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## NEWS

### **La Plata Electric Association welcomes three new Journeyman Linemen** *Veteran industry professionals join crews in La Plata County*

DURANGO, Colo. – Veteran Journeyman Linemen Ryan Carman, Bryon Kelly and Faron Sullivan have joined the Operations team at La Plata Electric Association (LPEA). In the electric utility industry, linemen are responsible for constructing and maintaining electric power transmission and distribution lines and facilities.

Ryan Carman was born and raised in Albuquerque, N.M. and began his apprenticeship immediately out of high school. He completed his Journeyman in 2009 and has been doing contract work throughout the country, though predominantly in the Southwest, since that time. Over the years he has traveled to Durango for rodeos, and enjoys hunting in the area.

“I’m finally ready to put down some roots,” said Carman. “I’ve been looking at this place for a while, so when an opening came about, I put in for the job.”

Originally from the Big Bear/Lake Arrowhead area of Southern California, Byron Kelly did his apprenticeship with Southern California Edison (SCE), “journeying out” in 2007. In addition to SCE, he served with Hotline Construction and comes to Durango from Victorville, Calif.

“All my family lives out here in Pagosa Springs,” said Kelly. “I’ve been coming here for the last 20-25 years. It’s a beautiful place and I’m happy to be here.”

Inspired to get into linework by his father-in-law, who was a career lineman, Faron Sullivan grew up in the country in a small town southeast of Tulsa, Okla. He earned his Journeyman in 2001 and garnered much of his training through East Central Electric and PSO (Public Service Company of Oklahoma), as well as several contractors in the state. Most recently he served with Grand River Dam Authority, which provides power to about one-third of Oklahoma.

“I got to work all over the state doing a variety of things,” said Sullivan. “But I just love the mountains, and my wife has family all over Colorado. We’ve come out here for years, hunting and fishing.”

All three linemen will be based out of LPEA's Durango headquarters.

"It's important that we have skilled and experienced linemen in place," said Steve Gregg, manager of operations. "Our linemen are the ones who are out there literally on the front lines getting the power back on in all types of conditions. LPEA was fortunate to be able to pick from the best to get our three new linemen.

LPEA, 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 additional information, contact LPEA at 970.247.5786. For further information, visit [www.lpea.coop](http://www.lpea.coop).

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