

Member Information

Annual Meeting changes coming

In recent years, attendance at Annual Meetings has declined. Based on valuable feedback we received from members in November, SLV REC is refreshing the format of this year's meeting to make participation easier, more convenient and more accessible for everyone.

This year, our Annual Meeting will be held as a Telephone Town Hall on Tuesday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m. This virtual, call-in meeting allows members to take part in cooperative business—right from the comfort of home

A Telephone Town Hall meeting gives members the opportunity to listen

to updates, ask questions and vote on important matters, such as board elections or bylaw changes, using their phone. At 6:30 p.m., registered members will receive a phone call inviting them to join the meeting live. Participation is as simple as answering the call or dialing in.

During the meeting, members will hear reports from cooperative leadership, including system updates and financial performance, similar to an in-person meeting—without the need to travel.

Telephone Town Hall meetings are

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Are you interested in being on the BOD?

Petitions for the nomination of director candidates for SLV REC are now available.

Members can find information online at slvrec.com (About Us tab, "Annual Meeting"). Call Michelle at 719-852-3538 or email mtrujillo@slvrec.com to have a complete petition packet mailed or pick up at SLVREC's office at 3625 US Hwy 160 W., Monte Vista.

One director position is up for election—Mineral/Hinsdale Counties, District 5.

Completed petitions

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Meet Your Co-op

Edgar, Rasmussen complete apprenticeship, journey out

Following monthly tests, bookwork and 8,000 training hours, SLV REC apprentices Stetson Edgar and Spencer Rasmussen are now officially journeyman linemen.

Joining as an apprentice in August 2022, Stetson is a Valley native, graduating from Rocky Mountain Line School in 2021. He said, "I'm glad to be done and excited to keep learning."

Spencer joined SLV REC in March 2022 as an apprentice lineman. He commented, "this was a long process that I'm grateful and proud to have accomplished. Thank you to all my coworkers, foremen, and friends that helped teach me along the way."

Stetson Edgar (left) and Spencer Rasmussen (right)



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Eric Eriksen

Meet Your Co-op

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Meet Your Co-op

Valley native joins REC team



Darren Montoya

San Luis Valley native Darren Montoya has joined the SLV REC team as the new warehouseman. Darren comes to us from the Rio Grande National Forest Service, where he worked as an engineering equipment operator.

Key functions as the warehouseman are to pull/charge materials for linemen; unload trucks, receive materials and process purchase orders

into the computer system; keep the warehouse clean, organized and stocked with materials so they are readily available, and help other coworkers with tasks as needed.

“I applied here because of the reputation of [being] a positive work environment, success and how involved REC is with the community and schools,” commented Darren. “I am enjoying working with the people, because they are positive, friendly, and it’s a goal-driven atmosphere. Everyone is willing to help

me learn and grow as an employee and person.”

Darren is a blessed father of a daughter and son, Alexia and Alex and his dog Rocky. His hobbies include fishing, softball, hiking, cooking, traveling and watching his kids play sports for Alamosa High School. “Go Mean Moose!”

“Pretty much anything outdoors is where you’ll find me. I am blessed and thankful for the opportunity REC has given me, and I am excited for this new career path and new journey!” Darren said.

BOD

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must include 15 valid SLVREC member signatures and be returned to SLVREC no later than Thursday, April 9, 2026 (or Thursday, April 2 to have a brief bio included in the Annual Report). It is recommended to obtain 20 signatures in the event that any of the signatures are invalid. Please call Michelle at 719-852-3538 with any questions.

If you’re interested in having a brief bio included in the Annual Report and online, please contact Jennifer Alonzo at jalonzo@slvrec.com by Thursday, April 9, 2026.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It’s also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality. As daylight increases, turn off unnecessary lights and rely on natural sunlight when possible. Small seasonal adjustments like these can reduce energy use, lower monthly bills and help keep your home comfortable as winter transitions into spring.



ciello *This is our why*

“I am thrilled that I have a real option for Internet at my home. I can’t express how happy and excited I have been from the initial inquiry of service availability and rates, thru installation and the explanation of converting all of wireless devices over to Cielo from my previous vendor. There is no comparison in customer service and reliability. If Cielo is available in your area, don’t wait, sign up and get started today. You won’t be disappointed. It is nice to know what my bill will be every month. No hidden fees, no creeping up in expenses every month. It is set and the terms are month to month. So if you need more bandwidth, no problem--less, not a problem. There is no pressure to upsell you to a larger or more expensive plan. Love it, love it, love it. Oh and did I mention that you get to talk to a real live person when inquiring and setting up services? Imagine that.”

—Sarah Duncan Pearson, Google

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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

Why ‘rural’ data centers matter for the San Luis Valley

As your CEO at San Luis Valley REC/ Ciello Broadband, I spend a lot of time thinking about the future—one, five, 10, even 20 years from now. Every decision we make as a cooperative must pass one test: **Will this make life better for the people who live and work in the San Luis Valley?**

Lately, one opportunity keeps rising to the top: the potential for edge data centers, or what I like to call “rural” data centers, right here in our service territory. I want to share why these matters, not in technical terms, but in terms of real benefits for our members.

Most of us don’t think about the digital “plumbing” behind our daily lives. We just open a laptop, stream a movie, check in with family on video or manage a business from a phone. But every one of those actions travels through a physical place— a data center. For years, those facilities existed almost exclusively in big cities. That meant rural communities like ours waited longer for data to travel—and we didn’t share in the economic benefits. That’s changing fast.

Not all data centers are the same

Before talking about the opportunity, it’s helpful to clear up a common misconception: not every data center is a giant, power-hungry, water-guzzling complex like the ones you see in national news. In fact, the data center industry has several distinct segments— many of which are *small, efficient and designed specifically for communities like ours.*

Here’s a simple way to think about it:

1. Hyperscale Data Centers

These are the massive facilities built

by companies like Amazon, Google and Microsoft, often requiring over 100 megawatts of power and hundreds of thousands of square feet.

2. Regional Data Centers

Mid-sized facilities require strong infrastructure, but far less than hyperscale sites, often requiring 50-100 megawatts of power and up to 100,000 square feet of facility space.

3. Edge or “Rural” Data Centers

These are the most relevant for us. Rural data centers are small, efficient facilities— often the size of a modular 20’ or 40’ metal container, a home or a small commercial building. They require far less power than hyperscale data centers, typically 50 kilowatts up to 50 megawatts. It is common for them to be air-cooled or use a closed-loop refrigeration system instead of consuming water.

This is the market segment that aligns with our grid, our broadband network and our long-term planning.

Economic development close to home

The idea of a data center may sound abstract, but the benefits aren’t. These facilities bring real, tangible jobs: construction work, technology positions, electrical trades, maintenance, security, tax base and more. They also attract businesses that support and rely on these centers. To put this in perspective, our largest electric member today is about 1.5 megawatts. A 2-megawatt data center would be our largest load. Running steadily 24/7 could significantly help pay for our rural electric system.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Wade Lockhart, Vice-President
Member at Large
719-588-9246

Creede Hargraves, Secretary/Treasurer
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708-638-0039

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Email: power@slvrec.com

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

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PUBLISHER’S STATEMENT

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Meet Your Co-op

Arambula, Bond move into new positions

Nelson Arambula

Former SLV REC locator Nelson Arambula recently took on a new role as telecommunications technician. In this position, Nelson is responsible for Internet and phone installations, troubleshooting service issues and working directly with customers to ensure their connection is reliable.



Beginning as locator in the fall of 2021, Nelson got a taste of the telecommunications realm as he was trained to assist the other technicians. When there was an opening in the department, it was a natural progression for Nelson to take on the new position. “I decided to make this transition because I really enjoy helping customers and making a positive difference in their experience with Ciello. I am continuing to learn real time problem solving, improving my communication and adapting to different customer needs. I truly enjoy building relationships with customers, and while some situations can be challenging, they are helping me grow professionally,” Nelson said.

Dalton Bond

Dalton Bond, who began at SLV REC in September 2020 as a warehouseman recently transitioned into the locator position, left vacant by Nelson. As locator, Dalton is responsible for locating per 8-1-1 tickets for all REC power and Ciello fiber that is underground in work areas across the Valley. He locates, identifies and marks the utilities before new service projects can begin.



“I was ready for growth, and I’m enjoying the challenge of learning a new skill, but it’s not always as easy as you might think. Some services are hard to locate and/or pinpoint,” he commented.

Dalton was born and raised in the Valley and enjoys hunting and fishing— anything outdoors.

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Powered by the Valley’s natural strengths

Our high altitude cool sunshine air, your SLV Rural Electric Cooperative and Ciello broadband are perhaps the most ideal conditions in the nation for a rural data center. That gives us a competitive advantage.

I’m proud of the work we’ve done at SLVREC and Ciello to build a modern, resilient electric grid and one of the strongest fiber networks in the country. For over 20 years, our agricultural industry’s energy demand has been declining. This underutilized capacity is an opportunity to serve five, 10, 20, 50 megawatts or more of rural data centers. There are seven long-haul fiber routes into and out of the Valley, with terabytes of unused capacity that is ideal for data centers. When companies look for rural data center locations, they want exactly what we’ve built: reliable, affordable power and world-class broadband.

We are exploring this opportunity thoughtfully and carefully, guided by one priority— the San Luis Valley and the people who live here. Over the past year, we have been in discussions with three rural data center developers exploring opportunities. They haven’t pulled the trigger yet, but if one does, then you’ll know it’ll be beneficial for all of us. For a rural area like ours, reducing the “digital distance” between us and the rest of the world is transformational. When data is processed closer to home, everything works better and faster. Rural data centers can help lower rates.

To learn more: <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2024/04/16/2863689/0/en/Greensparc-Brings-First-Reliable-and-Powerful-Computing-Infrastructure-to-Rural-Alaska-and-Underserved-Communities.html>

As always, I’ll keep you informed as this conversation evolves. Thank you for trusting us to serve you.

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a convenient and accessible way to maintain member engagement, transparency and quorum, while removing common barriers like travel time, weather or scheduling conflicts.

Member feedback is incredibly important to us, and this change reflects our commitment to listening and improving how we serve our cooperative community. We encourage all members to register to join the call and be part of the decisions that shape your cooperative. More information, including how to register, will be shared soon.



Recipe of the Month

INGREDIENTS

- 2 T. vegetable oil
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- ½ lb. ground beef
- ½ small head cabbage, shredded
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into strips
- 2 T. soy sauce
- 1 t. cornstarch
- ½ c. cold water
- 1 t. ground black pepper or to taste
- 1 pinch salt, to taste

BLACK PEPPER BEEF AND CABBAGE STIR FRY

1. Heat a wok or large skillet over medium-high heat, and add oil.
2. Saute garlic for about 5 seconds, then add ground beef. Stir-fry until beef is evenly brown, 5 to 7 minutes; drain excess fat.
3. Stir in cabbage and pepper, and cook until vegetables are tender and beef is fully cooked. Stir in soy sauce.
4. Mix together cornstarch and water, and stir in. Season with pepper; add salt to taste. Cook, stirring, until sauce has thickened.
5. Serve hot and enjoy!

www.allrecipes.com

Concern for Community

REC employees give back at annual Ag Conference



REC/Ciello employees served breakfast at the 44th Annual Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference at the Ski Hi Complex on Feb. 4.



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POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 24, 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.

