

MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2023



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MCREA Mission

Morgan County REA, a member-owned cooperative, is dedicated to serving our members by providing safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future.

JOIN US FOR MORGAN COUNTY REA'S 86TH ANNUAL MEETING

BY DAVID FRICK GENERAL MANAGER



DAVID FRICK

Morgan County REA is proud to have powered this area of northeastern Colorado since 1937. At MCREA, we continue our co-op's mission to serve our members by providing safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future. MCREA's annual meeting, held each March, plays an essential role in upholding this mission. Our annual meeting informs MCREA members of the state of their electric cooperative and allows them to actively participate in decisions being made. After all, MCREA is owned and operated by the members it serves.

I kindly invite all our members to attend MCREA's 86th annual meeting, which will be held by phone call on Tuesday, March 21 at 6 p.m.

Telephone Town Hall will once again facilitate our annual meeting. The Colorado-based telecommunications service provider has conducted MCREA's annual meetings for the past three years, efficiently carrying out all typical annual meeting business functions. Not only that, but our remote annual meetings have provided for more open dialogue among our membership, who no longer needed to be in attendance physically to voice questions or concerns. The telephone format has also eliminated any weather cancellation concerns, as we all know late March can deal some mighty storms across our service area.

By listening to MCREA's 2023 annual meeting, attendees will still have chances to win cash prizes, as well as a brand-new electric leaf blower. I encourage MCREA members to register for this year's meeting by clicking the banner at our website, mcrea.org. Registering for MCREA's annual meeting will enter you into a drawing for local gift cards as well, so be sure to sign up.

Though our virtual annual meetings have proven successful, they simply cannot replace the value of gathering with our members in person. To have the best of both worlds, I am happy to announce that your electric cooperative will again host our members this summer at MCREA's Member Appreciation Picnic on Thursday, June 15. Our inaugural member appreciation event last year was a huge success, and MCREA's board of directors and employees look forward to gathering with you all again this summer.

At the picnic, in addition to enjoying a meal and door prizes, members will get to see the new Ford F-150 Lightning, a fully electric pickup.

There will be fun for the whole family, so mark June 15 on your calendar, save the date and watch for more event details in future issues of *Colorado Country Life* and on MCREA's social media pages.

2023 MCREA ANNUAL MEETING



TO REGISTER, CLICK THE BANNER AT MCREA.ORG

ENTER YOUR

- NAME
- TELEPHONE NUMBER
- SERVICE ADDRESS

REGISTERING FOR THIS YEAR'S MEETING WILL ENTER YOU TO WIN GIFT CARDS!

ANSWER THE PHONE MARCH 21 @ 6PM.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

In your home office, set equipment such as printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy-efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



MORGAN COUNTY REA LINEWORKER SCHOLARSHIP

Applications due Friday, February 24, 2023

Morgan County REA is proud to offer lineworker scholarships to assist individuals who want to establish a career in the power industry. The \$5,000 scholarship aims to encourage, promote and educate electric lineworkers about rewarding careers.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must reside within the outer boundaries of MCREA's service territory and be enrolled and planning to attend or currently attending an approved lineworker training program as a full-time student. Assuming the applicant has met the age requirements for enrollment in a lineworker training program, there are no other age restrictions to apply for MCREA's lineworker scholarship.

Applicants must complete and submit the MCREA lineworker scholarship application by Friday, February 24. Applications

will be reviewed by MCREA's lineworker scholarship committee, whose decisions are based on several factors, including academics, work experience, a statement of goals and aspirations, and overall impression. Based on their application, applicants will be selected to participate in an interview process prior to selection for the scholarship.

If selected as a scholarship winner, verification of enrollment and record of at least

a 3.0 GPA must be sent to the committee upon completion of each semester in order to maintain the scholarship. Scholarship recipients are in no way guaranteed or required to be employed at MCREA upon completion of training.

The MCREA lineworker scholarship application can be found and submitted on the cooperative's website. Please visit mcrea.org/lineworker-scholarships for more information and to apply.

If you have any questions regarding the 2023 lineworker scholarship program, please contact the MCREA member services department at 970-867-5688.



Unclaimed Capital Credits

At the end of 2022, Morgan County REA returned a record-breaking \$4.3 million in capital credits to its members. This capital retirement, the largest in MCREA history, came after the MCREA Board of Directors elected to fully retire 2016 MCREA patronage and partially retire 2004 Tri-State G&T patronage. (Robert Baltzell, acct. #xxx2100) In December, capital credits checks were sent to people who were members of the cooperative in 2004 and/or 2016. The amount of each capital credits check is based on each member's purchase of electricity and the operating revenue remaining at the end of those two specific years.

It is not unusual for MCREA to have unclaimed or uncashed capital credits checks from our margin allocations. In some cases,

letters containing refund checks were returned to us due to MCREA having a wrong or invalid address for a member. There are also instances in which capital credits checks were never cashed.

Remember, anyone who was an MCREA member in 2004 and/or 2016 should have received a check, even if they no longer receive electric service from the co-op. If you did not receive a capital credits check and you were an MCREA member in the two years listed above, please contact MCREA and verify that we have your current address to ensure that your capital credits check makes its way to you.

For more information or if you have any questions, please call us at 970-867-5688 or email customerservice@mcrea.org.



5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy – and money!

Mind the thermostat. If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

Get cozy. Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

Don't block the heat. If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

Take advantage of sunlight. Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

Block air leaks. Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

SAVE THE DATE

2023

MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC

JUNE 15 5-7 PM

MCREA HEADQUARTERS

MORGAN COUNTY REA
Your Tasteless Energy Cooperative

APPLY NOW

2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

MCREA College Scholarships | MCREA Lineworker Scholarship
APPLICATION DUE FEB. 17 | APPLICATION DUE FEB. 24

For more information or to submit an application, please visit www.mcrea.org/youth-programs

YOUR CO-OP NEWS

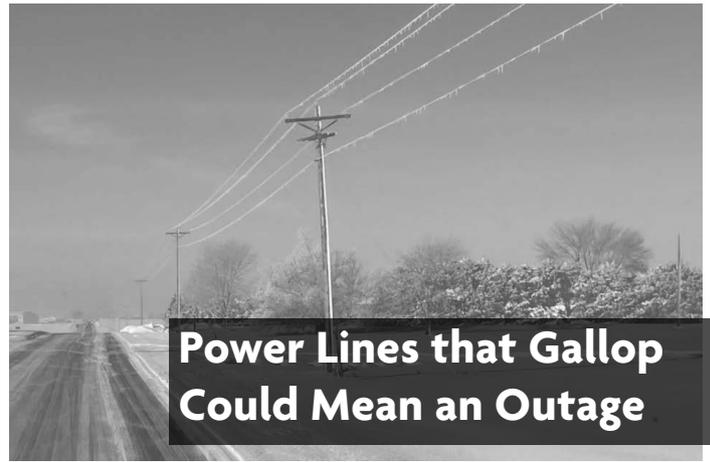
Meet MCREA's Newest Journeyman Lineman Sergio Baquera

Morgan County REA congratulates Sergio Baquera on attaining his journeyman lineman certification. This is no easy task, as it requires 8,000 hours of work as an apprentice lineman, the completion of a 200-question written test, a panel review and intense field tests.

While working toward his journeyman lineman certificate, Sergio also completed one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel. The Merchant Job Training and Safety Program is administered to line personnel in more than 40 states throughout the nation. Sergio and the support staff at MCREA can be proud of such an accomplishment, as the program requires rigorous supervision, study and closed-book testing. Congratulations, Sergio, on what is sure to be a rewarding lifelong occupation.



▲ Sergio Baquera (left) receives his journeyman lineman certificate from MCREA General Manager David Frick.



Power Lines that Gallop Could Mean an Outage

Galloping power lines may sound ridiculous, but they really do occur and can be dangerous. These lines can bounce and buck enough to hit another line, damage themselves enough to cause blinking lights or a power outage, or even fall to the ground.

“The most common cause of galloping lines is ice that builds up on one side of a power line as a result of strong winds,” explains David Frick, Morgan County REA general manager. “This buildup of ice creates an airfoil, which changes the flow of air around the normally round line. This change in air flow can cause the power line to start to bounce.”

Once galloping starts, there is not much a power company can do to alleviate it until winds die down. (McEndaffer Cattle Co., acct. xxx1400) This is why many power lines have objects such as twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal attached to the line. These devices are placed on power lines specifically to help reduce galloping and prevent potential danger.

If you encounter galloping lines, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact MCREA. In addition to the possibility of power outages, there is a danger of the lines or other electrical equipment breaking loose and falling, or of ice being dislodged from the lines and falling to the ground.

Frick adds, “Galloping lines aren’t the only danger that windstorms bring. Strong winds can knock down power lines or blow trees and limbs onto power lines, which can also cause outages.”

Storms at any time of the year can pack damaging winds. MCREA urges you to pay attention to and be aware of weather forecasts so that you can be prepared and not get caught off guard by a wind or ice storm.



WIN \$25 OFF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Each month, Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a chance to get a \$25 bill credit just by reading *Colorado Country Life*. Unfortunately, the two members whose names were hidden in the December issue did not claim their \$25 bill credit. There are two more MCREA member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you see your name and account number, call MCREA member services at 970-867-5688 by February 28 to claim a \$25 credit on your next bill.