



GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Powering Possibilities

FEBRUARY 2020



MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 180
Gunnison, CO 81230-0180



STREET ADDRESS

37250 West Highway 50
Gunnison, CO 81230



ph 970-641-3520
tf 800-726-3523
fax 970-641-7333
web www.gcea.coop
email gcea@gcea.coop



[facebook.com/
GunnisonCountyElectricAssociation](https://facebook.com/GunnisonCountyElectricAssociation)



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

WINTER AND OUTAGE SAFETY

BY LOGANN LONG COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Winter can be a gorgeous time of year with the glistening snow and sparkling ice, but that same weather can create havoc. Winter conditions can cause treacherous roads, power outages, cold homes and so much more. Are you prepared to stay safe and warm in case of a power outage?

As the temperatures drop, make sure you have everything you need for a power outage. As much as we do our best to keep the power on, Mother Nature sometimes has other plans. Gunnison County Electric Association recommends being prepared just in case hazardous winter weather hits our area.

When your power goes out, our crews will work until the power is

restored. To report an outage, call GCEA at 970-641-3520.

GCEA wants members to stay safe and warm during the chilly months of winter. It may be tempting to use space heaters to help ease the frigid winter days. Please check for frayed cords and make sure space heaters are away from flammable objects. Also, never leave a space heater unattended. Please make sure to turn it off before leaving a room.

If you are using an electric blanket to keep warm, please inspect the electrical cord for any damage. Do not place any items on top of the blanket or fold the blanket while in use.

If you are using space heaters and electric blankets throughout your home, it might be time to schedule a free energy evaluation with GCEA's energy use advisor. The energy evaluation will include an electric usage review, infrared camera images to help identify areas of heat loss, a discussion of your concerns or goals, and a home walk-through to collect an electrical inventory. Once the energy evaluation is complete, the advisor will recommend tips and changes that can be made to make your home more energy efficient.

We at GCEA want our members to be safe and aware of what do during a winter power outage. We hope these tips will help keep everyone a little bit safer during the winter months. If you have any questions regarding power outages or winter safety, please call us at 970-641-3520 or visit www.gcea.coop.

EMERGENCY ITEMS

Most outages will be over quickly, but some can last a lot longer. Here are some items to have on hand in case of an extended outage:

- Battery-operated flashlights and radio
- Candles (don't forget matches or a lighter)
- Extra blankets
- Water bottles
- Nonperishable food (don't forget a can opener)
- Portable phone charger

Keep Your Furry Friends Safe Around Electricity

You do all you can to keep your pets healthy: You take them to the veterinarian for checkups, feed them well and ensure they are up to date on vaccinations. After all, for many people, pets are part of the family.

Two-thirds (67%) of U.S. households, or about 85 million families, own at least one pet, according to the 2019-2020 National Pet Owners Survey. The survey was conducted by the American Pet Products Association and the numbers are up 11% from 1988.

There is something else you can do for your pets: Keep them safe around electricity. Gunnison County Electric Association and Safe Electricity offer these tips:

- Puppies and other pets love to chew on electrical cords. Keep cords out of sight or hidden with a cord cover. Provide teething or play alternatives.



- Watch your pet around dangling or sagging cords, including phone or tablet charging cables. Unplug charging cables once your devices are charged. Not only do they draw a small amount of energy when not in use, but the dangling cords are also just crying to be played with.
- Watch where you place lamps and other plugged-in items. Lamps can be a fire hazard if they are

knocked over, especially if they have halogen bulbs.

- Do not leave your pet alone around items that get hot: curling irons and straighteners, an outdoor grill, a portable heater and other electric appliances, including cooktops.

Pet proof your home much like you would for a baby or toddler. If you suspect your pet has been shocked or burned, take it to the vet right away. Owners may not realize a pet has been shocked until a few hours later when it has trouble breathing. Other symptoms include ulcers in the mouth and lesions on the tongue and gums.

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

Gunnison County Electric Association Annual Meeting Notice

Board Election and Annual Meeting Date:

The ELECTION FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS and the 81st Annual Member Meeting for Gunnison County Electric Association, Inc., (GCEA) will be held at the association headquarters located at 37250 W. US Highway 50, Gunnison, Colorado, on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 6 p.m.

Meeting registration and voting begin at 5 p.m. and dinner will be served. Board districts are up for election. GCEA's board of director positions at the end of each three-year term that are eligible for election are as follows:

District No. 1 – (Incumbent Greg Wiggins)

The northwest corner of the certificated service area of GCEA including the town of Crested Butte and the Slate River area along Colorado State Highway 135, to approximately the Jack's Cabin cutoff (but excluding Crested Butte South).

District No. 4 – (Incumbent Michelle Lehmann)

The Gunnison River Area west of the city of Gunnison, Curecanti recreation area, to the West Elk Wilderness area on the north and the Continental Divide on the south within the certificated service area of GCEA.

District No. 5 – (Incumbent Tom Carl)

The Lake Fork of the Gunnison drainage from Gateview to the Continental Divide, including Lake City and Lake San Cristobal within the certificated service area of GCEA.

How to Become a Candidate: In order to become nominated as a candidate for GCEA's board of directors election, an interested person must meet the qualifications for serving as a director and must submit a timely written nomination petition signed by at least 15 members of GCEA. Signers do not have to live within your district. Additionally, GCEA strongly encourages any person interested in serving as a director to schedule an information and orientation meeting with CEO Mike McBride.

Petitions will be available at GCEA headquarters as of March 13, 2020.

To serve as a director, you must be a member of GCEA, reside within the district for which you are nominated and meet all other qualifications for serving as a director.

Deadline: Completed petitions must be returned to GCEA headquarters by the end of the business day at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2020.

Ballot Mailing Deadline: In case of a contested election, ballots will be posted for mailing to members on Friday, May 29, 2020. Ballots are mailed to members of record as determined 45 days prior to the election date and sent to the member's main address on file. Ballots must be completed per instructions and returned by the close of registration at the Annual Meeting held on June 23, 2020. Any ballots received after this deadline will be considered invalid.

For More Information: For complete information concerning the nomination process, please call Chief Executive Officer Mike McBride or Executive Assistant Sherry Shelton Booth at 970-641-3520.

GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SUPPORT LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS?

GCEA is working with members to bring renewable energy to the valley. Help us grow the fund by contributing to one of the options below.



LOCAL RENEWABLE PLUS

Match your usage to your contribution. 12 cents per 100 kWh used will be added to your bill.



LOCAL RENEWABLE ADVOCATE

Choose an amount to be added to your monthly bill.

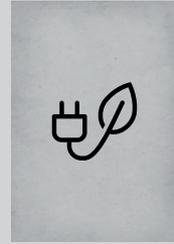
100% GOES TO THE LOCAL PROJECT FUND

JOIN OTHER GCEA MEMBERS TO HELP FUND LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP,
PLEASE VISIT WWW.GCEA.COOP/GREEN-POWER
OR CALL 970-641-3520



Gunnison County Electric Association



February 2020

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Ensure that your forced air heating system is working efficiently. Change furnace filters monthly, as dirty filters restrict airflow and can increase energy use. Do not block floor vents or registers with rugs, drapes or furniture.

EXCITING NEWS FROM GCEA POWER SUPPLIER TRI-STATE GENERATION & TRANSMISSION

Tri-State is leading a clean energy transition. Together with our electric cooperative and public power district members, we are expanding renewable energy generation and reducing emissions while ensuring reliable, affordable and responsible electricity for the communities we power.

We have a vision for the future in which the benefits of an economy-wide energy transition — from cleaner air to economic opportunity to a greener grid — are shared with everyone.

Our Responsible Energy Plan outlines our commitments and goals to help make that vision a reality. With this plan, we can achieve an energy transition that allows us to be responsible to our members, our communities, our employees and our environment.

- Increasing renewables to 50% of energy consumed by members by 2024, adding 1 gigawatt of renewables from eight new solar and wind projects.
- Reducing emissions with the closure of all coal plants operated by Tri-State, cancelling the Holcomb project in Kansas and committing not to develop additional coal facilities.
- Increasing member flexibility to develop more local, self-supplied renewable energy.
- Extending benefits of a clean grid across the economy through expanded electric vehicle infrastructure and beneficial electrification.

If you would like to learn more about Tri-State's Responsible Energy Plan, please visit www.tristatetg.org/responsible-energy-plan.

SNOW REMOVAL SAFETY TIPS

Snowplow safety should be taken seriously, and every snowplow driver should be aware of hidden dangers. Here are some helpful tips if you are out helping clear the streets, roads and driveways:
Be Aware — Know your surroundings and the route you will be plowing.
Stay Clear — Never drive over a downed wire — assume it is energized. Call your local utility and notify it of the downed line.
Never, Ever — Never drive over snow covered high-voltage boxes. Never pile snow on or by electrical boxes or any electrical structures.

Every winter the snow builds up on the eaves of our homes, and it becomes necessary to remove it to prevent ice buildup and eliminate excessive weight that can cause structural damage. One of the ways this is accomplished is with the use of a snow rake. A snow rake is usually made of aluminum, which makes it a good conductor of electrical current.

As you begin the snow removal process, keep an eye on where the electrical service wires are located that may be attached to your home. Remember that electricity always looks for the shortest path to ground,



and you don't want to be part of that situation. If your practice is to shovel snow off of your roof, watch where you put your ladder and be sure that you and your tools stay clear of all overhead wires.

Underground electrical equipment, such as transformers and meter pedestals, can be a danger for drivers in the winter months. Keeping a watchful eye for damaged electrical equipment can be extremely helpful to your cooperative, so if you see something you are concerned about, give the co-op a call.

If, unfortunately, you should hit one of these pieces of electrical equipment with your vehicle, let us know so we can send our electrical lineworkers to check the equipment for safety. Remember that transformers and meter pedestals contain energized wiring. We do not want damaged equipment exposed to the public. Give us a

call at our Gunnison office at 970-641-3520 or in Crested Butte at 970-349-5385 so we can make sure we all stay safe.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT CENTER



GCEA has a new section on its website called the Member Engagement Center where members can learn about the history of GCEA; past, current and future projects; upcoming events; and so much more. This page will always be evolving and new topics will be added weekly. Check it out by visiting www.gcea.coop/mec.

PAPERLESS BILLING CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATS to our paperless billing contest winners!

James Maclean and David Primus are the winners of \$50 Visa gift cards.

Paperless billing is easy and convenient for you, saves your co-op money and helps the environment. Members who do not already participate in paperless billing and who sign up will be entered into GCEA's paperless billing contest.

Each fiscal quarter, GCEA holds a drawing for members who signed up for paperless billing for the first time during that quarter.

If you do not already have an account, visit <https://gcea.smarthub.coop/Login.html> to create one. Once you are logged in, click on "my profile," then "update my printed bill settings" and select "turn off printed bill setting." If you have any questions, please call 970-641-3520.

FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

Cindy Wells

Accounting assistant, 10 years

Wally Baker

Substation and meter technician, 12 years

Paula MacLennan

Financial and HR specialist, 22 years

Chastity Miller

Billing assistant II, 13 years