

# SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

*The Outlet*

AUGUST 2023



## MAILING ADDRESS

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Buena Vista, CO 81211-2013



## STREET ADDRESS

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Facebook.com/SDCEA.Inc  
Twitter: @SDCEA\_Inc  
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# SDCEA Elects Leadership to Guide Cooperative in 2023

During their monthly meeting June 28, the Sangre de Cristo Electric Association (SDCEA) Board of Directors elected new officers to lead the cooperative in 2023.

The newly elected board leadership includes Sandra Attebery as Chair, Charles A. Abel II as Vice Chair, Blake Bennetts as Secretary, and Dan C. Daly as Treasurer. Mark Boyle, Jeff Fiedler, and Nick Hellbusch also serve on the board.

“We are proud to have such a dedicated team of directors join us at SDCEA,” Chair Sandra Attebery said. “Each director brings a unique set of skills and perspectives that will help guide the cooperative through 2023 and beyond.”

“We are proud to have such a dedicated team of directors join us at SDCEA.”  
— Chair Sandra Attebery

SDCEA is a non-profit rural electric cooperative governed by a board of directors made up of members from various districts served by the cooperative. Members may contact any director with comments, questions or suggestions or contact the business office at 719-395-2412 or toll-free at 844-395-2412.



SANDRA ATTEBERY  
CHAIR



CHARLES A. ABEL II  
VICE CHAIR



BLAKE BENNETTS  
SECRETARY



DAN C. DALY  
TREASURER



MARK BOYLE  
BOARD MEMBER



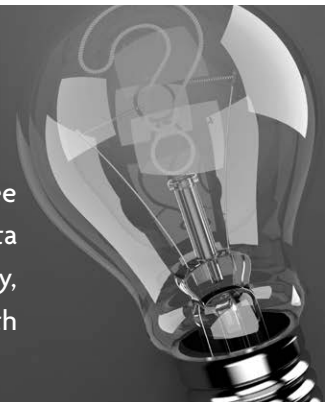
JEFF FIEDLER  
BOARD MEMBER



NICK HELLBUSCH  
BOARD MEMBER

## 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.



Sangre de Cristo Electric Association  
Your Community Electric Cooperative

# YOUR *PREPAY* OPTION

The Prepay option at SDCEA allows consumers to purchase electricity on a pay-as-you-go basis, similar to the setup of a prepaid gift or credit card. As it is convenient, consumers may load their account, then draw down the balance as they use power. Payments may be made daily, weekly or monthly, as long as a credit balance is maintained. When the balance reaches zero, the meter will switch power off at the service location.

Consumers who elect to go to the Prepay program may:

- Avoid placing a deposit on new service
- Eliminate disconnect fees
- Manage their energy use
- Configure automated alerts and reminders
- Make payments in increments that don't strain their budget
- Sync bill payments to pay dates or receipt of benefits

An initial \$50 payment toward a credit balance is required. If a consumer has an existing deposit on their account, that deposit can be applied to their Prepay balance if applicable.

Once your account is set up, you need to register with the free SmartHub app to receive account notices. Prepay accounts are calculated daily based on the electricity used in the previous 24 hours. When an account credit balance gets low, an automated email or text notification will be generated to remind you to replenish your account to avoid interruption in service.

Prepay payments may be made in our office, by mail, through the SmartHub app or toll free at 866-999-8491.

Do you have questions about the program or are you interested in signing up? Please contact our office at 719-395-2412 or toll-free at 844-395-2412.



▲ Lead Lineman Matt Shepherd demonstrates how vegetation in an energized power line can ignite – even if it is close to, but not actually touching, the line.

## SDCEA DEMONSTRATES AT MOUNTAIN MANIA CAR SHOW

Accidents happen, and it pays to be prepared. Those who stopped by the SDCEA booth at the Buena Vista Optimist Club's Mountain Mania car show in July saw a demonstration from SDCEA on what to do should you ever find yourself in a vehicle accident and hit a power pole. The presentation also shows why swimmers need to leave outdoor pools when there is lightning in the area and how vegetation ignites when in contact with or near energized lines.

### Question:

*Why do I receive Colorado Country Life magazine each month?*

### Answer:

SDCEA is bound by state statute (HB 10-1098) and SDCEA bylaws to publish certain information in ways that are accessible to our full membership. By mailing the magazine to everyone each month, the magazine serves as the publication that provides the appropriate level of access to our whole membership. We continue to look at alternatives such as email for those who do not wish to receive a printed copy. When that option becomes available, we will publicize its availability.



*Colorado Country Life* magazine costs roughly 28 cents per copy, making it an effective way to keep members informed about SDCEA. This is a much lower cost than producing bill inserts or other mass-mailings sent to members instead of the magazine. By sharing the magazine's production costs with other Colorado electric cooperatives, we are able to produce it cost-effectively.

SDCEA also runs legal notices as required by law and press releases in regional newspapers of record, posts information on our website and via social media. However, those outlets do not reach our entire membership each month, as a mailing to all of our consumers directly, does.



# Coffee with Your Co-op

Let's get to know each other! Join SDCEA for coffee and tasty treats at our all-new event: Coffee with Your Co-op.

**AUGUST 17  
7-8:30 A.M.,  
SDCEA, BUENA VISTA**

There is no formal presentation or agenda. Instead, talk with co-op representatives on topics of your choice. Mix, mingle and come and go as you please. Admission is free.

## SDCEA AWARDS LINEMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Ty Coleman

Ty Coleman of Howard, a 2023 Cotopaxi Junior/Senior High School graduate, is a recipient of a \$2,000 SDCEA line technician school scholarship to help pursue his career.



Ty plans to attend Trinidad State College to receive his Rocky Mountain Line Technician certificate, the first step toward becoming a lineman.

## Celebrating the Success of the 83th SDCEA Annual Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended the SDCEA 83th Annual Meeting on June 15 at Buena Vista High School.

Attendees participated in a full question-and-answer session, heard a recap of cooperative business from 2022, and listened to remarks from Tri-State Generation and Transmission CEO Duane Highley.

If you did not make this year's meeting, we hope to see you next year.



▲ Raffle tickets were sold to support SDCEA's Shine Your Light program, which offers temporary or one-time assistance to members in need of help paying their power bills.



▲ Dan Daly speaks at the Annual Meeting.

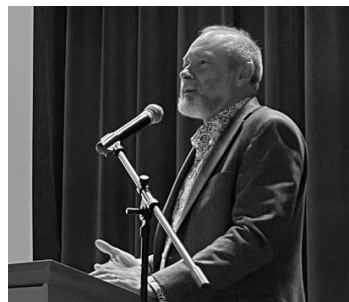


▲ Outgoing SDCEA Director Michael Robinson addresses the meeting attendees.

✓ Buena Vista resident Dawn Hollenbeck sang the national anthem.



▲ Blake Bennetts, an incumbent, ran unopposed.



▲ Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association CEO Duane Highley tells the co-op story, and answers questions from attendees during the meeting.

◀ Baked cookies from Jenny Feicht were enjoyed by those in attendance.



▲ Outgoing SDCEA Chairman Joe Redetzke presided over the meeting.

# 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 pole, 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.



## 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, heat pumps, electric outdoor equipment, electric bicycles, 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've 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](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 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F at 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Ceiling fans can help improve indoor comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction.

Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower parts of the room. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: Dept. of Energy

