

## Member Information

### Power Cost Adjustment beginning Jan. 1

The approximate 3.5 percent Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is set to take effect on January 1, 2026 (reflected on February bills).

This adjustment applies to all rate classes based on kWh usage and will appear as a line item on monthly bills.

As mentioned in previous articles, the PCA is necessary to cover fluctuating wholesale power costs from Tri-State Generation and Transmission, our energy provider.

### Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)?



#### Why it exists?

Wholesale power costs change every month. The PCA keeps your bill fair by adjusting up or down based on the actual cost of power.



#### How it works

1. Compare actual power cost to the base rate
2. If lower—> PCA credit applied
3. If higher —> PCA charge applied
4. This ensures you pay the true cost of power.

*SLVREC uses the PCA to maintain stable base rates while keeping billing fair and transparent.*

### Annual meeting survey winners announced

Attendance at our annual meetings has declined in recent years; as we strive to increase member engagement, we're working to possibly reformat the meeting!

We reached out for member input in November and received great feedback. Everyone who submitted a survey was entered into a drawing for one of two \$50 bill credits! The winners

**See WINNERS**  
continued on Page 5

## Meet Your Coop

### New staking engineer joins REC team



Dan Trevithick

Dan Trevithick has joined the SLVREC/Ciello team as Staking Engineer. He comes to us from High West Energy (HWE) in Pine Bluffs, Wyo. where ironically Boyd Wagner, former REC staking engineer just relocated to.

Dan has spent many years in the industry, as estimator/project manager for contractors and as staking engineer/project manager for electric cooperatives.

As staking engineer, Dan is responsible for designing lines and services, preparing construction cost estimates, producing staking sheets, meeting with members and more. He commented "sometimes it's challenging to manage a lot of moving parts with the time you have, especially in the busy construction season."

Dan explained that he worked with Boyd

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Member Info/Meet Your Coop

Community/Efficiency/Ciello

Eric Eriksen

Eriksen continued

Recipe/Historical Happenings

JANUARY 2026 | VOLUME 53 | ISSUE 1

# Concern for Community

## Giving back to the Valley

Serving our community goes beyond providing reliable electric and internet service. At SLVREC/Ciello, it means showing up and making a difference.

Guided by the co-operative principle of Concern for Community, we're committed to supporting the Valley in meaningful ways.

Whether it's connecting with high school students at the annual career fair held at Adams State University, volunteering at Care and Share or helping hang Christmas lights for the City of Monte Vista, our employees enjoy serving the Valley in meaningful ways.



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Winter weather can cause your home heating system to work overtime. Check for air leaks and drafts around doors and windows, then seal them with weatherstripping or caulk. Close fireplace dampers when not in use, and consider installing insulating curtains to help keep warm air inside. You can also save energy by lowering your thermostat a few degrees. Even small adjustments like these can reduce heating costs and improve comfort during the coldest months.

## ciello THIS IS OUR WHY...

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"Excellent service . Very fast and technician was professional."

*-Bonny Settle, Google*

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Ciello is proud to feature testimonials from our satisfied customers in issues of the Newsboy. Send your testimonials to [jalonzo@slvrec.com](mailto:jalonzo@slvrec.com).





**Eric Eriksen**

## Reflecting on progress, planning for the future

As we've closed another year, I want to pause and express gratitude for you, the members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and Ciello Broadband, for your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides everything we do today.

Each decision, whether it's about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for smart energy policies that impact our local community, comes back to one simple question: What's best for the members we serve?

Thank you for completing the annual SLVREC member survey. The American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) is a national industry-specific survey that measures how satisfied you are. Instead of a percentage, this number represents a weighted average of three key member perception factors: satisfaction, expectation and performance. It helps us learn what we are doing right and what we can do better to serve you. The chart below shows that

SLVREC members are happier than most electric consumers across the country.

As we look ahead to a new year, I see both challenges and opportunities on the horizon. The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by the rising need for more electricity, new technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), a changing environment increasing the risk of wildfires and drought and energy policies transitioning towards a clean energy future.

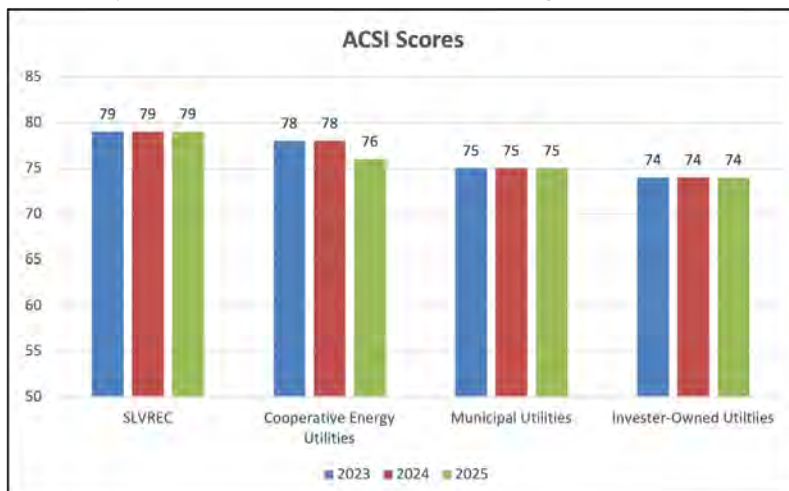
The path forward requires innovative thinking and member-focused solutions. I'm confident that with the dedication of SLVREC employees and the continued support of our members, we are well-positioned to adapt and meet challenges head-on. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: Safe, reliable and affordable power for today – and tomorrow.

### 2025 progress

The SLVREC team delivered exceptional progress for you in 2025. Completing 94 percent of our project goals while maintaining better than

budget expenses. We continue to be more reliable than the national average and were recognized for an exceptional safety program by the Colorado Rural Electric

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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## PROGRESS

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Association. Here are a few notable accomplishments:

- Customer satisfaction is better than average
- Controllable expenses are less than the budget
- Reliability better than average
- Awarded \$850K in grants (electric)
- New Wildfire Mitigation Plan
- New Technology Plan
- New Cybersecurity Plan
- Employees provided ~540 hours of service to benefit community organizations
- Saved approximately \$750K in Lean Six Sigma Process Improvement Projects and avoided costs
- Offered improved internet and phone services

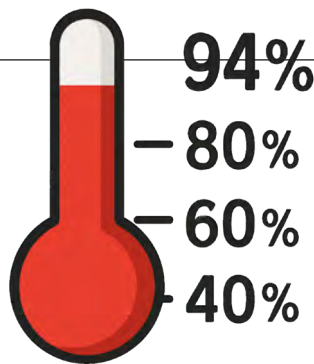
Like we've done over the past 88 years, our amazing employees and supportive members will always persevere. Your San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative closes out 2025 financially sound and reliable. We are ready for 2026.

### Top 5 broadband service provider in the USA: Cielo

Cielo, owned by REC members, is a best-in-class broadband service provider and has been recognized as one of the Top 5 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) scores for broadband services in the nation. Thank you, San Luis Valley! If you want the best, then sign-up for Cielo today. [www.touchstoneenergy.com/top-5-broadband-scores](http://www.touchstoneenergy.com/top-5-broadband-scores)

### Powerful value

The cost of electricity has been historically stable and will be in the future. However, we are entering a period the industry is referring to as the "Energy Transition." The increasing presence of electricity in your life is undeniable. As of 2023, U.S. households had on average 21 connected smart devices ([Source: Consumer Affairs](#)). The future of energy is electrification, powered by cleaner technologies with lower variable costs such as renewables. Colorado's energy policies are leading this energy transition, requiring electric utilities to be 80 percent renewable by 2030 and aiming for 100 percent by 2050 ([Colorado's House Bill 19-1261](#)). In the



short-term, we will see the cost of power increase more than we are accustomed to in order to invest in our future. In the long-term, we expect to experience stable energy rates due to less dependency on fossil fuels and the operation of advanced power generation.

You can be assured SLVREC works every day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money. In 2025, an estimated \$750,000 in savings or avoided costs was realized due to continued workforce development, process improvements and technology advancements. Our controllable expenses outperformed the many challenges we face and resulted in a zero increase to base electric rates in 2026. The cost of wholesale energy is increasing by about 3.5 percent as the industry invests in the Energy Transition. The **VALUE** of those kilowatts just keeps growing – with more uses, cleaner resources and advanced technology.

### 2026 Road Map

SLVREC Team has developed a 2026 plan supported by a budget approved at the December Board of Directors meeting. Expect to find the updated 2026 Road Map on our website in the month ahead and a presentation at our annual membership meeting. Please reach out to request a "road show" presentation for your business or organization and feel free to walk in and visit any time. Here are a few notable goals:

- New AI Enhanced – Member Services & Grid Inspections
- Website Modernization Planning
- New Member Focused Program – HomeServe
- Improved Member Terms & Conditions
- Improved Outage Communication
- Expanded Grid Automation
- Wildfire Mitigation Project
- Strategic Business Planning

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. Tom Bodett said it best, "**We'll keep the lights on for you.**"

*I wish you a Blessed and Happy New Year!*



## Recipe of the Month

### SLOW COOKER MINISTRONE

#### INGREDIENTS

1 carton (32-oz.) vegetable or chicken stock  
3 c. V8 or tomato juice  
2 c. water  
2 medium potatoes, peeled and chopped  
2 celery ribs, chopped  
2 medium carrots, chopped  
1 can (14-1/2 oz.) diced tomatoes, undrained  
1 medium onion, chopped  
3 garlic cloves, minced

2 bay leaves  
1 T. Italian seasoning  
1 t. salt  
1/2 t. pepper  
1 can (16-oz.) kidney beans, rinsed & drained  
1 can (15-oz.) cannellini beans, rinsed & drained  
1 can (14-1/2 oz.) cut green beans, drained  
1 small zucchini, chopped  
1 c. uncooked ditalini or other small pasta  
Grated Parmesan cheese, optional

Combine the first 13 ingredients in a 5- or 6-qt. slow cooker. Cook, covered, on low 6-8 hours or until vegetables are tender. Stir in beans, zucchini and pasta. Cook, covered, on high about 30

minutes longer or until pasta is tender. Discard bay leaves. If desired, top with cheese.

[www.tasteofhome.com](http://www.tasteofhome.com)

## Historical Happenings

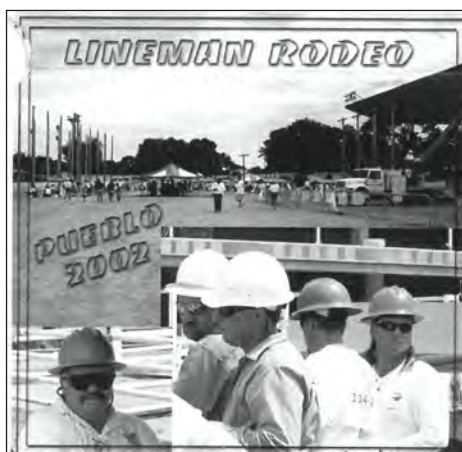
### From the September 2002 Newsboy: Lineman Rodeo

Each year, linemen from around the state compete in a lineman rodeo.

SLVREC placed well this year.

Among rural electric cooperatives, SLVREC's teams placed 2nd and 7th.

Ryan Christensen's team, which included Randy Magnuson and Ruben Heredia, came in 7th overall among teams from contractors, investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities and rural electric systems. Ralph Holcomb placed 7th overall among 90 apprentices.



### DAN

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for a short time at HWE. "We were all surprised that he asked for the time off to [come] interview. In contrast, when I interviewed here, I kept things very quiet. [It's] two very different cultures... this impressed me." He is also enjoying meeting new people of all types here in the Valley

Dan and his wife Karla spend a lot of time with their mules (and horses). They like being in the mountains with them. Dan also enjoys snowmobiling but is looking forward to living in less snow. Welcome to the Valley, Dan! We're happy you're here!

### WINNERS

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of the drawing are Jim & Gina Rutgers, Monte Vista and Alan Fitzgerald, South Fork.

Member feedback is incredibly valuable and will help us create an event that better serves and celebrates our cooperative community. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts!



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# REC

*A Powerful Connection*

# ciello

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#### SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, 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.

