

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2022



MAILING ADDRESS

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STREET ADDRESS

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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



'TIS THE SEASON

BY KEVIN BRANDON CEO

KEVINB@SECPA.COM



KEVIN BRANDON

The holiday season is finally here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all. That's because we often associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

Giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right here in our community and why it's so important to spread the good as far as we can. I'm also reminded of how wonderful our community is and the impact we can have when we work together.

When you are a member of Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA), you help us spread the good throughout the year. SECPA has many programs that give back to our local communities including scholarships, support for area youth through donations to county fair Junior Livestock Sales throughout our territory and donations to many other charitable organizations. Another way that we give back is through our SECPA/SECOM Charity Classic golf tournament. This past July we celebrated the 35th anniversary of this event which has raised over \$300,000 for donations to countless local charitable organizations over the years.

SECPA also participates in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors.

You likely heard me say that the cooperative principle "concern for community" is part of SECPA's DNA. It defines who we are as an organization. When we first brought electricity to this community in 1937, the quality of life for residents improved. But other things also need to be addressed and, through the years, this co-op has been at the forefront of bringing improvements to the quality of life in this community.

Another example of SECPA changing the quality of life for our communities is our communications subsidiary SECOM. SECOM was formed in 1998 with the purpose of bringing high-speed fiber-optic communications to schools, libraries, hospitals and local government. SECOM fulfilled that mission and has grown to offer fiber and wireless communications services to thousands of customers throughout southeastern Colorado. Just as electricity improved the lives of our members back in 1937, SECOM continues to improve the lives of our customers today by providing reliable internet, enabling things like working from home and attending online schooling.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in this community. We hope you will think of SECPA as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community.

I hope all our members have a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright!





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 Patty Schmeiser.

Save the Date!

You're Invited to SECPA's Annual Meeting

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

Eads Community Building
Eads, CO 81036

Registration 5 p.m.

Dinner 6 p.m.

Meeting 6:45 p.m.

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

SECPA Board positions up for election in 2023 are:

- District 4: Western Baca County & Eastern Las Animas County (incumbent is Randy Phillips)
- District 5: Otero County (incumbent is Kevin Karney)
- District 7: Crowley County (incumbent is Clint Anderson)

Cash prize drawings throughout the meeting!

ALL HEARTS COME
Home for Christmas.

MAY YOU AND YOURS ENJOY THE SEASON!

SECOM 27850 Harris Rd, La Junta, CO 81050
800-657-7149 • www.SECOM.net

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SECPA \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS



SECPA is once again making a scholarships available to area high school Seniors. Students' parents must be members of SECPA.

SECPA is offering ten \$1,000 scholarships and also administers an additional two \$1,000 scholarships through Tri-State G&T. An eligible applicant must be a high school senior graduating in 2023 who plans to attend a two or four-year college, or trade or other non-traditional secondary educational institution.

Students interested in applying for the scholarships are asked to submit the completed SECPA application form (available on the SECPA website at www.secpa.com/scholarships) with a school transcript, letter of recommendation and a short essay on the benefits of cooperative membership.

Applications for the SECPA scholarships are due no later than FEBRUARY 13, 2023. For additional information, please visit the SECPA website or contact Debbie Howard at 719-383-1314.

Happy Holidays

From our co-op family to yours, wishing you a joyous Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year!



APPLY NOW!

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Win a Trip to Washington, D.C., or a week at Leadership Camp at Glen Eden Resort

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Washington, D.C., Youth Tour is June 12-18, 2023. High school students who are 16 by June 1 AND, whose families are Southeast Colorado Power Association members are eligible to apply to go on the trip. The tour provides students with an eight-day adventure that offers in-depth exposure to the electric cooperative network while exploring our nation's capital. The selected youth's expenses, including airfare, lodging, meals and all tour admission fees, are paid by your local cooperative, Southeast Colorado Power. Activities during the trip include tours of the U.S. Capitol, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, war memorials (Vietnam, Iwo Jima), Arlington National Cemetery, National Archives, the White House and Smithsonian museums; a Potomac River dinner and dance cruise, visits with Colorado's U.S. senators and representatives; an NRECA Town Hall Meeting; and the chance to connect with students nationwide. (WIN*Susan Lusher acct 1208550000)

If you're not chosen to attend the Washington, D.C., trip, you may be the recipient of a trip to Leadership Camp held at Glen Eden Resort, located just outside Steamboat Springs. At this camp, held July 15-20, 2023, students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming will gather at a beautiful resort on the Elk River and spend the week at an outstanding leadership camp. You'll participate in activities to improve leadership skills and get an inside view of the state and national legislatures. There is plenty of time for swim parties, barbecues, dances and banquets during the week. Many of the attendees call this camp a "life-changing experience."

For more information and applications, go to our website at www.secpa.com/youth-camps or contact Debbie Howard at 719-383-1314 or Anne Boswell at 719-363-1323. Applications must be received or postmarked by December 30, 2022, to ATTN: Debbie Howard or Anne Boswell, SECPA, PO Box 521, La Junta, CO 81050.

ACCEPTING PETITIONS FOR SECPA BOARD DIRECTOR POSITIONS

SECPA Board positions up for election in 2023 are District 4 – Western Baca County and Eastern Las Animas County (incumbent is Randy Phillips); District 5- Otero County (incumbent is Kevin Karney; and District 7 – Crowley County (incumbent is Clint Anderson.) See map below.

Director elections are for three-year terms, beginning April 2023 and ending March 2026, for District seats 4, 5, and 7.

To be eligible to be a Director: 1) a person must be a SECPA member and bona fide resident of the district he or she is to represent, 2) cannot be an employee or have been an employee of SECPA or its subsidiary within the preceding five years. 3) cannot be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to SECPA.

Petitions must be signed by 15 bona-fide members in the nominee's district and must be returned no later than 5 p.m., January 5, 2023. Petitions are available in all SECPA offices or on the website at <http://secpa.com/annual-meeting-elections>.

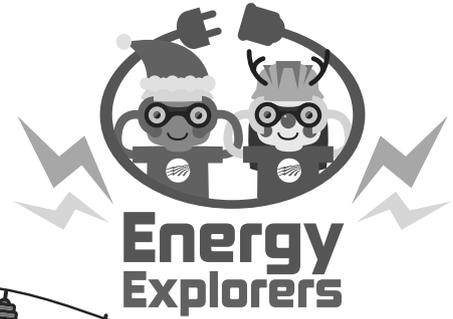
Return petitions to Debbie Howard at any SECPA office, or mail to SECPA, ATTN: Debbie Howard, PO Box 521, La Junta, CO 81050.



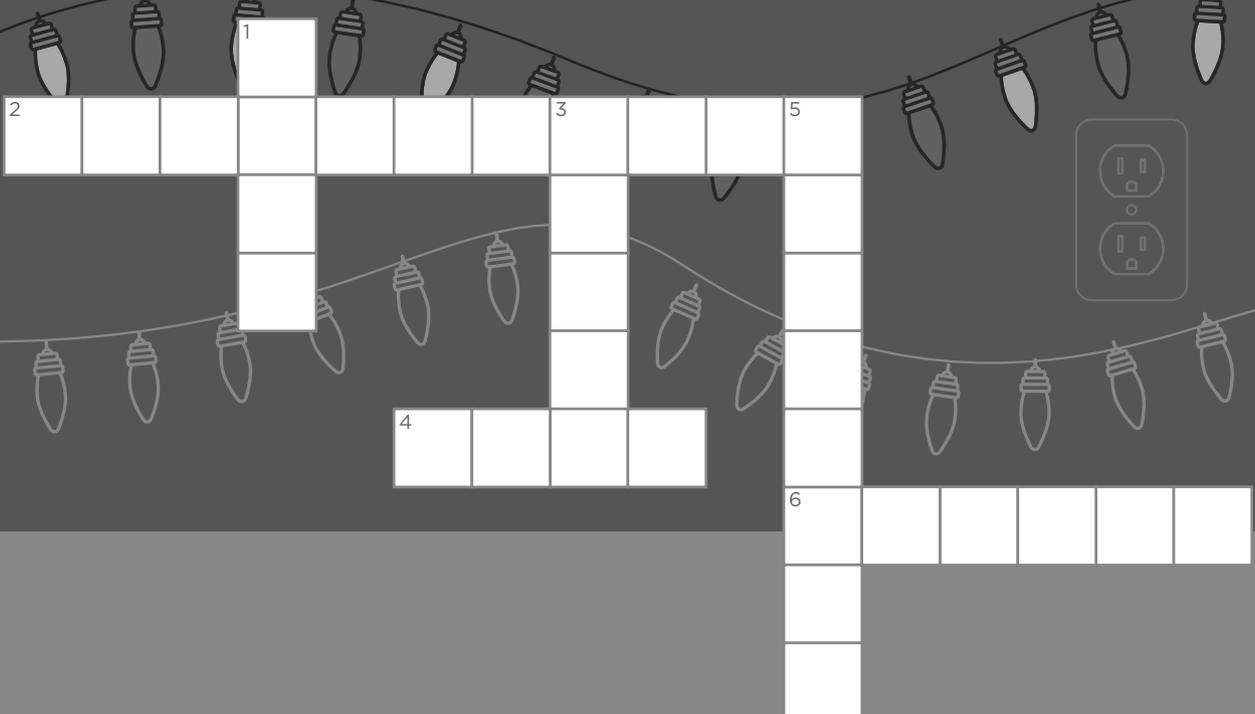
HOLIDAY EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The holiday season is a fun, festive time of year! It's also a time when we use more electricity.

Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn how you and your family can be more energy efficient this holiday season.



1. **DOWN:** Decorate your _____ with energy-saving LED lights.
2. **ACROSS:** Smart or programmable _____ can help control heating costs if you're traveling during the holiday season.
3. **DOWN:** Save energy by using a _____ to turn off holiday lights at night.
4. **ACROSS:** If you have a fireplace, ask an adult to close the damper when a _____ is not burning.
5. **DOWN:** Open blinds and curtains during the day to let natural _____ in to warm your home.
6. **ACROSS:** Lower the thermostat when your family has _____ visiting during the holidays.



ANSWER KEY

- | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. DOWN: TREE | 2. ACROSS: THERMOSTATS | 3. DOWN: TIMER | 4. ACROSS: FIRE | 5. DOWN: SUNLIGHT | 6. ACROSS: GUESTS |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|