

SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Outlet

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ANNUAL MEETING

SDCEA's Annual Meeting is June 11, 2024 at the Wet Mountain Saddle Club located at 90 County Road 241, Westcliffe



Cotopaxi High School Student Selected for Prestigious Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Viola Trujillo was chosen to represent SDCEA at the 2024 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., in June.

Trujillo, a student at Cotopaxi Consolidated Schools, will join around 30 other outstanding students from across Colorado for what is touted as “the trip of a lifetime.” She will have the unique opportunity to gain invaluable insights into the functionalities of electric cooperatives, delve into the depths of American history, and grasp a practical understanding of the U.S. government.

The Washington D.C. Youth Tour is a weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by SDCEA and organized by the Colorado Rural Electric Association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and the Colorado Electric Educational Institute. SDCEA covers all costs to participate in the program, including travel, lodging, and food. Participants are responsible for bringing extra money for items not covered in the tour, such as souvenirs.

The eight-day experience begins in Denver with a trip to the Colorado State Capitol and dinner with a state legislator. The following day, students fly to Washington, D.C. While there, students will visit the World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Lincoln, and other memorials. They'll meet students from other states and learn about electric cooperatives. Other activities during the trip include a student congress; a visit with U.S. Senators and Representatives; trips to the Library of Congress, Smithsonian museums, the Holocaust Museum, and Arlington National Cemetery; and see a theatrical play. Students will also view the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

This enriching experience, open to high



▲ Viola Trujillo

school students whose families are served by electric cooperatives nationwide, seeks to empower the young minds by providing them with the tools they need to become tomorrow's leaders, encourages greater civic engagement, and an in-depth appreciation for the intricate tapestry of the nation's history and governance. The knowledge and experience gained from the NRECA Youth Tour contributes to the personal growth and development of students, and they also bring back valuable lessons and perspectives to our local community.

The Youth Tour originated with President Lyndon B. Johnson who advocated for rural electrification and youth development. In 1957, when he was still a U.S. Senator, Johnson suggested “sending youngsters to the nation's capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents,” into a nationwide effort to send youth on an organized, fun, and educational trip in the 1960s. Now, some 60 years later, electric cooperatives from across the country continue to send more than 1,500 students to the country's capital every summer.

For more information about the NRECA Youth Tour, please visit the Youth Programs section on the SDCEA website at myelectric.coop. Applications for the trip are available on the website each fall.



Annual Meeting & Director Election Notice

SDCEA Board of Directors set June 11 for the cooperative’s 84th annual meeting in Custer County at Wet Mountain Saddle Club located at 90 County Road 241 in Westcliffe.

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 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.

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.

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

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.

Thanks for joining us for Coffee with Your Co-op

We were so grateful for all of the SDCEA members who braved the cold and snow to join us at the co-op for coffee January 18. Thank you for your wonderful company and the engaging conversation!



Stay Informed. Stay Involved. Engage Today!

Are you ready to make your voice heard in 2024? Our comprehensive Colorado Legislative Directory is now readily accessible online on our website.

Dive into the details that matter:

- Find up-to-date contact information for elected officials across Colorado.
- Get your questions answered and your concerns addressed swiftly.
- Empower your civic engagement with our informative resources.



Become an active participant in our democracy. Scan the QR code and connect directly with the decision-makers who shape our state's future!

Deadline for candidate petition submissions for the 2024 SDCEA board of directors election is April 1.

If there are contested elections, SDCEA will sponsor candidate forums:

- April 11: Howard Hall, Howard
- April 25: Cliff Lanes, Westcliffe
- May 16: SDCEA Community Room, Buena Vista.

All forums will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. Candidates will present their platforms and then be available talk with guests and answer questions. If races are not contested, these events will be canceled.

Step into Spring at the Home & Garden Show with SDCEA!

Join us at our booth April 6-7 at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds, 10165 CR 120, Poncha Springs from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday. Drop by with any questions about the cooperative or to cultivate home improvement energy use innovations!





**SPRING FORWARD
MARCH 10 FOR DAYLIGHT
SAVING TIME**

**? 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.

\$ REBATES

SDCEA and power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, have teamed up to bring you rebates for 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.



Election Procedures: Cast Your Vote!

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

San gre de Cristo Electric Association members (account holders) have the opportunity to cast their votes by mail or online in the upcoming election to be held June 6.

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

Voters are encouraged to take advantage of voting, as each vote counts towards 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. All candidates will be invited by SDCEA to attend these events.

Candidate question and answer columns will also be published on our website after April 1, as well as featured in the May edition 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. to be counted in the election.
- **June 6**..... SDCEA Board of Directors Election
- **June 11**..... SDCEA Annual Meeting at Wet Mountain Saddle Club, 90 County Road 241, Westcliffe.