

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2020



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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

**SECPA OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED
THURSDAY, APRIL 9,
IN OBSERVANCE OF
GOOD FRIDAY.**



A Full Month: Earth Day, Birthday, Linemen Appreciation and Annual Meeting

BY JACK JOHNSTON CEO

Earth Day is considered to be one of the world's largest civic events. April 22 is always the designated date and, coincidentally for me, the same day my parents welcomed me into this world many years ago. Although this is an annual global celebration, most of us celebrate this theme daily whether by desire or need or both (some may want to do the same with their birthdays!)

Natural resources, led by land and water, are such an integral part of our lives in southeastern Colorado whether as a livelihood and/or a special way of life — my family and I cherish the farmland we live on and the crops it produces. I'm sure none of us want to see anything diminish them through wasteful utilization.

As an electric cooperative, we have always been focused on safe, reliable and affordable service. However, sustainability has increasingly evolved as an important concept. I've written in the past about our own Vilas Solar project in addition to our partnership with Tri-State Generation and Transmission on the Twin Buttes wind farm. We are currently researching other renewable projects that integrate into our system. Tri-State also just announced its Responsible Energy Plan that will see over 50% of the power generated for our system coming from renewable resources by 2025. It further projects to reduce carbon emissions by 90% (2005 baseline) no later than 2030. We have introduced our first EV (electric vehicle) into our fleet pool that employees often select first — and, although I'm an admitted truck fan, my wife and family has enjoyed an electric/gas hybrid car for years. All of these initiatives support



JACK JOHNSTON

those original three main objectives.

April also brings us National Lineman Month celebrated across our nation annually. Although every employee is equally important to our operations, linemen are especially critical to fulfilling our most core mission. They take on challenges in environments many would find hard to even imagine. Yet, they do it with a proud and heartfelt purpose to each of our benefit. So, it is only right we recognize and appreciate them not only yearly, but each and every day.

Lastly, our annual meeting is just weeks away although it will unfortunately be an abbreviated version attended only by essential individuals to conduct director elections. COVID-19 will prevent us, this year, from bringing our communities together through the topic of electricity and, of course, broadband. Look for a summary in my June column. It will not, though, take away the spirit of our member ownership.

So, April is normally a month that celebrates annual events at the global, national and local levels. I sincerely hope the overlapping pandemic of this year did not affect your safety or health.

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 Bill Jenkins.

MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR SECPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 4: **Randy Phillips (Incumbent-Unopposed)**



Randy currently resides in Pritchett where he and his wife Reva own and have operated a cow-calf and farming operation while expanding the operation located in western Baca County. Randy served on the Pritchett School Board for 12 years, served on the FSA committee as a member and as Chair for 16 years during two separate tenures and has been a member of the Pritchett Volunteer Fire Dept. since 1980.

Randy has served on Southeast's board beginning 1994. Randy currently holds his Credentialed Cooperative Director certification through National Rural Electric Association.

I have enjoyed my time serving as a representative on SECPA for the past 25 years as well as SECOM since the organization was started.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the board for this next term in order to serve our members and employees while being available to listen and try to address everyone's needs.

DISTRICT 5: **Kevin Karney (Incumbent)**



Karney owns a ranching cow-calf operation, formerly part owner in La Junta Milling and Elevator Company, and former Otero County Commissioner.

Karney was recognized as the 2005 East Otero Conservation District Outstanding Conservationist 2014 Distinguished Service Award, Colorado Counties Inc., and earned his 2019 NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director

(CCD) certification.

Karney serves on the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District Board of Directors (Member at large) - Vice Chair of Finance Committee, Chair of the Arkansas Valley Conduit Committee, Vice Chair Colorado River and Water Supply Committee, Member Excess

Capacity Committee; Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association - Colorado Cattlemen's Association; currently Board President of SECPA; Colorado Rural Electric Association Board member - Education and Communications Committee.

There are, in my opinion, three major components to the economic viability of a region. Affordable and reliable power, high speed connectivity, whether it be fiber or wireless and water. Southeast Colorado Power is a major factor in two of these areas for our region. I realize the importance that both SECPA and SECOM are to our region. That is why I am seeking to continue to serve on the SECPA Board of Directors. I will strive to continue to expand my knowledge base in both companies in order to make the best decisions for the future of our region. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

DISTRICT 5: **Christopher (Chris) Matthew**



As sole proprietor of Horse Creek Land and Cattle, LLC, my business experience includes owning and managing a land and cattle operation while advancing our family-centered venture from ground zero to a profitable business. The continuous time and effort poured into this has been done in the hopes that it will be a successful estate to hand down to the next generation. To meet this goal, I have

worked to ensure appropriate financial management, problem-solving, and networking have been implemented to meet our strategic plan that leads to favorable results for this operation as well as my family's future.

I am interested in becoming a member of the board of Southeast Colorado Power Association to promote the continued growth of the organization while ensuring the roots of the cooperative are acknowledged and nurtured. Cooperatives were built to serve rural communities while focusing on the needs of the members. The member deserves an affordable, reliable and safe source of power.

Like a calf is only as healthy as the feed, water, and vaccines it is given, the same holds true for this industry. The electricity the member receives is only as reliable and affordable as the maintenance the power line is given, the quality employees that ensure the line is adequately maintained, and the directors that have the obligation to provide sound governance over the operation. I am adept in helping protect the members' needs be met and willing to advocate for the potential of this cooperative to work with the member to ensure that the cooperative heads in the right direction. The experiences and challenges I have met through my personal operational growth have given me a good understanding of what is needed to be a consumer advocate and a preeminent member on the SECPA Board of Directors.

I serve on the following organizations: Timberlake Grazing Association Board of Directors, Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Charolais Association, Beehive Water Association Board, and am Cheraw FFA Advisory Board President. It was an honor to be named 2017 Conservationist of the Year.

DISTRICT 7: Clint Anderson (Incumbent)



We have mostly taken electricity for granted. When we flip the switch we expect the light to come on, but yet I personally didn't fully appreciate the enormous effort it takes to keep a rural electric cooperative up and running.

Since my appointment to SECPA last year I have just begun to absorb all of the regulations, policy and financial implications

that this cooperative deals with on a daily basis. I have spent several hours learning how to be a good board member and would like to continue expanding my knowledge in order to help us, the consumers, have access to affordable and reliable power. Thank you for your consideration.

DISTRICT 7: James (Jim) Doak



My name is James (Jim) Doak. I graduated from Crowley County High School and Ft. Morgan Community College. I am a full time rancher in District 7 and ranched with my father, Harry Doak, until his passing in 2016. I have lived with my wife and son South of Rush since 1995.

I was employed by Royal Crest Dairy for 21 years. During that time, I was Store Manager, Auditor, Merchandise Manager and Petroleum Manager. As Petroleum Manager, I purchased gasoline for the Farm Crest convenience stores, handled marketing, distribution, and environmental problems. I also worked for 12 years as tax preparer for H & R Block.

I was on the school board at Edison School District 54JT for 20 years. During that time, I was awarded the CASB McGuffey Award in 2003 & 2019, the Bob Cito Award for Vision and Leadership in 2009-2010 and the Colorado BOCES All State Board Member 2009. I also served on the Pikes Peak BOCES Board for 11 years. I have served six years and continue to serve on the El Paso County Farm Bureau Board.

I want to be elected to the SECPA Board to help the association. I believe the experience that I have gained by being on other boards would be a great asset to your board. I have experience in budgeting, obtaining financial stability, service and leadership. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Southeast Colorado Power Association will conduct an Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2020 to be held at 27850 Harris Road, La Junta, Colorado at 12:00 p.m.

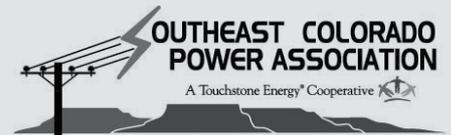
AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Determination of Quorum
3. Reading of Official Notice
4. Appointment of Credential & Tellers Committee
5. Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting
6. Officer Reports
7. Credentials & Tellers Committee Report
8. Adjournment

Dear SECPA Membership,
In support of the national response to COVID-19 and prudent care for our membership, an abbreviated annual meeting will be conducted this calendar year with designated participation only. Although contemplated, postponement was not chosen as any later date would overlap with agribusiness and summer vacation calendars.

The Board of Directors, along with necessary staff, will convene at the cooperative headquarters for the purpose of conducting this meeting. In advance, I will seek 3 [non-Director/non-employee] members to serve on the Credentials & Tellers Committee. Director candidates will also be allowed to attend. In order to be counted, all ballots must be received at the location of the meeting before the meeting start time. The *2019 Annual Report* will be posted at www.secpa.com to be followed by a CEO summary in the June edition of *Colorado Country Life*.

This modification is disappointing as we always look forward to our annual meeting for fellowship along with highlighting the accomplishments of our electric cooperative and broadband subsidiary [SECOM]. It is our plan to resume the normal rotation next year in Springfield. I would like to extend special appreciation to Clare Dunn, who had committed to being



our entertainment this year and hope she may be able to bring her national success back to her old neighborhood in the future.

Of course, if there are other officially imposed restrictions affecting this date, we will adjust and inform you accordingly. In the event a meeting is unable to be conducted, ballots will remain sealed in the possession of our Chief Legal Officer at the cooperative headquarters until such time an official meeting can be scheduled. If you should have any questions, please call 719-384-2551 or check www.secpa.com.

Sincerely,
Kevin Karney
Board President

Check www.secpa.com for information on video streaming options and/or updates.

Southeast Colorado Power Association appreciates the linemen who keep the power on in our communities



◀ La Junta linemen (left to right): Dave Malott, Casey Briscoe, Kyle Maier, Alex Vasquez, Bruce Barnhart, Jerid Bruna, Anthony Lobato, Jace Noe.

Thank a Lineman



▲ Chief Operating Officer Mark Hall (left) and Line Superintendent Mike Trumble.



Lamar linemen (left to right): ▲ Camron Bailey, Garrett Wertz, Justin Bruna, Keenan Davis, James Cline, Tom Piner, Jay Smith. (Not pictured: Jason Lucius, Troy Eberhardt, Jacob Barnes.)

(WIN* Marland Edens, acct #502810000)



◀ Springfield linemen (left to right): Roman Horn, Phil Hinds, Heath Piper, Raymond Aguilar, German Medina, Marcus Stegman, Taylor Wallace. (Not pictured: Joe Self, Clint Arbuthnot.)