



Photos: Liz Fiddes

Representing LPEA on the Washington D.C. Youth Tour were (LtoR) Miranda Talbot, Adeline Thompson, Jenna Engelken and Maizey Funk



Engelken was selected by her peers to serve on the Youth Leadership Council

Aspiring (and inspiring) Leadership

BY JENNA ENGELKEN | LPEA WASHINGTON D.C. YOUTH TOUR STUDENT

I stood in the exact location where Martin Luther King Jr. administered his "I Have a Dream" speech, looking over the reflecting pool where thousands of people gathered in support of race equality. I introduced Representative Scott Tipton to a group of inspired high schoolers, later to discover that he grew up only an hour away from my small hometown. I listened to "Taps" with tears running quietly down my cheeks during the ceaseless commemoration of the Unknown Soldier who bravely fought for our freedom. I walked the dimly-lit corridors of the Holocaust museum with scenes of death and destruction that remain implanted in the mind, so that people may never forget the horror. I explored Washington D.C representing LPEA after receiving a scholarship to participate in the Youth Tour trip.

During each moment of my Youth Tour experience I began to understand the meaning of all the symbolism prevalent throughout Washington D.C. I realized the sacrifice of men and women that occurs every day in order to improve the lives of future generations, and I realized the potential influence of a single individual regardless of whether they are a Congressman, a Jewish child in a Nazi concentration camp, or an average teenager. Preserving the successes and failures of people throughout history allows society to formulate a larger knowledge base that encompasses a global perspective; as a result, people can more easily understand themselves and the legacy that they will leave behind.

LPEA, in conjunction with the National Rural Electric

Cooperative Association, offers opportunities such as the Youth Tour and the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) in order for students to become more informed about local electric cooperatives and the world overall. On the first day of the Youth Tour, the chaperons said that by giving a speech and earning the election of our peers, a student could become a state representative for YLC and return to Washington D.C. for the opportunity to become the national YLC spokesperson.

My chaperones, my new friends I made on the trip, and my electric cooperative did more than make the trip memorable. They led me to discover my passions by teaching me about the world's limitless possibilities. They continue to believe in me as I pursue my dreams of becoming an environmental activist and leading society toward a positive future just like those whose lives are forever remembered in our hearts, our minds, and in the stones of Washington D.C.

So when a week later I stood on stage as the new YLC Colorado Representative, while members of the audience jumped up and loudly cheered in support, all I could do was be appreciative.

Jenna Engelken, an incoming senior at Durango High School, is Colorado's representative to the NRECA Youth Leadership Council, returning to Washington D.C. for additional leadership training, and then representing Colorado at the 2017 NRECA Annual Meeting in San Diego, Calif. Learn more about the Washington D.C. Youth Tour at www.lpea.coop.

Building LPEA's "Operations"

The Operations Department is the heart of LPEA, with a team of experienced and knowledgeable professionals working to keep the electricity flowing.

Journeyman Lineman Tim Lee has joined the LPEA line crews. He's no stranger to the co-op as his father, Albert Lee was a 30-year LPEA employee. Born and raised in Durango, Tim Lee served the country for five years in the Marine Corps as an Air Wing [and Corporal E4] servicing F-18s. For the past 12 years he has been in Texas working for Oncor, a transmission and distribution company serving 10 million customers across the state. He earned his Journeyman Lineman there, but was ready to come home to Durango and LPEA.

In addition to the lines, LPEA's substations are a vital part of the system, attended to by the Electronic Specialists. Now on duty, Kenny Sutherlin has taken a "next step" in his career with LPEA, and Joe Frankland has embarked on a new career with the co-op where his experience can be put to good use.

A Durango native, originally trained, licensed and a working electrician before coming to LPEA, Sutherlin is closing in on 21 years with the cooperative. His experience includes line location, GIS, staking engineer and electronic technician before moving into the new Electronic Specialist position.

Frankland hails from Ohio, but has lived throughout the country, working as a professional musician for many years. A multi-instrumentalist who is partial to the bluegrass/country genre, Frankland was employed in the radio industry both as a DJ and most recently as an engineer for iHeartRadio in Albuquerque. He has an associate's degree in electrical engineering and technology, and is pursuing additional licensing in technology.

LPEA maintains a fleet of vehicles and additional equipment, so it's vital to have an experienced mechanic on hand. Curtis Piccoli is now filling that role in Durango. Born and raised in Durango, his experience includes 10 years with the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad servicing the support equipment for railroad operations. He followed that with 16 years servicing La Plata County's fleet.

And in an effort to train for the future, LPEA's Operations Department is always looking for the linemen of tomorrow. Mark Kempinski, an in-coming senior at Ignacio High School, has targeted a future career in the electrical industry. To begin his education, he is interning this summer in the Durango warehouse, literally learning "the pieces" of the business from the ground up. Upon graduation from high school, he looks forward to attending Hot Line School to begin training for his Journeyman Lineman.

Next month: Two more new Journeyman Linemen.



Tim Lee



Kenny Sutherlin



Joe Frankland



Curtis Piccoli



Mark Kempinski

Solar for low income homes

The LPEA Board of Directors voted to contribute up to \$35,000 in support of proposed photovoltaic (PV) solar installations at Southwest Horizons Ranch and a Habitat for Humanity home in Bayfield. The projects are being administered by the Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency (4CORE).

Funds will come from LPEA's Local Renewable Generation Fund (aka the "Local Green Power" renewable projects program).

"We've been concerned with the inability of our lower income families to participate in solar energy, specifically because of the cost," says Davin Montoya, LPEA board president. "They're our members who can benefit the most from local renewable electricity generation, so we're pleased to be able to invest money from the Local Renewable Generation Fund in the projects."

LPEA members can contribute to local renewable generation projects per the Local Renewable Rate Tariff RL19. Any amount can be donated, and monthly contributions appear on members' electric bills. Contact LPEA, 970.247.5786 or www.lpea.coop/renewables/greenform for information or to sign up.

CO-OP MEMBERS

Ask...

Q: Please advise me if running electric fans when we're not home will lower our home temperatures?

A: It depends on what type of fans you're using and the time of day you're home. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms, so if you're not there, turn it off. Ceiling fans circulate the air in a room to create a draft, and the moving air causes water to evaporate from the surface of your body to make you feel cooler. Be sure the fan is blowing down (usually counter-clockwise when looking up). (In the winter, reverse the fan to slowly pull up cooler air and push down warm air.)

Window or box fans can be helpful for cooling your home when used properly. Try using them to exhaust hot air from your home or draw shaded cooler air in. These can run when you're not home, but only during the cooler times of day. Energy consumption by all fans is typically minimal.

Golf for a good cause

LPEA hosted its annual Golf Tournament at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club, Saturday, June 18, enjoying a full field of participants golfing for a good cause: the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. When all was said and done, \$12,000 was donated to Relay for Life.



Celebrating golfing for a good cause (LtoR): Journeyman Lineman Jeremy Matney, ACS volunteers Amber Morris, Inez Winter, LPEA Equipment Operator Garrett Hammer, ACS volunteer Paul Lehman, LPEA Board Member Mike Alley and volunteer Daron Selph.

Photo: Jeff Laydon

The Golf Tournament is organized by LPEA's line personnel [headed up by Lineman Jeremy Matney and Equipment Operator Garrett Hammer] – the members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers [Local IBEW 111 26A] based in Pagosa Springs. Since its inception in 2003, nearly \$95,000 has been raised for a variety of non-profit entities in Archuleta County, including local food banks, Archuleta County Search & Rescue, Pagosa Early Learning Center, and Archuleta County Victim Assistance.

Promoting safety at Safety Town

Each year LPEA provides age-appropriate electrical education to students throughout Archuleta and La Plata counties. Closing out the 2015-2016 academic year was Safety Town, during which Energy Management Advisor Amanda Miles visually demonstrated to some 130 area youngsters that even though electricity seems magic, it is extremely "powerful."



"The kids really relate to Amanda. They were completely focused during her demonstration," says Indiana Reed, marketing communications specialist. "Safety is a key part of LPEA's culture – both in-house and out in the community. Starting safety education at a young age is very important."

In addition to Safety Town, this year held at St. Columba, Miles and members of LPEA's Operations team "take their show on the road" to schools and organizations. Beyond the table-top demonstration as pictured, Miles and LPEA's line crews also offer dramatic arc demonstrations [typically for older students], featuring LPEA's actual electrical equipment.

For more information or to arrange for a safety demonstration, contact Miles at amiles@lpea.coop or 970.247.5786.

LIVE WIRES

Board meeting Aug. 17, 9 a.m.

The next LPEA Board meeting is Wednesday, August 17, 9 a.m., at LPEA headquarters in Durango. The agenda will be posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at www.lpea.coop. All members are reminded that public comment is heard at the beginning of the Board meeting.

Closed for Labor Day

LPEA's offices in Durango and Pagosa Springs will be closed on Monday, September 5, in honor of Labor Day.

LPEA at La Plata County Fair

Stop by the LPEA booth during the LPC Fair, Aug. 11-14, for updated information AND to spin the opportunity wheel for prizes!

Save the Date!

Member appreciation lunches at LPEA's offices are set for Friday, Sept. 16 in Durango and Friday, Sept. 23 in Pagosa Springs. Stay tuned for more information!



@LaPlataElectric



CREA update

Valuing our partnership with CREA

BY KOHLER MCINNIS | CREA REPRESENTATIVE | KMCINNIS@LPEA.COOP

In May, I was fortunate enough to be elected to serve on the Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) Board. I am excited, challenged and proud to work in this role.

My first CREA Board meeting was a three-day session held in Gunnison. Having a three-day meeting gave me a great opportunity to meet, and get acquainted with, the other CREA directors and the CREA staff, in both business and casual settings.

The first day was a planning meeting, which included reviewing copies of CREA's Strategic Planning Guide and Year-in-Review. Going through this exercise gave everyone a refresher course on CREA's purpose.

We spent the morning of the second day on a tour of Morrow Point Dam located at Cimarron. Even the most experienced in the

group felt it was very beneficial and educational. Morrow Point gave all of us appreciation for the vision, and the ability to carry out the vision, of our predecessors. The afternoon of the second day and the full third day was the CREA Board of Directors meeting.

Many years ago, when I was introduced to associations, I observed that an organization could pay its dues and then sit back and wait for a return on the investment. An organization would be lucky if it got a return equal to its dues. On the other hand, members could get involved with the other members, advocate for their organization, as well as other "like" organizations, and educate themselves with the knowledge of others in a similar position. The return on investment can then be measured in so many different ways, all of which strengthens the organization.

Needless to say, as LPEA's representative, I am determined to be active with CREA by learning, advocating, and leading to enable LPEA and other Colorado co-ops to provide the best service for today and tomorrow. There are many big changes happening today, with many more coming in the near future, and it is crucial

to identify and be prepared for the challenges facing LPEA. For each challenge, we must identify and put LPEA in a position to take advantage of the many opportunities as well. CREA is a valuable tool for LPEA and we expect to maximize LPEA's investment.

There are four departments within CREA (Loss Control Department, Communications Department, Education/Member Services and Government Relations), which LPEA can utilize to assist the cooperative on its mission. The unwritten department is networking. Networking on a consistent basis with other directors on the CREA Board, managers and staff of sister Colorado co-ops, legislators on the Federal, State and local level, and the CREA staff will be valuable and effective.

I would like to thank LPEA's members, staff and fellow LPEA Board Directors for their confidence in me to serve as their representative to CREA. I have a hard time containing my excitement on the work, challenges, relationships and results I face in this coming year. It is an honor to be associated with both CREA and LPEA.

Mailing Address:
PO Box 2750 Durango, CO 81302-2750

Street Address:
45 Stewart St. Durango, CO 81303
603 S. 8th St. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

970.247.5786 | www.lpea.coop

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

Board of Directors:
Davin Montoya, President [District 2]
Kohler McInnis, Vice President [District 2]
Joe Wheeling, Secretary [District 4]
Karen Barger, Treasurer [District 4]
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Britt Bassett [District 3]
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Bob Formwalt [District 1]
Dan Huntington [District 2]
Bob Lynch [District 1]
Doug Lyon [District 3]
Jack Turner [District 4]

Chief Executive Officer:
Michael A. Dreyspring

Statement of Non-discrimination
LPEA is an equal opportunity provider and employer M/F/ Disability/Veteran.
If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

