

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2021



MAILING ADDRESS

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La Junta, CO 81050-0521



STREET ADDRESS

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web www.secpa.com



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**



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

BY KEVIN BRANDON INTERIM CEO | KEVINB@SECPA.COM

KEVIN BRANDON

Christmas and the holiday season are here, and we will welcome 2022 in just a few short weeks. I love everything about this time of year. Just the thought of the holiday season brings a smile to my face and evokes a sense of comfort and nostalgia. Recalling family gatherings and traditions warms my heart and fills my senses.

It's a time of reflection. I'm grateful for my own family as well as my co-op family. At Southeast Colorado Power Association, we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members, because we live here too.

While many of our community-focused programs and activities ramp up this time of year, we have several programs and services in place to help our member-owners year-round. I want to remind you about some of these offerings in hopes you'll find them beneficial.

We hope you'll take advantage of SmartHub, an app that empowers you to monitor, manage and pay your electric bill conveniently through your phone, tablet or computer. During these times of unprecedented mail delivery delays, using SmartHub is a great way to see your bill as soon as it becomes available.

We also offer energy efficiency rebate programs to save you energy and money. Please visit www.secpa.com to learn more about our convenient payment options and rebate opportunities.

In addition to helping member-owners save today, we're focusing on the future. In Colorado, we're seeing increased interest in renewable energy resources. Recent innovations and advances have led to significant cost decreases in renewable energy, making it more feasible and accessible. We recognize

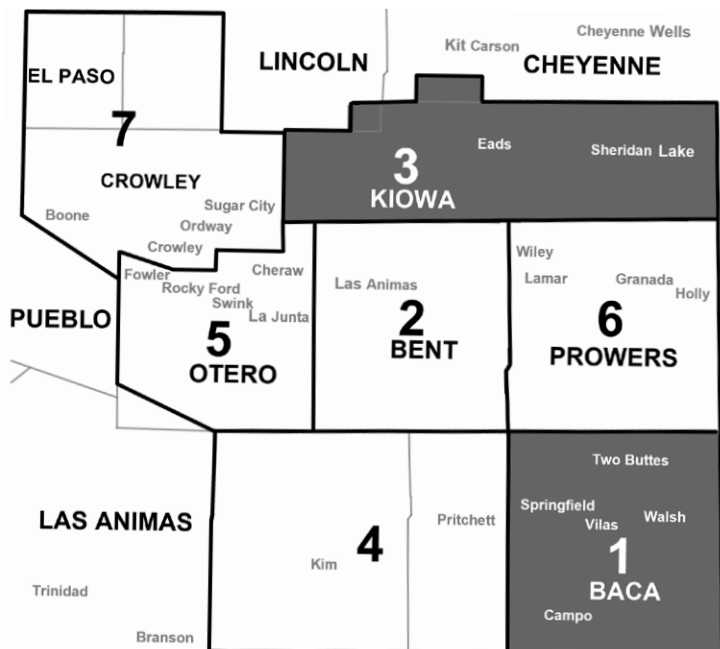
that while renewables are an important part of our overall energy mix, reliable baseload generation is equally important. We continue to work with our power supplier to ensure that we can continue to provide affordable and reliable electricity to our members.

But the most important investment we make is in our local youth. SECPA contributes throughout the year to many youth programs including 4-H programs and Junior Livestock Sales throughout our service territory. We also provide thousands of dollars every year in scholarships for local students. In fact, the last several years, SECPA has given five \$1,000 scholarships per year, and recently, the SECPA Board of Directors voted to double that to ten \$1,000 scholarships per year. We always have an extremely qualified pool of applicants, and it is always a difficult but rewarding task to choose the recipients.

Each year, through our Youth Leadership Camp program, we send high school juniors to Steamboat Springs for a weeklong camp where they learn about cooperatives, generation facilities and government while building friendships and gaining leadership skills. We also send high school juniors and seniors to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. Please visit www.secpa.com to learn more about and apply for these youth programs.

At the heart of all of these programs is you: the member-owners we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we continue to make.

This holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Speaking on behalf of our teams at SECPA and SECOM, we wish you all a Merry Christmas, happy holidays and a happy new year. I know the future will be bright because of you.



A WINTER WONDERLAND CREATES
Wonderful Speed



Somarston Group © 2021

Deck the Halls SAFELY



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

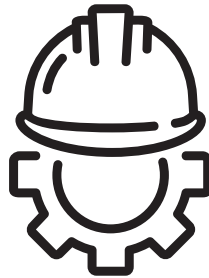
From our co-op family to yours, wishing you a happy holiday season and a joyous New Year.

SECPA Offices will be CLOSED:

Wednesday, December 22 and Thursday, December 23, in observance of the Christmas holidays.

Thursday, December 30, in observance of the New Year holiday.

WHEELS TO WORK



SECPA Safety Officer Clint Arbuthnot shares a tabletop electric safety demonstration with seventh and eighth grade students.

SECOM and Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA) shared their “wheels” with La Junta and Cheraw seventh and eighth grade students and other member districts of Santa Fe Trail BOCES. The event was organized to allow students to discover careers in their community. SECOM and SECPA were invited as an employer with wheels to attend and share stories of how the wheels contribute to the businesses. Both companies showed off bucket trucks and SECOM displayed a fiber splice trailer.

Employees showcased other tools they use throughout their work day, including rubber gloves, climbing belt and gaffs (SECPA), and splicing sheets and fiber (SECOM). Some of the kids had the opportunity to splice fiber under SECOM employees’ supervision. And SECPA brought a tabletop electricity demonstration table.

The students came prepared with a list of questions, and employees were able to share their journey to working at SECPA and SECOM. Employees discussed the education and training required for all the various jobs and career opportunities available at both companies.



SECOM employees (left to right) Jake Mayo, Fiber Tech; Jason Baylor, Fiber Foreman; and Chief Operations Officer Scott Monarco enjoy the day with students at the Wheels to Work event hosted by Santa Fe Trail BOCES.



SECPA Lineman John Jackson and Safety Officer Clint Arbuthnot prepare to show students some tools of the trade that keep linemen safe on the job: rubber gloves, climbing belts, gaffs and hardhats.



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

Cash prizes given away throughout the meeting.

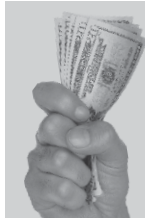
Please join us at the
Minnick Building,
Baca County Fairgrounds,
Springfield, CO 81050

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Registration – 5 p.m.

Dinner – 6 p.m.

Meeting – 6:45 p.m.



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 Derek Wren.**

YOUTH TRIPS 2022

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

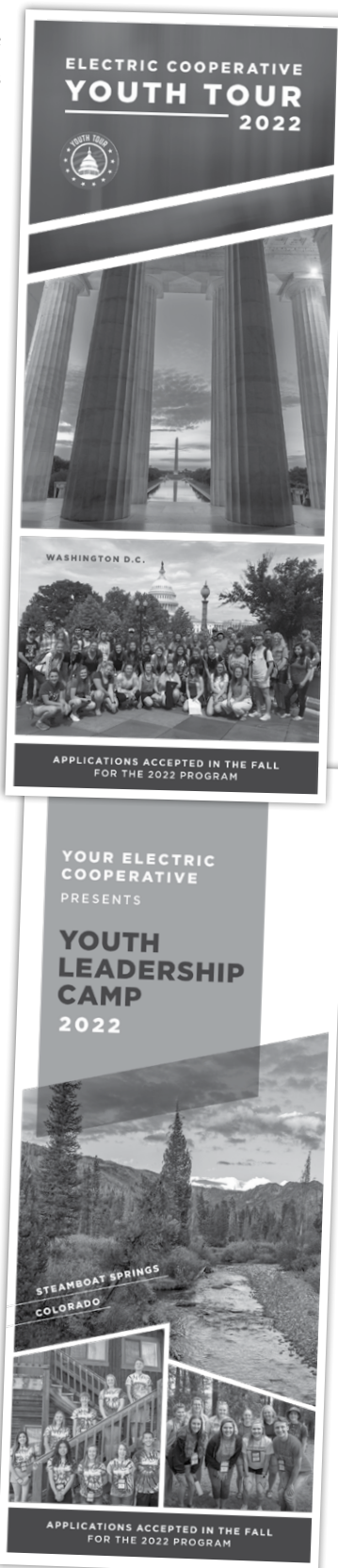
Win a Trip to Washington, D.C., or a Week at Leadership Camp at Glen Eden Resort!

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, the National Archives, the 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 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.



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 ten \$1,000 scholarships. Eligible applicants must be high school Seniors graduating in 2022 who plan to attend a two- or four-year college. Students' parents must be members of SECPA.

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/ — 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.

Additionally, the SECPA website has information regarding other scholarships SECPA administers through Tri-State Generation and Transmission, as well as Basin Electric. 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 7, 2022.

For additional information, please visit the SECPA website or contact Debbie Howard at 719-383-1314.