

SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Outlet

APRIL 2022



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Facebook.com/SDCEA.Inc
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Your community electric service provider.



Annual Meeting Notice

SDCEA's annual meeting will be held on June 9, 2022, at The Barn at Howard Creek Farm, Howard.



Sangre de Cristo Electric Association
Your Community Electric Cooperative

UPDATE ON RATE STRUCTURE CHANGE

BY PAUL ERICKSON CEO



PAUL ERICKSON

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association has been considering a rate redesign that would strengthen the overall financial stability of the cooperative. We had retained the services of a leading electric utilities consulting firm to review our current structure and propose modifications that the consulting firm believed would put the cooperative on better footing financially.

We have a duty to maintain the long-term viability of the organization, of course, but we also need to be mindful of the interests of all our members. Upon further review of the rate redesign the consulting firm suggested, we have rescinded the

April 1, 2022, implementation of the rate redesign and have asked the consultants to provide alternative rate redesign options that take our members' concerns into consideration.

We expect to receive alternative options sometime in late spring or early summer. Should we find the revised recommendations satisfactory, we will immediately inform our members of any changes. For now, the current rate structure remains in place and no changes will be implemented.



Sangre de Cristo Electric Association
Your Community Electric Cooperative

non-profit, providing reliable, safe electricity to rural residents and communities in central Colorado



SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC SELECTS FOUR FOR TRIP OF A LIFETIME

2022 YOUTH TOUR TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



▲ Ciali McGinniss



▲ Chandler Smethers



▲ Emma Wilkins



▲ Sami Kupfner

Four area youth earned a trip of a lifetime this summer — they will participate in the 2022 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., in June, sponsored by SDCEA.

Cotopaxi School student **Ciali McGinniss**, Buena Vista High School student **Chandler Smethers**, Salida High School student **Emma Wilkins** and Doherty High School (Colorado Springs) student **Sami Kupfner** will represent their respective schools, communities and SDCEA at the tour. They will join about 30 other students representing electric cooperatives from around the state in Denver for a day to get acquainted and learn about rural electric systems in Colorado before boarding a plane and flying to our nation’s capital for seven days with chaperones from the Colorado Rural Electric Association.

Among the tour’s highlights are visits to historic sites in Washington, D.C.: the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery and the Smithsonian, to name a few. A full day is spent on Capitol Hill meeting with the Colorado congressional delegation and eating lunch in the cafeteria with congressional staffers. The students are introduced to issues faced by rural electric cooperatives on a state as well as the national level.

The SDCEA and Colorado group will join students from all over the United States to tour the sites around the Washington, D.C., area and to meet with energy industry and government officials. More than 2,000 students attended the event in 2019. The tour returns this summer after being canceled during the global pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

This is an all-expenses-paid trip and the winners are selected based on their application and an essay on why they would be a good candidate for the experience. Participating in the Youth Tour

is a great way to learn about this great nation, develop leadership skills, gain a better understanding of electric cooperatives and make friendships with people from across the state and country.

Youth Tour Background

Senator Lyndon Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the NRECA Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957. The senator declared, “If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.”

Consequently, beginning in 1957, some of the Texas electric cooperatives sent groups of young people to Washington, D.C., to work during the summer in Sen. Johnson’s office and learn more about government in action. In 1958, rural electric cooperatives in Iowa sponsored the first group of 34 young people on a weeklong study tour of the Capitol. Later that same year, another busload came to Washington, D.C., from Illinois. The idea grew and other states sent busloads of young people throughout the summer. By 1959, the Youth Tour had grown to 159 youths.

In 1964, NRECA began to coordinate the program and suggested that cooperative representatives from each state arrange to be in Washington, D.C., during Youth Tour week. The first year of the coordinated tour included approximately 400 young people from 12 states. The idea has continued to grow and today over 2,000 young people and chaperones participate in the Youth Tour every year.

Applications for the Youth Tour are available on SDCEA’s website, myelectric.coop, each year in early October. The deadline for application submissions is the beginning of January.

For more information, contact SDCEA at 719-395-2412 or toll-free at 844-395-2412, or email communications@myelectric.coop.



HAVE A QUESTION about something to do with SDCEA?

Give our office a call at 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412. Our business office in Buena Vista is open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed on major holidays. Or email your question to info@myelectric.coop.

We Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty that trees provide. But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular vegetation management.

If you see us in the community removing or trimming trees, remember the many benefits it brings:

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Decreases the risk of vegetation that comes in contact with lines igniting and potentially causing a wildfire
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you, the consumers we serve.

Are **YOU** interested in how your electric cooperative is governed?



Do you have leadership qualities and want to make a difference? Consider running for a seat on the SDCEA Board of Directors. If you think this might be a good fit and a good opportunity for you, contact CEO Paul Erickson at 719-395-2412 or toll free at 844-395-2412 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you. Nomination petitions, candidate biographies and financial disclosure forms are due by **5 p.m., Thursday, April 7, 2022.**

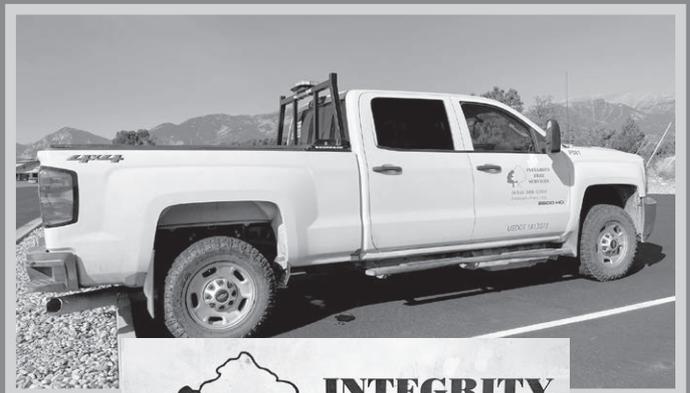
▶ Look for SDCEA Board of Directors candidate bios and Q&A information here in next month's newsletter and online in the Members Only section at myelectric.coop in May.



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT MONTHLY UPDATE

Integrity Tree Service, SDCEA's vegetation management contractor, will have three crews working in Fremont County this spring. The crews will finish clearing the Cotopaxi and Texas Creek areas and then will work their way west toward the Howard area.

SDCEA crews will also be doing some trimming system-wide to address spots in need of immediate attention, identified through our drone inspection program, on-site evaluation or consumer calls.



**INTEGRITY
TREE
SERVICES**

(616) 301-1300
INTEGRITYTREE.COM

ELECTRICAL LINEWORKERS

Lineworkers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems. We rely on their expertise to power our world.

They must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members and themselves.

WHAT THEY WEAR

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Gear can vary depending on pole structure (wood or steel) and weighs up to 45 pounds.



⚡ OUTAGES

Do you have an outage to report? Don't hesitate to call 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412.

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.

📣 SUPPLY CHAIN LEAD TIMES

SDCEA is alerting contractors, builders and members that lead time on materials is longer than normal. This may impact line extension, service upgrade projects and programs in 2022. SDCEA is working to maintain a healthy inventory of equipment to minimize the potential delays, yet we encourage stakeholders to review their project estimates and timelines closely. To ensure realistic expectations, please reach out to our engineering department regarding any changes in your project timeline.

💰 REBATES

SDCEA and our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, 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.

📄 SDCEA INFO

SDCEA posts board meeting information, annual reports, board contacts and more for members to access at any time. To view these items, create an account on our website at myelectric.coop. Sign in and find this information under our Members Only section, found on the left side of the landing page.

If you want to see rates and policies, that information can be found on the landing page for your account (SmartHub). Go to the My Profile menu item on the top and select Documents from the drop-down menu.



#ThankALineworker