

WATT'S UP

Save Your Energy
LPEA
La Plata Electric Association, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

AT LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION | Celebrating 75 years in 2014

MAY 2013

LPEA is YOUR cooperative

BY JERRY MCCAW | BOARD PRESIDENT | JMCCAW@LPEA.COOP

In this day and age when time just seems to be going faster and faster, I want to invite all our member-owners to slow down a bit and remember what a great thing it is to be part of a rural electric cooperative. Come visit with your friends and neighbors at your LPEA Annual Meeting, Saturday, May 11.

We're returning once again to the Sky Ute Casino and Resort in Ignacio. In addition to it being a terrific venue (I'm sure everyone who came last year will attest to that), it's about as centralized as we can get in LPEA's service territory. We hope many of our members will be able to make it. There's plenty of parking, and we'll have golf cart shuttles to make everything easier.

Registration opens at 9 a.m., including a continental breakfast. The business meeting starts at 10:30 a.m. And, of course, a buffet lunch, courtesy of LPEA and catered by the Sky Ute Resort, follows at about noon.

As you hopefully know, we're in the midst of an election in three of our LPEA districts. Tom Compton, incumbent director in District 2 (south and west La Plata County) received no challengers, so the election was cancelled in that district. A review of the candidates in the other three districts is included in this newsletter.

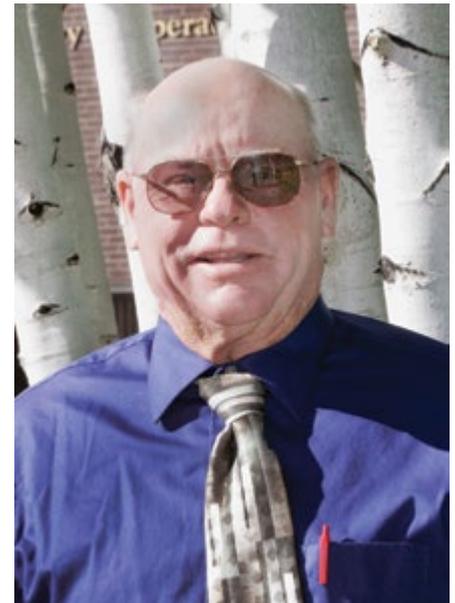
You should have received your election packet, and if you haven't yet voted, be sure to consider the candidates carefully and mail your ballot before May 10. Every single vote counts. You can also bring your ballot to the Annual Meeting, but arrive early to register and submit your ballot before the meeting officially starts so that your vote is counted.

In addition to announcing the results of the director election, we will at the Annual Meeting report on the company's financial performance over the last year, plus talk about the challenges of providing reliable power at the lowest reasonable cost, while remaining environmentally responsible.

In addition, Kent Singer, executive director of the Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA), of which LPEA is a member, will address the assembly. CREA is our legislative watchdog in Denver, plus provides its member cooperatives with a number of benefits – including the magazine you are reading, *Colorado Country Life*.

If you register at the meeting, you'll get a \$5 credit on your electric bill plus a very nice gift. Those registered and in attendance will also be eligible for a wide variety of door prizes.

Next year LPEA celebrates 75 years as your electric cooperative. I'm proud to have been a part of at least a little piece of this history. You all are a part of that history as well. Please join us on May 11. ☀



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Next Board Meeting:
9 a.m. | Wednesday, May 15, 2013
LPEA Headquarters, Durango

Mission Statement:
La Plata Electric Association provides its members safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost while being environmentally responsible.

Board of Directors:
Jerry McCaw, President - District 2
Tom Compton, Vice President - District 2
Ken Fox, Secretary - District 1
Joe Wheeling, Treasurer - District 4
Britt Bassett - District 3
Jeff Berman - District 3

Herb Brodsky - District 4
Heather Erb - District 4
Bob Formwalt - District 1
Harry Goff - District 3
Davin Montoya - District 2
Lindon "Lin" Stewart - District 1
Chief Executive Officer:
Greg W. Munro

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2013 Board candidate statements

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Jean Vittetow retires

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Board elections...

Two vying for seat in District 1

The approximately 7,700 LPEA members in Archuleta County will elect a representative to the Board of Directors from a field of two: Incumbent Lindon Stewart and challenger Mark Garcia. The winner will be announced May 11 at the Annual Meeting.



Lindon Stewart is the incumbent candidate for District 1:

In these unprecedented times in the US, everyone has been impacted financially in many ways and our electric rates have been no exception. In the 18 months since I was appointed to the LPEA board, I have learned, through firsthand experience and the director classes I have taken, just how

many factors impact our electric rates.

The LPEA Mission Statement states "La Plata Electric Association provides its members safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost while being environmentally responsible."

We must focus on all elements of this statement, but cost and environment seem to take the headlines. I believe we need to make every effort to insure that the electric rates are as fair to all our members as reasonably possible. I believe we need to continue to emphasize the effort that LPEA has had underway for some time promoting energy efficiency and net metering. These programs help keep the electric rates down for all members.

The LPEA staff and the Board of Directors are working on an "Alternative Energy Plan" that will provide the path forward on alternative energy for LPEA, including items such as Community Solar Gardens, which I support so long as members are not burdened with higher electric rates.

My only agenda is to support the Mission Statement. I will continue to be an effective board member by being respectful of the other board members' opinions, be a good listener, be a positive participant, thereby earning the respect for my opinions by the other board members. ⚙️



Mark Garcia is a new candidate for District 1.

I'm excited with the opportunity to be your LPEA Director and want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me.

I have lived in Pagosa since 1994 and been an LPEA member for 19 years. My family and I are active

within the community and love Pagosa. I'm a mechanical engineer and currently work as the Executive Director for the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. I have been consulting to local governments in southern Colorado and was previously Pagosa Springs Town Manager from 2003-2008.

Over the years I have worked closely with LPEA Directors and staff on multiple projects. I also served on the LPEA Round Up Foundation Board 2000-2004 and was president for three years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my work and experience with LPEA.

Today, existing energy sources (coal and natural gas) are the mainstay for energy production, however alternative energies (solar, wind, geothermal, biomass) are on the forefront. Energy demand and transmission capacity are also important issues. Many challenges lie ahead and will have a major impact on LPEA in the coming years. It's imperative LPEA be prepared for current and future energy challenges and able to effectively respond to member needs, demands and concerns.

I believe my engineering and local government background will serve me well as your Director, and I commit to work hard and strive for efficient and professional operation of your cooperative. I would appreciate your support and vote. Thank you. ⚙️

WHEELING ELECTED TO TRI-STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



LPEA Director Joe Wheeling has been elected to the Executive Committee of the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Board of Directors. He will serve as one of three "at-large" officers.

A member of the LPEA Board of Directors since 2008, Wheeling is a Credentialed Cooperative Director, certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and has represented LPEA on the Tri-State board since 2009.

Under the cooperative model, Tri-State's board is made up of one representative from each of its 44 member systems. Six officers and three at-large positions make up the Executive Committee.

Wheeling has an MBA in finance from the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, and before settling in Durango to become part of the family business, James Ranch, Wheeling served as the CEO of Red Roof Inns. ⚙️

Board elections...

Durango voter options...

In LPEA District 3, which is essentially the City of Durango, new candidates Michael Rendon and Alan Yoder are vying for the seat on the Board of Directors vacated by the retiring director Harry Goff. District 3 includes slightly more than 7,400 eligible voters. The winner will be announced May 11 at the Annual Meeting.



Michael Rendon is a new candidate for District 3:

I am a Colorado native, and have lived in Durango for 21 years. In that time, I have gathered the relevant professional experience to be a strong candidate for the LPEA board.

For five and a half years I ran the Fort Lewis College Environmental Center, implementing energy efficiency programs and policies. I worked for Ecos Consulting (now Ecova) providing energy efficiency testing on electronics, and helping to guide energy policy on the National level. I served on the Durango City Council for three years and as the Mayor of Durango for one year. I am currently the Environmental Stewards Program Director with the Southwest Conservation Corps, where the AmeriCorps program that I direct works on reclamation of abandoned coal mines across the country.

I am running for the LPEA Board of Directors because I believe the board is at a pivotal and exciting point in the way it can provide energy to our community. I will support programs and policies that encourage and incentivize energy efficiency, and improve LPEA's rebate program. I will work to improve policies enabling more local renewable energy production, which will increase local economic development opportunities. I will make sure that LPEA co-op members continue to have reliable power at a low cost. As a dedicated co-op member I'm excited to use my experience and leadership to serve on the LPEA Board. ☀

Elections have been cancelled in representative District 2 due to only one nominee. Incumbent Director Tom Compton retains his seat.



Richard Alan Yoder is a new candidate for District 3:

Electric energy is one of the basic building blocks required for modern commerce and society. There are three requirements related to electric energy that must be considered:

- Availability – Electricity must be available around the clock and every day of the year. This requires that LPEA plans and engineers facilities that meet these requirements.

- Quality – The characteristics of power provided and the quality of member-related services is essential to maintain member support and confidence.

- Cost – Electric power is produced by a third party. That means that LPEA must introduce efficiencies into the distribution of energy to the end user to control costs. Increased costs will negatively influence economic growth and the production of jobs.

It is my view that LPEA's board must consider and maintain a focus on these three elements as they relate to the distribution of electricity. Recent rate increases have been the direct result of the need to use energy from the most expensive sources. Special interests now dominate the landscape. There is a need to return to meeting the needs of businesses and individual energy consumers. Frequent member surveys would allow a focus on member desires and away from the special interest groups which are affecting rates.

With a degree in business and more than 40 years experience at the vice-presidential level with large healthcare organizations including Lovelace Health Systems, Sutter Health, Porter Hospital, San Mateo County General Hospital, I believe that I have the education and experience to assist LPEA in accomplishing its fundamental business requirements. In addition, I served as a manager with Colorado-Ute Electric Association, the generation and transmission association from which La Plata Electric purchased power at that time. ☀

BILLING CLERK VITTETOW RETIRES



Steve and Jean Vittetow

After 32 years (and 10 months) Jean Vittetow bid adieu to LPEA in April. She and husband Steve have retired to Omaha, Ark., [which is about 15 miles south of the resort town of Branson] to fish, read, travel a bit and have time to "do whatever they want."

Vittetow started at LPEA in collections and customer service, but after eight years she moved into the billing clerk position, which she held until retirement.

"It's been a great 32 years," she says, blinking back tears. "But it's time to retire."

The Vittetow's have purchased a home on three forested acres, and look forward to being closer to their two children, six grandchildren, and one great grandchild. ☀

Board elections...

And in District 4...

LPEA District 4 incumbent Herb Brodsky faces challenger Jack D. Turner. Nearly 7,700 eligible voters are in District 4, which covers north and east La Plata County, including part of Bayfield. The winner will be announced May 11 at the Annual Meeting.



Herbert C. (Herb) Brodsky is the incumbent candidate for District 4:

An independent business consultant, Herb Brodsky has lived in southwest Colorado since 1980. His professional experience includes Vice President/Director of Property Management for Simon & Associates, the largest national shopping center development and property management company in the U.S. He also was Sales Engineer/Product

Manager with Carborundum Company; Sales Engineer with Rockwell Standard Corporation; Staff Engineer, Central Engineering Division, Chrysler Corporation.

Brodsky, who earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University and a Master's in Automotive Engineering from The Chrysler Institute of Engineering, served three terms as LPEA Board President and is a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association designated Credentialed Cooperative Director. He has been awarded the NRECA Board Leadership Certificate.

In addition to serving on the LPEA Roundup Foundation Board, Brodsky has been board president of the Southwest Land Alliance, Community Foundation of SW Colorado, American Cancer Society, Durango Natural Foods, La Plata County Community Development Corporation, and Durango Repertory Theatre Company. He was also a member of the 6th Judicial District Nominating Committee.

"The past year has presented many serious challenges to your LPEA Board of Directors," states Brodsky. "My years of service to LPEA have provided me with in-depth knowledge of our company and the electric industry as a whole. My many years of business experience have enabled me to actively contribute to the success and achievements of our co-op. I am not a single issue candidate. I believe the major role of an LPEA Director is to consider the needs and wishes of ALL the members when making the complex decisions. I would like to continue to serve District 4, where I add a progressive voice to our Board of Directors." ⚙️



Jack D. Turner is a new candidate for District 4:

Jack Turner was raised in Durango and worked in his family's businesses. Being oil dependent, they were forced to close following the 1970s oil embargo. Turner attests he learned a lot then, including the risk that comes from dependency on outside sources.

Turner has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Geology. Inspired by his passion for community, he received a second Master's emphasizing leadership and community self-reliance. He worked as a representative to rural interests, including the Skokomish Tribe in Washington state. Much of his time involved partnering with public utilities. One of many accomplishments included mediating a re-licensing for hydro facilities operated by Tacoma Power. His efforts resulted in unprecedented dam releases, mimicking natural river flows while maintaining optimal electric generation.

Turner teaches at Southwest Colorado Community College, cares for his grandmother, coaches cross-country, attends Leadership La Plata, and enjoys time with his wife and sons in their passive solar home.

As he notes, "Our energy decisions impact our community. I am running to ensure these decisions protect and preserve our economy, environment, and livelihood. I bring passion and skill in developing pragmatic, community-based energy solutions. To continue to prosper, we need to strengthen our inherent values of self-sufficiency. By limiting our reliance on outside sources, we stay in control of pricing and keep costs down. We boost our economy through supporting local business. We protect our air, our forests, and our homes from energy practices that put our vitality, economy, and environment at risk. Together, we can build bridges to energy independence." ⚙️

LIVE WIRES

Lighting Workshop

After the tremendous response to the co-op's "Basics of Bulbs" lighting workshop held in February, LPEA will reprise the Free Information Workshop on May 22, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Contact Ray Pierotti, rpierotti@lpea.coop for details.

Offices closed for Memorial Day

LPEA offices in Durango and Pagosa Springs will be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

No TOU time change

With the new rate structure launched in 2013, member-customers on the Time-of-Use program are reminded that the on-peak, off-peak times will NOT change on May 15, as they had in the past. Off-peak times for Regular TOU participants are Monday-Saturday, 11 p.m.-7 a.m. and all day Sunday and major holidays. ETS Advantage TOU participants enjoy the aforementioned off-peak hours, plus Monday-Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to enable adequate charging of their electric thermal storage heating systems. ⚙️