

LPEA Currents



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 Pam Patton, president — District 4
 Terry Alley, vice president — District 1
 Davin Montoya, secretary — District 2
 John Gardella, treasurer — District 3
 Jeff Berman, director — District 3
 Herb Brodsky, director — District 4
 Harry Cole, director — District 1
 Tom Compton, director — District 2
 Bob Formwalt, director — District 1
 Harry Goff, director — District 3
 Jerry McCaw, director — District 2
 Joe Wheeling, director — District 4

MISSION STATEMENT
La Plata Electric Association provides its members safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost while being environmentally responsible.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:
 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 9 A.M.
 LPEA HEADQUARTERS, DURANGO



Birthday Party — No RSVP Needed

BY GREG MUNRO, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Did you know that LPEA is celebrating its 70th birthday this year? Yep, 70 years of providing its membership with electricity. The cooperative has been through wars, good economic times, bad economic times, mergers, changes in the workforce, new technologies, new ways of doing things, and an ever increasing number of ways for using electricity. All this has helped make our country the greatest country in the world. LPEA continues to survive, and indeed thrive because of you, our great membership, as well as our talented and dedicated workforce.



Greg Munro

Please accept my personal invitation to join us to celebrate LPEA's 70th birthday at the LPEA Annual Meeting. This is the year, if you haven't yet heard, that your board of directors has moved the date from September to May. The 2009 Annual Meeting is set for Saturday, May 9, at Pagosa Springs High School.

As always, LPEA will provide lunch following the business meeting. Registration begins at 9 a.m., with the meeting starting promptly at 10:30 a.m. No RSVP is required. Just show up, and take some time to meet and talk to your LPEA

Board of Directors, and also enjoy a visit with your friends and neighbors — all of whom are LPEA members.

During the business meeting you will hear reports from Board President, Pam Patton, myself, a representative from Tri-State Generation and Transmission

Association, and possibly a few others. We'll fill you in on how LPEA did in 2008, what our plans are for 2009, and about the many challenges that lie ahead of us as we continue in our mission to provide you with safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost while being environmentally responsible.

As you are undoubtedly well aware, the economy and energy are big topics these days. Both have and will continue to affect all of us today and well into the future. We are seeing far reaching legislation and regulation in the energy sector that will have profound effects on how we meet our mission to serve you. We will address these topics and share what we and Tri-State are doing to get prepared to meet your electric energy needs in these uncertain times.

JOIN THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRATING

70
Years

La Plata Electric Association, Inc.
Annual Meeting & Luncheon
Saturday, May 9, 2009
Pagosa Springs High School
Registration - 9 a.m.
Business Meeting - 10:30 a.m.

Larry Redman Receives Certification from NRECA

LPEA purchasing agent completes three-year supply-management program

LPEA Purchasing Agent Larry Redman has completed the Supply-Management Course Certificate Program, a three-year effort organized by the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA).

“Managing inventory and balancing our electric load growth needs against the cost of changing out aging infrastructure is a big job and a strategic issue with all electric cooperatives,” says Greg Munro, LPEA CEO. “With Larry’s certification, we’re confident he’s been armed with the right training and tools to ensure LPEA can manage the increasingly volatile prices.”

Over Redman’s three years of attending Tech Advantage, the industry show at which the training courses are held, he studied procurement processes, best practices, contract writing, managing inventory, and more. During the most recent conference, he attended a session concerning transformers and the stringent requirements soon to be placed on transformer manufacturers by the Department of Energy on January 1, 2010.

“This is a capital-intensive business,” says Redman, responsible for purchasing and arranging timely delivery for all materials used at LPEA, from poles to transformers to cable. “Everything we order for the line, as well as capital items such as vehicles, and administrative needs.”

Redman, who has served as LPEA’s purchasing agent for seven years, has been with the Finance Division for 31 years. His initial responsibilities included materials management, work orders and accounting.

“So I have been involved in all aspects, and understand the complete process of procurement for the cooperative,” says Redman. “I keep an eye on our members’ money and spend it wisely, doing the best I possibly can.”

A Durango native, Redman attended Fort Lewis College and the L.I.F.E. Bible College in the Echo Park area of southern California, before returning to Durango to raise his family.



Larry Redman

LPEA TO CO-SPONSOR ARCHULETA COUNTY SAFETY EXPO

La Plata Electric Association is teaming up with the Pagosa Fire Protection District and Archuleta County School District 50JT to host the inaugural Archuleta County Safety Expo, Saturday, May 2, at Pagosa Springs High School.

With a focus on home, road and outdoor safety for children and adults, the Safety Expo will feature more than 20 local and regional service providers. Activities, slated to run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., include educational and live demonstrations, including management of a mock-emergency incident. Activities for children are also planned.

“This will be the first time an event of this size and magnitude will have been held in the region,” says Mike Alley, LPEA-Pagosa Springs line superintendent and co-coordinator of the expo. “It’ll be much more than just displays. As of now, several helicopters will be coming in; the Colorado Highway Patrol will be bringing in the crash simulator; and of course we’ll have our bucket trucks and be offering arc demonstrations, which dramatically demonstrate the power of electricity.”

The natural gas industry, law enforcement, the American Red Cross, search and rescue, emergency medical services, the Mounted Rangers and the US Forest Service (with Smokey Bear) and more will be represented.

Entrance to the event is free of charge, though a variety of food vendors will be on hand for sales of breakfast and lunch items and beverages. For further information, contact Alley at 970-382-7721.

CO-OP MEMBERS ASK:

Q. *I know I can recycle my old CFL bulbs at LPEA, but what about fluorescent lights? Aren't they an environmental hazard as well?*

A. While fluorescent bulbs are energy efficient and have a longer lifespan than incandescent bulbs, each bulb does contain a small amount of mercury, making their disposal an environmental issue. If thrown in with regular trash, broken bulbs could leach mercury into the groundwater, eventually contaminating our water supply.

To avoid that, the city of Durango is now recycling

fluorescent lamps from commercial and residential uses and that are U-shaped, circle-shaped or tubular and less than 3 1/2 inches in diameter. The recycling process crushes the bulbs and separates the mercury from the glass, allowing the glass to be recycled while the mercury is treated as hazardous waste. A nominal fee of 50¢ per bulb is charged and the recycling fees must be paid at Durango City Hall, 949 E. 2nd Avenue, where a receipt will be issued. Receipts and bulbs then should be taken to the Durango Recycling Center, 710 Tech Center Drive for recycling. Bulbs will be accepted Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I intended to be.”

DOUGLAS ADAMS



LPEA SUPPORTS THE SAN JUAN BASIN REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

Each year La Plata Electric is proud to participate in the San Juan Basin Regional Science Fair, which encourages student learning and exploration, and promotes interest in math, science, engineering and technology by recognizing research, knowledge, ability and achievement.

Held at the La Plata County Fairgrounds on March 5, the Science Fair recognized middle and high school students from throughout the basin with a number of awards, including recognition from LPEA for the best application of energy efficiency and conservation, sustainable development or renewable energy in the multiple categories.

LPEA's Ray Pierotti served as one of the event's judges — no easy task as more than 200 students entered in the competition.

Students lauded by LPEA for their inventiveness were 'Ilima Umbhau, Kristin Campbell, Tayler Elder, Logan Graham, Evatt Salinger, Nathan Langford, Easton Chapelle, Aryanna Lee, Emily Walck, Angela Gallegos, Jordan Lestina, Darren Hostelton, Kenna Tarr, Emily Harris, Lauren Mirhashemi, Nicole Brothers, Jamie Urban, Hayley Anderson and Kelly Looman.



LPEA's Ray Pierotti congratulates sixth grader 'Ilima Umbhau for her entry "Ocean Wave Energy: Oscillating Water Column."



LPEA honored 19 regional middle and high school students for their entries in the 51st Annual San Juan Basin Regional Science Fair.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG: *Always Call Before You Dig*

It may seem to be harmless — digging a hole in the yard for that new spruce tree or forsythia. A word to the wise — dial 8-1-1 before you dig.

Utilities are buried only a few inches underground, making them easy to strike even during shallow digging projects. More than 256,000 underground utility lines are struck each year in the U.S., resulting in injuries, property damage and electrical outages, and 35 percent of all those digging damages result from not calling before digging.

"As spring comes along, everyone is ready to get out into the yard, or they're looking into home improvement projects," says Steve Gregg, LPEA operations manager. "All we ask is that before you start excavating for that new deck or outbuilding, or even with new landscaping, that you let us come out and do a line



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

locate. No job is too small."

Within two days of dialing 8-1-1, LPEA will send a professional line locator who will mark the paths of any underground cables. Line locate arrangements can also be made by visiting LPEA's website (www.lpea.coop) for the link to the Utility

Notification Center of Colorado.

April 2009 is National Safe Digging Month, as designated by The Common Ground Alliance and its stakeholders. The effort is designed to increase awareness of safe digging practices throughout the country. It is also a celebration of the two-year anniversary of 8-1-1, the national call-before-you-dig number.

For further information on National Safe Digging Month, visit www.uncc2.org.

TREE TRIMMING

With spring comes the opportunity for LPEA to perform routine inspections and maintenance on the overhead power lines, including safe trimming and removal of trees that are a hazard to electrical system lines.

While it's sometimes difficult to see a mature tree cut down, removal of hazardous trees is necessary for public safety, lessening the potential for power outages and possibility of fires caused by limbs or trees falling onto, or through, power lines.

A hazard tree is any tree that is dead, damaged, infested with insects, showing evidence that the root system is jeopardized and unstable, and/or leaning toward power lines and is tall enough to come into contact with LPEA electrical equipment if it were to fall.

Tree and brush clearing is an essential part of LPEA's service to its member-owners. The co-op urges homeowners who may plan to trim a tree close to power lines, to call LPEA first at 970-247-5786, and let LPEA remove any hazardous trees or branches in the right-of-way area.

Inaugural Four Corners Green Living Expo April 18-19

The words “green” and “sustainable” have been bandied about a great deal lately, but what do they really mean? Saving money? A healthier future for you and your family?

These questions and more are on tap to be answered at the inaugural Four Corners Green Living Expo, set for Saturday, April 18 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and April 19 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) at the La Plata County Fairgrounds – and LPEA will be a part.

“There can be tremendous amount of confusion around what is available to consumers and if it is really a green product,” says Carol Clark of Ecologic Events, coordinators of the Expo. “We hope to clear up some of that confusion by providing a selection of some of the best regional businesses that have worked to develop standards within their companies to reduce waste, are committed to sustaining business within their communities and avoid products that are not



socially responsible.”

In addition to the more than 50 eco-friendly exhibitors, seminars, workshops and children’s educational activities are planned. The exhibitors promise to stretch beyond just “green building” and will include sustainable efforts such as organic foods, locally produced retail products and more.

“Imagine the Four Corners Green Living Expo as a walk through a sustainable community,” says Ecologic’s Kristin Muraro noting that proceeds from the two-day event will benefit SASCO — the Sustainability Alliance of Southwest Colorado. “It begins with finding solutions to help make our lives healthier — socially, economically and environmentally. Our goal is to bring individuals along with businesses and community leaders together to discuss critical issues that impact us at home and in our community. Don’t miss the opportunity to experience this wonderful community event.”

LPEA has stepped up as an event sponsor and will on hand as an exhibitor in partnership with the Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency (4CORE) to share energy efficiency information and more.

For further information, visit www.ecologicevents.com.

LPEA’s RECEPTION AREA ENJOYS A FACELIFT

LPEA customer service representatives Karen Sims and John Mackley genuinely like each other, and the colleagues enjoy welcoming member/owners who stop by the Durango headquarters. But the elbow room at the old reception desk was getting a little tight.

Also, across the way in the energy management office, advisors Suzy Bynum and Richard Archuleta were jockeying for space when folks came by to discuss Electric Thermal Storage heaters, heat pumps or Marathon water heaters.

It’s no longer an issue, on either front. Over the past several months, LPEA’s Durango lobby has been undergoing a dramatic transformation.

“Customers come in the front door and they stop and look around,” says Sims with a smile. “I know they’re thinking just what I would – ‘Am I in the right place?’”

The reception counter has been moved closer to the front door and significantly enlarged, offering three separate customer service areas and increased privacy for member/owners when conducting business. The new space can also be secured, providing added security while also enabling a conference room to be open to the public for after-hours meetings.

Bynum and Archuleta have new, individual offices just off the lobby, and their former space has become a conference room to accommodate approximately 15-30, depending on seating configuration. The room is fully equipped for teleconferencing, video and PowerPoint presentations and is available to the public. Call 247-5786 to check for availability.



Customer Service Representatives Karen Sims and John Mackley enjoy their new reception “digs” at the LPEA Durango office.

RECYCLE ELECTRONICS WITH THE CITY OF DURANGO APRIL 24-25

The city of Durango will once again offer a two-day recycle collection event for computers and additional electronics Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Durango Recycling Center, 710 Tech Center Drive.

Nominal fees will be charged for some items such as televisions and computer monitors. Items such as keyboards, cables, cell phone, printer cartridges and cell phone batteries will be recycled free of charge.

Businesses with large volumes are encouraged to call 970-375-4831 in advance to schedule an appointment. A detailed inventory list provided in advance will allow for faster processing.

For additional information, contact the city’s Recycling Division at 970-375-4831.

