

The Newsboy

News for Members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative

SLVREC's 70th Annual Meeting

On June 12, SLVREC celebrated the cooperative's 70th annual meeting with over 450 members and guests. This year the cooperative received a record number of mail-in ballots. Over 1,300 ballots were received.

Members reelected Carol Lee Dugan to represent Rio Grande County for another four years. Carol Lee was challenged by Mel Semrad of South Fork. Mike Rierson, whose position as the board's member-at-large was unchallenged, was also reelected for another four-year term.

Robert "Mac" McLennan, vice president of external affairs from Tri-State Generation & Transmission (the cooperative's power provider) addressed members at the meeting with a short presentation on the issues and challenges facing Tri-State over the next five years. He said that Tri-State plans to incorporate more renewable

energy generation sources in their energy portfolio. He addressed the need for transmission lines to facilitate the use of renewables and he discussed the need for transmission line development to meet the Valley's power needs.

Next year's nominating committee members were announced. Bob Kirham will serve as chairperson. Harold Anderson, Virginia Christensen and Jim McCalpin (alternate) will nominate candidates from Costilla County, District 2; and Alamosa County, District 4 for 2008. ❧

(See pages 4 and 5 for more photos of SLVREC's 2007 Annual Meeting.)



Above: Carol Lee Dugan and Mike Rierson. Mike gave the "thumbs up" signal after hearing the election results. Both were reelected to positions on SLVREC's board. Counterclockwise from the left: John Villyard (CEO), Mel Semrad (board candidate), Robert "Mac" McLennan (Tri-State G&T), SLVREC scholarship winners, and JoAn Waudby (CFO and corporate treasurer). Top photo: Eleanor Valdez (board president).

Thanks to all the members who attended SLVREC's 70th Annual Meeting. I offer my congratulations to Carol Lee Dugan and Mike Rierson who were reelected as representatives for Rio Grande County and member-at-large respectively.

At the meeting, Tri-State representative, Mac McLennan, talked about the need for new sources of power generation due to system growth and our region's increasing demand for electricity.

It's a concern that utilities across the nation share. Over the past decade, we have seen a sharp increase in the use of electricity. In part, population growth has fueled this demand. However, individual use of electricity has also increased.

If you doubt this, turn off the lights in your house at night and look around. Every little red, yellow and blue light you see represents standby power use. Anything with an external power supply, remote control or clock display requires standby electricity. Estimates of total standby power consumption in the U.S. vary between 5 and 10 percent of all residential electric use.

To meet the increasing demand for electricity Tri-State will increase the portion of their energy portfolio that comes from renewable resources. However, they will continue to rely on coal as their primary energy source for baseload generation. With concerns about carbon emissions making headlines on a regular basis, many have asked, "Why do utilities continue to rely on coal for power generation?"

There are several reasons. First and foremost, coal-fired generation plants provide a dependable source of baseload power from a

price-stable fuel. Baseload generation fills in the gaps when alternative power sources can't meet demand. Baseload power generation ensures your lights come on when you flip a light switch—night or day, windy or calm.

Tri-State has chosen to rely on coal for baseload generation because, after water and nuclear electric generation, electricity from coal is the cheapest to produce. Coal is our most abundant energy fuel, with 27 percent of the world's supply located in the U.S. Coal costs less now than it did 30 years ago. Natural gas, another reliable source of baseload generation, costs four times as much.

During peak times, Tri-State uses natural gas for power production. And when their power generation capacity cannot meet consumer demand, Tri-State purchases power on the open market—an even more expensive option.

While coal generation has tripled since the 70s, coal emissions are down between 30 and 80 percent, depending on the plant. Engineers are working to develop zero-emissions coal power plants.

Coal-fired generation plants have formed the backbone of the power supply for Tri-State and the cooperatives they serve because coops have always looked to the least expensive and most reliable generation sources. We keep a sharp eye on the bottom line, and thus our member's rates.

Adding renewable power generation makes sense. That said, the bottom line still matters. We need to keep the lights on at the lowest possible rates in this era of rising costs for fuel and materials. It's a difficult task.

John R. Villyard



SLVREC CEO, John Villyard

Board of Directors

Eleanor Valdez, President	719-274-5680
Carol Lee Dugan, Vice-President	719-852-5412
Rick McCormick, Secretary	719-754-2577
Rick Inman, Director	719-658-2455
Gerald Lorenz, Director	719-672-4489
Mike Rierson, Director	719-754-2588
Scott Wolfe, Director	719-852-0966

E-mail power@slvrec.com
Use the e-mail address above to send a message to any director or to the CEO. Your E-mail will be forwarded based upon the direction you provide in your message.

The Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome to attend.

CEO

John Villyard	719-589-5038
SLVREC Office (toll free)	800-332-7634
SLVREC Office (local calls)	719-852-3538

Scheduled Meetings

Board Meeting	July 31, 9:30 a.m.
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Statement of Publisher

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Touchstone EnergySM
The power of human connections

High Wind Causes Power Outages Throughout San Luis Valley

High winds on Wednesday, June 6, caused power outages throughout the Valley. Nine of the cooperative's substations were affected. Reports of outages began at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday and continued throughout the day.

Twelve power poles went down in the high winds. Unofficial weather reports clocked wind speeds of 65 miles per hour. The down power poles caused long-term outages at the Creede, Highland, and Carmel substations.

Down trees and branches also interrupted electric service for an extended period of time for members served by Zinzer, San Accacio and Hooper substations. Sand Dunes National Park was among those affected by an extended outage. Members served by the South Fork, La Garita and Stockade substations experienced minor power interruptions.

SLVREC crews worked late to restore power with only an eight hour break between Wednesday and Thursday. By Friday night, crews had restored power to all but a few areas. The last areas to have power restored were on Wolf Creek Pass. There, extensive numbers of trees in the line, down power lines and difficult access slowed repairs. ❧



Photo credit: Matt Martinez.

High winds in early June caused extensive damage to power lines. While working to restore power on Wolf Creek Pass, SLVREC crew member, Matt Martinez, photographed another power-line inspector: a black bear (top two photos).

High Voltage Safety Demonstration

State patrol from the region recently attended a high voltage safety demonstration. The cooperative offered the demonstration at the request of Captain Lawrence Martin.

Using a specially-designed portable trailer, SLVREC linemen Ray Martinez (left) and Kurt Taffin (right) demonstrated the dangers of high voltage lines and outlined the best response procedures for the patrolmen. Their message: power lines can kill. Treat all down lines as energized power lines. Call SLVREC immediately in any emergency involving down lines. Dispatchers are available 24/7.

SLVREC offers high voltage demonstrations to interested groups. Call customer service to learn more. ❧



Ray Martinez and Kurt Taffin took the cooperative's high voltage demonstration trailer to the State Patrol Headquarters in Alamosa. The photos above show a 7,200 volt phase to ground arc as CSP look on.



Celebrating 70 years:

C S L V R E C





1937 to 2007

Preceding page, top: Board of directors, their spouses, and special guests. (Note: Jerry Lorenz was unavoidably absent.) Preceding page, bottom: SLVREC employees and family members. Top left: SLVREC employees and friends greet Annual Meeting attendees. Center, top down: Mel Semrad and his wife Virginia. Matthew Morgan, 2007 Adams State College Scholarship winner. Children of Todd Lockwood, Mesa State Scholarship winner. Bottom left: Special guests; retirees, committee members and SLVREC's community friends. Right: Door prize winners. Bottom corner: All finished!

Reducing Phantom Loads

Phantom loads, standby power, off-mode power, leaking electricity. What's the difference? None! All of these terms describe the power electrical gadgets consume even when they are off.

Seemingly inactive electrical items can use a substantial amount of power. The average home in the U.S. has between 10 and 25 phantom loads, and this number is growing quickly. Phantom loads can consume between 5 and 10 percent of a home's total electric use. Phantom loads are created by devices that:

- Receive power through a stand-alone power supply or charger.
- Have a remote control.
- Have a soft-touch keypad.
- Charge the battery of a portable device.
- Have a clock, internal timer, or display that remains on when the item is off.
- Are warm near the switch when switched off.
- Do not have an "off" switch.

Standby power is probably responsible for one percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. This may seem like a small amount until you consider that this is power consumed by appliances that are switched off or are not performing their principal functions.

It can be easy to eliminate some of the standby power use in your home. Simply unplug chargers and power supplies when you are not using them. Cell phones chargers are a common phantom load culprit. According to Future Forests, only 5 percent of the power drawn by cell phone chargers is actually used to charge phones. The other 95 percent is wasted when chargers are plugged into the wall, but not into a phone.

Alternatively, plug items into a power strip and use the switch on the strip to turn it off all the attached devices at once. This works well for stereo systems and home theater equipment.

When it comes time to replace units you can't unplug—like telephones, answering machines and garage door openers—consider standby power consumption in your purchase decision. There can be a huge difference. For example, the standby power consumption of a compact audio system can vary from 1.3 watts to 28.6 watts. Certain appliances consume nearly as much power while switched off as switched on. Most television cable boxes show little change in power between the two modes and many models of compact audio equipment and VCRs have similar "on" and "off" power requirements. ❧

Legislative Update: Net Metering

During the last legislative session, lawmakers voted in a new bill to address net metering. In its original format, this bill concerned many utility companies and consumers. The primary cause of concern was that in its preliminary wording, the bill shifted the burden of net metering from those who installed the net metering facilities to all rate payers.

Cooperatives and others successfully lobbied the legislature to remove this troubling aspect of the bill before it was passed. However, it appears that another net metering bill will be brought before our state lawmakers in their next work session.

Cooperatives in Colorado are concerned about this bill. It appears that it would require utilities to pay retail rates for power generated by consumers who install net metering facilities. That doesn't make sense. Why should utilities pay more for customer generated power?

Cooperatives buy power at wholesale rates. To this rate, they add the fixed cost of doing business. Fixed costs include the maintenance of the distribution network that supplies consumers as well as billing and account tracking. Purchasing power at retail rates does not eliminate these fixed costs. They still must be covered. The cost burden simply shifts to other rate classes and other members. We don't think that is fair.

Cooperatives support renewable energy. Cooperatives support net metering. We just don't support subsidies for any one rate class at the expense of others. ❧

A New Era in RECs

In years gone by, rural electric cooperatives were united on almost all issues. That is changing. Today, cooperatives serve diverse communities in our state and in our country.

In some areas, populations have declined. Thriving farm towns have become ghost towns. More often however, once rural areas have now become urban.

This has created an increase in the diversity among cooperatives. The needs of urban communities differ from agricultural and rural communities.

RECs are as varied as the populations they serve. Increased diversity creates challenges for those who lobby on behalf of RECs and their members. Additionally, many of the issues cooperatives face are becoming more political. Even so, we believe it is important to continue to work together, to find common ground in this new era to ensure the continued success of RECs nationwide. ❧

Vegetable Medley

4 cups broccoli florets
 2 tsp. olive oil
 1 clove garlic, minced
 1 cup chopped onion (about 1 medium)
 1 medium red bell pepper, cut into ¼-inch strips
 2½ cups sliced zucchini (about 2 medium)
 3 cups cooked rice
 1 cup diced tomatoes
 ¾ tsp. salt
 ¼ tsp. ground turmeric
 2 15-ounce cans garbanzos (chickpeas), drained
 Trim tough ends off broccoli; discard. Cut apart florets. Steam broccoli in a large pot for about four minutes or until tender. Remove from heat.

Heat olive oil in large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add garlic and onion cook about three minutes or until fragrant. Add broccoli, bell pepper, and zucchini and cook, stirring occasionally, for another four to five minutes. Stir in rice, tomatoes, sea salt, turmeric and garbanzos. Cook another five minutes, stirring frequently, until hot.

Baby Beets with Citrus

1½ to 2 lbs. young beets
 ¼ cup liquid from beets
 1 lemon
 1 Tbsp. orange peel, freshly grated
 2½ Tbsp. sugar
 ½ tsp. salt
 ½ tsp. ground cloves
 2 Tbsp. frozen orange juice concentrate
 1½ Tbsp. cornstarch
 1 Tbsp. butter
 Clean beets and trim tops. Set greens aside. Cook beet roots whole until just tender. Drain and reserve the liquid. Peel beets and slice into bite-size chunks or

leave whole, depending upon the size of the beets. Wash and chop beet greens. Set both aside.

Pour liquid from the beets into a pot, add the grated peel and the juice of the lemon, the grated orange peel, sugar, salt, cloves and frozen orange juice concentrate.

Dissolve the cornstarch a small amount of water to make a smooth paste. Add. Beat the mixture lightly with a whisk and cook until it becomes clear.

Add the sliced beets, reserved beet greens and the butter. Heat through. Salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot.

Zucchini Salad

3 cups water
 4 whole young zucchini, each no longer than 6 inches
 1 tsp. extra-virgin olive oil
 ½ tsp. coarse Kosher salt
 1 clove garlic, peeled and minced
 ½ cup fresh parsley leaves, loosely packed

Bring the water to a boil in the bottom of a vegetable steamer. Add the zucchini (whole) and cook them, covered until a skewer easily goes through them, about nine minutes. Remove zucchini from steamer and cool. Cut them in half lengthwise and arrange on a platter.

Drizzle zucchini evenly with olive oil and sprinkle with salt. Set aside until cooled to room temperature. Just before serving, mince the garlic and parsley together. Sprinkle the mix over the zucchini. Serve immediately.

Pickled Baby Carrots

8½ cups peeled baby carrots
 5½ cups distilled white vinegar, 5 percent acidity
 1 cup water

2 cups sugar
 2 tsp. canning salt
 8 tsp. mustard seed
 4 tsp. celery seed

Wash and rinse 4 pint canning jars; keep hot until ready to use. Prepare lids and bands according to manufacturer's directions.

Wash carrots well and peel, if necessary. Wash again after peeling. Combine vinegar, water, sugar and canning salt in an 8-quart Dutch oven or stockpot. Bring to a boil and boil gently 3 minutes. Add carrots and bring back to a boil. Then reduce heat to a simmer and heat until the carrots are half-cooked (about 10 minutes).

Meanwhile, place 2 teaspoons mustard seed and 1 teaspoon celery seed in the bottom of each clean, hot pint jar. Fill hot jars with the hot carrots, leaving 1-inch headspace. Cover with hot pickling liquid, leaving ½-inch headspace. Remove air bubbles and adjust headspace if needed. Wipe rims of jars with a dampened, clean paper towel; adjust two-piece metal canning lids.

Process in a boiling water canner for 20 minutes at elevations between 1,000 and 6,000 feet or 25 minutes at elevations above 6,000 feet. Cool, undisturbed, 12 hours. Check seals before storing.

Nectarine Salsa

4 nectarines, peeled and diced
 ¼ cup red pepper, diced
 ½ cup red onion, chopped
 1 Tbsp. garlic, minced
 1½ tsp. hot pepper, minced
 3 Tbsp. fresh cilantro, chopped
 2 Tbsp. orange juice
 1½ tsp. honey
 salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients in a glass bowl. Serve with grilled chicken.



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Inside

July 2007

Volume 32, Issue 7

70th Annual Meeting

High Wind Causes Outages

Highway Patrol Attends Safety Demo

Reducing Phantom Loads

Legislative Update: Net Metering

A New Era for RECs

Garden Recipes

**SLVREC will be closed on July 4
for Independence Day.**



July 4th

**SLVREC will also be closed
on July 27.
See you at Stampede!**

Conservation Corner

Tax Credits for Energy Efficient Home Improvements

*Act now to take
advantage of tax credits
of up to \$500.*

Have you been contemplating home improvements such as replacing windows, doors, insulation, HVAC, and water heaters to improve your home's energy efficiency? Act now to take advantage of tax credits.

Your energy-efficient home improvements may qualify you for as much as a \$500 tax credit. But hurry; the work must be completed by December 31, 2007.

Improvements must be made to your primary residence. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Notice 2006-26 provides guidance for consumers on the credits. Not all energy-efficient products qualify for the credit. In general, the credit only covers the cost of the product and not installation costs. Check the government's Energy Star web site for information on projects that qualify for the tax credit:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=Products.pr_tax_credits

It's a good idea to check with the IRS or your accountant to be sure the project you have in mind will qualify before you start work. To file for the tax credit, you will need to fill out IRS Form 5695 and submit it with your taxes. You will need to save your receipts and the product manufacturer's certification statement for your records. Many manufacturers have these statements on their company web sites. ☞