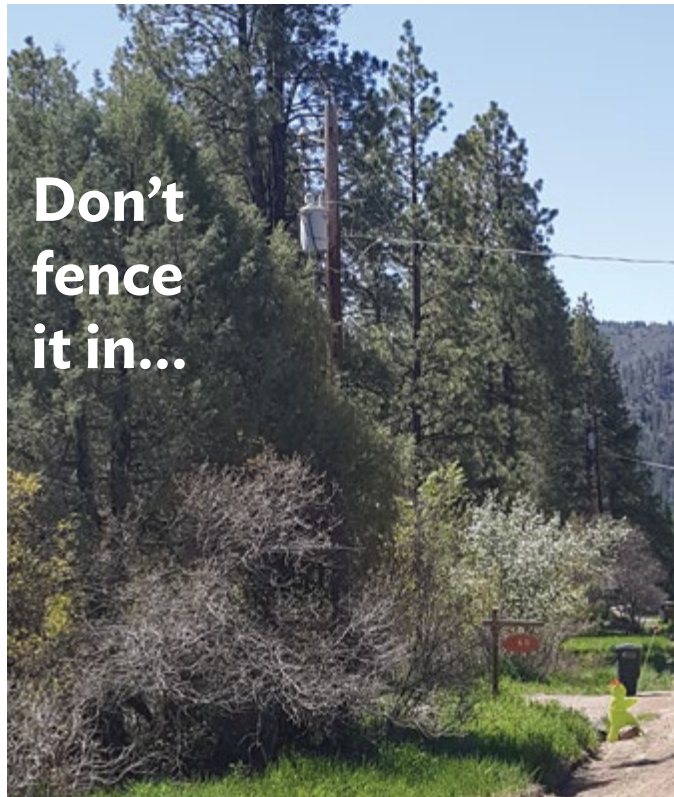


Shaping the future by building trustworthy community partnerships as an innovative, forward-thinking industry leader, delivering excellence in our member-owned cooperative.

JUNE 2019



**Don't
fence
it in...**

“Don't fence me in” is a long-standing cliché related to freedom. When it comes to electrical equipment, however, it has everything to do with safety, and the adage is indeed timeless.

“At LPEA we do a great deal of safety education related to overhead power lines, plus we're always reminding folks to call before they dig, so they don't cut into underground lines,” says Justin Talbot, manager of operations. “But we've kicked it up a notch and formalized it with our Board of Directors' establishment of a Vegetation Management Policy. We want to avoid any kind of issue as pictured in this photo.”

In April, the Board of Directors adopted Policy 301, which is available for review in full on LPEA's website, www.lpea.coop.

The policy's objective, as stated, is to maintain LPEA's “property and rights-of-way in a manner that ensures the safety of landowners, employees, and the public, as well as comply with National Electrical Safety Code, federal, state, and local laws and regulations pursuant to the operation of electrical facilities.”

“Most visible to our members is removal of hazardous trees,” says Line Superintendent Toby Allred. “A hazardous tree is defined as a tree that, in the cooperative's opinion, is dead, severely damaged or may present reasonable risks to LPEA's lines and facilities. Trees grow, and branches can interfere with our power lines. Those can be the branches that come down in



a storm and cause outages and damage to our system.”

“It's to our members' benefit to help us with vegetation or tree management,” adds Talbot. “We don't want you out of power, so preventative measures are our first priority.”

According to the policy, LPEA's tree trimming crews will strive to remove all trees, whether hazardous or not, growing beneath the cooperative's lines. All trees that can be reasonably removed from private property shall also be removed with the landowners' permission.

“We do hope to remove trees while they are small and before they become a hazard to the power line,” says Allred. “Brush and other vegetation that could potentially become a hazard will also be removed during regular tree trimming procedures.”

To help with the angst of losing a tree, LPEA maintains a tree trade-out program, allowing a private landowner to receive a tree to replace a tree that LPEA completely removes – to plant somewhere away from the power lines. Additionally, the landowner may opt to keep the wood from the removed tree(s).

With trimmed vegetation, LPEA will automatically remove any branches and other debris from the cooperative's right-of-way, unless the landowner directs the co-op otherwise. Removal of any branches or other debris from outside the cooperative's right-of-way is the responsibility of the landowner, unless otherwise agreed in writing with LPEA.

“The Vegetation Management Policy is very comprehensive, so we hope our members will review it to determine how we can work together to maintain safety and reliability of the electrical equipment,” says Talbot.

“We also have in place a communications program to alert our members about when we'll be working in their neighborhood,” adds Allred. “But we do encourage everyone to notify us if they're concerned about a tree or overgrowth of vegetation that might be a problem – either on our right-of-way, the public right-of-way or on your private property. We'll schedule a crew to come take care of the hazard – safely. Just call us.”

SO LONG TO CFO SVANES



In May, LPEA bid adieu to Chief Financial Officer Dennis Svanes, who has been selected as General Manager of Lyon-Coffey and Radiant Electric Cooperatives, based in Kansas. The cooperatives are set to consolidate in 2020 as 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative.

Svanes, who has served as LPEA's CFO since 2008, was raised and educated in North Dakota, and came to LPEA from KEM Electric Cooperative, a rural electric cooperative based in Linton, N.D. He held various positions while at KEM, rising to CEO before he sought new opportunities to advance his career.

An accounting graduate of the University of North Dakota, Svanes also garnered extensive IT experience during his career, which includes positions with Knife River Corporation in North Dakota as well as a regional accounting firm.

"I appreciate the confidence from the Lyon-Coffey board in selecting me as the new General Manager," says Svanes. My wife Michelle and I are excited for this opportunity and look forward to serving the members of the cooperatives."

Current LPEA Controller Rachel Gilman will serve as interim CFO while a search is formally conducted for Svanes' replacement.

LPEA names seven college scholarship recipients

The 2019 scholarships presented annually by LPEA to high school graduates within its service territory in Durango and La Plata counties, have been announced by the cooperative.

Ethan Holst, a 2019 graduate of Animas High School, and Kyla Thomas, a 2019 graduate of Durango High School, have received the 35th Annual LPEA College Scholarships, four-year scholarships (up to \$7,000 annually or \$28,000 total for tuition, books and fees). Holst will major in electrical engineering at Colorado State University-Fort Collins. Thomas plans to study for a future career in business at the University of Colorado at Boulder's Leed's School of Business.

LPEA's 19th Annual John Voelker Memorial Scholarship – \$10,000 for two years for vocational, technical school or junior college – has been awarded to Lucas Roderick a 2019 graduate of Ignacio High School. He will attend the technical institute Montana State University-Northern, and study diesel technology, agriculture mechanics and welding.

Jaylin Mattice is the recipient of the 3rd Annual LPEA Lineman Scholarship. A 2019 graduate of Durango High School, he is enrolled in the Electrical Lineworker Program at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction.

Alma Wolf, a graduate of Animas High School, received the \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship. Though her choice of college is undecided, she plans to pursue a career in political science/international relations.

Animas High School graduate Cecilia Compton and Durango High School graduate Emma Jaber each received \$500 scholarships from Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association. Compton has an interest in environmental protection and renewable energy and will attend Pitzer College, part of The Claremont Colleges in California. Jaber will advance her education and love of learning at Seattle University in Washington State.

"There are so many qualified students, but we have only so many scholarships," said Jeannie Bennett, coordinator of LPEA's scholarship process. "All of our scholarship recipients are great students with exciting potential. At LPEA we are proud to be able to offer these educational opportunities."

Funds for the LPEA, John Voelker Memorial and Lineman Scholarships come from LPEA's unclaimed Capital Credits. Each year, LPEA endeavors to find "missing" members who are due a share of retired Capital Credits or Patronage Capital. Those funds unable to be returned to members are then put back into the community – in this case, into college scholarships.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Tri-State Generation and Transmission grant the additional cash awards.

For further information or for questions regarding future scholarship opportunities, contact Jeannie Bennett at 970.382.3505, or jbennett@lpea.coop.



Ethan Holst



Kyla Thomas



Lucas Roderick



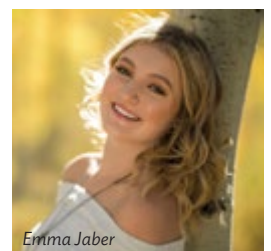
Jaylin Mattice



Alma Wolf



Cecilia Compton



Emma Jaber

Director elections/Board officers

Results of the Board of Directors elections for LPEA were announced at the electric cooperative's Annual Meeting, held May 2, 2019, at the Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis College, Durango.

In accordance with LPEA's bylaws, annually one seat in each of LPEA's four districts comes up for election. Holly Leann Metzler and Joe Lewandowski are two new LPEA Board members, with incumbents Dan Huntington and Jack Turner re-elected to their seats.

In District 1, Archuleta County, with two new candidates running for the seat vacated by retiring Mike Alley, 1,855 members cast votes and Metzler received 1,106 votes, with Michael Whiting receiving 794.

In District 2, south and west La Plata County, out of the 2,478 votes cast, incumbent Huntington received 1,751 votes, compared to the 727 cast for challenger Jeffery Mannix.

In District 4, which covers north and east La Plata County, 2,246 members cast votes and incumbent Turner received 1,277 votes, with challenger Sarah Ferrell receiving 969.

In the City of Durango, District 3, only one candidate, Joe Lewandowski, submitted an election petition and he has been appointed to the board.

Out of the 25,411 ballots mailed in Districts 1, 2 and 4, a total of 6,624 LPEA members cast votes for an approximate 26 percent return, which is on par with the 2018 election, which was also 26 percent.

An estimated 350 LPEA members attended the LPEA Annual Meeting, including the 263 voting members registered. Balloting and tallying was managed by an independent Election Supervisory Committee, overseen by the La Plata County Clerk's office, which has been retained by the LPEA Board of Directors as an independent third party.

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 15.

Bob Lynch (District 1) will serve as 2019-2020 president, with Britt Bassett (District 3) as vice president. Guinn Unger (District 4) and Tim Wheeler (District 4) were named secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Kirsten Skeehan (District 1) was re-elected to the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Board. Jack Turner (District 4) will serve as the delegate for the Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) and Kohler McInnis (District 2) was appointed as the Western United representative. New directors Holly Metzler (District 1) and Joe Lewandowski (District 3) were chosen to sit on the LPEA Round Up Foundation board.

More information is available at www.lpea.coop.

Watch for cell/text scams

LPEA is once again cautioning its members to not be fooled by impersonators who claim to be from LPEA and threaten disconnection for lack of payment. The current scam appears to be targeting cell phones – specifically text messaging.

“There's always a new twist, and now they've moved from land line phones to cell phones,” says Ron Meier, manager of engineering and member services.

Beyond not making threatening phone calls to immediately disconnect anyone's electricity for lack of payment, Meier notes that LPEA absolutely does not send threatening text messages, and members should never enter a credit card number in response to any text that comes across their cell phone. When an account is past due, LPEA customers receive a series of written notices and are given adequate time to settle their bills before any disconnect would take place.

If receiving a questionable phone call and now text message on cell phones, demanding immediate payment, LPEA members are asked to record a call-back/text number from the presumed scammer, then call LPEA directly to see if a true issue exists with their account. If a text is blatantly fraudulent, LPEA members are advised to call local authorities.

LPEA's Customer Service Representatives can be reached during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, at 970.247.5786 for clarification of any billing questions. LPEA members can also review the status of their account at any time online at www.lpea.coop, and click on the SmartHub icon.

LIVE WIRES

Board meeting June 19, 9 a.m.

The next meeting of the LPEA Board of Directors is set for Wednesday, June 19, at LPEA headquarters in Durango. The agenda will be posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at www.lpea.coop.

LPEA Golf Tournament!

Are you signed up? Want to sponsor? The LPEA Golf Tournament this year benefitting Boy Scouts of America/Cub Scouts of America Troop 807, Venturing Crew 612, and Girl Scout Troops 25075 and 26237, is June 15 at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club. Visit www.lpea.coop for details or contact Garrett Hammer, 970.946.9434 or Jeremy Matney, 970.759.8881. Space is limited, and registration deadline is June 10.

Round Up Grants

The following organizations received Round Up or Educational grants, distributed by the Round Up Foundation Board of Directors, in April and May:

- Spring Creek Horse Rescue
- All Forward Adventures
- Veterans for Veterans
- Curtains Up Pagosa
- Foundation for Archuleta County Education (FACE)
- Sun Ute Community Center
- SWCO Area Health Education Center
- Treasure Ministry
- Companeros: Four Corners Immigrant Resource Center
- Bombulum Draconis Destination
- Imagination Team – Pagosa
- CloudBusters Rocket Team

Changes

BY RON MEIER | MANAGER OF ENGINEERING AND MEMBER RELATIONS
RMEIER@LPEA.COOP



Just the other day, I was talking with an intern who has joined us at LPEA for the summer, and in that conversation I realized that I have been a part of the LPEA community longer than he has been a human walking on this earth. I have been here a long time.

While many people in our industry think we are in a period of change that has never before been seen in our industry, when I reflect on what I have experienced at LPEA, I always come to a conclusion that the change we see today isn't really that different than what I have been a part of for more than 25 years – except that our society and membership are now more engaged in the dialogue of “energy.” Perhaps this is the true change.

As we look ahead to the coming months, we at LPEA do have a lot of “change” coming. Jessica Matlock, our next CEO, will be joining us, bringing her unique skills and vision of the future. I am looking forward to this next phase working with her.

We also will be hiring a new Chief Financial Officer. Dennis Svanes, our current CFO, is stepping up to a General Manager position overseeing two cooperatives merging into one, and on to a new adventure bringing his unique talents and leadership to a co-op membership in Kansas.

In addition to changes in our top leadership, our Board

of Directors has welcomed two new board members who were selected by you/us, our membership. If you reflect on the history of our board of 12, you will find a board that has been in constant change during a time when most other cooperatives are having discussions about how to bring change to their boards. Interestingly, our longest-serving member has a tenure that is longer than if you add up the tenure of the other 11.

The Power Supply Committee presented its findings a couple of months ago to the Board of Directors and there might be an opportunity for LPEA to meet our Strategic Goal of reducing our carbon footprint by 50% by 2030 while staying cost competitive with our peers, but we still have a lot of “i's to dot, and t's to cross” before decisions can truly be made. We will be hosting member workshops this summer to discuss power supply and what we are looking at, so watch for those dates once we organize the schedule.

Tri-State Generation and Transmission, our major power supplier, has a new CEO, Duane Highley who attended our Annual Meeting in May. He presented his vision of flexibility and transforming TSGT into an even more member-focused organization, which in turn brings opportunity for LPEA to meet our Strategic Goal.

We have been and will always be in a world of constant change. While I touched on the changes of our leadership, I didn't dive into adoption of technologies and member engagement, of which LPEA has traditionally been at the forefront.

As we bring on new employees and those young interns, they too will realize a day, have that epiphany, when they reflect and recognize an organization that lives and thrives on changes.



Mission Statement:

La Plata Electric Association provides its members safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost while being environmentally responsible.

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Board of Directors:

Bob Lynch, President (District 1)
Britt Bassett, Vice President (District 3)
Guinn Unger, Secretary (District 4)
Tim Wheeler, Treasurer (District 4)
Dan Huntington (District 2)
Rachel Landis (District 3)
Joe Lewandowski (District 3)
Kohler McInnis (District 2)
Holly Metzler (District 1)
Davin Montoya (District 2)
Kirsten Skeehan (District 1)
Jack Turner (District 4)

Chief Executive Officer:

Mike Dreyspring

