

SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Outlet

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MAILING ADDRESS

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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
Wet Mountain Saddle Club,
Westcliffe



BOARD ELECTION INFORMATION

With the Sangre de Cristo Electric Association Board of Directors Election right around the corner, it's crucial that you're equipped with all the knowledge you need to participate effectively in the democratic process of electing the board that will steer the cooperative into the future. Let's dive into the essential information.

This year, there are two board seats up for election — an at-large position and a rural Chaffee/Lake County representative position. Candidates have until April 1 to submit a petition to run for office. The deadline for publication of this newsletter is before April 1, so please check our website at www.myelectric.coop/about/sdcea-election-center/ for the most up-to-date information about the election and candidates for seats. If there are no more than one candidate for each seat, the election will be canceled.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

- **April 1:** Deadline for the candidate nomination petitions to be submitted.
- **April 8:** Date of record — the cut-off date for determining eligible voters.
- **Mid-April: Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters if it's a contested election.**
- **June 3:** Deadline for ballots to be received by the election company or cast online by 1 p.m.
- **June 6:** The election results will be announced.
- **June 11:** SDCEA's Annual Meeting at the Wet Mountain Saddle Club at 90 CR 241, Westcliffe, CO 81252. Registration begins at 9 a.m., the meeting begins at 10 a.m.

WHAT SEATS ARE UP FOR ELECTION?

- There are seven seats on the SDCEA board. Two are up for election this year — an at-large seat and a rural Chaffee/Lake County representative seat. All members may vote on all candidates, regardless of where you live.

WHO CAN VOTE?

- All named SDCEA account holders are entitled to vote in the Board of Directors Election.
- Your residence status — whether full-time or part-time, in-state or out-of-state — does not affect your right to vote.
- All members vote on all candidates.
- Accounts that are in a business name are asked who they would like to delegate as the voting member when the business signs up for service. If you own a business and would like to confirm your voting delegate, please contact SDCEA by emailing info@myelectric.coop or calling 719-395-2412.

BALLOTS

- **Ballots will be sent mid-April to all eligible voters listed as of April 8.**
- Choose to vote online or via mail – instructions for both methods will accompany your ballot. You must vote online or by mail. No ballot drop locations will be available.
- Members with validated email addresses on file will also receive information and reminders electronically.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION AND FORUMS

Get to know who you're voting for. SDCEA candidate forums offer the opportunity to meet the potential board members and learn about their platforms.

- **April 11:** Howard Hall, 5510 CR 45, Howard, CO 81233

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- **April 25:** Cliff Lanes, 25 Main St., Westcliffe, CO 81252
- **May 16:** SDCEA Community Room, 29780 US 24 N, Buena Vista, CO 81211

All forums will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. All candidates will be invited to attend. Candidates will present their platforms and then be available to talk with attendees and answer questions.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES BY CANDIDATES

To foster transparency, candidates are required to disclose campaign contributions and expenditures. Details of any contributions and expenditures over \$50 must be itemized.

Find the financial disclosures on our website at www.myelectric.coop/boardinfo/board-candidate-financial-disclosures/ Candidates are required to update their disclosures April 15, May 1, and May 31.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera for candidate financial disclosure information.

YOUR PARTICIPATION MATTERS

In last year's election, only 22% of eligible voters participated. Your voice is pivotal in shaping the future actions and policies of SDCEA. Don't miss out on the chance to contribute to the direction of your electric cooperative.

The election will be completed on June 6; therefore, no voting activities will take place at the annual meeting. Please note updated election information can be found at www.myelectric.coop/about/sdcea-election-center/.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera for the most up-to-date election information.

ROADMAP TO THE FUTURE: SDCEA CONDUCTS STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association held a strategic planning workshop for board members and staff February 8 and 9. This was the first step in updating the overall strategic plan for the cooperative. The workshop was professionally facilitated by National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, one of SDCEA's three financial lenders, at no cost to the cooperative.

The meeting provided a unique platform for both SDCEA board members and staff to come together and forge a unified path forward.

Objectives for the strategic planning session included:

- Collaborative Alignment: To bring together board members and staff, uniting a diverse array of perspectives around common goals.
- Consensus on Priorities: To identify and gain consensus on the strategic priorities that will steer the cooperative's efforts in the coming years.
- Long-Term Vision: To articulate a clear and actionable long-term vision that aligns with SDCEA's core values and the expectations of our membership.

"The outcomes of this meeting will form the backbone of our strategic direction — a roadmap that will guide us in the future," SDCEA CEO Gary Kelly said. Staff at the cooperative will be identifying goals, objectives, tasks, and an implementation plan over the next few months for the priorities determined during the meeting. Members can anticipate a presentation of the plan to be made early this summer.



SDCEA members and staff enjoy tacos and conversation at Howard Hall during a community event.

TACO 'BOU WATTS

Taco 'Bout Watts, a community outreach event in Howard on February 15, provided an opportunity for members in the area to drop in to Howard Hall, ask questions about Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, and enjoy a delicious taco bar and refreshments. Thank you to all members who joined us and brought your thoughtful questions about the cooperative. We look forward to seeing you again at candidates' night.



INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association is working on infrastructure improvements throughout our distribution system. A comprehensive rebuild of line along CR 150 to strengthen the main feeder between Ray Lewis Substation and Howard Substation is underway. Outdated cabling is being replaced by new, advanced cables which are designed to meet the expected growth and electric system demands over the next 30-40 years. The new line will allow for increased amperage.

The increase in usage of the system in the future is anticipated due to the increased numbers of electric vehicles and member usage reflecting new building codes. Increased amperage will be managed by upgraded capacitors and regulators, the addition of which is made possible by this upgrade.

◀ SDCEA crews work to rebuild line along CR 150 to allow for increased amperage along the distribution system.

KNOW HOW TO STAY SAFE IF YOUR CAR CRASHES INTO A POWER POLE

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 line, 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 stepped out of the car in this scenario, your body would become the path to ground for the electricity, and you could be electrocuted.

While downed lines can 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 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.



▲ Always assume downed lines are energized. If you hit a power pole and your vehicle is on fire, jump from your vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time, and hop away with your feet together. If it is not on fire, do not get out of your vehicle until utility crews tell you it's safe.

PLAN AHEAD TO CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Digging without locating underground utilities — even the smallest digging projects — could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or cause severe electrical shock. To stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 811.

The “Call Before You Dig” number will route you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint. Make sure to plan ahead and call in advance of your project.

After 30 days from the original locate, your locate is no longer valid. You must call for a second locate.

WHAT DO THE COLORS MEAN?

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities, and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

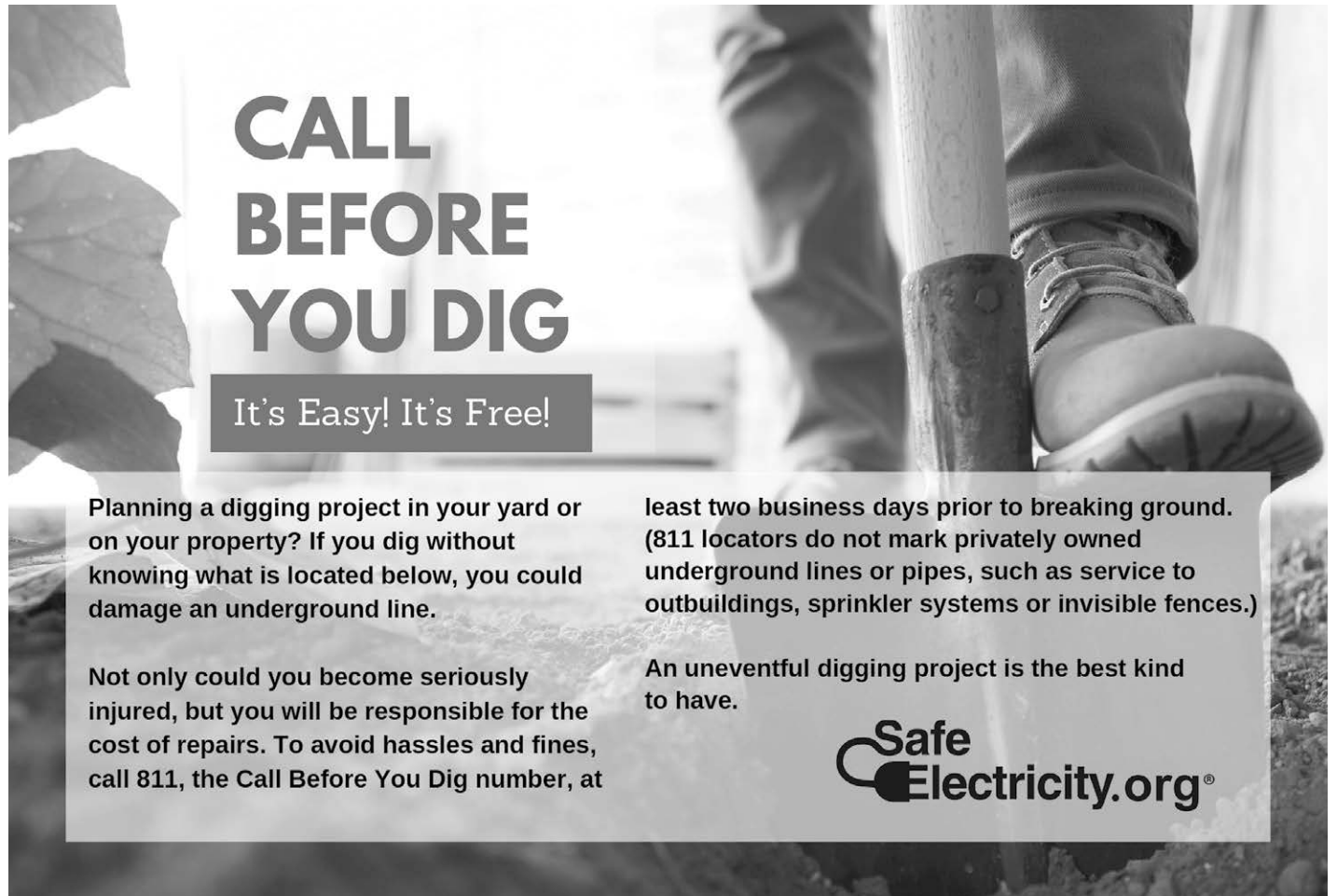
- Red: Electric
- Orange: Communications, Telephone/CATV
- Blue: Potable Water
- Green: Sewer/Drainage
- Yellow: Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line
- Purple: Reclaimed Water
- White: Premark site of intended excavation

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 811, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

It is important to understand that locators do not locate privately installed facilities.

If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Some examples of private utilities include underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Once all of your underground utilities have been located, it is time to start digging, but be sure to wear all of the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

It's Easy! It's Free!

Planning a digging project in your yard or on your property? If you dig without knowing what is located below, you could damage an underground line.

Not only could you become seriously injured, but you will be responsible for the cost of repairs. To avoid hassles and fines, call 811, the Call Before You Dig number, at least two business days prior to breaking ground. (811 locators do not mark privately owned underground lines or pipes, such as service to outbuildings, sprinkler systems or invisible fences.)

An uneventful digging project is the best kind to have.

Safe Electricity.org®