

SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Outlet

AUGUST 2022



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SDCEA in Our Community

SDCEA enjoyed participating in some fun summer events recently. We had a blast, and we're already looking forward to next year's celebrations.

Did you happen to see Buena Vista Schools' electric school bus in the Independence Day parade?

The electric bus is a new addition to the district's fleet and begins transporting students this fall. The bus was acquired through a successful grant application by the district and a significant financial contribution and technical support from SDCEA.

Scan the QR code to the right or visit tinyurl.com/yc38vp4j for more information about this exciting partnership and innovative addition to the school district.

On July 9, the Buena Vista Optimist Club's Mountain Mania Car Show showcased 125 amazing vehicles.

Vehicles were judged by participants and spectators for grand champion, best in decade (1920s to 2010 and newer), best interior, best engine, best truck, best off-road, most unique and people's choice.

Car show attendees also had the chance to look under the hood of SDCEA's electric vehicle, were given informational handouts and encouraged to ask questions they had about SDCEA.

SDCEA Lead Lineman Matt Shepherd and Apprentice Lineman Sean Weston presented a safety demonstration throughout the day about what to do when your car hits a power pole.

For more information on what to do if you are in an accident involving a power pole, see page 10.

A video showing how a bus driver, dispatch and first responders kept a busload of students safe in an accident with a power pole can be found by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera or visiting www.safeelectricity.org/public-education/videos-library/tlc-safe-bus.

Thank you to everyone who attended these events, asked questions about SDCEA and shared in supporting the community in which we all live.



BV Schools' new electric bus. Scan QR code for more information.



The electric school bus all decked out for the Independence Day parade.



SDCEA's electric vehicle on display at the Mountain Mania Car Show.



SDCEA linemen present a safety demonstration to car show attendees.



INTEGRITY TREE SERVICES

Integrity Tree Services, SDCEA's wildfire mitigation contractor, has crews working in the Independence Pass area in Lake County and in the Cotopaxi area in Fremont County. Use caution when around these work areas. Please call 844-395-2412 with questions.

BENNETTS APPOINTED TO SDCEA BOARD



Buena Vista native Blake Bennetts was appointed to the SDCEA Board of Directors June 29. Bennetts will represent members in the town of Buena Vista, a seat on the board which was vacated by the resignation of Dave Volpe in April.

After graduating from Buena Vista High School, Bennetts obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering, with an emphasis in water resources, from Colorado State University. After college, Bennetts worked for a heavy civil dam construction company for 10 years as a project manager. He currently works for ACA (Asphalt, Concrete, Aggregate) Products in Buena Vista as the sales and development manager.

“I am husband to an amazing wife and father to three very energetic kids. We moved back to Buena Vista in 2019 after living all over the United States, with the hopes of settling down. We love the small town and community feel, and we enjoy being back around our family and friends. When I’m not at work, you can find me outside hiking, fishing, hunting and exploring with my family.

“I hope to bring a long-term, local perspective to the board, along with my project management skills. I am excited to learn from the current directors and to help create more transparency and improve the morale within SDCEA and all co-op members. It is more important than ever to work together as a rural community,” Bennetts said.

“Blake is very familiar with the area and the issues that are important to its residents. He will bring a unique perspective to the board and will be an invaluable asset in shaping the future of the SDCEA. He is committed to representing the best interests of his constituents and ensuring that they have a strong voice in decisions that affect them. We are confident that he will serve Buena Vista and SDCEA with distinction,” SDCEA Board Chair Joe Redetzke said.

Bennetts said he is interested in learning from the current directors about how the cooperative is led and is encouraged by the community to be part of a solution to help bring safe and reliable electricity to the SDCEA cooperative members.

“I am interested in learning all the challenges with rural electricity and hope to offer another perspective to help bring solutions along with the other directors,” Bennetts said.

Bennetts is a member of the town of Buena Vista Planning and Zoning Commission, as well as a youth wrestling head coach.

Per SDCEA policy A-4, if an SDCEA director resigns more than eight months before the end of their term, the selection of a new director shall be carried out within three regular board meetings of the occurrence of said vacancy. At the beginning of June, a director search committee interviewed four candidates who applied for the seat and recommended Bennetts to the full board for approval. Bennetts will take his seat at the board’s July 27 meeting. Recently elected board members Sandra Attebery and Nick Hellbusch were seated at the June 29 meeting.

SDCEA BOARD MEETING SPECIAL GUEST



Joining the SDCEA board at its regular monthly meeting June 29 was Daniel Palken, legislative assistant to Colorado Sen. John Hickenlooper. Palken and the board discussed wildfire mitigation costs, the management of Western water resources and energy policy during the meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING WELL-ATTENDED

Thank you to everyone who attended the SDCEA Annual Meeting on June 9. We were so happy to support a local, family-owned business with our meeting venue. The Barn at Howard Creek Farm is in such a great location, and it really showcased what a beautiful area in which we live.



Annual meeting attendees at The Barn at Howard Creek Farm.



Lead Lineman Matt Shepherd (left) and Apprentice Lineman Sean Weston provide a safety demonstration to those attending the annual meeting.

Attendees participated in a full question-and-answer session, heard a recap of cooperative business in 2021, and also listened to remarks from Tri-State Generation and Transmission CEO Duane Highley and Colorado Rural Electric Association Executive Director Kent Singer.

If you did not make this year's meeting, we hope to see you all next year. The 2023 annual meeting is planned to be held in the Buena Vista area. Details to follow.



Casey Martin (far left), SDCEA's attorney, director Suzy Kelly (observed) and board treasurer Geoff Gerk listen to remarks made by Tri-State Generation and Transmission CEO Duane Highley (right).



SDCEA CEO Paul Erickson answers questions regarding cooperative business from members during the annual meeting.



Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters

We encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.

- Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know where power lines and equipment are located where you hunt.
- Be vigilant in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- Never place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment.

POWER POLE CAR ACCIDENT SAFETY

In traumatic situations, it may be instinctive to flee as soon as possible. A car accident is a good example of this. However, if you are in a car accident with a power line, the safest place is often inside the car.

When a car crashes into a power pole, the pole may fall down, lines may fall on your car or nearby, and the area around your car may become charged with electric energy. If you step out of the car in this scenario, your body becomes the path to ground for the electricity, and you could be electrocuted.

While downed lines sometimes show they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but they are just as lethal.

Stay in the car if you are in a car accident with a power pole. Warn those who try to come near your car to help that they must stay far away. Call 911 for help, and wait until a professional from the electric utility tells you it is safe to leave the car.

The exception to this rule is if your car is on fire. In that case, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground

at the same time. Then hop away with feet together. This way, there will not be a voltage difference between your two feet, which would give electricity the chance to flow through your body.

If you witness a car collision with a power pole, do not approach the accident. By trying to help, you will put your own life at risk. The best thing to do is contact emergency responders and stay far away from the accident.



DON'T POST ON POLES

It may seem like it's ok to put signs and other items on utility poles, but putting garage sale signs, flags, election signs, birthday party balloons, lost pet posters or other items on utility poles creates serious safety hazards.

Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs — as well as the signs themselves — pose dangers to lineworkers who must climb poles when restoring power or while performing routine maintenance. The nails and tacks left behind can snag lineworkers' boots or puncture protective clothing and gloves, putting the lineworkers at risk of slipping or even electrocution.

Crews respond to power outages during storms and at night, which may prevent them from seeing an item on a pole. Going pole to pole taking down signs, in case work needs to be done on utility poles or lines, takes time and manpower — and this takes away from their everyday work improving service.

Hanging things from utility poles may also present dangers to the community, putting individuals at risk of making accidental contact with energized power lines.

We appreciate your help in keeping utility poles clear and our lineworkers safe.

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 send an email with your question to info@myelectric.coop.



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.



REBATES

SDCEA and its 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. We also added rebates for electric outdoor equipment and even electric bicycles.

Want to learn more? Go to our website, myelectric.coop, click on Save Energy & Money and head to the Rebates tab.



NEW PHONE/EMAIL

If you changed your phone number or email address since you've taken service with SDCEA, please update your information with us.

Go to our website, myelectric.coop, to the login box to create an account with updated information, or to update information if you already have an account.

You may also email us at info@myelectric.coop or call us 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F at 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412.