

One candidate will be elected to represent District 4, North and East La Plata County



Karen Barger - Incumbent candidate for District 4

Most know me as owner of Seasons Rotisserie Grill. I joined the team in 1995 as Assistant General Manager, and in 2003 assumed ownership of the dining establishment that I'm proud to count as a vibrant Durango business.

The 2008 Downtown fire was devastating, but we persevered, and under my direction, Seasons resumed operation within 13 months, on time and under budget.

An employer of 30, we also passionately support locally-sourced food, currently doing business with as many as 40 small producers. Through solid leadership, employee retention and focus on long-term strategies, Seasons remains a vital business serving our community.

My volunteer leadership also includes nine years' service on the Durango Business Improvement District board (the first woman to serve as Presiding Officer), and founding the Durango Wine Experience.

I've earned my rural electric director leadership certifications, as well as the confidence of my fellow board members with appointment as delegate to CREA and FastTrack.

Attributes to consider:

- Support new technologies that diversify and equitably balance renewable and legacy source energy.
- Committed to the future of clean, reliable and affordable energy for all LPEA members.
- Level-headed and fiscally responsible, yet socially-aware of community needs.
- Stress the need for the LPEA board to focus on the business of the co-op, sans politics or agendas.
- Support employee retention of our impressive talent.

I refuse to succumb to the "vacuum of courage" that can exist within organizations to make difficult, but positive decisions in support of ALL our community members.



Tim Wheeler - New candidate for District 4

I am running for the LPEA Board of Directors to help every LPEA member benefit from low cost renewable energy. Tomorrow's energy market is fundamentally different from our past and we need forward thinking Directors with leadership experience to help steer LPEA through these changes.

Under LPEA's current restrictive wholesale power supply agreement our electricity for the next 32 years will come mostly from burning coal, which has become expensive and is the dirtiest fuel. Instead, LPEA needs much greater access to the benefits of increased local renewable energy generation. This will keep more of our energy dollars here instead of losing them to Denver to purchase imported electricity, will drastically lower carbon emissions, and reduce electricity costs for our community.

Throughout my career I have accumulated valuable skills and experience to help lead LPEA into a beneficial future for our members. I believe in giving back to my community and have served on numerous non-profit boards including two other cooperatives, Durango Natural Foods and Sunrise Credit Union. Along with many years experience in engineering and management positions in the high-technology industry, including as Apple Computer Asia Director of Marketing, and 12 years as the

owner of the Durango Coffee Company retail store on Main Avenue, I am well qualified to serve on the LPEA Board.

I promise to use my skills and experience to diligently pursue a future for all LPEA members that moves us away from costly coal and towards affordable, locally generated, and clean renewable power.



The Heart of Your Power



Notice of the Annual Meeting & Luncheon for La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

Saturday, May 12, 2018
Sky Ute Casino and Resort
14324 US Highway 172 N. | Ignacio, Colorado

Registration - 9 a.m. | Business Meeting - 10:30 a.m.
*If voting at the meeting, ballots must be submitted prior to 10:30 a.m.
Complimentary luncheon for all attendees follows the meeting

LPEA Financials
Watt's Up, the Annual Report to members distributed by mail, included LPEA's financial information for 2017. Additional copies of Watt's Up will be available at the Annual Meeting.

And if you attend the Annual Meeting...
Members attending the Annual Meeting will receive, in addition to a free lunch, a \$5 electric bill credit. Those registered and in attendance will be eligible for Door Prizes.

Annual Meeting Information:
www.lpea.coop or 970.247.5786

- Agenda Highlights**
- Reports from LPEA Chief Executive Officer Michael A. Dreyspring, Board President Davin Montoya, and LPEA attorney Shay Denning
 - Updates from CREA representative Karen Barger and Tri-State representative Kohler McInnis
 - Q & A from the membership
- Election of Directors**
Pursuant to LPEA bylaws, one-third of the director's seats are up for election annually, one in each of LPEA's four districts. The following candidates have been nominated by petition for a three-year term representing:
- District 1 [Archuleta County]:*
Kirsten Skeeheh, Bob Formwalt (incumbent)
- District 2 [south and west La Plata County]:*
Jeffery Mannix, Kohler McInnis (incumbent)
- District 3 [City of Durango]:*
Gene Fisher, Britt Bassett (incumbent)
- District 4 [north and east La Plata County]:*
Tim Wheeler, Karen Barger (incumbent)

Ballots must arrive at the La Plata County Clerk by 4 p.m. Friday, May 11, 2018.

La Plata Electric Association has four director districts, established geographically, and each district is represented by three directors, resulting in a full board of 12. Annually, one seat in each district is up for election. LPEA members vote for the director candidate in their district. The enclosed ballot includes the candidates running in your district, based on your electric service address.

One candidate will be elected to represent District 1, Archuleta County



Bob Formwalt - Incumbent candidate for District 1

Bob was raised and educated in Southwest Colorado. He completed his college education in Business Administration at Fort Lewis College in Durango.

After college, he spent the next ten years in the banking profession at Belgrade State Bank of Belgrade, Montana and the Burns National Bank of Durango, Colorado. His duties ranged from Assistant Cashier through Vice President. His banking focus was on Real Estate and Agricultural loans.

Service as an Archuleta County Commissioner and as La Plata Electric Association director, as well as a director and officer of Western United Electric Supply Co-Op, the past two years as President, has afforded Bob a broad and in-depth understanding of the rapidly changing world of the electricity provider. Great care and steady thoughtfulness are needed to protect the LPEA consumers from a desire to jump into a situation that, on the surface, may simply sound good. No doubt, the future will bring many changes and LPEA needs to be receptive to positive opportunities but not at the risk of membership services or costs.

Bob is not willing to simply plunge into ventures which may risk the resources of the LPEA membership without careful and thorough consideration.

Bob is currently employed on his and wife Jessie's ranch east of Pagosa and also works part time as a Water Commissioner for the Colorado Division of Water Resources.

Bob is married to Jessie and they have 3 grown daughters and 7 grandchildren.



Kirsten Skeehan - New candidate for District 1

"We need security of rates (what we pay), security of supply (where our electricity comes from), and security of distribution (how we get electricity to our door)."

Kirsten, co-owner of Pagosa Baking Company for 17 years knows her way around a board room, a large corporation, a small business and a small community.

Throughout her 19 years in Pagosa, Kirsten has been involved in the community. She is a chamber of commerce member, served as a board member of Pagosa Noon Rotary, and as Chair of the Archuleta County Housing Authority.

She brings to the table a technical background starting with a Bachelor of Science in Resource Management from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. As a Naval officer, Kirsten worked in intelligence, information systems and worldwide secure communications.

In her civilian career she managed the construction of a major computer center, oversaw the transition to distributed computers, and managed multiple operational and support staffs. While working full-time, she earned an MBA from George Washington University.

Kirsten says, "I will work for rate, supply, and grid security thereby ensuring that LPEA remains vital in Pagosa Country. Without reliable, affordable, secure electricity we would have a tough time thriving in this beautiful land. As a co-op, we are responsible to and for each other. We need to work together to make sure we have the energy we need now AND in the future. We need to work with, not for, Tri-State to secure a sensible mix of electricity generation."

One candidate will be elected to represent District 3, City of Durango



Britt Bassett - Incumbent candidate for District 3

In the six years I've served on the LPEA Board, opportunities to help our members and the local community have never looked so good. My top priorities for my next term are [1] to help our local economy by improving existing LPEA services, and creating new ones, including energy efficiency programs, EV charging, local distributed generation, and battery storage; [2] to encourage more renewable energy generation at both the local level and with our power supplier; and perhaps most importantly, [3] to improve the affordability of all LPEA services. The energy industry is rapidly changing and offers opportunities for local, affordable, renewable energy that were not available in the past - opportunities that can decrease our rates. I have the strong technical background, business experience, and leadership qualities needed to identify these opportunities and overcome the obstacles in reaching them. With a creative and thoughtful approach, I will continue to encourage LPEA to be a leader in the new energy economy. We must pursue these opportunities in a way that prioritizes what is best for our community. We must gain more local control and increase transparency. We must look to the future and not to the past.

One candidate will be elected to represent District 2, South and West La Plata County



Jeffery Mannix - New candidate for District 2

My reason for seeking an LPEA board seat is public service. The energy industry is changing faster than anybody can report them accurately, opening possibilities for our community. Progress never comes from fighting reality. We must have pride in the past and a vision for the future.

Jeffery Mannix has lived in La Plata County since 1989. Born in Boston, raised in New York City & New Jersey, awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Boston University, ten years working in Manhattan and Los Angeles in the commercial advertising business, author, rancher, community advocate.

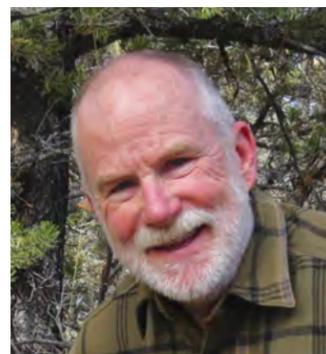
Relocating from ranching in Hailey, Idaho to Durango to establish Durango Pro Rodeo Series, a PRCA rodeo with 47 performance each summer and supported by virtually every business in the community for ten years, including LPEA.

Jeffery and Linda Mannix raised a reputation herd of Texas Longhorn cattle on their Santa Rita Ranch in the south Animas River Valley for thirty years, marketed premium beef at the Durango Farmer's Market and select restaurants for more than a decade.

Between them, Linda and Jeffery have contributed to La Plata County and Durango on many levels. Jeffery is currently Chairman of the 6th Judicial District Community Corrections Board and President of the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Past boards & commissions include:

- Governor's Community Corrections Advisory Council
- County Board of Appeals
- County Citizens Budget Advisory Committee
- Fire Code Adoption & Review Commission
- Durango Fire Protection District
- County Detention Facility Task Force
- County Solid Waste Advisory Committee



Kohler McInnis - Incumbent candidate for District 2

As the District 2 Incumbent I stand strong for our cooperative, La Plata Electric Association [LPEA] and look forward to collaborating with my colleagues to lead LPEA into the future. Our predecessors worked hard to build our Coop and we can be proud of where we have been. The future is bright; we have positioned ourselves for success. As a Director on the LPEA Board I believe, and my actions will continue to be focused on:

- Keeping your electric bill as low as possible. Lower rates provide you more freedom to live a quality life. Electricity is a necessity, not a luxury.
- Knowing your health, safety and security are dependent upon reliable electric power when you need it, 24/7. This includes everything we do: driving, communicating, food preparation, and more.
- Providing dependable power, which requires a balanced generation portfolio of gas, solar, coal, hydro, and wind.
- Using common sense to address the challenges and opportunities of the remarkable changes facing the electric power industry. This approach provides the ability to continue improving your local electric service.

- Expanding and improving current technologies which will lead to a cleaner environment, higher efficiency, and reduced costs.

I would appreciate your vote and look forward to serving another term as a Director representing District 2 on the Board of Directors of La Plata Electric Association. Thank you for your support.

Gene Fisher - New candidate for District 3



"CHANGE IS COMING" The American electrical grid is approximately 130 years old. With the coming of renewable power the next decade will see more changes to the grid than in the first 130 years!

I believe that to complete this journey into the future we will need LPEA board members who are willing to work together to move forward while understanding the past.

The power grid is a very complex and interconnected structure and the emerging technologies of renewable energy, energy storage and electric vehicles will make it even more so.

As an engineer trained and experienced in electric power generation and distribution as well as a builder, owner and operator of renewable energy projects, I feel I have the technical knowledge to understand what it will take to make this amazing transition work for all of LPEA's customers. As a long time, resident, and multiple local business owner I feel I understand the needs of the community I will serve.

Currently LPEA's system has about 43,000 meters. At the current time approximately 1000 of those meters are involved in renewable power in some way. Our goal must be to include the other 42,000 meters in

ways that do not upset the operation and economics of the current grid.

The days ahead for LPEA are quite challenging but also quite exciting. I would appreciate your vote to help make this transition happen.

PLEASE Vote!!!!