

SLVREC's 72nd Annual Meeting

Close to 500 attendees enjoyed live music and good food at the co-op's 72nd Annual Meeting on June 9.

The sounds of the San Luis Valley Big Band greeted members as they arrived at the meeting. High Country Catering provided an excellent dinner.

President of the board, Carol Lee Dugan (director for Rio Grande County) chaired the meeting. Bylaw changes were approved enabling members to petition as a candidate for open director positions. This eliminates the need for a nominating committee.

Eleanor Valdez was re-elected to her position as director for Conejos County. In the closest election in recent memory, challenger Ernie Ford edged out incumbent John Tembrock for the position of director for Saguache County. Because the results were so close, the cooperative will double check all ballots and recount the vote. Pending the outcome of the recount, Ford will be seated at the June board meeting.

The cooperative's scholarship committee, Rick Inman, Mike Rierson and

Cole Wakasugi and Scott Wolfe presented awards to the cooperative's 2009 scholarship recipients. Hope Rheingans, recipient of a 4-year Adams State College scholarship, told members how appreciative she was of the award. She outlined her college plans to major in marketing and to help enrich the lives of others.

Mac McLennan, Tri-State vice president of external affairs provided an update on issues facing the cooperative's power provider (see article on page 3 for more details). CEO John Villyard introduced several special guests and briefly spoke about the cooperative.

Villyard mentioned that a recent phone survey showed that coop members are pleased with the cooperative's service. He said that recipients gave the cooperative a 94 percent satisfaction rating, the highest of all cooperatives in the state.

Thanks to all members who made time to attend this year's Annual Meeting! Your participation enables SLVREC to serve you better. ☺



Left: John Tembrock, his wife Amanda Woodward and their two children, Aleena and Marisol. Below left: Ernie Ford. Below: Eleanor Valdez and her husband Virgil. Right: The boy scouts presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.



[More Annual Meeting photos on pages 4 and 5](#)



SLVREC CEO, John Villyard

Congratulations to Eleanor Valdez for winning another term as director for Conejos County. Eleanor has served on the board since 1995. I look forward to working with Eleanor over her upcoming term. She has done an excellent job of representing member views over the past 14 years and I am confident she will continue to do so.

Ernie Ford edged out John Tembrock as the director representing Saguache County. The election results for this seat were the closest of any director election we can remember.

I would like to extend a thanks to John for the excellent advice and insights he has offered the board over the past few months. I hope we have the opportunity to work with John again in the future.

I welcome Ernie as a new board member and look forward to having him represent your interests as a director. I appreciate all the members who took the time to mail in their ballots in this extremely close election.

Almost 500 people attended the

meeting. Your participation helps make SLVREC better. Your comments to me, the cooperative's staff and the directors at the Annual Meeting are invaluable. Additionally, Annual Meeting gives all of us at the cooperative a chance to put member faces with names. For us, knowing the person on the other end of the phone line makes our jobs more interesting and rewarding.

For the third year running, Mac McLennan, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association vice president of external affairs, joined us at the meeting. He offered his insights on pending carbon legislation and provided information about the need for new generation and transmission infrastructure. He warned members that cost increases are imminent.

It's not news we like to hear; it is news we need to hear. We need to hear it because knowing the future and being proactive about likely outcomes can make a difference in your electric bill in two ways.

First, your efforts in conservation and improving energy-efficiency will pay off now and in the future. Tri-State pledged to continue to offer energy-efficiency programs to help us help you become more energy efficient.

Second, by taking the time to contact your elected officials, you can help shape the energy policies and programs passed by our legislators. You can help encourage them to keep affordability in the equation

by making your concerns known.

Tri-State also sees the importance of keeping electricity affordable and reliable. Carbon emission legislation will make this a challenge. McLennan pointed out that for every \$10 in tax (or cap and trade) per ton of carbon emissions, Tri-State member cooperatives will see a 15 percent increase in rates.

McLennan pointed out another concern with carbon emission legislation: keeping regulations equitable for all energy providers, regardless of their location. He said some of the proposals on the table would "take wealth out of Colorado and move it to the coasts."

We were encouraged to hear that progress has been made on the Holcomb Expansion Project in Kansas. Tri-State had partnered on this development several years ago with Sunflower Electric Power Corporation. The newly-elected governor of Kansas signed off on a compromise that will allow Sunflower Electric Power Corp. to build one 895-megawatt coal-fired power plant near Holcomb, instead of two 700-megawatt plants.



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Scheduled Meetings

Board Meeting July 28, 9:30 a.m.

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

Statement of Publisher

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Mac McLennan outlines key energy issues at Annual Meeting

Mac McLennan, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association vice president of external affairs, discussed energy issues at this year's annual meeting. He told the meeting attendees that although there are many challenges facing our power provider, two stand out.

First, he discussed carbon emissions. He said, "I spend almost all my time looking to the future and wondering how do we live in a carbon constrained world?" To better answer that question, McLennan provided some information on Tri-State's current energy portfolio.

Tri-State relies primarily upon three power generation sources: coal, natural gas and renewable energy from wind and solar. Of those, coal has been very cost effective but has the greatest number of environmental challenges.

Natural gas produces fewer carbon emissions; however, generation using this fuel source has been problematic because of extreme price fluctuations. McLennan said, "We have tended to shy away from natural gas because the price has been extremely volatile in the last two years. During that time, I have seen the cost go from \$14 per one million BTU to 35 cents per one million BTU. How do we plan with that?"

As a way of meeting state mandated renewable energy requirements and as a way to shift from carbon emission generation sources, Tri-State has been actively developing wind and solar generation resources. Recently, the generation cooperative announced plans for the construction of a 30 MW solar farm in New Mexico. The project is the largest photovoltaic project undertaken by an electric cooperative and is one of the largest facilities of its kind in the world.

McLennan explained why renewables can't solve all of Tri-State's concerns with carbon emission reductions by saying, "Here's the truth. The wind doesn't blow all the time; solar power, by definition, only produces power 50 percent of the time. We need to keep the power on all the time."

McLennan said that right now, Tri-State generates 14 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions to serve members. He said, "Every \$10 in tax or cap and trade equals \$150 million for us. That equates to a 15 percent rate increase for every increment of \$10 in tax per ton."

He explained that many utility companies in the central part of the country, like Tri-State, rely heavily on coal to generate power. On the other hand, the east and west coast utilities have traditionally used other fuels for generation. Consequently, currently proposed car-

bon legislation would result in a transfer of wealth from the center of the country to the coasts. This concerns McLennan. "We want to see an equitable distribution of costs across the nation," he said.

McLennan described what he sees as the best solutions to controlling carbon emissions. "We all need to look

at energy efficiency. We have to find better and more efficient ways to use electricity. We have to find technological solutions. That means, either we have to do it differently or we need to reduce the carbon footprint of what we do today."

In either case, McLennan said Tri-State will need to make significant infrastructure investments. He said, "The second challenge facing us is more difficult. We can make a lot of strides in reducing carbon, but at the end of the day we have to build new infrastructure. A lot of our plants were built in the 60s and 70s and while they are still useful, still good some of the time, like a tractor or pickup from that same era, they are starting to require more upkeep, more expense."

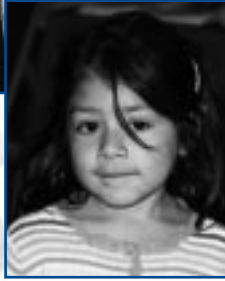
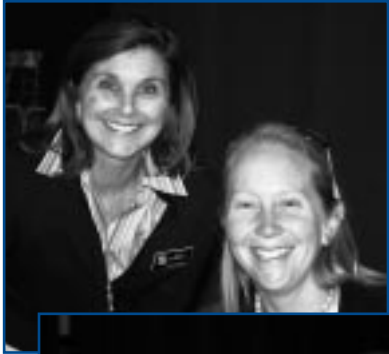
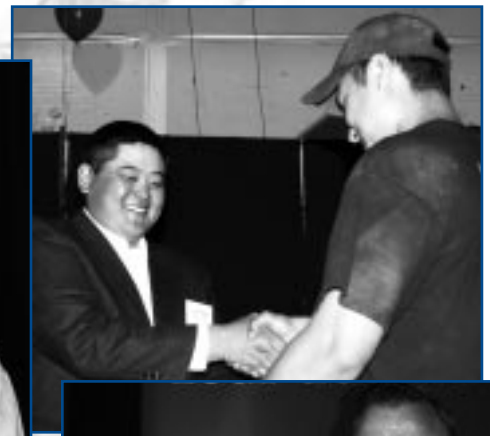
The issue becomes more complex when time constraints are added in. Developing new facilities takes time. "From a resource perspective, we are looking at 10 to 15 years out [for new plants to come online]." McLennan said. "Over the next several years, we are looking at billions of dollars in replacement. That leaves us with the questions, 'How do we maintain and replace and still keep electricity affordable? How do we make sure all the policies make sense as we go forward? How do we collectively as a family [of co-ops] make sure elected officials understand we need affordability, reliability and all the things that go along with that?'"

McLennan concluded his comments by encouraging members to become involved, to pay attention to energy issues, and to voice their concerns about reliability and affordability to legislators. ∞



Mac McLennan, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association vice president of external affairs, at the Annual Meeting.

Directors



Friends



2009 Annual Meeting

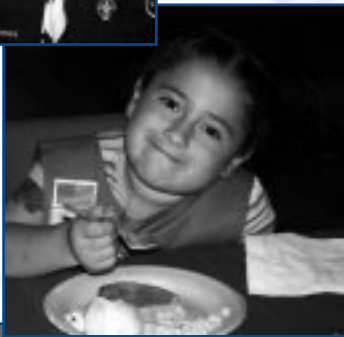
Prize Winners



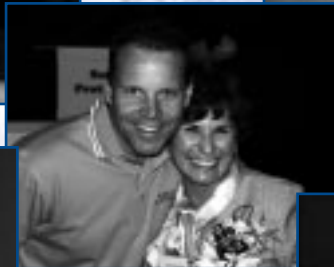
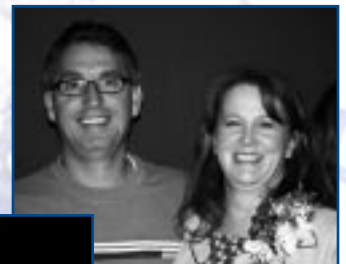
Counting Votes



Scholarship Recipients



Employees



Holcomb Station Expansion Project approved

Newly elected Kansas governor Mark Parkinson recently reached a compromise with Sunflower Electric and approved development plans for the Holcomb Station Expansion Project. In exchange for the go-ahead, Sunflower will build more wind turbines and agree to more pollution controls and a greater investment in energy efficiency.

In a press statement, Parkinson said, "We're bringing people together to create hundreds of jobs, increase our renewable energy production and ensure a comprehensive energy plan for our state. Prior to this agreement, the Legislature was at an impasse on energy issues. With this agreement, we can start to move forward."

The current agreement will allow Sunflower to construct one 895-megawatt coal plant with an unprecedented level of carbon mitigation. The expansion will take place on the 10,000-acre site of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation's existing 360-megawatt Holcomb Station, located approximately four miles south of Holcomb, Kansas.

The units will be owned by generation and transmission cooperatives Sunflower Electric, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc., and Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. Together, these wholesale power suppliers serve more than 1.5 million consumer-owners of 66 electrical cooperatives in seven states.

The project will incorporate best available control technology (BACT) to minimize air emissions. Through the use of mercury controls, mercury emissions from the existing and new unit combined will be less than the current mercury emissions from the existing unit. Additionally, the Sunflower Integrated Bioenergy Center is being developed on the site in conjunction with the power plant expansion. The Center will integrate several commercial businesses and near-commercial bioenergy technologies. The subsystems include an ethanol plant, a biodiesel plant, a dairy, an anaerobic digester and an

algae reactor along with the coal-based power plant.

The algae reactor may provide a way to significantly reduce carbon dioxide reductions. Algae will be suspended in water acquired from the anaerobic digesters and process water from the coal plant. To grow, the algae will use micro-nutrients from the digesters, along with carbon and nitrogen from the coal plant. A significant portion of the carbon dioxide and some of the nitrogen oxides from the power plant flue gas will be consumed in the bioreactor by algae through photosynthesis. Algae will be harvested daily, sent through a dewatering process, and then processed into co-products including solids and oils.

For example, the carbon-enriched algae biomass can be dried and fed back into the power plant as renewable fuel or further processed to produce transportation fuels and other high-value products. The lipid oils in the algae can be processed into biodiesel. The carbohydrates can be fermented into ethanol, and the proteins can be used in the production of feed and fertilizers for crops. Most of the water can be recycled and used in the coal plant cooling system or returned to the reactor for additional algae growth.

Algae systems have been researched for decades, most notably by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and NASA. Production was found to be viable, but most work was done when fuel prices were half of what they are today. No large-scale algae reactor is in operation today, but significant venture capital investment has been made recently to develop this technology.

Two of the Holcomb Expansion Project partners, Sunflower Electric and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, have contracted with Greenfuel Technologies to begin a study at Holcomb to determine the appropriate algae strains for the algae reactor subsystem.

For more information on the project, visit <http://www.holcombstation.coop>. ☺

Stampede Committee adds train and bus service this year

All aboard! The Stampede committee has partnered with local businesses to provide train service to the Rodney Atkins concert and dance at Ski Hi Park. Additionally, the committee has arranged for bus service in Monte Vista to help alleviate congestion around Ski Hi Park.

The Stampede Express Bus service will provide free bus service around Monte Vista. The bus will run a loop with designated pick-up points at the Monte Vista High

School, the downtown parking lot west of the library and the Monte Vista Middle School. The bus will run on the half hour.

Train tickets will be available at the train depot or at Carlucci's in Alamosa for \$35. For more information on either the bus or the train, visit the Ski Hi Stampede web site at <http://www.skihistampede.com>. ☺

Ed's Best BBQ Chicken

- 2 cups white vinegar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup ketchup
- ½ cup tomato juice
- 2 to 3 Tbsp. hot pepper sauce
- 1 Tbsp. poultry seasoning
- 4½ tsp. salt
- 1½ tsp. pepper
- ¾ tsp. garlic powder
- 1 chicken (3 to 4 lbs), cut into pieces

In a large bowl, combine the first nine ingredients. Reserve 1 cup for basting chicken; cover. Pour remaining marinade over chicken in a large roasting pan. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours. Drain; discard marinade.

Grill chicken, covered, over low heat. Turn and brush with reserved marinade several times. Cook until juices run clear.

Cherry Coke Barbecue Ribs

- 1 slab baby back ribs
- Cherry Coke to cover

Marinade

- 1 cup cherry juice
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 raw onion, quartered
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 orange, sliced
- 1 lemon, sliced
- 1 lime, sliced

Simmer the beef ribs in Cherry Coke in a large pot over medium heat for about a half hour.

Prepare the marinade by warming the cherry juice in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add salt, pepper, onion quarters, cinnamon, orange, lemons and limes and about 1/2 liter of Cherry Coke. Heat until near to the boiling point.

Remove the parboiled ribs from the pot, place in a glass pan, cover with the marinade and chill for about 2 hours prior to grilling.

Grill slowly over a low flame for

about an hour until done, turning and basting with leftover marinade that has been reheated to boiling.

Red, White and Blue Burgers

- 2 lbs. ground beef sirloin
- 1 red onion, diced
- ½ (1 oz.) package dry ranch salad dressing mix
- 4 oz. crumbled blue cheese

Preheat the grill to medium-high heat, and lightly oil the grate. Lightly mix together the ground sirloin, onion, ranch salad dressing mix, and blue cheese in a bowl. Form into 6 patties. Grill the burgers for about 5 minutes per side on the prepared grill, until well done.

Tangy Sirloin Strips

- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- ½ tsp. onion powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- 1 lb. (1-inch thick) boneless sirloin steak
- 4 bacon strips
- lemon-pepper seasoning

Glaze:

- ½ cup barbecue sauce
- ½ cup steak sauce
- ½ cup honey
- 1 Tbsp. molasses

In a large resealable plastic bag, combine the first six ingredients. Cut steak into four wide strips; add to the marinade. Seal bag and turn to coat; refrigerate for 2-3 hours or overnight, turning once.

Drain and discard marinade. Wrap a bacon strip around each steak piece; secure with a toothpick. Sprinkle with lemon-pepper. Coat grill rack with nonstick cooking spray before starting the grill. Grill steak, covered, over medium heat until meat reaches desired doneness. Combine glaze ingredients; brush

over steaks. Grill until glaze is heated. Discard toothpicks and serve.

Eggplant with Ginger Glaze

- 1 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 3 Tbsp. sesame oil
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. minced fresh ginger
- 3 garlic cloves; minced
- 4 small eggplants or 8 Japanese eggplants (4 oz ea.)
- 2 Tbsp. oil
- salt and pepper to taste

Whisk together vinegar, soy sauce, sesame oil, sugar, ginger and garlic in a small bowl. Brush oil over all surfaces of eggplant and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Preheat barbecue grill (medium heat). Place eggplant, cut side down, on grill and cook 5 minutes. Turn eggplant and brush with glaze; continue cooking until eggplant is very soft. Place eggplant on a serving platter and drizzle with glaze. .

All-American Deviled Eggs

- 6 large eggs, hard boiled
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 to 2 dashes Tabasco sauce, to taste
- salt, to taste
- ¼ tsp. ground black pepper
- 1 Tbsp. snipped fresh chives
- 3 Tbsp. mayonnaise
- Paprika, for garnish
- Whole fresh chives, for garnish

Peel eggs and cool in the refrigerator, loosely covered, for 15 minutes. Halve eggs lengthwise, and carefully scoop out yolks. Place yolks in a bowl, and mash with a fork. Add mustard, Tabasco, salt, pepper and snipped chives. Stir in mayonnaise.

Fill each egg white with about 1½ teaspoons of the egg-yolk mixture and dust the top with paprika. Arrange in a spoke design on a platter; garnish with whole chives.

Conservation Corner

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**SLVREC will be
closed on
July 3
and July 24**

July 2009

Do you really need a yard light?



Yard lights can be expensive. Depending upon your arrangement with SLVREC, your light can cost you anywhere from about \$5 to \$17 a month. In some cases the cooperative may be able to remove your yard light at no cost to you. Eliminating this source of energy use can amount to a considerable savings over the course of a year.

If you occasionally use your light, you may be able to put the light on a switch, pay for actual use only and be responsible for the reduced maintenance charge of \$5.20 per month instead of the higher fee charged for unmeasured lights. Although you must hire an electrician to do the work, you will recoup that cost over time through the reduction on your electric bill.

The cooperative is investigating new yard light options. Possibly as early as next year, LED yard lights may be available.

Meanwhile, it may be worth a call to SLVREC to determine what options are available to you regarding your yard light. You may find that other outdoor lighting options—such as motion-activated lights on buildings or even hand-held lanterns—can meet your needs just as effectively at a fraction of the cost. ☺