfully and honestly.

I have served as a board member on Peoples Credit Union Supervisory Committee and have been a member of Baca County Sheriff's Posse for over 20 years.



DISTRICT 3: BRAD BUCK (Incumbent — Unopposed)

Brad and his wife Dreama farm in Kiowa County.

Save the Date for SECPA'S Annual Meeting!



Thursday, April 11, 2019

Lamar Community College

2401 S. Main St., Lamar