



John Villyard, CEO

San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative October is co-op month. Co-ops around the country are celebrating the unique cooperative difference.

What is that difference? Co-ops are locally owned and controlled by the members they serve. Not a member? You probably still benefit from having friends and neighbors at SLVREC making decisions in support of the Valley's economy and communities.

Electric co-ops came to be seven decades ago when rural residents banded together to bring the convenience of electricity to their homes and businesses. The associations they formed, on the same demo-

cratic principles as this great nation, are as strong and relevant today as they were then.

Co-ops are not just products of a proud past. These days, Americans from all walks of life have come to recognize that the co-op approach—members working together to achieve price and service benefits—can work for other needs just as effectively as it has for electric co-ops.

Among electric co-ops, SLVREC isn't alone in our mission to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power to rural residents. There are 22 electric distribution cooperatives like us in Colorado and more than 850 nationwide. Despite our obvious similarities, each co-op differs because the areas we serve are unique.

Each co-op boasts its own history and serves a distinctive mix of residential, industrial, commercial, and agricultural consumer-members. All make their own business decisions

Co-op Power

independently.

Electric cooperatives are generally subject to less oversight by federal and state utility regulators because of the healthy way in which you, our members, regulate us. This independence, enshrined in the laws of most states, rests on our historic commitment to the communities we serve.

Remaining autonomous and independent allows us to best serve the needs our members and their communities. What might be a sound decision for one co-op might not work for another. Although SLVREC sails our own ship, so to speak, we are not sailing alone.

Our co-op belongs to a statewide association (Colorado Rural Electric Association or CREA), a generation and transmission cooperative (Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association), and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). We're also a member of Touch-

stone Energy® Cooperatives, an alliance of more than 700 electric cooperatives nationwide.

By working together, we help keep public officials aware of how their votes can impact our electric bills. This election season, SLVREC has also worked with local communities to help defeat Propositions 60, 61, and 100.

SLVREC's directors and I respect individual views on taxes and government restrictions. We recognize each individual's right to vote based on personal convictions—it's one of our operating principals.

However, these far-reaching measures have significant consequences. I urge you to be cautious when you cast your vote and to be responsible to your fellow citizens.

**SAN LUIS VALLEY
RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP**

Serving the Valley Since 1937
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