

MVEA's 81st Annual Meeting of Members Brings Co-op Community Together

The sense of co-op community was alive and well at the Mountain View Electric Association Annual Meeting of Members held at Limon Public Schools on June 2. The school was filled with laughter, conversation, and the camaraderie that is born between members who take an active role in their electric cooperative. It was MVEA's first in-person Annual Meeting of Members since June 2019, and we were excited about the opportunity to gather again!

More than 200 guests enjoyed information booths, prize drawings, and the MVEA business meeting. Before the business meeting, members had an opportunity to visit booths to learn more about MVEA's services and programs including: Operation Round Up®, the Co-op Connections Program, and MVEA's popular rebate program, which is supported by Tri-State Generation and Transmission. There were also representatives from Connect, powered by Mountain View Electric Association, on site to help answer co-op member questions about the fiber broadband project and future high-speed internet services.

This year, there were two districts where Directors' three-year terms were up for election: District 3, Errol Hertneky; and District 5, Kevin L. Paddock. District 3 was a contested director election, while District 5 was uncontested (see results on page 8). Following the Director Election portion of the meeting, Education Chair Jim Riggins, District 7, gave a report on the \$23,000 in scholarships

awarded this school year, while Chief Executive Officer Jim Herron recognized MVEA's 2022 Youth Leadership Trip Contest winners.

Board President Joe Martin and CEO Jim Herron gave their reports on the state of the cooperative. The reports included highlights of MVEA's progressive capital credits program, which has resulted in more than \$75.8 million in retirements over the course of the co-op's history, a stable rate forecast through 2022, future plans to develop a community solar project, as well as MVEA and Conexon Connect's Fiber Broadband project. This Annual Meeting was special as it ushered in a new era for the co-op: Jim Herron, MVEA's CEO for the last 26 years, retired the end of June. Board President Joe Martin introduced the membership to MVEA's next CEO, Ruth Marks, and also took time to recognize Jim Herron for his dedication and service to the membership.

No Annual Meeting is complete without door prizes and attendee giveaways! Throughout the meeting, door prizes were awarded and the two winners of MVEA's Summer Series Outdoor Power Equipment Giveaway were announced (see page 8). Annual Meeting attendees received coffee mugs from Bowen Pottery in Black Forest and a voucher for a complimentary beverage from one of four local coffee shops in MVEA's service territory.

Visit www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting to access the election results, event program, and financial annual report.

(2022 Annual Meeting Recap, continued on page 8)

DON'T MISS NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS!

Mark your calendars and save the date: MVEA's 82nd Annual Meeting of Members will be held June 8, 2023, in Falcon.

A NEW ERA: MVEA Announces Ruth Marks as CEO

The Mountain View Electric Association Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection and acceptance of Ruth Marks as MVEA's next CEO. Ruth attended MVEA's 81st Annual Meeting of Members on June 2, where her selection as MVEA's CEO was publicly announced.

"The Board conducted a nationwide search and interviewed highly qualified candidates. We ultimately selected Ruth Marks based on her robust experience with electric cooperatives," said Joe Martin, president of the MVEA Board of Directors. "It is a bittersweet time for the Board of Directors and MVEA. We say goodbye to our current CEO Jim Herron, with whom we have tremendous appreciation for his 26 years of service to MVEA. We also have great anticipation for the continued success of MVEA by welcoming new CEO Ms. Marks."

Before joining MVEA, Ruth was the vice president of transmission maintenance at Tri-State Generation and Transmission, MVEA's wholesale power supplier. In this capacity, she led a highly qualified team of transmission line, substation and telecom technicians located throughout Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Wyoming. She has been in the electric cooperative business for over 25 years and previously served as the chief operations officer at United Power before joining Tri-State in 2011.

On the opportunity to lead MVEA, Ruth shared, "It is a great honor to join MVEA in a capacity that allows me to work with the Board of Directors and dedicated employees to support MVEA's mission of providing safe, reliable, responsible, and affordable electric service and access to broadband service to the co-op membership. MVEA's



services are evolving to meet the unique needs of the growing cooperative during an era of industry change — the future is bright, and I am excited to be part of the process."

Ruth will join MVEA this month, following Jim Herron's retirement in June. Make sure to read future issues of *Colorado Country Life* magazine to meet Ruth Marks.

2022 Annual Director Election

One aspect of being a member of an electric co-op that is unique is the “one member, one vote” system that provides all members with equal voting rights. The vote of a member with one meter, matters as much a member with 25. The “one member, one vote” system helps ensure an electric co-op acts in the best interest of the entire membership.

For the third year in a row, MVEA had a contested director election. Errol Hertneky (incumbent), Mark Weatherford, and Wayne Vandershuere were director candidates in District 3. Kevin L. Paddock (incumbent) ran uncontested in District 5. Both incumbents were reelected.

MVEA worked with Survey & Ballot Systems, a reputable election organization and verification service used by electric cooperatives across the country, to mail and tabulate election ballots. On April 28, 52,915 election ballot packets were mailed to MVEA members. Members with emails on file were sent notifications, Facebook and Twitter posts were used to actively communicate with members, and important messages were included on the April and

May bills. In addition to receiving mail-in ballots, members who attended the Annual Meeting in Limon on June 2, but had not already voted by mail, were able to vote via floor ballot. This year, MVEA received more than 5,000 total returned ballots.

Thank you to the members who voted in the election and to those who attended the Annual Meeting in Limon. Active participation by the membership is integral to the co-op’s success in meeting the needs of a growing electric co-op in a changing energy landscape.

2022 ELECTION RESULTS

DISTRICT 3: CONTESTED

Errol Hertneky (Incumbent) – 2,594 Votes

Mark Weatherford – 1,343 Votes

Wayne Vandershuere – 991 Votes

DISTRICT 5: UNCONTESTED

Kevin L. Paddock (Incumbent) – 4,336 Votes

To view the Director Election Results online, visit www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting.

2022 Annual Meeting Door Prize Winners

Sundowner Prizes

\$500 Diana Jolly, Hugo

\$300 Steven Mease, Limon

\$200 Carla Stone, Limon

Apple iPad mini® Donated by Conexon Connect

Fred Brown, Falcon

Podium Flowers

Patricia Lynch, Kiowa

Table Flowers

William Hendrix, Calhan

Leonard Volosin, Calhan

55" VIZIO Smart TV Donated by Foothills Energy Service, Inc.

Alexander Brown, Monument

EGO Power+ 18" Cordless Electric Chainsaw Donated by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association

James Groves, Elbert

Four \$50 Gift Cards Donated by Western United Electric Supply

Herman Dudley, Colorado Springs

Lowell Grauberger, Falcon

John Mikos, Monument

Chris Snyder, Limon

Two \$100 Gift Cards Donated by Western United Electric

Joshua Niebur, Limon & Yonge Simmons, Colorado Springs

Thirty \$50 Bill Credits

Craig Bailey, Limon

Jeanette Bartling, Calhan

Leslie Bullock, Calhan

Steven Burgess, Falcon

Everett Churchwell, Limon

George Cooper, Monument

Greg Damron, Peyton

George Fosha, Calhan

Mary Eileen Fritz,

Colorado Springs

Kenneth Geoffroy, Limon

Jean Gilchrist, Limon

Gary Glover, Calhan

Juanita Gordon, Limon

Blaine Hales, Falcon

John Higgins, Genoa

Patrick Kropp, Limon

Jeffrey Lavender, Falcon

Joseph Lima, Falcon

Naomi Malcom, Limon

Mark Meyer, Calhan

Gary Miller, Falcon

Donald Morrison, Limon

Lawrence Nobile, Elbert

Mark Olson, Limon

Priscilla Rose, Falcon

Deborah Skillicorn, Peyton

Beatrice Twiss, Calhan

Caron Wetter, Limon

Betty Whitney, Calhan

Kathryn Wicklund,

Colorado Springs

2022 Summer Series Outdoor Power Equipment Giveaway Winners:

Angie Curry, Monument: Greenworks Pro Electric Pressure-Washer

Anna Munster, Calhan: Snapper Electric Mower & Trimmer Package



Alexander Brown, of Monument, was the lucky winner of the 55" VIZIO Smart TV Donated by Foothills Energy Service, Inc.



Andrew Easler, Journey Lineman, and Wyatt Litts, Apprentice Lineman, made the MVEA “Tools-of-the-Trade” Lineworker table a crowd favorite for guests of all ages.



Joe Martin, MVEA Board President, presents Jim Herron, retiring CEO, with a plaque recognizing him for 26 years of service to the cooperative.



Jim Herron, MVEA's CEO for 26 years, gives his last Annual Meeting presentation. He ended his speech with heartfelt thanks to the Board, executive leadership, employees, members, and his wife, Becky.



There wasn't a bad seat in the house in the Limon Public Schools gymnasium.

Beat the Heat

SUMMER ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

6 WAYS TO MANAGE YOUR ELECTRIC USE WHEN TEMPERATURES RISE

Information Source: The National Rural Electric Association, and the U.S. Department of Energy

As temperatures begin to spike, there are steps you can take to save on your energy bills this summer. According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48% of energy expenditures just on heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. Although a majority of that is spent on heating expenses, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners. Aside from replacing your central air conditioner with a newer, higher-efficiency model, there are some things you can do to increase efficiency, which can help reduce your energy bills.

- 1. Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day.** Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76% of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat, according to energy.gov.
- 2. Program your thermostat to maximize energy savings.** According to the Department of Energy, setting your thermostat to 78 degrees in the summer can save you up to 10% in energy costs each year. If 78 degrees is too warm, adjust it a bit lower to your comfort. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your energy use will be.
- 3. Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use.** When powered on, game consoles, televisions and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12% of your home energy use. Plus, small appliances and electronics use energy even when they are not in use.
- 4. Do full loads of laundry and wash with cold water.** Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more.
- 5. Air dry dishes.** This step can cut your dishwasher's energy use by up to 50%.
- 6. Turn off fans when you leave a room.** Remember that fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind chill effect. Ceiling fans will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4 degrees without impacting your comfort.

Home Energy Calculator & Energy Efficiency Resources
www.mvea.coop/save-energy-money



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OPERATION ROUND UP®

Annual Report

When we all work together, great things happen! Operation Round Up® was formed to assist charitable organizations, communities with special needs, and individuals who have suffered from loss, personal disaster or medical emergencies. It is completely funded by MVEA members who voluntarily round up their bill to the nearest dollar. The average member contribution is 50 cents a month or \$6 a year, but members never donate over \$11.88 a year. On average, about 50% of MVEA's membership participates in Operation Round Up®.

Since it was incorporated in 1999 and started collecting funds in 2000, the MVEA Operation Round Up® fund has collected more than \$3.5 million as of December 31, 2021. Through the generosity of MVEA's members who choose to participate in the program, over \$100,000 is invested back into the co-op community every year. The figures shown are as of December 31, 2021, and represent the fiscal years of 2021 and 2020 as well as the history of the fund since incorporation in 1999 through 2021. Thank you to all of MVEA's members who have opted in to support their communities and those in need through Operation Round Up®

If you, or someone you know, needs a helping hand through challenging times, visit www.mvea.coop/round-up for grant qualifications and to apply for funds.



	History of the Fund (through 12/31/21)	2021 (UNAUDITED)	History of the Fund (through 12/31/20)	2020 (AUDITED)
Starting balance		\$260,811		\$254,087
Amount collected	\$3,516,357	\$156,312	\$3,360,045	\$159,133
Awarded to organizations	\$2,019,067	\$71,865	\$1,947,202	\$63,019
Awarded to individuals	\$935,333	\$70,568	\$864,765	\$71,771
Operating expenses	\$327,367	\$14,616	\$312,751	\$17,619
Ending balance		\$260,073		\$260,811

THE POWER OF CHANGE = \$2.9+ MILLION
Back to Your Electric Co-op Community.

Proud sponsor of the 2022 El Paso County Fair

July 16 • MVEA Lights Up the Night Fireworks

July 21 • Family Day Sponsor

July 22 • MVEA Flag Presentation for Military Appreciation Day at the Auto Races



Photo Credit: Kayla Garcher

THE COOPERATIVE *Advantage*

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The 117th Annual El Paso County Fair is a welcome opportunity to celebrate the simple joys of tradition: the smell of funnel cakes and corn dogs; the bright lights of the carnival rides; and, the excitement of the grandstand events! MVEA is proud to sponsor an annual event with roots that run deep in our co-op community.



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MVEA's Summer Series GO ELECTRIC! Outdoor Power Equipment Winner Spotlight: Anna Munster

Anna and Pete Munster, who live in Calhan and have been MVEA members for 15 years, were "beyond excited" when they found out they were the winners of an electric mower and trimmer package. "This was an exciting opportunity to win electric outdoor equipment before actually having to purchase items to try them out."



Following recent rains, the Munster's plan to put their new equipment to work to tackle overgrown weeds and grass. Anna also shared, "I would like to thank MVEA for providing this opportunity and to thank them for the dependable electric service they have given us over the years."

The next promotion, for an electric snow blower, begins on August 1 and ends on October 31. Two winners will be selected. Look for promotions to start in August and visit www.mvea.coop/greengiveaway.

MVEA's GO ELECTRIC! Outdoor Power Equipment Giveaway promotes the expanding selection of electric outdoor power equipment products eligible for rebates. Visit www.mvea.coop/rebates to learn more.