

Concern for community

‘Every Fair has a Story’ during 118th year

The San Luis Valley Fair’s 118th event was appropriately themed “Every Fair Has a Story.” This year’s story had a slightly different plot than previous years due to the ongoing pandemic. A few events were cancelled—including the Truck and Tractor Pull, Open Class Check-in, Pedal Tractor Pull and the Ranch Way Rodeo— but great times were had by all making up for the unexpected twist.

SLV REC annually takes part in the livestock sale, and this year was no exception. In an effort to give back to the local communities through the youth participants, REC also rewards a few lucky members with Valley-grown beef and pork.

Members of the fair board are thankful for the 2020 fair, despite this year’s unusual “story.” “We just want to say thank you to everyone who took part, from planning to participation. This year we had to think outside the box, and we learned some things that we will utilize for years to come! We felt that the fair went really well, and given the circumstances throughout the state this year, we couldn’t be more thrilled that we were able to move forward with our 2020 SLV Fair.”



Photos courtesy of Front Porch Photography

Pictured above: Kimmy Pargin; Pictured below: Elly Entz



Funds donated to four-legged friends



Following the sale of an old riding lawn mower, SLV REC’s Erin Dowers (far right) received approval to donate the funds to the Conour Animal Shelter in Monte Vista. Erin and REC Marketing/Sales Coordinator Jennifer Alonzo presented the funds to shelter manager Stevie and “Salty” in August. Erin adopted Sophie (pictured) from the shelter about six years ago and remains an advocate for the organization.

Courtesy Photo

THIS ISSUE

Focus on our members

Member engagement

Loren Howard

Voter Registration/Conservation

Recipe

SEPTEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 47 | ISSUE 8

Member engagement



Survey explores member opinions

SLV REC recently worked with GreatBlue Research to conduct a phone/digital survey to assess satisfaction levels of members. The survey addressed the following areas of concern: overall satisfaction with SLV REC, satisfaction with various organizational characteristics, knowledge and sentiment of the current rate structure, importance and perceived benefit of renewable energy and net-metering systems and current and preferred communication methods.

A few key findings among residential members surveyed include the following:

–When rated on a scale of 1-10 where 1 is “very good” and 10 is “very poor,” the following percentages represent members that scored REC with a 1-4 score (positive rating):

- Maintaining modern and reliable infrastructure— 79.4%
- Community involvement— 76.5%
- Responding promptly to customer questions and complaints— 73.6%
- Communicating with customers— 71.9%
- Being open and honest about company operations & policies— 66.8%
- Providing good service and value for the cost of electricity— 59.6%
- Helping customers with energy conservation— 59.3%
- Overall satisfaction with SLV REC— 69.3%

Of those who provided unsatisfactory ratings (ratings of 7-10) for at least one (1) organizational characteristic, the most frequent reason recorded was “unfair billing/high rates/poor rate structure” (47.7%).

– When asked to indicate the importance of reliability and cost, 70.7% indicated that reliability was more important than cost, while 19.5% indicated cost was more important than reliability.

– 72.2% of respondents indicated they were aware of the current SLV REC rate structure, while 27.8% reported being unaware. Additionally, 51.0% of respondents reported being satisfied with the current rate structure. When prompted to provide an explanation for their



satisfaction rating, 22.0% of respondents indicated “too expensive/rates too high,” 21.8% indicated “okay with rates/no issues” and 12.0% indicated “unfair billing/don’t agree with charges.”

Staff and board members will continue to review the survey results and key findings over the next several weeks. Full results of the member survey will be available at slvrec.com in the future.

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

As we work to improve communication with members, we’d like to verify that we have your current email address and cell phone number on file. Please call 719-852-3538 to update or email jalonzo@slvrec.com.

***You will be able to opt out of email or text communication if you’d like to.*





Loren Howard

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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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An alternate Time of Day Rate

In the fall of 2019 after a complaint by a group of REC members and the Town of Crestone, a mediated settlement of the complaint established a time of day rate with much lower demand charges and higher energy charges. Specifically, the single phase time of day rate changed as follows:

	<u>April 1, 2019</u>	<u>Nov. 1, 2019</u>
Customer Charge	\$39.40	\$39.40
Distribution Demand Charge (per kw)	\$2.85	\$0.50
Purchased Power Demand Charge (per kw)	\$5.45	\$0.80
Energy Charge (per kwh)	\$0.046	\$0.090

While this mediated interim rate helped some members manage the impact to their monthly bill, this rate also negatively impacted some members who had developed a usage pattern that took full advantage of the time of day rate. In order to correct this unintended consequence, an alternate time of day rate has been created to provide some relief to those members impacted.

The existing interim residential time of day rate (A-TOD) established in the rate complaint settlement agreement remains exactly as agreed

See TOD
continued on Page 5

SAN LUIS VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
ELECTRIC RATE TARIFF
Schedule A2 Time of Day

Revenue Class: 01, 04, 08, 09
Rate Code: 18, 19, 16, 17

Applicability
Applicable to Rural Residential, Town and Village, Seasonal, Small Commercial, Public Buildings and other Public Authority.

Type of Service
Single-phase, 60 Hz at 120/240 volts or three-phase, 60 Hz at available secondary voltage.

Customer Charge	Rate
Per meter per month (single phase)	\$39.40
Per meter per month (three phase)	\$47.15

Demand Charge	Rate
Distribution Demand	
Per kilowatt (kW)	\$0.50
Purchased Power Demand	
Per kilowatt (kW)	\$0.80

Energy Charge	Rate
On-Peak energy per kilowatt-hour (kWh)	\$0.156
Off-peak energy per kilowatt-hour (kWh)	\$0.068

Determination of Billing Demand
The Distribution Demand is the highest 15-minute demand during the billing month.

Purchased Power Demand is the highest 15-minute demand during the On Peak period (12:00pm (noon) to 10:00pm excluding Sundays).

On-peak energy is usage during the periods of 12:00 pm noon to 10:00 pm, Monday through Saturday. Off-peak energy is usage from 10:00 pm to 12:00 pm noon, Monday through Saturday and all day Sunday.

This tariff is subject to SLVREC's Electric Service Terms and Conditions. The Electric Service Terms and Conditions tariff is available upon request.

Loren H. Howard Chief Executive Officer Signature	September 1, 2020 Issue Date October 1, 2020 Effective Date
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Make your voice heard

National Voter Registration Day

There's an old political saying, "if you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate that shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we're encouraging all SLV REC members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 22, 2020. Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote, or helping members of our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

Your vision, your vote

While local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and on your quality of life.

Like the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community, and more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board, or an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, SLV REC board members provide strategic guidance on the direction of the co-op and how it serves the community. Local board members embody the voice and identity of the community.

Staying in sync with the community

Ultimately, the role of the co-op board is governance. While day-to-day decisions are made by our employees, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the members we serve. SLV REC board members provide their perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

However, boards are not perfect, and we need you, the members of the co-op, to help keep the system in check. We depend on you and your neighbors to vote so that we can stay on course and ensure that we are in sync with the community that we serve.



A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures that a diverse number of views are represented. The whole community benefits when more people participate in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues that are on the ballot and get out and vote!

To learn more about National Voter Registration Day or to get involved, visit www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org.

Conservation Corner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.

Source: energy.gov





Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

- 3 boneless chicken breast halves, cooked & cubed
- 2 T. butter, melted
- 1 (2-oz.) bottle hot sauce
- 1 (8-oz.) bottle blue cheese salad dressing
- 1 (16-inch) prepared pizza crust
- 1 (8-oz.) package shredded mozzarella cheese

BUFFALO STYLE CHICKEN PIZZA

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C).
2. In a medium bowl combine the cubed chicken, melted butter and hot sauce. Mix well. Spread whole bottle of salad dressing over crust, then top with chicken mixture and sprinkle with shredded cheese.
3. Bake in preheated oven until crust is golden brown and cheese is bubbly, about 5 to 10 minutes. Let set a few minutes before slicing, and serve.

Recipe by allrecipes.com

Just for fun

RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES WORD SEARCH

The electricity that powers our homes is generated by a variety of fuel sources, including renewables. Renewable energy comes from natural resources, like the wind and the sun. Can you find all the renewable energy-related

G S X H O F S X G F E X W E A
 N N O Z L S K R S N Q I T L S
 O O R L A B T S I Q N K S B I
 L A I M A R X B H D Y W T A V
 K O O T S R R A E V O G B W Y
 S I S P A U E N F R S B H E L
 B D C Q T R E N Q B X X Y N H
 F L F D N R E D E D E Y D E B
 Y H N M G J P N U R L B R R X
 D I B Y Q A D Y E H G M O Z D
 W Z A W D E Z M J G T Y P R F
 S O L A R P A N E L S U O X J
 L A M R E H T O E G B T W O B
 N F X W R D I P V Y J J E C Q
 C T I W S A L H K M U F R G O

words
in the
puzzle?



WORD BANK:

- HYDROPOWER
- WIND TURBINE
- RENEWABLE
- SOLAR PANEL
- WIND ENERGY
- GEOTHERMAL
- BIOMASS
- GENERATION
- SOLAR ENERGY



TOD

continued from page 3

between REC and the complainants. This alternate time of day rate (A2-TOD) is an optional rate, members can select if it is a better fit for their energy usage pattern. This new alternate rate mirrors the existing interim time of day rate but splits the energy charge into an on-peak and off-peak rate. This new alternate rate is as follows and will be available for members to select effective Oct. 1, 2020. On-peak hours remain at 12 noon to 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Off-peak hours are from 10 p.m. to 12 noon, Monday through Saturday and all day Sunday.

Oct. 1, 2020

Customer Charge	\$39.40
Distribution Demand Charge (per kw)	\$0.50
Purchased Power Demand Charge (per kw)	\$0.80
Energy Charge (per kwh on-peak)	\$0.156
Energy Charge (per kwh off-peak)	\$0.068

Please contact REC Customer Service at 719-852-3538 if you have questions about this alternate, optional time of day rate.

#POWERON



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September 2020



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. (The office is currently closed to the public due to the pandemic; watch slvrec.com for updates)

ENERGY ASSISTANCE
866-HEAT HELP (866-432-8435)
www.energyoutreach.org

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 29, TBA
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 courtesy of Valley Courier