

WATT'S UP

AT LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

LPEA

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

JUNE 2017

Shaping the future by building trustworthy community partnerships as an innovative, forward-thinking industry leader, delivering excellence in our member-owned cooperative.



Working toward renewable energy

When it comes to renewable energy, LPEA continues to explore opportunities to invest in the future, while keeping electricity rates reasonable.

"Renewable energy is something we all want," says CEO Mike Dreyspring. "LPEA supports its members when they seek to install individual net-metered solar systems, and we supported creation of solar gardens, in which our members could invest. But since these investments are not feasible or practical for many of our members, we're also trying to give you an opportunity to support renewable energy in other ways."

LPEA has two "green power" programs. They've evolved over the years and arrived at a place where LPEA members can contribute just a few dollars per month that can go far to help support renewable energy.

One opportunity is the local renewable projects fund. This isn't tied to any specific power generation. It is a direct contribution, but monies accumulated in this fund support local renewable projects. Last year, LPEA, using these dollars, helped with a solar installation that powers a low income housing facility's water system at Southwest Horizons Ranch. Recently, the LPEA Board approved a donation from this fund to help install solar on a senior care center in Pagosa Springs.

"This fund is completely voluntary," says Dreyspring, reminding that LPEA is a distribution company [transporting electricity from a generator to an end user] and not a generator of power. "If you'd like to help out, give us a call and ask to contribute to the local renewable projects fund, and each month, your contribution - at whatever amount you specify - will be added to your electric bill."

The second, and long-time established LPEA Green Power Program is a direct off-set of the electricity used by members. Specifically, members can pay an additional 9 cents per 100 kilowatt hour block to off-set their electricity used through renewable energy generated by LPEA's wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission.

"The average resident uses 600 to 700 kilowatt hours per month, so for an extra 50 cents or so on your electric bill, our members can off-set all their electricity usage with Green Power," says Dan Harms, manager of rates, technology and energy policy. "Our commercial members often opt for this program to be able to say that they're 100 percent 'green powered.'"

"Both of these programs are valuable and provide our members with tools to achieve their renewable objectives," says Dreyspring. "If your focus is assisting construction of local renewable projects, then the local fund is for you. Or, if you want your energy purchases to be 'green,' sign up to purchase Green Power."

Learn more about LPEA's green power programs at www.lpea.coop.



This picture is not "Photoshopped," and was captured by LPEA Project Specialist Ray Pierotti as he passed by wind farms on our country's plains.



Timmerman IT Supervisor



Drew Timmerman has been promoted to IT Supervisor at LPEA, meeting the cooperative's need to focus on and continually enhance its

information technology for optimum service to members.

As IT Supervisor, Timmerman now oversees the team handling all information technology systems at the cooperative, including the Outage Management System, GIS, phone systems, and the website, as well as maintaining servers and equipment, updating and monitoring system and online security, and more.

Timmerman has served as LPEA Network Administrator since returning to the cooperative in 2009. He joined LPEA originally in 2000 to work in LPEA's growing IT department, but in 2006 took a three-year hiatus from Durango to be closer to family in Kansas City, Mo. While in Kansas City, Timmerman served in the IT department at Garmin Ltd., the navigational system company.

Originally from Springfield, Mo., Timmerman came to Durango as a student at Fort Lewis College, where he studied electrical engineering and worked part-time in LPEA's engineering department. He transferred to CU Boulder to complete his degree – ultimately a BS in computer science.

In April, LPEA honored the retirement of Senior Clerk Sharon Walter and Meterman John Shafer. Thank you for your service to all the members of LPEA! You will be missed.

LPEA Director elections/officers

Results of the Board of Directors elections were announced at LPEA's Annual Meeting, held Saturday, May 13, at the Sky Ute Casino & Resort, Ignacio.

Incumbent Davin Montoya retains his seat representing District 2, with new directors Rachel Landis and Guinn Unger elected to represent Districts 3 and 4, respectively. In accordance with LPEA's bylaws, annually one seat in each of LPEA's four districts comes up for election. The election in District 1 [Archuleta County] was cancelled as incumbent Bob Lynch was the only candidate.

Out of the 24,610 ballots mailed, 7,001 LPEA members cast votes for a 28 percent return.

With approximately 8,650 members in District 2, south and west La Plata County, Montoya received 1,374 votes, compared to the 1,068 cast for challenger Kim Martin.

In District 3, City of Durango, with approximately 8,070 members, 1,484 members cast votes for new candidate Landis over the 891 earned by new candidate R. Michael Bell. District 3 incumbent Jeff Berman did not seek re-election in 2017.

Of the approximately 7,890 members in District 4, north and east La Plata County, challenger Unger received 1,181 votes, unseating incumbent Joe Wheeling, with 999 votes.

Also per the LPEA bylaws, officers for the Board are elected at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting. The regular Board meeting was May 17.

Montoya will serve as 2017-2018 president, with Lynch as vice president. Karen Barger [District 4] and Doug Lyon [District 3] were named secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Kohler McInnis [District 2] was elected to the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Board. Barger will serve as the delegate for the Colorado Rural Electric Association [CREA] and Bob Formwalt [District 1] will continue as the Western United representative. Mike Alley [District 1] and newly-elected director Unger were chosen to sit on the LPEA Round Up Foundation board.

Tucker joins LPEA

To assist in social media and web presence, Lonnie Tucker has been named Communications Coordinator at LPEA. He joins the established Member Relations team that includes Jeannie Bennett, public relations coordinator, and Indiana Reed, public information officer and marketing communications consultant.



Originally from Dayton, Ohio, Tucker studied business at the University of Florida, and joined Anheuser-Busch, the international brewing company, where he worked for 14 years traveling nationally and internationally in a customer service and quality assurance capacity.

Impacted by the 9-11 terrorist attacks, he left the beer industry and returned to college to complete his degree in journalism at the University of Missouri. Upon graduation he joined Cuivre River Electric Cooperative as a communications specialist where he served for 12 years overseeing the cooperative's educational projects and youth programs, as well as the Operation Round Up program.

Leadership students named

Local high school juniors Liam Doctor, Brianna Downing, Kirsten Fogel and Justus Logan have been selected by LPEA to participate in the Colorado Electric Education Institute Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, an all-expenses paid educational/leadership camp set for July 15-20, 2017 at Glen Eden Resort outside of Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Each summer, the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp brings together approximately 100 high school students selected by electric cooperatives in Colorado, Kansas and Wyoming to learn about the organization and operation of a cooperative, as well as to build leadership skills designed to assist students in meeting future challenges.

Doctor is a junior at Pagosa Springs High School and an honor student and member of the Academic All-State team. Active in Youth Soccer and Baseball, he also participates on the 4-H Council, among other activities. He intends to pursue study in biotechnical engineering.

A junior at Pagosa Springs High School, Brianna Downing is involved with drama, band/music and photography, plus is a member of the National Honor Society. She plans to focus on the music in her college career.

Kirsten Fogel is a Durango resident, but junior at Mancos High School. An active member of her church youth group and choir, she is involved in a variety of athletics, including volleyball, track and hockey. She will pursue a pre-dental program in college, in preparation for further studies to become a dentist.

Pagosa Springs resident and home schooled student affiliated with Pagosa Springs High School, Justus Logan is a Junior Firefighter and EMT who participates with San Juan Search & Rescue. His focus is to become a professional firefighter, and is currently advancing his career in firefighting school.

Applications for the 2018 Colorado Electric Education Institute Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp will be available in November 2017 at LPEA's offices in Durango and Pagosa Springs, through area high school counselors, or on the web, www.lpea.coop.



Liam Doctor



Brianna Downing



Kirsten Fogel



Justus Logan

Integrating renewable projects

To provide members with additional insight into LPEA's efforts to integrate local renewable energy projects, the cooperative will host a special information session, Thursday, June 8, 5 to 7 p.m. at LPEA's Durango headquarters, 45 Stewart St. (Bodo Park).

Representatives from Tri-State Generation and Transmission will also be present to discuss the role renewables play in the wholesale generation mix – now and in the future, plus the state of current energy markets. For additional information, visit www.lpea.coop.

CO-OP MEMBERS

Ask...

Q: I'm still on a learning curve about LEDs. Will LPEA host more lighting workshops?

A: Yes. Hardware stores' lighting aisles offer a challenging number of options, so to help our members understand how to invest in LED lighting – saving both energy and dollars – we will continue to host regular, free "Lunch & Lights" workshops. The next is Thursday, June 15, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at our Durango headquarters. Because lunch will be served, reservations are required to Ray Pierotti, rpierotti@lpea.coop or 970.382.7770. More information at www.lpea.coop.

LIVE WIRES

Board meeting June 21, 9 a.m.

The next meeting of the LPEA Board of Directors is set for Wednesday, June 21, 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 meeting.

Annual Meeting video on web

LPEA's 2017 Annual Meeting is now on our website, available for community viewing. Visit www.lpea.coop if you missed the meeting.

LPEA Golf Tournament!

Are you signed up? Want to sponsor? The LPEA Golf Tournament benefitting the Foundation for Archuleta County Education, is June 17 at the Pagosa Springs Golf Course. Visit www.lpea.coop for details or contact Garrett Hammer, 970.946.9434 or Jeremy Matney, 970.759.8881.

Round Up Grants

Round Up and Educational Grants were made in May to La Plata Youth Services, Four Corners Draft Horses, Archuleta Special Olympics, Our Savior Lutheran School, Dancing Spirit Community Center, and Chimney Rock Interpretive Association.





Customer Service Update

Members serving Members

BY LINDA LOOMAN | MANAGER OF CUSTOMER SERVICE & HR
LLOOMAN@LPEA.COOP

Members serving members.

LPEA's employees are members of the cooperative and are an integral part of their communities. Each one of our customer service employees maintains an electric service account of their own with LPEA and understands your needs. Staffing two offices – we are one cooperative. We're grateful for the privilege of serving you. We strive to keep you informed, so we'll also take this opportunity to share some of the programs we want you, our members, to know about.

We know that you're busy and that your time is valuable. Each one of our Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) "listens" to determine your needs and hopes to personally answer your questions and/or update your service as needed. This requires every CSR to be extremely knowledgeable in

many areas. Often, they'll handle the details behind the scenes and get you going as seamlessly as possible. If the situation requires a technical specialist, they'll match you with the best source available.

Customer Service

Representatives are happy to explain the many programs LPEA offers. As a team, CSRs enjoy introducing members to SmartHub. This handy tool is surprisingly easy to use. You'll find SmartHub on the home page of our website, www.lpea.coop, or you can download the "app." To get started on SmartHub, you'll initially need your account number. Once established, your email address and password will be all you need to sign on. You can look at your monthly, daily, even hourly electric usage, pay your bill one-time, set up auto-pay, report an outage or sign up for Round Up.

Our new metering system provides better information for you to manage your energy use and save money. Two of the great rate options that rely on this information are our Time-of-Use and Pre-Pay programs.

LPEA's Time-of-Use rate allows many members to save money on the electricity they buy. Electricity

costs more during certain high-demand (on-peak) hours of the day. LPEA offers an incentive to use energy during low-demand (off-peak) hours of the day. Many consumers could save money on the Time-of-Use rate without changing the times they use electricity. Curious if you would save? Call one of our customer service reps and they'll compare rates based on your account's usage. Additional savings add up in a hurry with simple changes in your habits.

For many members, LPEA's Pre-Pay program has been invaluable. With the Pre-Pay account, no initial deposit is required. Members simply add money to their LPEA account when they need power. The system is automated, with multiple ways to pay – LPEA's website, SmartHub app, phone, in-person, or at one of our 24-hour kiosks. Once payment is received, the system notifies the meter to provide that additional power. Voila!

Please remember that LPEA's customer service team members are here to help in any way they're able. More than 42,000 consumers, 107 employees, two locations to serve you: we are ONE cooperative and part of everything you do.

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)
Bob Lynch, Vice President (District 1)
Karen Barger, Secretary (District 4)
Doug Lyon, Treasurer (District 3)
Mike Alley (District 1)
Britt Bassett (District 3)
Bob Formwalt (District 1)
Dan Huntington (District 2)
Rachel Landis (District 3)
Kohler McInnis (District 2)
Jack Turner (District 4)
Guinn Unger (District 4)

Chief Executive Officer:

Michael A. Dreystrup

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.

