

SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Outlet

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Your community electric service provider.



Sangre de Cristo Electric Association
Your Community Electric Cooperative

Annual Meeting and Director Elections

ANNUAL MEETING

The Sangre de Cristo Electric Association Board of Directors set **June 9, 2020**, for the cooperative's 80th annual meeting at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort in Buena Vista.

Members of the cooperative will vote on three director positions, act on financial data for the year 2019 and consider any other business that may come before the meeting.

DIRECTOR SEATS

Town of Buena Vista incumbent director Dave Volpe is running for election to his seat. Rural Lake/Chaffee County incumbent director Suzy Kelly and at-large incumbent director Joe Redetzke are running for re-election.

Members will vote on director candidates by voice vote at the annual meeting or by mail if the race is contested.

All director candidates are nominated by petition. Fifteen or more current members of the cooperative must sign each nomination petition. Any member interested in running for a director seat should review the following guidelines and pick up an official nomination petition at the cooperative's headquarters in Buena Vista. Members must reside within the director district to be considered for nomination.

Nomination petitions are due by 5 p.m. Monday, May 7.

CANDIDATE GUIDELINES

Directors of rural electric cooperatives establish policy and provide leadership in a complex, technical and ever-changing industry. They do not deal with day-to-day operations of the cooperative and do not work in the cooperative office on a daily basis. Directors attend a minimum of one board meeting per month and may attend other meetings or training programs held

outside Sangre de Cristo's service territory or out of state. In addition, rural electric directors spend a considerable amount of time reading co-op and industry material and maintaining a current knowledge of industry trends. Consider the following qualifications and responsibilities when choosing a member for nomination or when deciding to run for a director position.

QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify for directorship, a person shall:

- Be a member of the cooperative or an individual authorized by an entity member;
- Be a resident of the designated director district;
- Have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts; and
- Disclose all monetary and in-kind contributions and expenditures directly or indirectly to or from his/her campaign for election to the board.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- Has failed to report all monetary and in-kind contributions and/or expenditures.
- Has been convicted of, is pleading guilty to, or had pleaded guilty to a felony.
- Is or has been within the five years preceding June 9, 2020:
 - › Employed by Sangre de Cristo Electric or the spouse of an employee.
 - › Employed by or has a significant financial interest in a business that sells or provides commodities, products or services to the cooperative.
 - › Employed by or a full or partial owner of an electric or natural gas utility, a propane company, or a renewable/alternative energy company, or has

a significant financial interest in an entity that regularly competes with Sangre de Cristo, any entity that the cooperative controls or in which it has a substantial interest.

- › A close relative of an incumbent director or present employee of the cooperative or a person living in the same household as an existing employee or director.
- › Fired from the cooperative, involved in a lawsuit against the cooperative, received a severance package from or was laid off from the cooperative, or is the spouse of an employee or former employee involved in the same.
- › Involved in a contractual relationship with the cooperative or the spouse of any person so involved.

Directors serve without salary but may be allowed fair remuneration for their time actually spent in the service of the cooperative as directors, consistent with rural electric cooperative practice. Candidates should agree to serve the entire term of office for which they are elected. The

position of director shall not be used to further any political ambition, and directors must be capable of representing the entire membership on an impartial basis.

RESPONSIBILITIES

A director must be willing to:

- Promote and safeguard the interests of the cooperative;
- Expend the effort necessary to understand the cooperative’s problems and provide the needed judgment to reach decisions in constantly changing circumstances;
- Support all official decisions and actions made or taken by the board;
- Study information in reports submitted to the board;
- Contribute to the development of statements on board functions and responsibilities, and work toward their constant improvement;
- Objectively evaluate and consider the questions and problems which face the cooperative;
- Stay informed of the cooperative’s ideals and objectives, and study and analyze the policies, plans and problems which

result from efforts to achieve those ideals and objectives;

- Keep informed on and aware of the attitudes of members, employees and the general public toward the cooperative’s objectives and policies;
- Inform all interested persons about the cooperative’s ideals, objectives, programs and services; and
- Attend classes to attain NRECA director certification within the first full three-year term of office and work toward NRECA board leadership certification within the second or third term.

PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

A director candidate should display the following personal qualifications:

- Good business record and possession of sound business judgment;
- Demonstrated capacity for leadership and reputation for honesty and good judgment;
- Demonstrated capacity for working with others; and
- Ideals and objectives compatible with cooperative philosophy and principles.

SDCEA Matching Grant Program

Accepting requests for 2020

In 2019, SDCEA’s Matching Grant program received a large number of requests for matches, depleting the budgeted amount for the program. Early applications are encouraged in 2020. Grants are awarded first-come, first-served until funds budgeted for the program are gone.

Applications for the 2020 matching grant program are now being accepted. Grants that meet the program’s criteria will be funded until funds are exhausted for the next calendar year. To obtain an application for funds, please visit SDCEA’s website, myelectric.coop. To be eligible for the matching grant program, donations must be made in the same calendar year the matching donation is requested.





Signs of Spring

◀ Springtime is a great time of year to plant trees, but it needs to be done safely around overhead power lines and underground utility services.

Soon there will be signs of spring in central Colorado, and your thoughts may be turning to outside projects. Sangre de Cristo Electric Association wants to remind everyone to be aware of electrical hazards while working on your property this year.

ABOUT THOSE GREEN BOXES ...

The green electrical boxes and the pads the boxes rest on are crucial to provide electrical service to your home. Underground wiring, pipes and more run into the boxes, making digging around the boxes dangerous. Contact with underground wires can cause serious injury or death.

The boxes are actually cabinets and transformers that must be accessed to make repairs and upgrades by lineworkers from SDCEA as necessary. A box should never be enclosed in a decorative box or other structure to camouflage or 'hide' its appearance. Such enclosures block access to all sides of the cabinet and can inhibit the electrical equipment inside the boxes from cooling down, which can damage the equipment inside. For the same reasons, landscaping should never be planted near the box to hide it.

If there is difficulty in accessing the box, lineworkers will either need to tear down, cut down or remove your carpentry or landscaping to access the box, or, in the case of a large outage, move on to the next box to try

to make repairs until there is time to remove the obstruction. That may delay restoration of power on your property and/or restoration of power to other people's properties.

TREES AND OTHER VEGETATION

Trees that grow too close to electric lines can create shock and fire hazards as well as power outages. More importantly, children can become victims of electric shock when they climb trees that have grown too close to the power lines. Trees growing into power lines can also create electrical hazards for people who might be trimming branches, hanging lights or otherwise working around power lines.

Take the time to research tree selections by consulting your local arborist or tree nursery. These experts can provide assistance in designing a beautiful, shade-filled yard with trees appropriate for each area of the landscape. With their help, trees can provide economical cooling in the summer and a windbreak for harsh winter winds.

Choosing the right tree for the right place is crucial, especially when it comes to power lines. Trees and wood in general can potentially conduct electricity and can create a safety hazard if grown close to electric lines. Power outages or momentary interruptions can occur when branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch can also cause fires.

If you have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, contact SDCEA. Never try to prune them yourself.

SafeElectricity.org provides the following safety tips to avoid future electrical hazards:

- Consider the height of mature trees. Never plant a tree near a power line that could grow within 25 feet of it. Tall growing trees should be planted a minimum of 20 feet away from power lines, and 50 feet away to avoid future pruning. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended for trees planted near power lines.
- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities also could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees, or even require removal.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.
- Before digging, call the local underground utility locator service—811—to mark the location of underground utilities so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided.

SDCEA Working to Reduce the Risk Posed by Vegetation Near Power Lines

We understand our consumers value trees and vegetation around their properties, as does SDCEA. Vegetation is an important part of the natural beauty of our valley.

Our consumers also rely on SDCEA to provide safe and reliable power every day — in good weather and in bad. Vegetation in, or having fallen on, our lines causes the majority of our outages. Vegetation in electric lines can create serious safety issues, as well as spark and create fire.

Many of our consumers have experienced heightened awareness of the potential risks for forest fires and interruption of power supply due to recent wildfires in California. Combined with the impacts of regional fires, such as the Decker Fire in Fremont County and near Salida, it is our hope that our consumers understand the necessity of SDCEA's focused efforts on vegetation management.

Sangre de Cristo Electric adopted a system-wide workplan to increase vegetation management efforts this year in order to decrease the risk to life and property posed by vegetation near power lines.

Crews will be working to clear trees and overgrown vegetation along company rights-of-way in several locations in our service territory in 2020. Included in this plan is clearing 110 miles of overhead lines near the Howard Substation and roughly 60 miles of terrain under overhead power lines in the Twin Lakes area.

If you are near this tree-trimming and vegetation removal project, please keep in mind that you need to stay clear from the work area due to falling debris and the heavy equipment that will be in use.

Sangre de Cristo Electric has contracted with Asplundh, an international vegetation management company, for this work, which will take the entire year to complete. Asplundh will work on

clearing vegetation 20 feet on either side of our power lines.

Asplundh contractors will be using bucket trucks, climbing crews, mowing crews and walk-in crews in order to accomplish the plan we laid out for 2020. The company's trucks will be clearly marked with "Asplundh Tree Experts," but if you are uncertain or have further questions about SDCEA's vegetation management plan, please contact our office.

If you want to report what you feel is a hazardous tree in or near a line, please visit our website at myelectric.coop. Under the Safety > Vegetation Management tab, there is a short form to fill out to request one of our staff members to come out and look at the tree. You may also call our office toll-free at 1-844-395-2412.



▲ Keeping vegetation away from power poles and power lines is an important part of SDCEA operations. This photo shows vegetation that has been cleared away from lines in SDCEA's service territory.



REBATES

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, Inc. and its power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., have teamed up to bring you rebates for installing Energy Star-rated water heaters and Energy Star-rated appliances.

Want to learn more? Go to our website, myelectric.coop, click on Save Energy & Money and head to the Rebates tab.



NEW PHONE/EMAIL

If you've changed your phone number or email address since you've taken service with Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, please update your information with us.

Go to our website, myelectric.coop to the login box to create an account with updated information, or update information if you already have an account.

You may also call us 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F at 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412.



OUTAGES

Do you have an outage to report? Don't hesitate to call 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

DO NOT email your outage information or post your outage information on social media. SDCEA cannot monitor that information effectively, especially after hours. The only way to be sure we know you have an outage is to phone it in.