

# GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

*Powering Possibilities*

APRIL 2019



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[@GunnisonREA](https://twitter.com/GunnisonREA)

## LINEMEN TACKLE WINTER STORM OUTAGE

A big winter storm rolled in on the evening of February 14, lasting through early morning on Friday, February 15 and caused a countywide outage. Line crews and other employees worked through the night and all day February 15 restoring power, assisting members and providing other support services.

On Valentine's Day around 7 p.m., the first line crews were dispatched, with a few small problems to repair. More line crews were called in as the situation worsened and the snow continued to fall. Around 3 a.m. on Friday, a flurry of calls began to come in. Billing Assistant Chastity Miller and Member Relations Supervisor Holly Palmer came in at 3:30 a.m. to answer phones and to relieve dispatch who was not only getting phone calls regarding the Gunnison County Electric Association power outage but the city of Gunnison as well.

This big winter snowstorm brought heavy, wet snow that weighed down power lines and trees limbs, causing power outages all across GCEA's territory. Power was lost in several areas and the west circuit between Gunnison and Arrowhead was locked out at the substation. The line crew had to

repair two phases that had burned down. They had power restored for 20 minutes then snow falling from the line shook a pole hard enough that it broke. The plow could not make it to the pole with a backhoe, so Gunnison County came to the rescue with a loader and plowed a path for the crews. This pole needed to be replaced to restore power to that circuit. There were outages in Spring Creek, Highway 114, Quartz Creek, Almont, Taylor Canyon, Ohio Creek, Cement Creek, lower Castle Mountain, Ponderosa, Parlin, Pitkin and other areas along Highway 149. Chief Operations Officer Roger Grogg stayed at the office to prioritize the repair efforts and keep track of the crews, making sure everyone was in the clear before energizing sections of line. All 10 of our linemen, the line superintendent, mechanic and line locator were out making repairs.

When daylight came, office personnel delivered food and coffee to the crews in the field at their work sites. After a long evening and day, the last meters were energized at 4:08 p.m.

We are extremely proud of all the line crews and employees, as we banded together as a team to get the power restored.



A big thank you to our members for their patience and understanding of the situation.

# LINEMAN APPRECIATION

The second Monday in April is designated as a day to appreciate and thank the men who help keep the lights on for our membership. Linemen work 365 days a year under risky conditions to make sure the power is working. They do not wait for the snow and rain to quit and for the sun to shine — they get out to restore the power. Linemen make it possible for us to enjoy today's modern lifestyle.

Thank you to the past and present GCEA linemen for keeping the lights on.

Remember, your power works because they do!

## GUNNISON LINEMEN

**John Stoeber**, Line Superintendent, 24 years

**Todd Fuller**, Gunnison Working Foreman, 11 years

**Dustin Cadwell**, Journeyman Lineman, 10 years

**Robert Summer**, Apprentice Lineman, 2 years

**Justin Hulick**, Apprentice Lineman, 1 year

## CRESTED BUTTE LINEMEN

**Dan Oberosler**, Journeyman Lineman, 26 years

**Jeff Hanggi**, Crested Butte Working Foreman, 22 years

**Andy Holsteen**, Journeyman Lineman, 6 years

**Mike Pandy**, Apprentice Lineman, 3 ½ years

## LAKE CITY LINEMEN

**Logan Rhodes**, Journeyman Lineman, 5 years

**Brent Boyce**, Lake City Lead Lineman, 3 years



## Weather the Storms

Assemble an emergency kit with flashlights; battery-powered communication devices; and the food, water and medical needs of your family to survive prolonged power outages. Stay tuned to severe storm information from the National Weather Service, and be aware that lightning presents a danger 10 miles ahead of a storm front.

# 8 YEARS

GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

## 06 25 19

WEDNESDAY

### POWER OF THE PAST ⚡ FORCE OF THE FUTURE

## 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

DINNER AT 5 P.M.  
BUSINESS MEETING AT 6 P.M.



GCEA HEADQUARTERS  
37250 W. HIGHWAY 50, GUNNISON

# Celebrate Earth Day All Year Long

Powering possibilities by offering members choices!

## GREEN POWER CLUB

GCEA offers members the choice to buy green power to offset their usage and support renewable energy. Members can join one of the three green power programs.

- **GREEN POWER PLUS**  
130% OFFSET OPTION
- **GREEN 100**  
100% OFFSET OPTION
- **GREEN CHOICE**  
12 CENTS PER 100 KWH BLOCK



## GCEA'S ENERGY EVALUATION PROGRAM

### — EMPOWER YOURSELF!

Take control of your energy use. GCEA's energy evaluation program provides tools to help you evaluate how you are using energy in your home or business and how you can reduce your consumption.

## REBATES

Purchasing Energy Star appliances will help reduce energy consumption in your home. GCEA's rebate program helps make these products more affordable. Visit [www.gcea.coop](http://www.gcea.coop) to learn more.

## PAPERLESS BILLING

It is easy and convenient for you, saves your co-op money and helps the environment by reducing paper waste. Members who are not already participating in paperless billing and sign up will be entered into GCEA's paperless billing contest.

## NET METERING

Net metering is a service available to members who generate energy on their property from a renewable source connected to GCEA's distribution system and that is capable of being operated in a safe and reliable manner.



April 2019

## Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the Energy Star rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

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

# APRIL CO-OP CALENDAR

APRIL IS NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY - APRIL 8

COLORADO ARBOR DAY - APRIL 19

EARTH DAY - APRIL 22

NATIONAL ARBOR DAY - APRIL 26

# Electrical Safety In Schools with “Al the Electric Gal”

**A**l the Electric Gal (Alliy Sahagun) spent a morning in February with the Lake City preschool through first grade classes. Special guests Lake City linemen Brent Boyce and Logan Rhodes joined Al to give a presentation about what their jobs entail, and they covered electrical safety.

**Al the Electric Gal can teach electrical safety to any group. If you want Al to attend your class or event, please call 970-641-3520.**



▲ Alliy Sahagun (Al the Electric Gal) shows students about static electricity.



▲ Logan Rhodes interacts with students while teaching about his job and electrical safety.

## GUNNI GRAS

GCEA employees were a part of the 2nd Annual Gunni Gras Parade on March 5. The Bolt and Spark-e made a cruise down main street for the parade. Thank you to the Gunnison Chamber for putting on a great event.



## Can You Dig It?



An underground utility line is **damaged once every 9 minutes** because someone didn't call 811.



Call 811, the “Call Before You Dig Number,” at least **2 business days** prior to digging.



811 locators **do not detect** underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.



Even if you have previously had underground utilities marked, **utilities can shift**, so it's best to call before starting a new project.



Once **all of your utilities** have been located, then you can start your digging project!

Learn more at

**Safe**  
Electricity.org