

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 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®



MAY YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON BE MERRY AND BRIGHT

BY JACK JOHNSTON CEO



JACK JOHNSTON

The holidays are a time of year that many of us eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations and lots of festivities. At Southeast Colorado Power, we look forward to helping hang holiday lights on main streets or participate in the light parades hosted in many communities throughout our territory.

However, given the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can also offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. We are grateful for you, the members of our co-op. One of our founding principles as a co-op is “concern for community.” While

our main focus is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we want to give back and help our communities thrive.

In looking back at this past year, I’m grateful we made a positive impact in the communities through powering homes and businesses, offering energy efficiency programs, providing needed broadband services in places no other company is committed to serve and donating to or sponsoring nonprofit organizations that provide special services to residents

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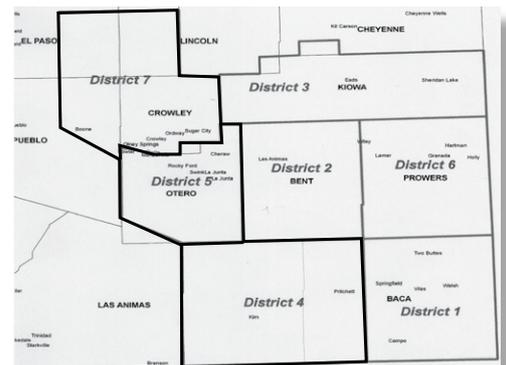
Accepting Petitions for SECPA Board Director Positions

SECPA board positions up for election in 2020 are District 4 – western Baca and eastern Las Animas counties (incumbent director is Randy Phillips); District 5 – Otero County (incumbent director is Kevin Karney); and District 7 – Crowley County (incumbent director is Clint Anderson). See map.

Directors are elected for three-year terms, beginning April 2020 and ending March 2023, for District seats 4, 5 and 7.

To be eligible to be a director: a person 1) 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., DECEMBER 27, 2019. Petitions are available in all SECPA offices or on the website at <http://secpa.com/annual-meeting-elections>.

Petitions can be returned to Debbie Howard at any SECPA office, or mailed to SECPA, ATTN: Debbie Howard, PO Box 521, La Junta, CO 81050.

May Your Holiday Season Be Merry and Bright

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throughout our service territory. In conjunction with concern for community, another founding co-op principle is “education, training and information.” We accomplish this not only through co-op employees and directors, but also by sending youth to leadership camps in Colorado and Washington, D.C., and offering college scholarships funds.

Looking ahead to 2020, we hope you will share your opinions with us on even more ways we can better serve our members and communities. We recognize our members have a valuable perspective, and that’s why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels, the annual meeting or simply calling, your input is always welcome.

On behalf of the SECPA and SECOM family, we hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright! [Win* Bert Buhr acct 219780100]



**WE WISH YOU A JOYFUL
HOLIDAY SEASON**

Merry Christmas from SECOM! We hope you enjoy lots of laughter with family and friends.

As you prepare for the season, remember we offer the updated communications services you need to fully enjoy today’s latest devices. Call 800-657-7149 or visit our website to find out more.



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Don’t Let Old Electrical Wiring Pose a Problem

People who love older homes usually get drawn in by their grandeur — they see a Victorian home in the historic district and fall in love with its stately staircase and intricate architectural features. Once they sign on the dotted line, they painstakingly restore woodwork, make sure windows are in working order and tend to other repairs. One of the top priorities on their to-do list should be to get the electrical system inspected by a qualified electrician.

Just because the wiring in a home is old doesn’t automatically mean there’s a problem, but there could be. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, many older homes that still have outdated wiring can’t handle the electrical load of today’s modern appliances. That could spell trouble because old, outdated wiring could pose a fire hazard.

As electrical components age or become overloaded, the system can overheat and wear out insulation. This can lead to arcs (electrical discharge) and short circuits — the two main causes of home electrical wiring fires, according to the CPSC. In addition, old rubber wire insulation can become brittle and easily flake, leaving wires exposed.

Older wiring called knob and tube can be found in homes built around 1950 or earlier. If your electrical system was not thoroughly inspected when you bought your house, or if it was inspected several years ago, have it inspected by an electrician to make sure it is safe and adequately meets the electrical needs of your home today.

If your house was built between 1965 and 1973, it could be dangerous for another reason: aluminum, a chemical element that can overheat. Unfortunately, it was used in 2 million homes that were built during that time period.

Regardless of the age of your home, be sure to get any potentially dangerous wiring issues checked by a professional, especially if:

- Your circuit breaker keeps tripping or fuses blow often
- You notice unusual power draws or dimming or flickering lights
- You see discolored (dark colored) outlets or switch plates or they are warm to the touch
- You notice unusual odors like a burning smell but can’t find a source
- Your outlets only allow you to plug in a two-pronged plug (and not a three-pronged plug), which means they are not grounded
- You don’t have ground fault circuit interrupters near faucets or other sources of water in your home
- Your house was built more than 40 years ago

For more information about electrical safety, **visit SafeElectricity.org**.



December 2019

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip:

Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You'll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

Source: energy.gov

A New Electric Cooperative General Manager

One of our very own leaders, Telly Stanger, will begin his new role as general manager of Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Eureka, Montana, on January 6.



▲ Telly Stanger

Telly joined SECPA in 2015 as the chief member services officer, which included all aspects of member services along with billing, energy programs and annual meeting responsibilities. The role also encompassed customer service for SECOM.

We benefitted from his effective project leadership with the new headquarters and warehouse in La Junta and he helped facilitate our capital credit retirements. He was also lead on the Vilas Solar Project. He later served as our chief operations officer for a year and, most recently, served as our chief administrative officer.

There are over 900 electric cooperatives nationwide and we are excited we were able to help develop a new industry leader based on SECPA and SECOM principles and the influence of our coveted southern Colorado values. Telly will be missed but we extend our best wishes to him and his family for much success and happiness.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT BYLAWS REVISION

ARTICLE IV – DIRECTORS

SECTION 3 – Qualifications

The following line should have been included in the previous announcement,

“No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative who:”

Added:

(c) Is or has been an employee of the cooperative or its subsidiary within the preceding five (5) years.

RATIONALE: Allows for a period of detachment from the day to day operations of the co-op to the process of governance.

SAVE THE DATE!

You're Invited to **SECPA's Annual Meeting**
Southeast Colorado Power Association will hold its
annual meeting on **Thursday, April 23, 2020.**

****Cash prizes given away throughout the meeting.****

Please join us at the Minnick Building,
Baca County Fairgrounds, Springfield, CO 81073

Board Director Elections

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



SECPA Offices Closed

December 24-25 in observance of **Christmas**
January 1, 2020, for **New Year's Day**

Youth Tour 2020

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

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

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Washington D.C. Youth Tour is June 18-25, 2020. High school students who are 16 by June 1 and whose families are Southeast Colorado Power Association members are eligible to apply to go on the trip. The tour provides students with an eight-day adventure that offers in-depth exposure to the electric cooperative network while exploring our nation's capital. The selected youths' expenses, including airfare, lodging, meals and all tour admission fees, are paid by your local cooperative, Southeast Colorado Power. Activities during the trip include tours of the U.S. Capitol, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, war memorials (Vietnam, Iwo Jima), Arlington National Cemetery, National Archives, the White House and Smithsonian museums; a Potomac River dinner and dance

cruise; visits with Colorado's U.S. senators and representatives; an NRECA Town Hall Meeting; and the chance to connect with students nationwide.

If you're not chosen to attend the Washington, D.C., trip, you may be the recipient of a trip to Leadership Camp held at Glen Eden Resort, located just outside of Steamboat Springs. At this camp, held July 11-16, 2020, 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 plenty of time for swim parties, barbecues, dances and banquets during the week. Many of the attendees call this camp a "life-changing experience."

For more information and applications, go to our website at <http://secpa.com/related-links/youth-camps> or contact Debbie Howard at 719-383-1314 or Telly Stanger at 719-383-1341. **Applications must be received or postmarked by December 16, 2019. Send to SECPA ATTN: Telly Stanger PO Box 521, La Junta, CO 81050.**





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 V.W. Arbuthnot.



Generator Safety

Permanently installed generators should be wired into your home by a qualified electrician, using a transfer switch that prevents potentially deadly back-feed.