



John Villyard, CEO

San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative
Next month is co-op month. October is a great time of year in the Valley and it's a great time to celebrate the cooperative difference!

Cooperatives like SLVREC subscribe to seven basic principals. These principals include equal representation for all members, democratic control, independence and others. But the seventh principal, Concern for Community, comes first in my mind. It's really what cooperatives are all about.

SLVREC's directors, employees and I want to see the communities we serve succeed. Why? The answer's simple: we live here, too. Local people

working for local good.

Whether or not you are a member who receives our services, SLVREC strengthens our communities. Members know us because of what we do best: provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity. But members and non-members alike benefit from our presence in local communities.

We help build the local economy. Our services help farmers and local businesses. Just under half of our accounts are ag and commercial accounts. Agriculture is the Valley's primary industry and a key component of the Valley's economy. Keeping this industry strong keeps our communities strong. SLVREC supports policies and projects that are good for the communities we serve because what's good for our communities is good for the co-op.

However, the benefits our communities reap from our presence go beyond economics. Many of the cooperative's

Concern for Community

directors, staff and employees are Valley natives—we have strong community roots.

SLVREC has been in business since August 1937—we're not going anywhere. SLVREC was founded by people just like you who wanted electricity in their homes and business. There wasn't anyone else stepping up to the plate to provide power to the Valley's rural areas. Our founders worked together to form a cooperative, run by it's members, to provide electricity.

Since our earliest days, we have helped local young people with scholarship programs. We offer high school juniors the opportunity to compete for a trip to Washington, D.C. We teach children safety through programs in schools and clubs. We help members identify ways to save money by performing home and business energy audits. We offer conservation programs, like our 2 for 2 CFL exchange, to all Valley resi-

dents.

We strengthen local communities by supporting local charities. We offer weatherization to members in need through our partnership with the Governor's Energy Office. We contribute to youth groups and student fund drives. We make contributions to local food banks. We support Stampede, 4-H Fair, local conferences and other local events.

Our employees coach youth sports teams, volunteer on school committees, serve on local boards and participate in church activities. Many are co-op members like you, and like you, they want to make their communities stronger.

Won't you join me in celebrating the cooperative difference? We're here for you!

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

Serving the Valley Since 1937
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