

# SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

*The Outlet*

JANUARY 2024



## MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2013  
Buena Vista, CO 81211-2013



## STREET ADDRESS

29780 North U.S. Highway 24  
Buena Vista, CO 81211



**ph** 719-395-2412  
**tf** 844-395-2412  
**email** info@myelectric.coop  
**web** www.myelectric.coop



Facebook.com/SDCEA.Inc  
X: @SDCEA\_Inc  
Instagram: sdceaenergy



## ANNUAL MEETING

SDCEA's Annual Meeting is  
June 11, 2024 in Custer County.  
Details to follow.



# SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC MOURNS THE PASSING OF ESTEEMED BOARD MEMBER

The staff at Sangre de Cristo Electric Association is deeply saddened to announce the heart-wrenching loss of board Treasurer Dan Daly. His passing from leukemia late last year has left a void in our organization and in the community.

“Dan Daly was not only a longstanding and highly respected member of our Board of Directors, but a beloved member of our community,” SDCEA interim CEO Gary Kelly said. “His dedication and guidance will be forever cherished. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family during this incredibly difficult time.”

Daly had been an integral part of the SDCEA Board of Directors since 2016. He served as vice chair and as treasurer during his time on the board at the cooperative, as well as on several cooperative committees. Daly also was board president of Western United Electric Supply, a vital supplier of SDCEA materials for operations.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Dan was an enthusiastic advocate for local youth. From his teaching days to his career in law, he tirelessly supported the next generation. He was also an active member of the SDCEA scholarship committee and played a significant role building statewide high school wrestling referee programs.

“We are devastated by the loss of such an exceptional individual. Dan Daly’s contributions and impact will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him,” Kelly continued. “After allowing ourselves time to properly grieve this loss, SDCEA will carefully consider the next course of action regarding the vacant seat on the board.”

For those interested, the family has requested in lieu of flowers, to please consider donating blood or signing up to be a stem cell donor at Be The Match.



 Dan Daly  
SDCEA Board Treasurer



## REBATES

SDCEA and our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, 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, click on Save Energy & Money, and head to the Rebates tab.



## 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.



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

# SDCEA BOARD VOTES TO INCREASE RATES IN FEBRUARY 2024

At its November 29 meeting in Silver Cliff, the SDCEA Board of Directors voted to raise rates effective February 1, 2024 — the first general rate increase enacted at the electric cooperative since 2017. Numerous factors contributed to the board approving the recommendation of a general rate increase, including inflation, supply chain challenges, and increased rates from our power supplier.

“After conducting a thorough analysis of our 2024 budgeted costs versus projected revenue for 2024, SDCEA has determined that our current rates are insufficient to meet the debt covenance requirements set by our lender,” SDCEA Interim CEO Gary Kelly said. “It has become evident that we can no longer ignore these impacts and must implement a general rate increase.”

For the average residential consumer, this could result in an monthly bill increase of approximately \$5-\$9 in 2024. The rate

increase will raise the monthly service availability charge for general service residential members from \$31.83 per month to \$35.01 a month and the energy rate from \$0.12944 per kilwatt-hour to \$0.13485 per kWh.

Current and proposed rate schedules are posted for review on the SDCEA website. A legal notice will appear in area newspapers no less than 30 days before enactment for public comment.

“SDCEA plans to review rates annually. While we cannot predict the future, we can assure you that any decisions about rate adjustments will be made with the utmost care, considering our mission to provide reliable and affordable electricity to our members,” Kelly said.

For more information about the rate increase, please visit SDCEA’s home page, [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop). The information in the FAQ section will be updated regularly.



**COFFEE WITH YOUR CO-OP**

**Buena Vista:**  
January 18  
7 a.m. at SDCEA  
29780 US Hwy N,  
Buena Vista

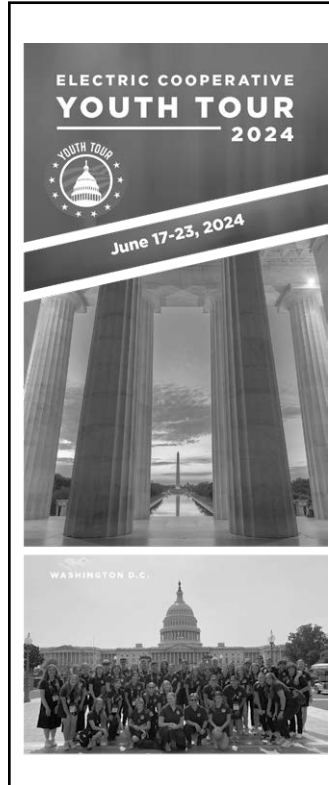
All members welcome to drop in and visit with co-op staff. Coffee and pastries served.



**TACO ‘BOUT WATTS**  
**Save the date!**

**Howard:**  
Tentatively Scheduled  
February 15  
5 p.m.  
Location announced  
when confirmed.

All members welcome to enjoy a taco bar and a conversation about your co-op.




## SDCEA SCHOLARSHIPS & YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

**APPLICATION DEADLINES:**

- Washington D.C. Youth Tour — Friday, January 12, 2024, by 5 p.m.
- Scholarships — Friday, January 12, 2024, by 5 p.m.

For more information and directions on how to apply for these opportunities, visit [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop), click on the **Community** tab, and choose **Youth Programs** from the dropdown menu.

Questions? Call 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412; or email [communications@myelectric.coop](mailto:communications@myelectric.coop).

# Stay Safe As You Go Over The River And Through The Woods This Holiday Season

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, winter weather conditions such as snow, sleet, and slush cause more than 550,000 traffic accidents each year, leading to approximately 138,000 injuries and 1,700 fatalities.

Along with the risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle, and plain inconvenience, collisions may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Unfortunately, when this happens, it adds another very significant danger to the mix: severe shock, burns, or electrocution. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.

**If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:**

- Call 911 and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved in a collision. Power company personnel will be dispatched to the scene to de-energize the equipment and turn off power.
- If others are near, roll down your window and alert them to not approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.
- Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow, or other debris that could be hiding one. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized, even if it is not sparking or buzzing.
- Do not exit the vehicle UNLESS it is on fire or you see smoke. The vehicle acts as an insulator that keeps you safe from stray electricity.
- If you must exit the vehicle, cross your arms across your chest, put your feet together, and make a clean jump from the vehicle. Then



“Winter weather conditions such as snow, sleet and slush cause more than 550,000 traffic accidents each year...”

 SafeElectricity.org®

- hop with feet together as far as you can — at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground, or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground and ripples out from there. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path to ground for electricity and electrocute you.
  - If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. DO NOT touch or try to move the wire. DO NOT attempt to use other objects to move it.
  - If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer that houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply.
- Keep your family safe while on the road this holiday season. For more information about safety around electricity, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org).

## HAVE A QUESTION about something to do with SDCEA?

The quickest way to get in touch is to 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](mailto:info@myelectric.coop).



# SDCEA THANKS TONY'S PIZZA IN SILVER CLIFF

SDCEA was pleased to have a chance to hold the monthly board meeting and connect with members over lunch in Tony's event room on November 29. Tony's staff, the food, atmosphere, and conversations with our members were top-notch. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made the meeting possible.



▲ The SDCEA Board of Directors meets with members at Tony's Pizza in Silver Cliff in November.

# SDCEA SHINES IN THE BUENA VISTA PARADE OF LIGHTS



Photo by Ken Scar.



▲ An SDCEA bucket truck decorated like Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer makes an appearance at the Buena Vista Parade of Lights.

SDCEA had a fantastic time in the parade in December. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the hardworking organizers and volunteers who made this year's celebration possible.