# WATT'S UP APR 2023

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

### THE PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR POWER



April is National Lineworker Appreciation Month, which honors the hard work, innovation, and dedication of America's electrical lineworkers.

Lineworkers play a critical role in ensuring our communities have access to safe and reliable electricity. They work in challenging and dangerous conditions, often during extreme weather, to maintain and repair electrical lines and equipment. Without lineworkers, we would not have the electricity that powers our homes, businesses, and communities. So, if you see an LPEA lineworker, take a moment to thank them for their hard work and dedication. Let them know that their efforts are appreciated and that they are an important part of our community.

We thank and proudly recognize our lineworkers for keeping the power safely flowing 365 days a year through wind, ice, and snowstorms.

#### Lineworkers by numbers:

- 115,000 = US lineworkers
- 32 = LPEA lineworkers
- 4 = Years of training required to become a "journeyman"
- 24/7 = Hours a lineworker is on call
- 100 = Percentage of time that safety is a priority

If you see a lineworker this month, make sure to say "thank you" or post #ThankALineworker on social media.

# BALLOT WATCH



Each year, LPEA's membership elects four representatives to the LPEA Board of Directors. Make sure YOUR voice is heard in the boardroom by voting for the candidate you feel best represents you.

Ballots will be mailed to all LPEA members on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Ballots must be received by mail or drop box by Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. Postmarks will NOT be accepted. You may also drop off your ballot in person at LPEA's 2023 Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 8, at 5:00 p.m. at LPEA headquarters in Bodo Park.

# For more information visit lpea.coop/elections.



Switch to paperless billing with LPEA and receive a one-time

## **\$5 BILL CREDIT!**

Scan the QR code here, visit lpea.coop/paperless, or call us at (970) 247-5786.



UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

We may owe you money!



LPEA is seeking current and former members who are due to receive Capital Credit refunds.

Call us at (970) 247-5786 or visit Ipea.coop/UCC to see if you are on the list.

#### **BEFORE YOU DIG - CALL 811**



Spring has sprung and so have plans to improve our yards! For some of us that means finding the right plants, for others it means buying lumber for a new fence. But regardless of your project type, remember to contact 811 BEFORE you dig. Buried utilities are everywhere, so digging at any depth (even as shallow as six inches) requires a locate. Digging without one is dangerous and can damage electric, gas, water, sewer, and internet lines.

Ready to start safe digging? Visit www.co811.org and request a locate through iDig811, or call 811.

Five things to keep in mind when contacting 811:

- 1. Contact them at least two business days before digging. This will give the utilities enough time to mark their lines.
- 2. Be prepared to provide the following information: your name, phone number, email address,

address of the dig site, and the type of work you will be doing.

- 3. Wait for the utilities to mark their lines before digging. It is illegal to dig without first having the lines marked.
- Respect the marks and dig with care. Even with the marks, it is important to dig carefully and avoid hitting any underground lines.
- 5. Once your utilities are located, avoid digging within 18 inches of the marks to avoid costly and dangerous accidents.

Pro Tip! Pre-mark your dig area with white flags or paint to ensure the locators don't miss your dig project area. The utility companies will then send a locator out to mark their underground utilities up to their meter with paint and/or flags. It's important to remember that sometimes the meters are not on your house. Often, meters can be found at your property line which means utilities in your yard might not be marked by the locator. In this case, it is your responsibility (or the responsibility of the property owner if you rent) to have the utilities from the meter to the house located at your (or the property owner's) expense. Luckily Colorado 811 has you covered to find the right professional to perform your private locate.

Thank you for keeping our communities safe and always contacting 811 before you dig!



# LPEA WRE

The latest news, services, programs, and resources from LPEA. Have a question or comment? Email us at comments@lpea.coop.



#### **BOARD MEETINGS**

Apr. 12 (hybrid), May 17 (virtual) 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.\*

The agenda, access, and location details will be posted online in advance. Public comments are heard at the beginning of the meeting shortly after 9 a.m.

More at: Ipea.coop/Ipea-boarddirectors-resources



#### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

LPEA committee meetings change regularly to accommodate board member schedules. For upcoming meeting dates and times visit: lpea.coop/board-committees

\*All meetings are open to the public. Meetings may be held in person, virtually, or both. Visit Ipea.coop for the most up-to-date details.





#### LPEA GRANTS

The Round Up Foundation Board of Directors **approved five grants totaling \$14,500 in February**. Approved Round Up Grants were for Durango Trails, Region 9 Economic Development District, and Riverview Christian Fellowship. Approved Educational Grants were for the Boys and Girls Club of La Plata County and the Locals First Foundation.