

Annual Meeting 2025

Anderson, Valdez to serve another four years

The 2025 annual meeting was held on Tuesday, June 10 at the Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista. A total of 85 attendees, including 52 memberships representing all six districts enjoyed dinner from Lara's Catering.

Peter Rusin (Senior Electrification Manager) and Michelle Pastor (Relationship Manager) of Tri-State were also on hand to talk to members about the Electrify & Save On-Bill Repayment Program. The 2025 scholarship recipients and the Youth Tour and Youth Camp participants, along with their families, were special guests of honor as well.

Incumbent board members Keenan Anderson, representing Saguache County, and Stephen Valdez, Conejos County, will both serve another four-year term on the REC board. As this year's District 3 and District 5 election was uncontested, the candidates were elected by acclamation.



Pictured, left to right: Scholarship Recipients: Tytus Atencio, Del Norte, SLVREC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship; Audrey Howard, Sangre de Cristo, SLVREC Past Director/Tri-State Scholarship; Carlos Garcia, Alamosa, Martin Christensen Memorial Lineworker Scholarship; Ada Pence, Centauri, Michael Rieron Scholarship; Claire Seger, Monte Vista, James & Thomas Magness Scholarship; Tyler Dokson, Alamosa, Robert Wolfe Scholarship; Kylie Smit, Sangre de Cristo, SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO John Villyard/Tri-State Scholarship; Raelee Alonzo, Alamosa, SLVREC Dependent Scholarship



At left: Reese Anderson, Youth Tour participant and Adlai Gardner, Youth Camp participant
Below left: Board President Keenan Anderson



THIS ISSUE

Annual Meeting

Member Info/Efficiency/Ciello

Eric Eriksen

Member Information

Recipe/Historical Happenings

JULY 2025 | VOLUME 52 | ISSUE 6

Members Registered at Annual Meeting

County	
Alamosa County	9
Costilla County	1
Conejos County	5
Mineral/Hinsdale Counties	4
Rio Grande County	24
Saguache County	9
	52
Total Memberships Represented	

Congrats to our Door Prize Winners!

1/2 beef: Lance & Melissa Smit

1/2 pork: David & Barbara Zimmer

Bill credits: Charlie Versaw, Pauline Gonzales,

Bret Brown, Michelle Ferrera

65" TV—Tri-State: Judy Davis

Gift cards: Kevin & Danielle Bronkema, Karry & Steven

Howard, Wayne Patton, Lloyd Thiesfield,

Kelly Roberts, David & Barbara Pence

Flower Baskets: Barbara Gonzales, Christine Canaly

Elizabeth Martinez

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Member Information



**NO MONEY DOWN,
NO CREDIT CHECK,
LOW INTEREST RATE.**

Co-op members can make energy-efficient home upgrades including heat pumps, windows and doors or a new heat pump water heater with no money down, no credit check and low interest rates thanks to this program.

READY TO START?
Visit www.slvrec.com/electrify-and-save

This program is facilitated through our wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation & Transmission, and will bring you to their page.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

Source: energy.gov

How net metering works

Residential solar systems are becoming more attainable, and more homeowners are exploring rooftop/ground mount solar panels as an additional source for powering their homes. The amount of electricity produced by solar panels depends on several factors, including your home's sunlight exposure, energy use habits and the size of the solar facility. In many cases, solar panels can generate an adequate amount of electricity to power your home, if sized properly.

What is net metering?

SLVREC offers a net metering program, which compensates solar owners for any excess electricity the solar facility produces. If a solar facility generates more energy than the home requires (typically during peak sunlight hours), the excess electricity will be fed back into the electric grid. In return, the homeowner will receive one credit for every one kWh sent to the electric grid. These credits are called "banked usage." This billing arrangement is known as "net metering." While solar is the most popular renewable generation source for homeowners, it should be noted that net metering can also be applied to small-scale wind, hydroelectric, geothermal and biomass systems that generate electricity.

How does SLVREC know

how much to credit for the excess power?

When solar panels See SOLAR continued on Page 4



This is our why...

"From the office staff to Chris, the installer, we were treated with skilled professionalism and a smile. It's so nice when things go smoothly from womb to tomb!"

*—Suzy Myers, Del Norte
Google Review*

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Cielo is proud to feature testimonials from our satisfied customers in issues of the Newsboy. Send your testimonials to jalonzo@slvrec.com.



Eric Eriksen

Rate Design

The electric utility rate making process consists of three parts:

1. Cost of Service Study
2. Revenue Requirement Study
3. **Rate Design**

In previous *Newsboys* we've reviewed the first two steps in the utility rate making process known as a Cost-of-Service Study and Revenue Requirement study. These two studies provide data to know how to allocate costs based on member power usage patterns and how much total revenue is required to pay our bills. In this month's *Newsboy* edition, you'll learn about the last step in the rate making process called Rate Design.

Here are the four guiding principles we follow in Rate Design:

1. Rates should be just and reasonable.
2. Members should pay for the costs that they impose on the electric system.
3. Fixed costs are recovered through fixed charges.
4. Variable costs are recovered through variable charges.

As a member, I should expect that my monthly electricity bill is accurate and only includes costs for the services received— no more, no less. This is the foundation for the four guiding principles we follow. An independent rate design expert and an independent financial audit team is used to ensure adherence to these principles. After carefully reviewing the cost-of-service and revenue requirement studies, they present their findings and recommended rate design before the SLVREC Board of Directors.

Upon thorough review and acceptance, the Board approves the new rate design with a majority vote. This whole rate design process may take up to a full year to complete and is costly. To mitigate this expense our practice is to perform this study about every three years.

Technology is improving our ability to deliver more accurate monthly bills for you. However, this also increases the amount of detailed information on the bill. Historically, member monthly electric bills consisted of two parts: customer charge and energy charge—the customer charge for fixed expenses and the kilowatt-hour energy charge for variable expenses. This was the limitation of our electromechanical meters of the day. Then about 10 years ago metering improved to solid-state electronic technology with more capabilities. We refer to these modern meters as AMI or Advanced Metering Infrastructure. It took a couple years to deploy this technology followed by data collection and studies. This eventually resulted in implementing a three-part electric bill in 2019 to SLVREC members: customer charge, energy charge, demand charge. A three-part electric bill is much more accurate than a two-part bill.

Today, we use a three-part rate design to better ensure each member only pays for the costs they impose on the electric system.

As technology continues to improve so will the rate design. Already some utilities are starting to experiment with a four-part

See DESIGN continued on Page 4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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719-588-9246

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708-638-0039

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Your email will be forwarded based on the direction you provide in your subject line.

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Member Information

DESIGN

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rate, which will likely become a new standard of excellence in the next 10 years.

The SLVREC team has developed a “rate calculator” that’s recently been added to our website ([SLVREC Rate Calculator](#)) to help you learn more about your electric bill and experiment with energy usage. Are you thinking about installing energy-efficient lights or maybe adding a hot tub to your home? First consider experimenting with the electric rate calculator tool online to help you make an informed decision.

We’re here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person, or through our social media channels. However, you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.

SOLAR

continued from page 2

produce less electricity than the home requires, the electric meter runs forward, just as it would on a home without solar panels. But when the solar facility generates more electricity than required, the electric meter runs backward, and the excess power is sent back to the grid, generating credits. These credits will accumulate from month to month and be applied to your bill. At the end of the billing cycle, you are charged for the “net” energy used from the electric grid (energy consumption minus solar generation), where if your energy consumption is higher than your generation, and if you have available credits, then we will apply your credits to your bill. It’s important to understand that solar generation is only applied to the energy charge portion of your bill and does not include the full cost of maintaining grid infrastructure and REC service that supports your home year-round, which is covered by the customer and demand charges.

Net metering is especially helpful throughout the year, as solar production is typically higher during summer months and lower during winter months. It allows solar system owners to earn credits during high-production months and use them later in the year when solar output is lower.

Who uses the excess power generated by the solar system?

The electricity produced by solar doesn’t go directly to your neighbors. The energy flows back to the local grid

What are the three charges on my bill?

Customer Charge

- Meter Reading
- Billing/Accounting
- Customer Service



Demand Charge

- Infrastructure to Serve Peak Usage (Peak Capacity)
- Tri-State Demand



Energy Charge

- Wholesale Energy Cost (Tri-State)
- Distribution System Operation/Maintenance



managed by REC. We then apply the credits for any excess power you’ve contributed.

While generating electricity from the sun (and sending excess power back to the grid) is an exciting opportunity, it’s important to thoroughly research the details before installing solar panels or any other type of small-scale renewable energy system.

REC members who install solar and participate in net metering will need to sign an interconnection agreement, ensure a bi-directional electric meter is installed, and provide information about your system. Please see our website, [slvrec.com](#), for more details.

You should also work with a reputable solar vendor to ensure generation estimates are realistic and that your home is equipped for the system.

It’s important to note that net metering will not eliminate your energy bill. Even if you generate as much electricity as you use, which is rare, you will continue to be billed for essential services such as grid access, service fees and other fixed costs (customer and demand charge) that are necessary to maintain a safe and reliable system.

If you’re interested in solar or would like to learn more about net metering, Isaiah Abeyta at SLVREC can help, 719-852-3538. By connecting with us first, you can gain a better understanding of the solar energy system, billing options and more.



Recipe of the Month

INGREDIENTS

1 c. chopped strawberries
 1/4 c. crushed graham crackers
 2 (8-oz) blocks cream cheese
 1/4 c. sour cream
 15 popsicle sticks
 3/4 c. powdered sugar
 1 t. pure vanilla extract
 1/4 t. kosher salt

CHEESECAKE POPS

1. In a large bowl using hand mixer, beat cream cheese, sour cream, powdered sugar, vanilla, and salt until smooth. Fold in strawberries.
2. Spoon mixture into Dixie cups then sprinkle graham crackers on top.
3. Insert a popsicle stick into the middle of each cheesecake cup.
4. Freeze until the cheesecake mixture is solid. Remove from Dixie cups and serve immediately.

www.delish.com

Historical Happenings

2000 annual meeting has record attendance

Board Secretary David Holland opened SLVREC's 63rd annual meeting with an invocation. Board President Rick Inman welcomed members and guests. With a crowd of 435, this year's annual meeting had the largest turnout in SLVREC history.

During the course of the evening, 32 door prizes were awarded. Dale Akers of South Fork was the lucky winner of the grand prize, a 1996 truck.

Members learned more about the activities of their cooperative through presentations by Co-CEOs Bill Green and John Villyard and Bob Peterson, manager of system control. Phil Buckman from Tri-State Generation & Transmission talked about recent outages.



Above: Gerald Lorenz was reelected to his post as director for Costilla County.



At left: Dale Akers accepts the keys to a 1996 Ford Pickup he won.



At right: Manager of Operations, Jim Clare greeted guests and helped count ballots.



Below: Carol Lee Dugan, director for Rio Grande County

From the July 2000 Newsboy



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Monte Vista, CO 81144

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REC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. We will be closed on Thursday, July 3.

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www.energyoutreach.org

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 29, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
The REC Board of Directors typically meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice required.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

