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NEWS

Jerry Sutherlin named Serviceman at La Plata Electric Association *Journeyman Lineman takes on one-on-one, on-call position with co-op*

DURANGO, Colo. – Journeyman Lineman Jerry Sutherlin has been named as a Serviceman at La Plata Electric Association (LPEA), based out of the Durango office.

In the electric utility industry, a serviceman focuses 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 restoration of power.

A Colorado native and graduate of Durango High School, Sutherlin attended Fort Lewis College pursuing a degree in Education, also coaching wrestling during that time. In 2000 he came to LPEA on a temporary basis, hired to help change out electrical meters, but also learned of LPEA's Lineman Apprenticeship program. He subsequently completed the four-year apprentice program and earned his Journeyman Lineman in 2009, joining LPEA's line crews.

Sutherlin was part of the LPEA crew that in 2011 received the "Adult Lifesaver Award" from the American Red Cross, having rescued a motorcycle rider following an accident. The following year, he and fellow linemen received the prestigious "Life Saving Award" from the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers (IBEW). He continues to work to promote electrical safety education within the cooperative.

A talented singer/songwriter, Sutherlin is also lead vocalist and guitarist for the local country band Midnight Backhand.

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.

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