

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2021



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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**



IT'S A MATTER OF COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES



JACK JOHNSTON

BY JACK JOHNSTON CEO | JACKJ@SECPA.COM

The month of October always celebrates National Co-op Month so I've dedicated my column each year to reflecting on the basic concepts and benefits of cooperative membership. These principles are what sets us apart from other business models and is such a great source of pride.

Regardless of the industry, we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. These principles that have stood the test of time and provide a framework for the future.

Just like all co-ops, we were created out of necessity — to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. The greatest part of cooperatives are that they are created voluntarily by their membership. And, while history may sometimes be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain: the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community.

More importantly, our co-op is well-suited to meet the needs of our members because we are governed by membership vote. We are represented by our Board of Directors, who live and work in our Southeastern Colorado territory so they understand the needs of membership.

Many of our employees and management team are also proud to be members, including me.

As an electric utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute to the working capital of our business and at least part of that capital remains the common property for equal benefit to the entire cooperative membership. But, because we are guided by the seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars, it's about opportunity for all — that is, the cooperative way will always be a values-based model.

MEET THE LEADERSHIP SERIES CLINT ARBUTHNOT CHIEF SAFETY OFFICER

By nature, our operations involve inherent dangers. Whether it is working with high-voltage lines, to climbing large-scale communications towers or simply using industrial grade equipment, our employees face many hazards on a daily basis. In addition, a 24/7/365 business operates in all weather conditions and differing lighting levels. Even an office building poses often overlooked risks. Therefore, safety has to be at the forefront of everything we do to ensure that everyone always goes home to their families injury free. We've always had an employee Safety Committee but until 2019, we did not have a dedicated safety professional. Clint was the first to fulfill

this role. Having demonstrated such a great job, he saw it elevated to this current level in our organization to match the importance of our safety objective. Clint is responsible for all training and compliance along with supporting relationships including the state-wide Colorado Rural Electric Association Safety & Loss Control Department, other safety vendors and government entities.



▲ Clint Arbuthnot, Chief Safety Officer

Clint was born and raised in Springfield. After high school graduation, he began developing an excellent skill set in multiple industries including highway construction, hospital maintenance, Alaskan truck driving and oil and gas roughnecking. He was also a proud volunteer firefighter. In 2008, Clint started his career at SECPA as a Lineman Apprentice before progressing to Journeyman in

2012. He was promoted to Serviceman just a few years later. He then became our inaugural Safety Manager in advance of his current role. He and his wife, Jenna, have been married 21 years and are proud parents of two children. They recently moved their oldest, Payton, to Cedarville University for her freshman year. Their youngest, Parker, is currently a 7th grader. Clint serves on the Springfield School Board and is actively involved in his local church. He enjoys sports and all sorts of outdoor activities. Clint is a great addition to the leadership team.



GOING BATTY

WITH SLOW INTERNET AT YOUR HOUSE?

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT BYLAWS REVISION

ARTICLE IV – DIRECTORS

SECTION 3 – Qualifications

“No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative who:”

Added: (e) Fails to annually complete and sign a Conflict of Interest Certification and Disclosure form.

RATIONALE: Subsection (e) ensures that conflicts of interest are regularly reviewed for loyal governance by Directors and updates bylaws to comply with changes in state law.

ARTICLE IV – DIRECTORS

SECTION 4 – Nominations

Changed: A nomination for Director on the Board of Directors shall be made by a written petition signed by at least fifteen members within that district and filed with the Board of Directors no later than **forty-five sixty days** prior to the date of the election. Any petition **or nomination** so filed shall

designate the name of the nominee and the **term district** for which nominated. The name of a nominee shall appear on the ballot if the nominating petition is in apparent conformity with the section as determined by the Secretary of the Board. Any petition for nomination shall be signed by at least 15 individual members of the Association having memberships located within the district for which the person is nominated.

RATIONALE: Updates election timelines to comply with changes in state law and clarifies the language of required information for director nominations.

REVISIONS WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 5, 2021.

The Board of Directors welcomes any questions or comments regarding these revisions by emailing bylawsrevision@secpa.com, visiting www.secpa.com/bylawsrevision or calling 719-363-1432.

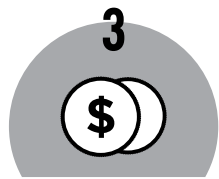
7 Cooperative Principles



1
VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP



2
DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL



3
MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION



4
AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE



5
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION



6
COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES



7
CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

ACCEPTING PETITIONS FOR SECPA BOARD DIRECTOR POSITIONS

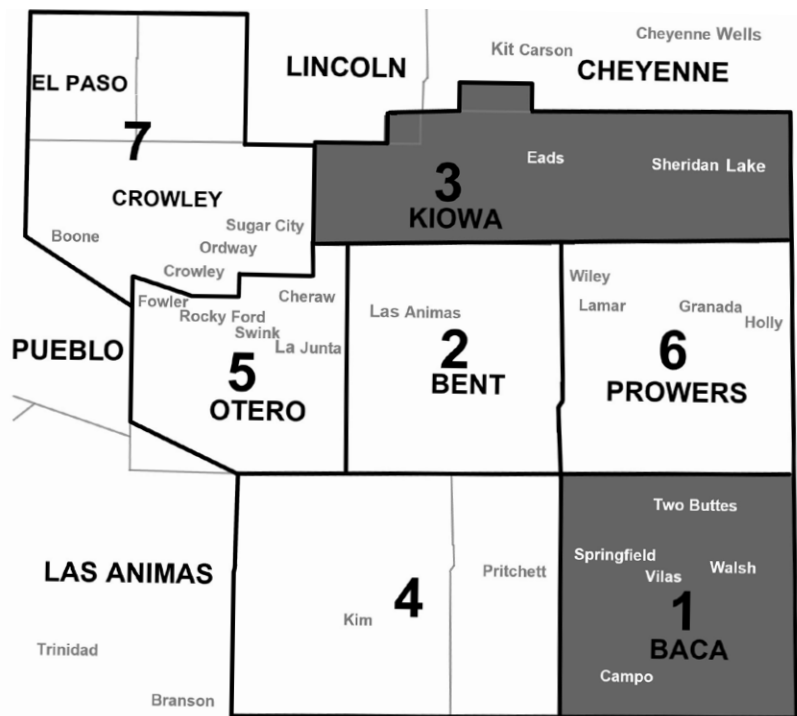
SECPA Board positions up for election in 2022 are District 1 — Eastern Baca County (incumbent Director is Truman Wright); and District 3 — Kiowa County (incumbent Director is Brad Buck). See map below.


These positions are for three-year terms, beginning April 2022 and ending March 2025.

To be eligible to be a Director: 1) a person must be a SECPA member and bona fide resident of the district he or she is to represent, 2) cannot be an employee or have been an employee of SECPA or its subsidiary within the preceding five (5) years, and 3) cannot be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to SECPA.

Petitions must be signed by 15 bona fide members in the nominee's district and must be returned no later than 5 p.m., January 6, 2022. Petitions are available in all SECPA offices or on the website at <http://secpa.com/annual-meeting-elections>.

Return petitions to Debbie Howard at any SECPA office, or mailed to SECPA, ATTN: Debbie Howard, PO Box 521, La Junta, CO 81050.





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 Linda Jones.

YOUTH TRIPS 2022

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

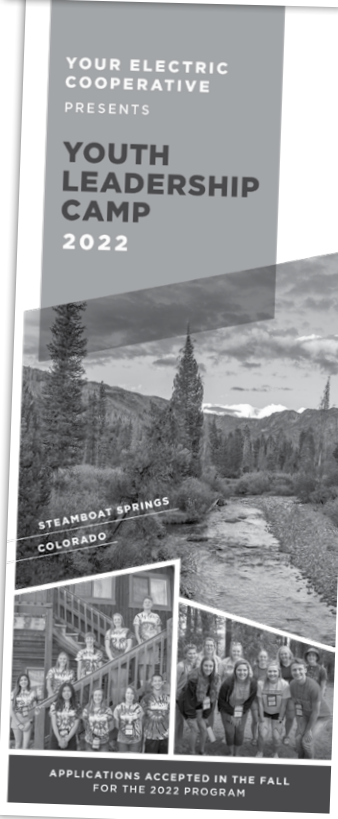
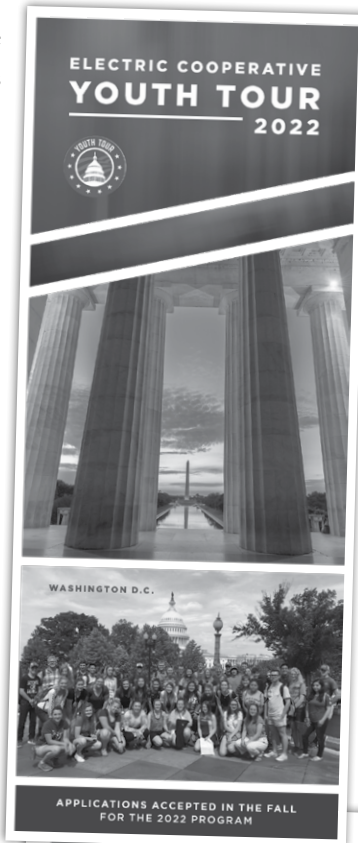
Win a trip to Washington, D.C., or a week at leadership camp at Glen Eden Resort!

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Washington D.C. Youth Tour is June 12-19, 2022. High school students who are 16 by June 1, AND whose families are Southeast Colorado Power Association members are eligible to apply to go on the trip.

The tour provides students with an eight-day adventure that offers in-depth exposure to the electric cooperative network while exploring our nation's capital. The selected youth's expenses, including airfare, lodging, meals and all tour admission fees, are paid by your local cooperative, Southeast Colorado Power. Activities during the trip include tours of the U.S. Capitol, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, war memorials (Vietnam, Iwo Jima), Arlington National Cemetery, National Archives, White House and Smithsonian museums. Also planned are a Potomac River dinner and dance cruise; visits with Colorado's U.S. senators and representatives; an NRECA Town Hall meeting; and the chance to connect with other students from around the country.

If you're not chosen to attend the Washington, D.C., trip, you may be the recipient of a trip to Leadership Camp held at Glen Eden Resort, located just outside Steamboat Springs, Colorado. At camp, held July 16-21, 2022, students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming gather at a beautiful resort on the Elk River and participate in activities to improve leadership skills and get an inside view of the state and national legislatures. There is plenty of time for swim parties, barbecues, dances and banquets during the week. Many of the attendees call this camp a "life-changing experience."

For more information and applications, visit <http://secpa.com/related-links/youth-camps> or contact Debbie Howard at 719-383-1314 or Kevin Brandon at 719-383-1323. Applications must be received or postmarked by December 27, 2021, to ATTN: Kevin Brandon, SECPA, PO Box 521, La Junta, CO 81050.



**You're Invited to
Southeast Colorado Power
Association's
ANNUAL MEETING on
Thursday, April 28, 2022.**

Cash prizes given away throughout the meeting.

Please join us at the
Minnick Building,
Baca County Fairgrounds,
Springfield, CO 81050

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Registration – 5 p.m.

Dinner – 6 p.m.

Meeting – 6:45 p.m.



October 2021

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money. Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: energy.gov

(WIN*Bruce Nittler, acct#1403300000)