

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



Sarah Ferrell – New candidate for District 4

The number one priority for Sarah, is her family. As a wife and mother of three, she knows what a burden a high energy bill can be. This has become her driving force as she seeks to serve on the LPEA Board of Directors.

Sarah is proud to call Bayfield home. While volunteering in humanitarian efforts in East Africa, her passion for helping people from all walks of life flourished into an eagerness to aid those from her own community who are in compromised positions by the high cost of living.

Over the past couple years, Sarah has taken an active role as a member/owner of LPEA. She has attended nearly every meeting and continues to speak out on a variety of critical issues. Sarah has taken stances against rate increases, conflicts of interest, and has led the push for increased transparency.

I am passionate about our environment and will work to ensure everything we do, as a cooperative, is as environmentally conscious as possible. I will bring integrity, common sense and responsibility to the LPEA Board. I want to make sure the mission of LPEA- “to provide its members safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost while being environmentally responsible,” is upheld in the boardroom.



Jack Turner – Incumbent candidate for District 4

Jack grew up in Durango, working for his Father’s businesses pumping gas at Brennan’s Texaco and delivering oil products to other gas stations. This was the 1970’s and neither businesses escaped the oil embargo. It was catastrophic. Jack learned then the importance of being energy independent, whether foreign meant half way across the globe or the state. He brings this spirit of local economic development to LPEA, and pledges to continue working hard to serve our mountain town.

One of my priorities is protecting our land. Our environment is both our home and our key, local, economic driver. Having served as a firefighter for the San Juan and other national forests, I’ve seen the landscape change rapidly around us. We joked how the San Juan was the asbestos forest because it did not burn. We know that not to be true today. I work hard at LPEA to protect the intrinsic features of our environment to ensure a vibrant, healthy future for our community.

As an LPEA Director and CREA representative, the statewide cooperative association, I bring leadership that allows for collaborative decision-making, even under difficult circumstances. I helped generate support for strategic committees at LPEA that analyze the best path forward for our co-op. At CREA, I generated unanimous approval of our state legislator’s bill for protection of the urban/rural interface from wildfire. I will continue to bring leadership and make informed decisions that keep rates low, boost our economy, and protect our environment.

Ballots must arrive at the La Plata County Clerk by 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, 2019.

All election materials are published as submitted by candidates.



Celebrating 80 Years of Service to our Community

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

Thursday, May 2, 2019
Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis College
1000 Rim Drive | Durango, Colorado

Registration – 5 p.m. | Business Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
*If voting at the meeting, ballots must be submitted prior to 6:30 p.m.

LPEA Financials

LPEA’s Annual Report to the membership was included in the April 2019 *Colorado Country Life*. Additional copies will be available at the Annual Meeting.

And if you attend the Annual Meeting...

Members attending the Annual Meeting will receive 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 Bob Lynch, and LPEA attorney Shay Denning
- Updates from CREA representative Jack Turner and Tri-State representative Kirsten Skeeahan
- 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):
Holly Metzler, Michael Whiting

District 2 (south and west La Plata County):
Dan Huntington (incumbent), Jeff Mannix

District 4 (north and east La Plata County):
Sarah Ferrell, Jack Turner (incumbent)

The election in representative District 3 (City of Durango) has been cancelled due to only one nominee in the district: Joe Lewandowski.

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



Holly Metzler – *New candidate for District 1*

La Plata Electric Association has a proud tradition of service for the people of Archuleta and La Plata Counties. The energy market is quickly changing; we need Directors with the right skills to navigate successfully through these changes. Current State of Colorado and LPEA policies recognize these changes. I am running for the LPEA Board of Directors to ensure continued reliability of service and price stability for all member-owners of LPEA.

To meet this objective, I draw on my experiences and skills to inform decision making. I understand many of the challenges facing energy users in our community. I am a past owner of a local construction company. My husband, Kevin, and I are current owners of Wilderness Journeys and Pagosa Rafting Outfitters, and we are raising four sons. I have served many boards locally: Aspen Springs Metropolitan District board for ten years, Pagosa Fire Protection District for three years, and recently appointed to the Southwest Organization for Sustainability board. As a volunteer, I have six credited years as a PFPD firefighter, five years as a member of SOS, and have recently joined forces with others to develop the Resilient Archuleta organization. As a graduate from the University of Denver with a Master of Science in Environmental Policy, I have the skill, desire, education and experience to make sound decisions for my LPEA constituency.

As your LPEA board representative for District #1, I will honor the history and role of our member-owned cooperative in our community, while embracing future opportunities.



Michael Whiting – *New candidate for District 1*

My name is Michael Whiting. I am running for the District 1 Seat on the La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Board of Directors. If my name sounds familiar it's because I was twice elected to a seat at the table to represent you on the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC). I have an eight-year track record of thoughtfully, faithfully, and when necessary, forcefully representing the people who pay the bills. LPEA is owned by us bill-payers. We democratically elect a volunteer board to transmit our needs and interests. I am asking you to select me to do that for you at LPEA.

Here is what I am hearing from you. "Michael, first and foremost keep my electric bills low. Second, fight for local energy jobs. And third, do it with the strict fiscal conservatism, thoughtful innovation, and great partnerships you brought to the BoCC. In that order." Will do. Circumstance often dictates short term options, but innovation and collaboration are

the only long-term solutions to keep costs and bills down.

As for past volunteer board service, I have served multiple terms on the San Juan Basin Public Health, Southwest Colorado Council of Governments, Community Foundation Serving Southwest Colorado, Governor's Conservation Easement Oversight Commission, Southwest Land Alliance, Community Development Corporation, Pagosa Education Center, Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership, and Live By Living Cancer Foundation.

Ballots mail out on April 2, 2019. Please check "Michael Whiting" on your ballot and mail it back. Low Rates, Clear Thinking, No Bull.



Representative District 3

- Pursuant to Article III, Section 5 of the LPEA Bylaws, the election in Districts 3 has been cancelled due to only one nominee.
Joe Lewandowski has been named the new board representative.

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



Dan Huntington – *Incumbent candidate for District 2*

I was born in Durango, Colorado in 1947. I am a 4th generation resident in the Hay Gulch area with a BS degree in Animal Production. Going in partnership with my father, we installed sprinkler irrigation with gravity pressure which resulted in having to dissipate a lot of energy. This energy is being used to power a micro hydro generator, which produces 3000 to 4000 kWh every month all year long. While serving on the Basin Co-op, Inc. Board since 1990, the workings of a Cooperative are different from a normal business, but it needs to be run as a business to provide infrastructure and power to its members. Being open to new ideas and innovation is a must to move the Cooperative forward in this ever changing world and make them available to its members. While serving my first term as a director, I have completed the course curriculum for a CCD director designation from NRECA, which helps the learning curve. I am running for reelection to the LPEA Board because I am more qualified now than 3 years ago. I also would like to see LPEA move forward with new innovations and technology as they become available and cost effective to the benefit of all the LPEA members and the Cooperative as a whole. The Board also needs to be transparent to its members and maintain the costs of electricity equitable for all of its Members.



Jeff Mannix – *New candidate for District 2*

STATEMENT: I seek an LPEA board seat as yet another way to serve my community and be instrumental in guiding us into a future of renewable energy independence, regional security, lower rates, economic opportunities and environmental responsibility.

Jeff Mannix has lived in La Plata County since 1989. Born in Boston, raised in New York City, awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Boston University, ten years working in Manhattan and Los Angeles in perceptual management, published author, columnist, rancher, community activist. Relocating from writing and ranching in the Sawtooth Mountains outside of Hailey, Idaho to Durango to establish Durango Pro Rodeo Series, a weekly PRCA rodeo entertaining an excess of 47,000 spectators annually for fifteen years.

Jeff and Linda have raised a reputation herd of Texas Longhorn cattle for thirty years on their Santa Rita Ranch in the south Animas River Valley, marketing premium beef at Durango Farmer's Market and select restaurants, and shipping throughout the country.

- Other boards, commissions and public service include:
- Sixth Judicial District Community Corrections Board, Chairman
 - Governor's Community Corrections Advisory Council
 - Durango Fire Protection District Board of Directors
 - Fire Code Adoption & Review Commission
 - La Plata County Citizens Budget Advisory Committee
 - La Plata County Detention Facility Task Force
 - La Plata County Board of Appeals
 - La Plata County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
 - Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering, President
 - American Arbitration Association, Panel of Arbitrators
 - Cattlemen's Texas Longhorn Registry, Board of Directors