

Meet your co-op

Finishing up 30 years

“You can dip your toes in the pool or jump in— I’m jumping in!” said SLV REC Staking Engineer Troy Golden about his upcoming retirement. Retiring at 59, following 30 years of service to SLV REC, Troy is excited to go out while “I’m still young enough to do the things that I want to do.”

Troy began at SLV REC in October of 1990 as a meter reader. He remembers having to complete a physical test at that time. He had to walk/run from the REC office to Chapman Park, then walk in snowshoes and complete other tasks, such as changing a tire. Lucky for him— and the co-op— he passed.

Two years later Troy moved into the lineman apprenticeship program, journeying out four years later. He enjoyed being a lineman, especially being a part of the “band of brothers,” but took on a position in the staking department in 2002. At that time, he looked to Jerry Dennis as a mentor.

Through the years he has seen many changes, including working under three different CEOs. “We still sell electricity, but the processes are different; everything is much more automated,” Troy commented. “There used to be manual readings; now it’s downloaded on a computer. When we staked, it was all on paper— by hand. In about 2005, we got a computerized staking program, which really changed things.”

As retirement is on the near horizon, Troy looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Judi, son and daughter-in-law Cody and Christina, daughter and son-in-law Amanda and Kyle and five grandchildren. He’ll continue bicycling, traveling, camping and backpacking, and he hopes to soon finish his Lewis and Clark Expedition travels. Troy and Judi will also continue enjoying their Harley rides. To date, they’ve visited every state (in the lower 48), but two. A move to Texas could be in the future as well, but plans are to stay in the Valley for at least the next two years. Giving much credit to his wife, Troy stated, “Judi has put her heart and soul into this career as much as I have— always making up for when I wasn’t around.”



Troy Golden, Inset: photo from 1996

Troy is basically a Valley native, moving here from Nebraska when he was just three years old. His father, Rod, was also a lineman for SLV REC for 27 years. As a child, he remembers tagging along with his dad to different worksites, but never imagined he would follow in his footsteps.

“I won’t miss the work,” Troy stated. What he will miss are the people he’s come to know through the co-op. He’s built relationships with coworkers, members and various contractors. He still remembers how, as a meter reader in the South Fork area, one older member was always ready to serve him cookies and coffee. The rapport he’s built with some members

See TROY
continued on Page 2

THIS ISSUE

Meet your co-op

Member engagement

Loren Howard

Member education

Recipes/Historical happenings

DECEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 47 | ISSUE 11

Member engagement

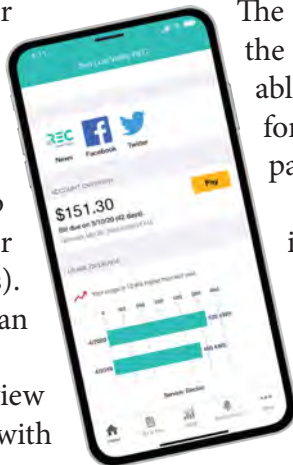
Smart communication with SmartHub

Have you ever had questions about your SLVREC bill? Do you ever wonder about your true usage? SmartHub can help provide some answers.

SmartHub is available through the SLVREC website and as a mobile app through the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices). SmartHub provides many features that can help you understand your account.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous months. Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll be able to view your actual usage. You can see how your usage is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to lower your bill.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy.



The first time you make a payment either through the web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

You'll also receive important news and information about SLVREC through the app. Any important news or alerts you need to know, you'll receive immediately. You can also contact us with issues regarding your service.

Take control of your account and make interacting with SLVREC easy with SmartHub.

For directions on signing up for SmartHub, go online to www.slvrec.com/smarthub.

Conservation Corner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons, like houseguests, more time spent at home, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions, like turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.



TROY

continued from page 1

throughout the years has been incredible; he loves the personal touch and getting to know the members.

As far as the future of the staking department goes, Troy knows they're in good hands. "Kurt [Taffin] has been a great asset. He just has a way of seeing things and will do very well."

"Thirty years went by fast. I didn't realize it until a few years ago. We had a motivational speaker here, and he put us in order of our years of service. As I kept moving closer to the end— it hit me," he trailed off... "it's been a great place to work!"

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This is our why...

"Having Ciello's high-speed fiber available in the San Luis Valley not only powers our businesses but it has allowed Upper Rio Grande Economic Development to partner with the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade to promote our region for location-neutral workers as new businesses consider moving to our state. Thank you for making us part of the 21st Century."

—Marty & Bonnie Asplin

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Loren Howard

Beneficial electrification

In the last year or so, the term “beneficial electrification” has become an ever increasing popular phrase. It seems to me that various interest groups have their own interpretation of the meaning of the phrase. So, let’s explore the various interpretations and see if there is a consensus to be found.

Starting with an easy topic – electric vehicles. Promotion and acceptance of electric vehicles seems to have an awkward start. Driving around metro areas like Denver and Colorado Springs, spotting an electric vehicle is a regular occurrence. That is not quite so true here in the San Luis Valley. Electric vehicles have the potential to significantly reduce air emissions which would seem to fit the idea of beneficial electrification. Driving through Denver on a weekday with a temperature inversion makes it easy to see the benefit of reducing automobile emissions.

There are some groups who would say that this beneficial electrification is only beneficial if the electricity to charge the vehicle comes from a renewable resource such as solar or wind. Renewable electric generation has come a long way and represents a significant fraction of electric generation of most utilities including Tri-State and REC. At least a reasonable portion of electric generation used to recharge electric vehicles is coming from renewable sources.

Another, more recent development that is being suggested as beneficial electrification by some governmental entities in particular is considering reducing, and maybe prohibiting, using natural gas or propane for domestic use in new construction. This would then push future domestic energy use to electricity. The Colorado Public Utilities Commission currently has a proceeding entitled “Investigation Into Retail Natural Gas for GHG Emissions,” Proceeding Number: 20M-0439G. This investigation will look into how domestic natural gas usage is impacting greenhouse gas emissions. Cities in California have already banned domestic use of natural gas in new construction.

Electricity is an easily distributed energy source, generated in many different ways. Will it pervasively replace fossil fuels used in our everyday lives? Will fuels such as natural gas, gasoline, diesel and propane ultimately be phased out? I think one of the key developments needed to do that will be finding an electric generation source that is of utility scale and controllable to support the uncontrollable renewable generation sources. No doubt, there are other interpretations of the term “beneficial electrification,” but a common theme in all the definitions would be replacing fossil fuels with electricity.

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Four ways to save energy in the kitchen

Ah, the kitchen. It's undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes, especially during the holiday season. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish. Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

When possible, cook with smaller appliances. Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load. Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy

vampires in your kitchen – these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires

left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

Help large appliances work less. There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better.

When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.

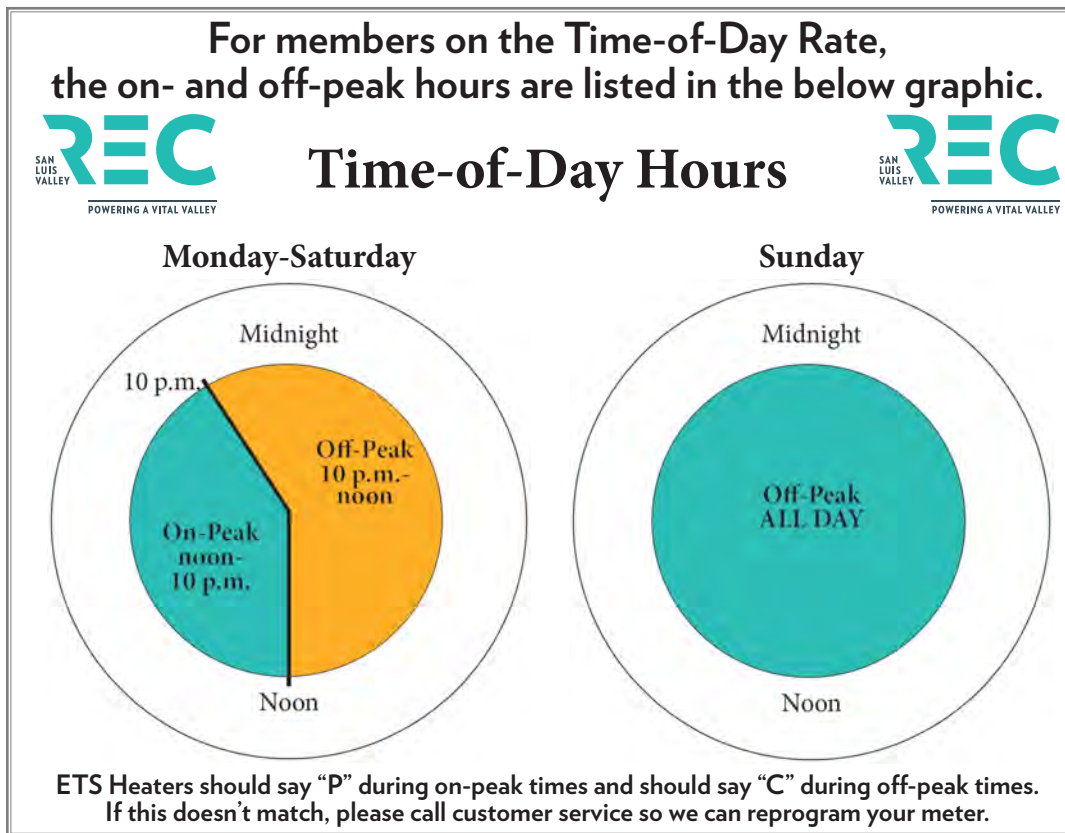
Use your dishwasher efficiently. Only run full loads, and



avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses three to seven gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

Bonus tip: The best way to save energy is to not use it. Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe. Your sweet tooth (and energy bill!) will thank you.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you'll be well on your way to energy savings.





Recipes of the month

INGREDIENTS

- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 3/4 c. packed brown sugar
- 1/2 c. (1 stick) butter, cut into cubes
- 1/2 c. milk
- 1 c. smooth peanut butter
- 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 2 1/2 c. old-fashioned oats

PEANUT BUTTER NO-BAKE COOKIES

1. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine sugars, butter, and milk. Bring mixture to a boil and boil 1 minute.
2. Remove from heat and stir in peanut butter, vanilla, and salt until combined, then stir in oats.
3. Drop tablespoonfuls of mixture onto prepared baking sheet and let set until cooled and hardened, about 30 minutes.

Recipe by www.Delish.com

PEPPERMINT BARK

1. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Fill the bottom of a large pot with 3" water and bring to simmer over medium heat. Reduce heat to low, then place a large heatproof bowl on top. Add semi-sweet chocolate and stir occasionally until chocolate has melted. Stir in extract. Pour into prepared baking sheet and spread into an even layer with an offset spatula. Refrigerate until set, about 20 minutes.

2. Over the same pot of barely simmering water, place another large heatproof bowl. Add white chocolate and stir until melted. Pour over set semi-sweet chocolate then top immediately with candy canes. Refrigerate until set, about 20 minutes.

Recipe by www.Delish.com

INGREDIENTS

- 12 oz. semi-sweet chocolate, chopped
- 12 oz. white chocolate, chopped
- 1/2 tsp. peppermint extract
- 8 candy canes, crushed



Historical happenings

Aug. 10, 1937:

San Luis Valley REC incorporated

Back row, Frank McGee (Saguache County agent at time of incorporation in 1937); Ray Moses, first REC attorney; Max Sutley, Clyde Helms Sr., J.V. Edgmand, Herbert Bowers and Arthur Robertson—all among the 14 incorporators. Wives are seated in front.



Courtesy photo from late 1950s/early 1960s

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Photo by Dustin Underwood



*Happy Holidays from
our family to yours*

POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. REC will be closed on Dec. 23, 24 and 31 for the holidays.

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 17, 9:30 a.m.
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice is required.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.



Photo by Jennifer Alonzo