



GCEA
POWERING POSSIBILITIES

AUGUST 2022



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SMALL STEPS TO GOING ELECTRIC

BY LOGANN LONG COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Powering our lives with electricity is the future; there is no doubt about it. Scared to take the plunge? Instead of jumping in full force, GCEA can help you go electric one step at a time.

If you are not ready to go big and buy an electric vehicle, try starting small with electric outdoor power equipment. Most local hardware stores carry at least one electric outdoor power equipment brand. A few of the most popular items to start with are electric lawn mowers, trimmers and leaf or snow blowers. If you are looking to move away from gas-powered equipment, now is the time to switch.

Maybe you are ready to take a bigger step toward an all-electric lifestyle by trying an electric bike. E-bikes are rapidly growing in popularity as they offer an easier and

cheaper commute compared to a gas-powered scooter, for example. Plus, they are a lot of fun to ride.

Going all-electric in your vehicle is the next step after you try and love all the options above. If you are hesitant about battery range, a plug-in hybrid EV might be the better choice to ease yourself into an EV. There are many different battery EV and PHEV options on the market for you to choose from. If you cannot afford a new vehicle, GCEA now offers a rebate on used EVs up to \$1,000. Buy now, save now.

GCEA offers rebates on all the electric items listed above. To view the rebates we offer, visit gcea.coop. If you still have questions, call 970-641-3520 and we can help you figure out what is best for you.



RECONNECTING WITH MEMBERS

GCEA's 83rd annual meeting theme, "Reset, Recharge, and Reconnect," was on full display on June 21. We were so happy to reconnect with members in person this year after a long hiatus due to COVID-19. There was a lot going on for GCEA members to do and see. The linemen gave bucket truck rides and safety demonstrations, while Alantha Garrison and Tri-State representatives talked about beneficial electrification and rebates. Members also appreciated the gifts and Tri-State swag. Attendees enjoyed a tasty BBQ dinner provided by FBar Catering and cupcakes by Alice's Pie Palace in Lake City. The amazing band Shanty put on a wonderful performance while members mingled and ate dinner.

There was no contested election this year, but long-time District Three board member Bart Laemmel decided to step down from the board of directors after a 12-year stint. We are so thankful for everything Bart has done for the GCEA membership and we will miss him.



^ GCEA representatives talk to members at the annual meeting on June 21.



^ Members talk EVs at the annual meeting held at GCEA headquarters.



^ A young GCEA member enjoys a ride in a bucket truck at the annual meeting.



^ GCEA linemen perform a safety demonstration.



EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

Greg Katheiser – Vehicle Maintenance and Equipment Operator, 27 years
Mike Pandy – Crested Butte Apprentice Lineman, 7 years



Hello New Director – Darcie Perkins

Darcie Perkins was elected to the GCEA Board on June 21 to represent and serve District Three.

Darcie lives in Almont with her husband and sons. She has over 25 years of experience working with nonprofit organizations, owns a small business in the Gunnison Valley and is a strategic planning consultant. She served as the executive director for the Gunnison Valley nonprofit Living Journeys and continues to serve local nonprofits as a STEP advisor for the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley.

Darcie cares deeply about climate action and equity issues. Her interest in serving the community on the GCEA board is rooted in the belief that we must continue to evolve and change to make the world better for future generations. Welcome, Darcie!

7 CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS



Every College Student Should Know

Relay these safety tips to your young adults who are about to hit campus for the first time or return for another year.

1. Do not overload electrical outlets, power strips or extension cords. Use power strips with an overcurrent protector.
2. Be aware of your surroundings, especially when listening to music or texting.
3. Unplug small appliances when not in use and all appliances when away for extended periods.
4. Never walk alone at night.
5. Avoid using generic cubes or cords. They could overheat, shock or burn you.
6. Locate the emergency call buttons or phones across campus in case of an emergency.
7. Do not put your cell phone on or under your pillow or bedding. It could overheat or catch fire.



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Electricity.org®



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – Southern Vittles in Lake City

Whenever we go down to Lake City for a GCEA event or visit the school for safety demos, we look forward to hitting up Southern Vittles for lunch as part of our trip.

The minute you step onto the porch, you feel like you are at home with their Southern hospitality and homestyle comfort food. Specializing in fried fish, shrimp, chicken and BBQ, Southern Vittles has been serving good ol' Southern cooking for over 15 years.

Owned by Kelly and Katie Elkins, Southern Vittles truly is a family-owned-and-operated business. Their young children seat guests, run the register and take to-go orders.


Next time you are in Lake City, visit Southern Vittles and tell them GCEA sent you.

THANK YOU, BART

District Three Director Bart Laemmel stepped down from the board after 12 years of service. He was a well-established board member who dedicated his time to the GCEA membership. During his tenure, he completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certifications from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

As former board president, vice president and assistant treasurer/secretary, Bart chaired and served on many board committees throughout his years as a board member. The membership and GCEA appreciate his dedication and service.



 Bart Laemmel speaks to the members at GCEA's annual meeting.



PAPERLESS BILLING CONTEST

Each fiscal quarter, GCEA holds a drawing for members who signed up for paperless billing for the first time during that quarter.

Two lucky winners will each receive a \$50 bill credit. Here's how:

1. Visit gcea.smarthub.coop/Login.html. If you do not already have an online account, you will need to create one.
2. Once you are logged in, click on My Profile, then Update My Printed Bill Settings and select "Turn Off Printed Bill Settings."



GUNNISON CAR SHOW

Join GCEA on Main Street in downtown Gunnison for the 34th annual Gunnison Car Show, Friday, August 19. We will have the Chevy Bolt and Tesla Model 3 for you to check out.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

REMEMBER, ALWAYS CALL 811 BEFORE YOU START ANY DIGGING PROJECT! YOU'LL AVOID INJURY, EXPENSE AND A VERY INCONVENIENT DAY IN THE DARK.