

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2022



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Our primary mission is to provide high-quality, reliable electric service at a reasonable cost to our members, improve their quality of life through new technologies and services, be a visible and active member of the community and serve our members with respect, courtesy and responsiveness.

SOUTHEAST COLORADO
POWER ASSOCIATION IS
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



ARE YOU READY TO SERVE?

BY KEVIN BRANDON INTERIM CEO
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KEVIN BRANDON

In one of the most notable inaugural speeches given, John F. Kennedy spoke his famous words, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” His inspiring words urged Americans to take actions that benefited the greater good. In essence, Kennedy was saying our country thrives when we all contribute our talents to the common good.

On a smaller scale, I think the same can be said about our co-op, specifically regarding our board members. Southeast Colorado Power Association’s (SECPA) board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. Our board is made up of farmers, ranchers and other successful business owners. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our board members live right here in the co-op’s service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their perspectives on important community issues.

We recognize it takes many people with different skills to create a well-rounded board that can represent the full spectrum of our community. That’s why when we’re seeking new board members, we want folks with diverse perspectives, experience, expertise and views. We seek local members of our community who can apply their unique talents to benefit all our families, friends and neighbors. But above all else, we look for folks who love our community and want to see it thrive now and in the future.

What does it mean to serve on the board?

Serving on SECPA’s board means you’re making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspectives to guide big decisions about the co-op that, in turn, benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board,

whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, SECPA board members typically provide input and guidance on issues such as:

- Budgets
- Co-op goals and direction
- Co-op community/charitable contributions
- Capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology
- Renewable investments and energy mix
- The co-op’s role and involvement in economic development

In addition, SECPA board members also serve as directors of various organizations that SECPA has membership in, such as the Colorado Rural Electric Association, Western United Electric Supply and Tri-State Generation and Transmission, to name a few.

The energy industry is undergoing a major transition. Technology advancements and increased pressure for more renewable energy is driving change. SECPA is facing big decisions, and board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future that includes a mix of environmentally-friendly energy sources along with reliable base-load generation. To serve the community best, we need input from a wide range of people who represent the broad spectrum of views within community.

While you don’t need to be an expert in electricity or business to seek a seat on the board, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. We look for individuals who can represent the full gamut of the members we serve. Our board meets on a

ARE YOU READY TO SERVE?

regular basis, and we offer specialized training opportunities to help board members make informed decisions. Board members gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry, the cooperative business model and local economic development efforts.

Ultimately, our board is the community pulse for the co-op and helps keep us on the right track.



Power to Protect

EVERYONE CAN HELP PREVENT AND REDUCE POWER THEFT:

- Notify SECPA immediately if you know of an illegally connected consumer.
- Do not cut the seal on your meter base or tamper with your own meter.
- Apply for a legal connection if you do not have one.
- Remain aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activities to Southeast Colorado Power Association.

For more tips on how to protect our community from power theft, visit safeelectricity.org.



YOU COULD BE A WINNER THIS MONTH

If you find your name in this issue as follows (WIN* your name, your account number), please contact Southeast Colorado Power Association at 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634 to receive a credit on your next power bill. **Last month's winner was Don Alishouse.**

To learn more about SECPA's director election process and 2022 election details, please visit www.secpa.com. (Win*George Blotz acct. #203180000)



You're Invited to Southeast Colorado Power Association's ANNUAL MEETING Thursday, April 28, 2022

Cash prizes given away throughout the meeting.

Please join us at the Minnick Building, Baca County Fairgrounds, Springfield, CO 81050

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Registration – 5:00 p.m.

Dinner – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting – 6:45 p.m.

Director candidate profiles will be featured in the April edition of *Colorado Country Life* magazine.

WHEN YOU HEAR THUNDER SEEK SHELTER

Lightning can travel up to 10 miles away from a storm

 Safe Electricity.org®

Happy Retirement to Longtime SECPA Employees

A retirement celebration was held January 13 in La Junta honoring two longtime Southeast Colorado Power Association employees: Vicki Meis (40 years of service) and Dave Malott (30 years of service.)



Vicki Meis

I started my career at Southeast Colorado Power on June 2, 1981, at the age of 19. My first position was cashier, working under the leadership of Norman Bailey and Leonard Walgren. During this time, I developed many relationships with our members. I later moved to the Service Order/Member Service Department and then into the Work Order/Material/Miscellaneous Receivable (Accounting) Department and the Dispatch position — which I truly loved. I have worked with many different auditors over the years, RUS & CFC. Each of them holding my utmost respect.

I worked (dispatched) many storms over the past 25 years. It was always my pleasure to work with such great, caring and hard-working linemen. Our job was to get the power on as quickly as possible. We think very highly of all our members.

Although I will truly miss my Cooperative family, I am looking forward to relocating to Falcon, Colorado, to be closer to our family. We have 2 children and 4 grandchildren.

Southeast Colorado Power Association has been a true blessing to me and my family.

Thank you, members of Southeast Colorado Power for allowing me to serve you for all these years.



Dave Malott

I began my career at SECPA in December 1987 as a tree trimmer helper on the crew based out of the La Junta warehouse. I had been working on a farm up to that point and had never trimmed a tree, except for cutting a few branches off some of the trees at my parents' home out of the bucket of a loader or on a ladder. Being able to go 60 feet up to cut trees was a whole other experience. I worked in this capacity until January 1990, when, due to a layoff, I was bumped out by a more senior employee.

I went back to farming until May 1991 when Rick Thomas, the Line Superintendent of the La Junta and Fowler areas, asked if I would like to come back to work. I was once again a tree trimmer helper until my Foreman, Joe Gonzales, got the opportunity to become an apprentice on the line crew in La Junta. I then applied for the foreman position and was given the job. I remained the foreman of the tree trimming crew for a little over a year, when the chance to become an apprentice lineman opened up and I went to work with La Junta's line crew. I eventually received my Journey Lineman certification. In February 1998 I moved inside to take the warehouse position in La Junta, where I remained until my retirement.

My wife, Susan, and I hope to enjoy many years of retirement together. We will be watching our grandchildren grow up and hopefully be able to travel and see some things we have wanted to see and do some things we have wanted to do.

*Congratulations,
Vicki and Dave!*



SECPA Chief Safety Officer Clint Arbuthnot congratulates Lindsay Hodges as a 2022 Washington D.C. Youth Tour winner.



SECPA Interim CEO Kevin Brandon congratulates Alyssa Hancock as a 2022 Washington D.C. Youth Tour winner.

WASHINGTON D.C. YOUTH TOUR WINNERS

Southeast Colorado Power Association sponsors two outstanding students to attend an all-expenses-paid, weeklong trip to attend the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. This year, Alyssa Hancock and Lindsay Hodges were selected as the winners of this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

In June, Alyssa and Lindsay will travel to Washington, D.C., to visit national monuments, memorials, the White House and museums. Youth Tour participants also learn about the legislative process and the electric cooperative program.

Congratulations, Alyssa and Lindsay!

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune-up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Department of Energy



IS YOUR INTERNET READY?



Are you planning to stream all the basketball madness in March? Make sure your home's internet connection has the speed you need for a winning viewing experience.

SECOM offers super-fast internet plans with download speeds up to 200 Mbps. **Call to sign up for a new or upgraded plan today!**

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**Service availability and internet speed will depend on location. Contact us for details.*

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