

Annual Meeting 2022

Annual meeting held at Ski Hi, Creede Hargraves elected to board

REC's annual meeting was held on Tuesday, June 14 at the new Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista. A total of 147 attendees, which included 97 members representing all six districts, enjoyed a great meal by local caterer Sunflour Bakery.

Several special guests attended, including Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) Executive Director Kent Singer and Tri-State G&T VP of Transmission Business MaryAnn Zehr. Peter Rusin (member relations) and Lee Boughy (VP of communications) of Tri-State were also on hand to talk to members about beneficial electrification and show off some great electric lawn equipment. The 2022 scholarship recipients and their families were special guests of honor as well.

Board President Carol Lee Dugan's address featured December's storm near San Acacio and the impact it had on REC services. CFO JoAn Waudby presented the 2021 financials, and CEO Loren Howard discussed Tri-State's two percent rebate, cyber and physical security in the electric industry, fire mitigation on Wolf Creek Pass, resource adequacy and preparedness **See ANNUAL continued on Page 4**



Above: Tri-State Member Relations Representative Peter Rusin talks to members about electric lawn equipment. At right: Creede Hargraves



Pictured, left to right: REC Board member Stephen Valdez, Scholarship Recipients: Carson Wolfe, Taylor Rockey, Daylon Maze, Kamryn Holland, Kyla Davis and Blair Vanderpool (not pictured, but attended the meeting, was Emberly Spearman)

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Meet your co-op



Del Norte native joins REC as engineer

San Luis Valley REC recently welcomed Del Norte native Isaiah Abeyta as engineer. Isaiah will be taking on all distributed renewable energy applications, performing system load studies, assisting in engineering duties required for system buildouts and more.

Prior to coming to REC Isaiah was doing civil engineering for over four years; he helped manage/design multi-million-dollar projects. These projects had a lot of different components to them: civil, structural, electrical, etc. He had to be familiar with all aspects of the project to make sure the project ran smoothly. Isaiah stated, “although I do not have electrical engineering experience, I had exposure to what is needed from an electrical engineer. There were times when I had to coordinate with the electrical engineer, to better direct the project. I hope my background in project management and design will help REC move forward.”

Growing up, Isaiah had always heard REC was a great company to work for. “They took care of their customers and their employees. And the best part was REC is close to home,” he said. “I always wanted to work for REC, and the project I was working on with my previous employer was ending. The next project was going to require a lot of traveling, and I wasn’t looking forward to being far from my home and family. So, when the engineering job at REC opened, it was perfect timing. I knew I had to apply for this job.”

Isaiah’s position is broad. He will be taking over the net metering program, while helping the engineering department with managing and directing all current and

future projects. He hopes his skills and experience can help REC.

“I am enjoying the fact that there are various things to work on. One day I am reviewing construction plans, then the next day I am out in the field, and the next day discussing solar. There is always something to keep me busy and something new to learn,” Isaiah stated.

“The biggest challenge has been learning a new industry. Coming from civil engineering, the electrical engineering industry has some similarities but a lot of differences. I have much to learn but I enjoy learning new things,” he said.

Isaiah was born and raised in Del Norte; his whole family is located here in the Valley. Graduating from Del Norte High School in 2010, he attended Adam State University for three years before transferring to CU Boulder and graduating with a BS in Chemical Engineering.

Isaiah enjoys hiking, camping, fishing and pretty much anything outdoors related. He also enjoys going to the gym, attending concerts and traveling to new places.

“I am excited to be a part of REC, and I will do my best to propel the company forward,” he concluded. Welcome Isaiah— REC is excited to have you a part of the team!



Isaiah Abeyta

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances.

Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Source: EIA and DOE



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Loren Howard

Resource adequacy or is there enough?

There are many new technologies that have come into being— especially in the past few decades— that have changed the way we live our lives. There is one though, which is not decades old, but centuries old and is the enabler of most every other invention: electricity. Without electricity, the conveniences, the technology, the comforts of life, would not exist. As I have written in the past, I call electricity the “prime” utility, without it most other utilities as we know them, do not exist.

How electricity is generated has changed, even from the very first generator which was water powered (hydroelectric). As the demand for electricity grew, being able to generate electricity everywhere became necessary, so the prime movers of the electric generators changed from hydro powered to steam powered. Thus, the rise of the central power plants fueled by oil or coal, later natural gas. As the concern for the atmosphere has risen and technology evolved, electric generation by wind and solar have steadily increased. The biggest drawback to wind and solar is the unpredictability of the source; wind doesn't always blow and the sun isn't always shining.

In 2021 according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), about 4,116 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity were generated in the United States. Generation by fossil fuels accounted for 60.8 percent, nuclear 18.9 percent, hydroelectric 6.3 percent, non-hydro renewables 13.8 percent, and the rest by

miscellaneous sources. Kilowatt-hours are the amount of electricity actually produced, but what is the capacity of the sources? Fossil fuels account for 61.3 percent of generating capacity, non-hydro renewables account for 18.3 percent, hydroelectric for 9.0 percent, nuclear for 8.3 percent and miscellaneous other sources for 3.1 percent.

In the last two decades, wind and solar have provided a significant percentage of the kilowatt-hours consumed and represent almost 20 percent of the installed capacity in the U.S. Wind and solar are great resources to provide kilowatt-hours, but should not be regarded as kilowatts, i.e. they provide energy, not capacity.

Thus, we come to the question: Will there be sufficient generation capacity this coming summer if demand peaks higher than expected and generation is unexpectedly not available? The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has posted their 2022 Summer Reliability Assessment and placed the Midwest and the West at an elevated risk of insufficient electric generation availability – Resource Adequacy. I have written in previous Newsboys and have talked at REC's annual meeting this past June that we all need to be prepared to manage during extended power outages.

In the meantime, I hope this year has few significant natural disasters such as wildfires, tornadoes, extreme heat and that the U.S. generation fleet does experience unplanned outages.

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Creede Hargraves
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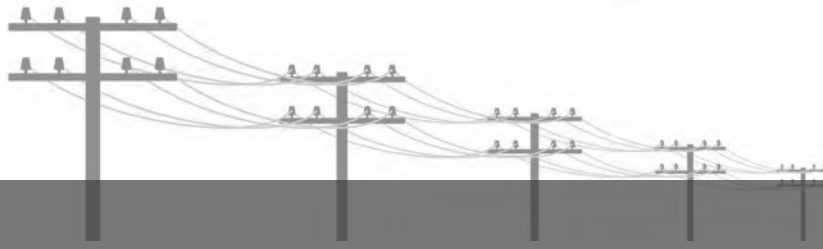
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ANNUAL

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for extended outages and more. He also facilitated questions from members.

In celebration of our 85th anniversary this year, we wanted to focus on supporting locals, as they've been supporting us for the past 85 years. Members in attendance were gifted with a spice set, hand-created right here in the Valley by My Sister's Pantry in Monte Vista. Door prizes included beautiful hanging flower baskets from The Flower Market on Highway 285N and gift card winners were encouraged to be spend them locally.

Ballots were counted the next day by a third-party, and it was determined that contender Creede Hargraves will replace incumbent Kip Nagy as the Mineral/Hinsdale County (district 6) director. San Luis Valley REC appreciates the time and commitment Kip has given to REC's members and wishes him the best of the luck in the future. Creede will begin his tenure at the upcoming monthly board meeting on June 28.

COUNTY	MEMBERS REGISTERED AT	
	ANNUAL MEETING BY COUNTY	TOTAL VOTES BY COUNTY
RIO GRANDE	40	329
MINERAL/HINSDALE	10	305
SAGUACHE	23	170
ALAMOSA	11	66
CONEJOS	9	44
COSTILLA	4	26
	<hr/> 97	<hr/> 940

Congrats to the Door Prize Winners!



Katherine McElroy



Janet Poore



Keith Bilnoski

1/2 beef: Katherine McElroy
1/2 pork: Janet Poore
\$250 bill credits: Robert Jenkins, Jerry & Dorothy Hominick, Duane & Verle Powers and Alex Rocha
Electric Chainsaw: Keith Bilnoski
Gift cards: James Hopson, Pat Doane, Jim Mason, Donald Redden, Dan

Malouff, Rod Tolsma, Wilma Phillips, Daniel Miller, Matt Enquist, Lewis Entz, Gene Mata, Mike & Cloetta Spearman, and Frank Hudson
Hanging Flower Baskets: Sarah Rierson, Barb Heersink, Charles & Margaret Stillings and Candy Hughs
CONGRATULATIONS!!



Above: Board President Carol Lee Dugan addresses the attendees.
 At left: CEO Loren Howard talks about cyber security in the electric industry.



Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

- 1-1/2 lbs. of spaghetti
- 1 jar salad supreme spices
- 1-1/2 c. Italian dressing
- 1 red onion, sliced
- 1 6-oz. can sliced black olives
- 1 green pepper, sliced
- 2 c. tomatoes, chopped (or cherry tomatoes)
- 1 cucumber chopped

AUNT MAGGIE'S SPAGHETTI SALAD

1. Cook spaghetti, per directions
2. Mix all ingredients together
3. Chill in the refrigerator for at least three hours before serving.

Recipe shared by staff member Jennifer Alonzo

Historical happenings

Annual meetings from years gone by



Top left: J. Batt and C. Rogers, 1970

Top right: Rocky presents a door prize to an unidentified member, 1970.

Bottom left: Pat Phillips provided some entertainment in 1970. Notice the pageant participants behind her.



Bottom right: About 50 people typically attended the annual meeting in the late 60s and early 70s. This photo was taken in 1972.

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 26, 9:30 a.m.
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice required.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

