

## 2021 Annual Meeting

### Incumbents Anderson, Valdez remain on board

The 2021 annual meeting on June 8 followed a similar format as 2020's event. COVID-19 restrictions once again placed limitations on having a regular in-person meeting, so a membership open house was held all day with a Zoom meeting following that evening to take care of business.

The open house allowed for meeting and prize registration, as well as in-person voting. Winners of all door prizes were notified the following day (see winners' names online at [slvrec.com/annual-meeting](http://slvrec.com/annual-meeting)).

The virtual meeting began with an invocation by REC's Chief Technology Officer Monroe Johnson, followed by an introduction of the board and staff by President Carol Lee Dugan. REC

Attorney Gregg Kampf announced the determination of a quorum with 56 members registered during the open house. Minutes from the 2020 annual meeting were approved and the 2021 scholarship recipients were recognized. In addition, SLVREC released its 2020 financial results, and Chief Executive Officer Loren Howard presented the executive report.

Howard discussed the continuing education of electric rates and said, "we expect no changes in rates for the remainder of 2021." He also reviewed Tri-State's rate decrease stating that the reduction in cost for REC will lead to savings for members, but exactly how those savings will be dispersed is still being

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Saguache County Director Keenan Anderson talks with former board member Eleanor Valdez during the open house on June 8.

## Meet your co-op

### Sisneros joins SLVREC/Ciello team

Valley native and Antonito graduate Jarrod Sisneros has joined the SLVREC/Ciello team as telecommunications coordinator.

Jarrod comes to the co-op with nearly 20 years' experience; he spent 13 years with Centurylink, where he was the central office technician taking care of the Valley's eight offices. Prior to that he worked for Fairpoint/Consolidated Communications.

Jarrod is looking forward to a change of pace with Ciello. He'll be working with some of the same equipment but will be doing more troubleshooting with customers, as well as designing and scheduling

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Jarrod Sisneros

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Annual meeting/Meet your co-op

Ciello

Loren Howard: Demand charge

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# ANNUAL

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discussed. REC staff will take a recommendation to the board at the June meeting. Howard also explained some of the larger maintenance projects that are occurring this year to help with fire mitigation and reliability in REC's system. Questions from members (from the annual meeting postcards) will be answered either on an individual basis or in upcoming Newsboys.

## REC directors to serve another four years

Votes were counted Wednesday morning by a third-party; incumbents Keenan Anderson, Saguache County (district 3) and Stephen Valdez, Conejos County (district 5) will both serve another four-year term. Anderson received more votes than opponent Chris Tolian Morrisette to retain his seat, while Valdez ran unopposed.



REC staff Michelle Trujillo and Carol Silva assist a member with registration.



The 2021 annual meeting was held on Tuesday, June 8 via Zoom with all board members, CEO Loren Howard, Corporate Treasurer JoAn Waudby, Assistant Corporate Secretary Michelle Trujillo, Attorney Gregg Kampf and staff members Monroe Johnson and Jennifer Alonzo present.

# ciello

*Proudly serving our neighbors...*

Due to inclement weather, the Eberls missed their scheduled appointment for installation...  
“Your customer service rep and Kelby were in contact with us and moved the schedule around to give us time to get to the house: #1) your company exhibited excellent customer service by talking to us and attempting to accommodate the issue that we ran into; #2) your company took care of us, and your technician, Kelby, went to another job and came back later when we were able to get there; #3) I am a previous business owner, and this technician is someone that you do not want to lose. This guy is professional, he is personable and knowledgeable... Aces across the board. This guy portrays your company as the same. We are new customers, completely unaware of your company or your service but because Kelby is an amazing employee, you are starting off with us with a AAA rating!! We strongly recommend a raise or promotion for Kelby and appreciate everything that he did to make sure we got connected.”  
—Steve and Karuna Eberl, Hooper

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Ciello, Powered by REC, is proud to feature testimonials from our satisfied customers in upcoming issues of the Newsboy.

Send your testimonials to [jalonzo@slvrec.com](mailto:jalonzo@slvrec.com) to be featured.

## Electric Rates Part 2- Demand Charge

This is the second in a series of articles about what makes up the charges on your REC electric bill. Last month, the topic was “Customer Charge.” If you missed it, check out REC’s website at [www.slvrec.com/electric-rates-part-1-customer-charge](http://www.slvrec.com/electric-rates-part-1-customer-charge). This month, we tackle what is often considered the most difficult to understand – Demand Charges. So, let me start with a simple analogy which has been used previously. Demand, as it relates to electricity, is simply how fast you are using it. Think of it like your car – demand is speed. Speed is not how far you have gone, just how fast you are going. Demand is exactly like that, how fast are you using electricity. If you are a homeowner, when you turn on that electric clothes dryer (typically 3000 watts), you are using electricity faster than when you turn on your microwave (typically 1000 watts).

*So why have a demand charge on electric bills?* First let me address why residential members have not had demand charges until recently and why electric users like commercial and industrial accounts have had demand charges for many years. The most significant answer to that question is meter cost. Recording demand requires a sophisticated meter and historically, those meters cost many hundreds or thousands of dollars, and it was simply not cost justified to deploy those expensive meters on residential accounts. Add to that fact, residential accounts usually outnumber all other rate classes 10 to one; therefore it is understandable that measuring demand, in the past, on residential accounts was too costly.

*So, what changed that made it possible to measure, record and charge for demand on residential accounts?* Technology.



Like your smart phone versus that old rotary phone, imbedding logic and storage in a residential electric meter has become an extraordinarily small cost. In fact, today virtually all electric meters are electronic as opposed to that old electric meter with that spinning wheel. Electronic meters have the additional advantage of being significantly more accurate than a mechanical meter. Technology also added one more advantage – communication. Wireless communication, like the cell phone, is downright cheap and very efficient. Reporting electric usage in a timely manner is now possible— in REC’s case, every six hours.

Back to the question of why REC has electric rates with demand charges. As a member of REC, you are connected to REC’s electric distribution system. There are fixed costs on operating and maintaining the distribution system. Poles, wires, transformers, substations and some labor costs are all fixed, whether a member uses one kilowatt-hour of electricity or 1000 kilowatt-hours. In the past, when REC charged only for the kilowatt-hours used by a member, to ensure those fixed costs were covered, some members paid more than their fair share and others paid less. Separating out those fixed costs through a demand charge goes a long way in eliminating the subsidies between residential members. Commercial, industrial, farming and ranching rates for electricity, as noted above, have for many years included a demand charge. Now, all REC electric rates have a customer charge, a demand charge and an energy charge. Having all three components in each electric rate is the best method of

**DEMAND**  
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# Annual meeting continued...

## Members welcomed at open house



Board members Stephen Valdez and Scott Wolfe greet guests and answer questions at the open house.

## JARROD

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installations.

Chief Technology Officer Monroe Johnson commented, "Jarrod and I have worked together before. I believe his knowledge of the Valley and our customer

## DEMAND

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reducing subsidies between rate classes and within rate classes.

One of the comments expressed by members has been "Doesn't a demand charge on residential rates disproportionately increase costs to members who use very little electricity?" Recently, I studied that question and found the answer is no. What really matters when it comes to the overall cost of electricity is the ratio of the maximum demand (kilowatts) set in a billing period to the electricity used (kilowatt-hours) in the billing period. That ratio is virtually the same for electric users who use small amounts (200-400 kilowatt-hours), medium amounts (400-600 kilowatt-hours) and average amounts (more than 600 kilowatt-hours). If your ratio is low, your average price of a kilowatt-hour of electricity

## Veterans Memorial Park Project efforts continuing



At the May SLVREC Foundation meeting Frank Muniz and Brenda Felmlee with the Alamosa County Veterans Memorial Park Project presented to the board. The organization is currently seeking non-profit status; following IRS approval, fundraising efforts will continue. Follow this project on Facebook (Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park Project) for details and updates.



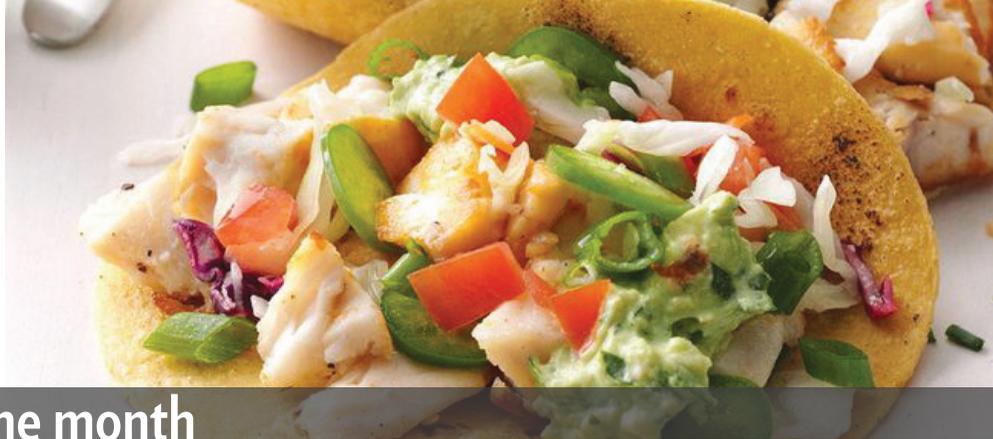
base will enhance the service we provide. The industry knowledge he brings will also strengthen our team here at Cielo. I am very glad he chose to join us!"

Welcome to the team, Jarrod!

used is high compared to a member with a high ratio.

As noted above, demand is the speed at which a member is using electricity. In your car, when you are checking your speed, it is an instantaneous number – up and down depending on conditions. The speed of electric consumption can also be measured instantaneously, but for decades, electric utilities have averaged that instantaneous value over a 15-minute period and used that value as a measure of demand. Why 15 minutes? It is a reasonable compromise between using an instantaneous value and a longer measuring period (such as one hour) and set to give, as reasonably possible, a picture of the capacity of the electric system used by a home or business.

Next month the final part of electric rates, energy, will be reviewed, so don't miss the Newsboy in August.



## Recipe of the month

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 c. angel hair coleslaw mix
- 1-1/2 t. canola oil
- 1-1/2 t. lime juice

### GUACAMOLE:

- 1 medium ripe avocado, peeled & quartered
- 2 T. fat-free sour cream
- 1 T. finely chopped onion
- 1 T. minced fresh cilantro
- 1/8 t. salt
- Dash pepper

### TACOS:

- 1 pound tilapia fillets, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 2 teaspoons canola oil
- 8 corn tortillas (6"), warmed

*Optional toppings:* Hot pepper sauce, chopped tomatoes, green onions and jalapeno peppers

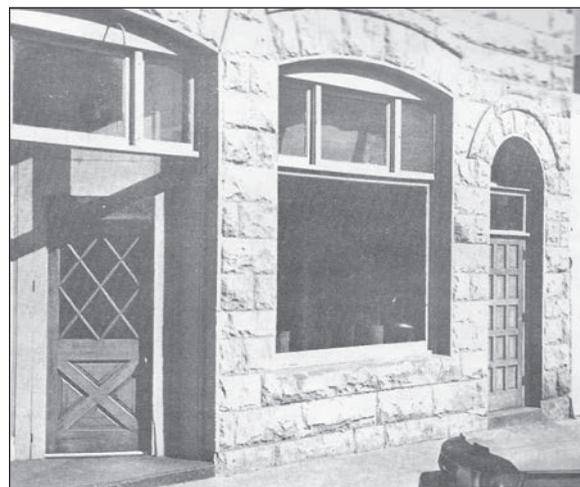
### FISH TACOS & GUACAMOLE

1. In a small bowl, toss coleslaw mix with oil and lime juice; refrigerate until serving. In another bowl, mash avocado with a fork; stir in sour cream, onion, cilantro, salt and pepper.

2. Sprinkle tilapia with salt and pepper. In a large nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add tilapia; cook until fish just begins to flake easily with a fork, 3-4 minutes on each side. Serve in tortillas with coleslaw, guacamole and desired toppings.

*Recipe by [www.tasteofhome.com](http://www.tasteofhome.com)*

## Historical happenings



At left: SLV REC wrapped up September 1938 with more than 285 services in place. Pictured above, the first office of SLV REC was about 600 square feet and located across the street from the Monte Vista Elks Club.

### Electric system growing

After the first lines were energized, the electric business sold itself. Everyone was so excited; they would say, "I never thought I would live to see 'push-button electricity' in my house." Bids were open in October, 1938 for the construction of 139 miles of additional power lines. This new network (Section B) would serve 350 additional customers. Work began on it in December 1938 and continued through the winter. (*San Luis Valley Historian, Volume XXVI #3, 1994*)



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July 2021



Photo by Tyler Cerny

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**SCHEDULED MEETINGS**  
Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 27, 9:30 a.m.  
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice required.

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