

# SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

*The Outlet*

MARCH 2023



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Facebook.com/SDCEA.Inc  
Twitter: @SDCEA\_Inc

**Your community electric service provider.**



## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

SDCEA's annual meeting will be held on **June 15, 2023**, at Buena Vista High School. Details to follow.



# SDCEA BOARD ELECTION PROCEDURES

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION DEADLINES

- **April 6** — Nomination petitions, candidate biographies, and financial disclosure forms are due by 5 p.m.
- **April 13** — Date of Record
- **June 8** — Ballot receipt deadline
- **June 12** — SDCEA Board of Directors Election
- **June 15** — SDCEA Annual Meeting

## ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION NOTICE

SDCEA Board of Directors set June 15, 2023, for the cooperative's 83rd annual meeting at Buena Vista High School, Buena Vista.

Members of the cooperative will consider financial data for the year 2022 and any other cooperative business presented at the meeting.

## DIRECTOR SEATS

Three seats are up for election in June. Town of Buena Vista incumbent director Blake Bennetts has announced his intent to run in the June election, as have at-large incumbent director Michael Robinson and rural Chaffee/Lake County director Joe Redetzke. All director candidates are nominated by petition. Fifteen or more current members of the cooperative must sign each nomination petition. Any member interested in running for a director seat in a future election should review the candidate guidelines.

Elections will be held separately from the annual meeting by mail vote.

If you are interested in running for a board seat, please contact SDCEA at 844-395-2412 or info@myelectric.coop. Members must reside within the director's district to be considered for nomination.

Petitions for circulation were made available January 3, 2023. Nomination petitions, candidate questionnaires and financial disclosure forms must be received at SDCEA's office in Buena Vista by 5 p.m. Thursday, April 6, 2023.

## CANDIDATE GUIDELINES

Directors of rural electric cooperatives establish policy and provide leadership in a complex, technical and ever-changing industry. They do not deal with day-to-day operations of the cooperative and do not work in the cooperative office on a daily basis. Directors attend a minimum of one board meeting per month and may attend other meetings or training programs held outside SDCEA's service territory or out of state. In addition, rural electric board directors spend a considerable amount of time reading cooperative and industry material and maintaining a current knowledge of industry trends. Consider the following qualifications and responsibilities when choosing a member for nomination or when deciding to run for a director position.

## QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify for directorship, a person shall:

- Be a member of the cooperative or an individual authorized by an entity member;
- Be a resident of the designated director district;
- Have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts; and
- Disclose all monetary and in-kind contributions and expenditures directly or indirectly to or from his/her campaign for election to the board.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- At any time during such person's nomination, election campaign, or term of office fails or has failed to meet the qualifications provided in Article II, Section 3.A. of SDCEA's Bylaws. The Board of Directors shall establish a policy to execute a vote to expel a Director for failure to meet the qualifications provided in Article II, Section 3.A of SDCEA's Bylaws.

## YOUR CO-OP NEWS

- Fails to protect the confidentiality of Personal Identifiable Information and other confidential information provided to SDCEA by members, consumers, employees, directors, vendors and the public.
- Has been convicted of, is pleading guilty to, or had plead guilty to a felony.

Is or has been within the five years preceding June 12, 2023:

- Employed by SDCEA or the spouse of an employee.
- Employed by or has a significant financial interest in a business that sells or provides commodities, products or services to the cooperative.
- Employed by or a full or partial owner of an electric or natural gas utility, a propane company, or a renewable/alternative energy company, or has a significant financial interest in an entity that regularly competes with SDCEA, any entity that the cooperative controls or in which it has a substantial interest.
- Directors serve without salary but may be allowed fair remuneration for their time actually spent in the service of the cooperative as directors, consistent with rural electric cooperative practice.

Candidates should agree to serve the entire term of office for which they are elected. The position of director shall not be used to further any political ambition, and directors must be capable of representing the entire membership on an impartial basis.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

A director must be willing to:

- Promote and safeguard the interests of the cooperative;
- Expend the effort necessary to understand the cooperative's problems and provide the needed judgment to reach decisions in constantly changing circumstances;
- Support all official decisions and actions made or taken by the board;
- Study information in reports submitted to the board;
- Contribute to the development of statements on board functions and responsibilities, and work toward their constant improvement;
- Objectively evaluate and consider the questions and problems which face the cooperative;
- Stay informed about the cooperative's ideals and objectives and study and

analyze the policies, plans, and problems which result from efforts to achieve those ideals and objectives:

- Keep informed about and aware of the attitudes of members, employees, and the general public toward the cooperative's objectives and policies;
- Inform all interested persons about the cooperative's ideals, objectives, programs, and services; and
- Attend classes to attain NRECA director certification within the first full three-year term of office and work toward NRECA board leadership certification within the second or third term.

### PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

A director candidate should display the following personal qualifications:

- Good business records and possession of sound business judgment;
- Demonstrated capacity for leadership and reputation for honesty and good judgment;
- Demonstrated capacity for working with others; and
- Ideals and objectives compatible with cooperative philosophy and principles.

Interested in learning more about SDCEA's board of directors, rates & policies and other cooperative information?



Go to our website, [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop), and click on the gold Governance button on the right side near the top of the page.



Sangre de Cristo Electric Association  
Your Community Electric Cooperative

Not-for-profit, providing reliable, safe electricity to rural residents and communities in central Colorado



## SDCEA Selects Cody Norton for a Trip of a Lifetime: *Washington D.C. Youth Tour*

Cody Norton of Buena Vista has earned a trip of a lifetime. In June, he will participate in the 2023 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., sponsored by SDCEA.

Norton, a student at Buena Vista High School, will represent his school, community and SDCEA on the tour.

He will join about 30 other students who represent electric cooperatives from around Colorado. Selected students begin the tour in Denver where they learn about Colorado's state government and Colorado's electric cooperatives.

From Denver, they'll fly to Washington, D.C., to attend educational seminars and visit with their representatives in the House and the Senate. Students also visit historic sites in Washington, D.C., including the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery and the Smithsonian, to name a few.

Every June, more than 1,800 high school students from towns and small cities in rural America spend one week in Washington, D.C., as part of the National Rural Electric Youth Tour. The students are sponsored by electric cooperatives — cooperatives that are committed to educating America's rural youth about America and the role electric cooperatives play in developing strong rural communities.

Students who participate on the tour learn about electric cooperatives, American history and the U.S. government. The Colorado Rural Electric Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association organize the educational programs.

Participating in the Youth Tour is a great way for students to learn about our nation, develop leadership skills, gain a better

understanding of electric cooperatives and make friends with people from across the state and country.

This is an all-expenses-paid trip and students are chosen to attend based on their application and an essay on why they would be a good candidate for the experience.

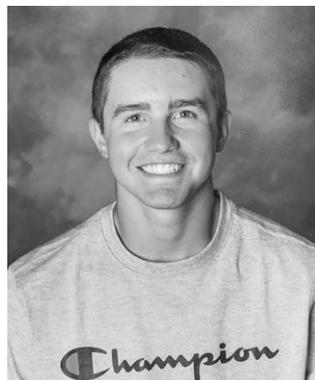
### Youth Tour background

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."

Taking on the challenge, in 1957, several Texas electric cooperatives sent groups of young people to Washington, D.C., to work during the summer in Senator Johnson's office and to learn more about government in action.

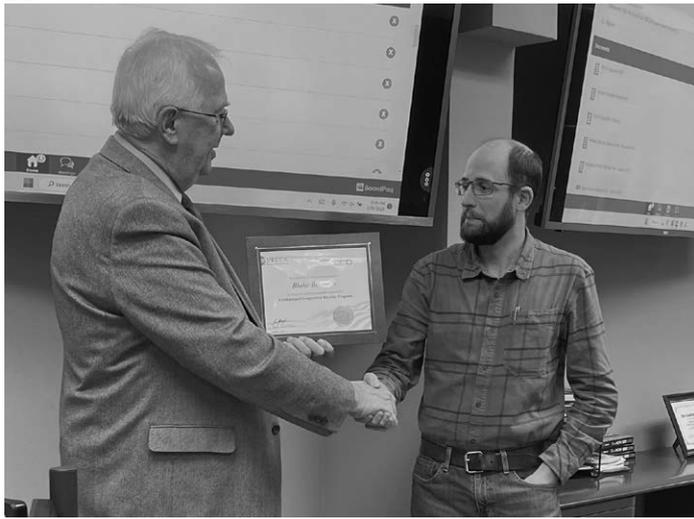
In 1958, rural electric cooperatives in Iowa sponsored the first group of 34 young people on a weeklong study tour of the Capitol. Later that same year, another busload came to Washington, D.C., from Illinois. The idea grew and other states sent busloads of young people throughout the summer. By 1959, the Youth Tour had grown to 159 students.

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 program continued to grow and today, over 1,800 young people and chaperones participate in the Youth Tour every year.



 Cody Norton

Applications for the Youth Tour are available on SDCEA's website, [myelectric.coop](http://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, toll-free at 844-395-2412, or email [communications@myelectric.coop](mailto:communications@myelectric.coop).



▲ SDCEA Board of Directors President Joe Redetzke (left) presents director Blake Bennetts with his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate at the electric cooperative's monthly board meeting on January 25. Bennetts represents the Town of Buena Vista on the board.

## Electric cooperative director Bennetts achieves credential in today's electric utility competencies

Blake Bennetts, an SDCEA board director, recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. SDCEA has committed to work through NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative members.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses:

- Director Duties and Liabilities
- Understanding the Electric Business
- Board Operations and Process
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Decision Making

SDCEA serves 14,000 member accounts in Chaffee, Lake, Fremont, Custer and Saguache counties. NRECA represents the nation's more than 900 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to more than 42 million people in 47 states.

## 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 for you 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 2023. 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 G&T, have teamed up to bring you rebates for installing Energy Star-rated appliances, water heaters, heat pumps, outdoor power equipment and more.

Want to learn more? Go to our website, [myelectric.coop](http://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 taking service with SDCEA, please update your information with us.

Go to [myelectric.coop](http://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](mailto:info@myelectric.coop) or call us between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday–Friday at 719-395-2412 or toll-free at 844-395-2412.



## DID YOU KNOW?

More than 40% of the total everyday electricity now supplied to members on SDCEA lines is from clean energy sources. By 2025, that amount is anticipated to be more than 50%. By 2030, more than 70% of clean energy is planned to be supplied to our lines systemwide.