

SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Outlet

FEBRUARY 2024



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ANNUAL MEETING

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



Election Procedures: Cast Your Vote!

Vote online or by mail for board of directors positions. Interested in running for an open board seat? See page 6.

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association members — account holders — have the opportunity to cast their vote by mail or online in the upcoming director election to be held June 6.

Ballots will be mailed mid-April to all members of the cooperative. Instructions for casting a vote online or by mail will be included with the ballot. Members and voting delegates with current email addresses on file with SDCEA will also receive an email with voting instructions. All ballots must be received by the election company Survey & Ballot Systems, or cast online by 1 p.m. on June 3 to ensure they are counted. If you need any assistance with voting, please call our office at 1-844-395-2412 or email info@myelectric.coop.

Members are encouraged to take advantage of voting, as each vote counts toward deciding who will become a part of the board of directors. SDCEA is dedicated to making sure all members have the chance to make their voice heard.

SDCEA will sponsor board of director candidate forums prior to the ballot receipt date. These forum dates will be announced. All confirmed candidates will be invited by SDCEA to attend these events.

Candidate question and answer columns will also be published and available after April 1 and will be featured in the May issue of *Colorado Country Life* magazine.

2024 Annual Meeting & Director Election Important Dates

- **April 1**..... Nomination petitions, candidate biographies, and financial disclosure forms are due to SDCEA by 5 p.m.
- **April 8**..... Date of Record
- **June 3**..... Mailed ballots due to Survey & Ballot Systems by 1 p.m.
Online voting deadline is 1 p.m.
- **June 6**..... SDCEA Board of Directors Election
- **June 11**..... SDCEA Annual Meeting



Annual Meeting & Director Election Notice

SDCEA Board of Directors set June 11 for the cooperative's 84th annual meeting in Custer County. More information and details will follow.

Members of the cooperative will act on 2023 financial data and consider any other business that may become before the meeting. Elections will be held separately from the annual meeting by mail or online vote.

Two board director seats are up for election in June: the Rural Chaffee/Lake County representative and an At Large representative. All director candidates are nominated by petition. Fifteen or more current members of the cooperative must sign each nomination petition.

Candidate Qualifications and Responsibilities

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 day-long 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 co-op 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.

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
- Disclose all monetary and in-kind contributions and expenditures directly or indirectly to or from his/her campaign for election to the board

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

Petitions are currently available for circulation. Nomination petitions, candidate questionnaires, and financial disclosure forms must be received at SDCEA's office in Buena Vista by 5 p.m. Monday, April 1.

Any member interested in running for a director seat in a future election should review the guidelines below.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain 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
- 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 pleaded guilty to a felony
- Is or has been within the five years preceding June 6, 2024:
 - 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.

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 of 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 on 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
- 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.

A director candidate should display the following personal qualifications:

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

BOARD SEAT TO REMAIN OPEN UNTIL ELECTION HELD

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, Inc. has announced that a seat on its board of directors will remain open until elections are held in June. According to board policy, if a board seat becomes vacant within 8 months of election, it may remain unfilled.

The seat was previously held by board member Dan Daly, who passed away late last year. In honor of his service and dedication to the electric cooperative, the board has decided to leave the seat open until the upcoming elections. This will allow interested candidates to have the opportunity to run for the board and continue Daly's legacy of serving the members of SDCEA.

Interested candidates for the open seat are encouraged to learn more about the responsibilities and requirements of being a board member at www.myelectric.coop/boardinfo/election-procedures and contact SDCEA CEO Gary Kelly. The seat will be officially filled at the June board meeting, giving candidates ample time to run for election and prepare to serve on the board.

SDCEA is a member-owned electric cooperative that serves more than 14,000 members in central Colorado. The cooperative is governed by a board of directors, who are elected by the members to represent their interests and make important decisions for the cooperative. The board is responsible for setting policies, overseeing the cooperative's finances, and ensuring that the members' needs are met.

"We are looking for dedicated individuals who are passionate about serving our members and making a positive impact in our community," said Kelly. "Being a board member is a rewarding experience and we encourage anyone who is interested to consider running for the open seat."

The Sangre de Cristo Board of Directors is committed to ensuring a fair and transparent election process. See page 5 for more information about the upcoming elections, including important dates and procedures.

Stay tuned for updates and be sure to visit www.myelectric.coop for more information about SDCEA's services.



TACO 'BOUT WATTS Save the date!

Howard:

February 15

5 – 6:30 p.m.

Howard Hall Community Center,
5410 CR 45, Howard 81233

Visit with representatives from SDCEA, ask any questions you may have, and enjoy a free taco bar and light refreshments. All members (named SDCEA account holders) welcome!



REBATES

SDCEA and power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, have teamed up to bring you rebates for installing ENERGY STAR appliances, water heaters, heat pumps, outdoor power equipment, and more.

Want to learn more? Visit 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.

Rate Increase in Effect February 1, 2024

At their November 29 meeting in Silver Cliff, the Sangre de Cristo 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 SDCEA's power supplier. Members will see these new charges on the bill they receive in March.

“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 convenience requirements set by our lender,” SDCEA 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 a 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 kilowatt-hour to \$0.13485 per kWh.

Current and proposed rate schedules are posted for review on the SDCEA website at www.myelectric.coop.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.



BEST BETS FOR **Winter Savings**

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

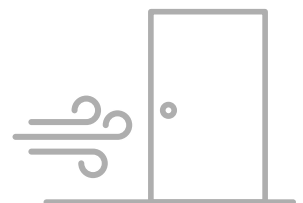


MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT

Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

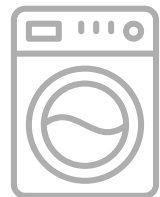
ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.



LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).

