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**NEWS**

**Ryan Peacock, Bret Cochrane promoted at La Plata Electric**  
*Peacock advances to Foreman; Cochrane fills Peacock's position as Serviceman*

Veteran La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Journeyman Linemen Ryan Peacock and Bret Cochrane have been promoted within the cooperative's Operations Department. Peacock moves into the Line Crew Foreman position, leaving an opportunity for a new Serviceman, to which Cochrane has been named.

Born in Ignacio, Colo., Peacock attended Durango High School then stepped into construction for four years, during which time he began his Lineman apprenticeship. He joined LPEA in 1998 and completed his Journeyman Lineman in 2000.

Peacock has worked the line crews for six years until taking on the Serviceman job, which he did for eight years until the Foreman position opened up. As a Foreman he returns to working with the line crews.

"I'm one of the four men who make up a hot crew," said Peacock of the teams most readily visible to LPEA members. "I make sure they know what they're doing, and make sure they're doing it safely."

Cochrane is moving from the line crews to Serviceman where he will focus on direct work with customers, upgrading electrical systems, setting meters, and working with local electricians. LPEA's servicemen are also on-call for outages and are the first in the field, troubleshooting the cause of an outage and determining next steps for power restoration.

A native of southwest Kansas, Cochrane joined LPEA in 2000 from Pioneer Electric Cooperative, where he apprenticed and earned his Journeyman Lineman.

"After 10 years at Pioneer Electric I had the opportunity to come to LPEA, and I've worked on the line crew until now becoming a Serviceman," said Cochrane, who appreciates the cooperative model. "I've worked for power companies for nearly 24 years. I like the way they do business."

“All of our retirements are allowing our younger Operations employees to move up the proverbial ladder,” said Steve Gregg, manager of operations. “As a result, we will likely be hiring more apprentices this year to come in at entry level. It’s all succession planning.”

LPEA, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative celebrating 75 years in 2014, provides to its more than 30,000 members, with nearly 41,000 meters, safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost, while being environmentally responsible. For further information, contact LPEA at 970.247.5786 or visit [www.lpea.coop](http://www.lpea.coop).

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