

# SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 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](http://www.secpa.com)



[facebook.com/secpaonline](https://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®



# SUCCESS BY PARTNERSHIP

BY JACK JOHNSTON CEO

I hope your new year's resolutions are already being fulfilled and 2019 is your best year ever. Many of the accomplishments you may be reflecting on from the past year are due in great part to the support we get from others. That is certainly true for our cooperative.

Every day, we are hard at work to make sure all of you, our consumer-members, have the electric power you need at the best possible price. We are proud of our cooperative business model and, behind the scenes, we proudly work with a network of other cooperatives to make that happen.

We coordinate daily with Tri-State Generation and Transmission, which supplies power to us and 17 other distribution co-ops in Colorado. We helped form this second-tier co-op decades ago, which gives us greater control over power supply and pricing.

It takes a lot of money to run an electric co-op, so when we need to borrow capital, we turn to either the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) or CoBank. These organizations are also cooperatives. CFC is owned by electric co-ops throughout the country, and CoBank is owned by electric and agricultural co-ops nationwide, but headquartered in Colorado.

On a statewide level, we work with the other 21 electric cooperatives in Colorado through the Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA). By combining our resources, we have a voice with the legislature at the Capitol in Denver. We also work together through CREA to provide this magazine to you as consumer-members of our co-op, to bring safety training to our employees, and to bring in trainers and speakers to educate our co-op employees.

Closer to home, we generate an electric bill each month that we send to you either



JACK JOHNSTON

electronically or through regular mail. We use the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) to ensure we can apply the latest technology, help lower your energy costs and send timely, accurate bills to you.

No business can operate without several different types of insurance, such as general liability, auto and worker's compensation. So once again, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, we are members of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. This allows us to maintain reliable coverage at an affordable price.

It also takes a whole lot of "stuff" to operate an electric co-op, such as poles, wires, transformers and many other items that you may not see. This is why we partnered with Western United Electric Supply, also headquartered in Colorado, to have quick access to all the materials we need at the best price.

So, while you are a member of one electric co-op, you are actually connected to many other co-ops. Being connected to this cooperative network ensures your needs are met in the most efficient and cooperative way possible. And it will take all these partnerships to make 2019 our best year ever.

## 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.



# 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 three \$1,000 scholarships. Eligible applicants must be high school seniors graduating in 2019 who plan to attend a two- or four-year college. Students' parents must be members of Southeast Colorado Power Association.

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](http://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. Applicants are also asked to submit a current digital photo to Debbie Howard at [debbieh@secpa.com](mailto:debbieh@secpa.com) with their application.

Additionally, the SECPA website has information regarding other scholarships SECPA administers through Tri-State Generation and Transmission, as well as

Basin Electric Power. 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 4, 2019.**

**For additional information, please visit the SECPA website or contact Telly Stanger at 719-383-1341. [WIN\* Jose Rizo, 1802120000]**

## Employee Spotlight



**Bruce Barnhart** (left) began employment with SECPA as an apprentice lineman in May 2006, became a journeyman lineman August 2011 and was recently promoted to working foreman in La Junta. Barnhart, wife Crystal and their two children live on a farm near Cheraw. Barnhart is an avid hunter and fisherman.

**Heath Piper** (right) began employment with SECPA in December 2008 as an apprentice, became a journeyman lineman July 2013 and was recently promoted to working foreman. Piper, wife Jacia and their two children live in Springfield, where Piper is active in the Recreation District.

### STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
  - (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
  - (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).
- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Jack Johnston, Chief Executive Officer



## SECPA Hosts Santa Fe Trail BOCES

▲ (Right) Jerid Bruna, SECPA serviceman, and Angela Bamber, SECPA/SECOM chief human resource officer (back left).

Real world problems ... there are plenty of those to go around. But the real world problems that were discussed on October 8 at the SECPA main office in La Junta, were being solved by 5-12 graders of the Santa Fe Trail Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

Based on the model developed by Building Bridges to Careers in rural Marietta, Ohio, the Six Santa Fe Trail BOCES member districts are creatively connecting students to their communities by solving real world problems.

This opportunity for rural southeastern Colorado school districts is a result of a partnership between Battelle for Kids, Generation Schools Network, Building Bridges to Careers, the Colorado Rural Education Collaborative, and the Santa Fe Trail BOCES.

SECPA opened its conference room to the Santa Fe Trail BOCES, whose member districts include Wiley, Las Animas, Cheraw, east Otero (La Junta), Swink and Rocky Ford. At that time, 10 educators were paired with 10 community members, who were taught by the Ohio Building Bridges to Careers team on how to begin the process of solving real world problems. The community members have committed to three classroom visits to work with 5-12 grade students to solve real world problems. The community members represent a variety of careers, including crop dusting, National Park historical preservation,

local history preservation, wildlife management, grain storage and marketing, water treatment, Colorado government, rural electric service and human resources. This innovative connection will foster problem solving, teamwork, communication, research and relationships between the students and the community member. The students will formally present their solution during the final community member's classroom visit.

Jerid Bruna, SECPA serviceman, will participate with Las Animas High School. Bruna will use his expertise to help the classroom prepare to provide electrical service to a new rural housing development. This problem-solving scenario will involve calculating the electrical equipment needed for the development and the supplies needed to serve the development. The class will also be challenged to compare renewable energy with nonrenewable energy.

Angela Bamber, SECPA chief human resource officer, will participate with the La Junta Junior High School careers class. "Who provides my electricity? Who provides my internet? How do they get to my home?" will be the questions that Bamber will help the La Junta students answer. The search for the answer will include a visit to the SECPA and SECOM headquarters at the La Junta Industrial Park. Career exploration will be an added bonus to this real world problem

scenario as the students will see each part of the utility request processes from customer service to the power lineman and fiber optic technician.

This partnership of rural students with rural businesses and leaders is a two-year Pathway to Prosperity Building Community Bridges project.

For more information or to get involved, contact Jennifer Nesselhuf at [jennifer.nesselhuf@sftboces.k12.co.us](mailto:jennifer.nesselhuf@sftboces.k12.co.us).

A special thanks to SECPA and SECOM for the use of their beautiful technology equipped conference room.



### January 2019 Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

#### **HOT WATER TANK TIP**

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# SAVE THE DATE!

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\*\*\*\*

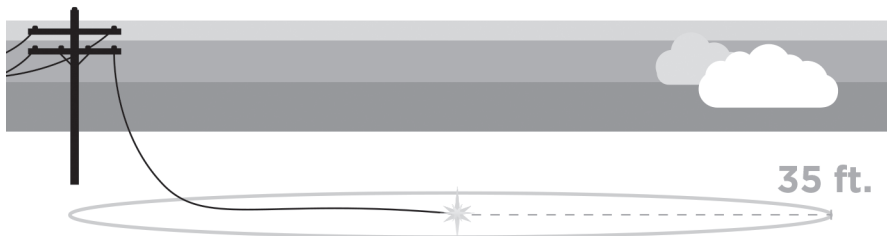
Please join us at  
Lamar Community College  
2401 S. Main St., Lamar

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

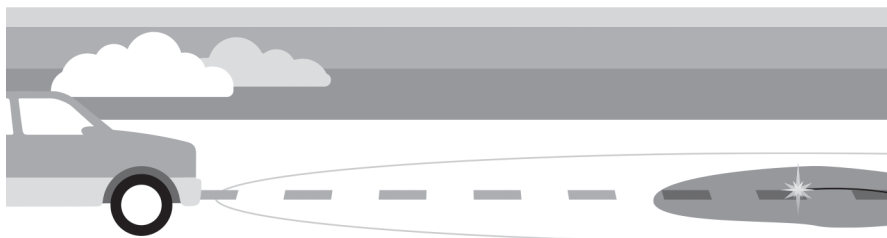
Registration 5 p.m.  
Dinner 6 p.m.  
Meeting 6:45 p.m.

# Downed and Dangerous

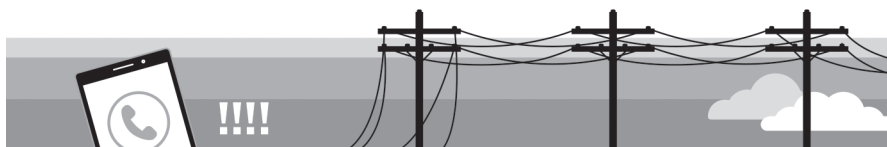
If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



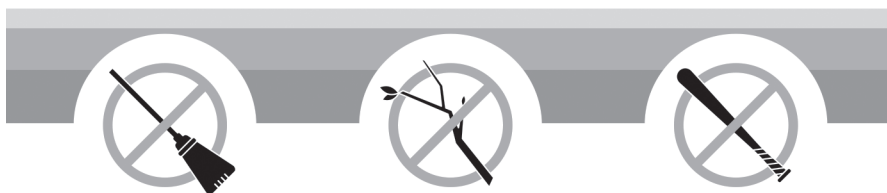
Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away - so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item - this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org