

# 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, MAY 20, 9 A.M.  
 LPEA HEADQUARTERS, DURANGO



## CAP-AND-TRADE – IT WILL AFFECT YOU

BY GREG W. MUNRO, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**T**here's a lot of talk about cap-and-trade these days, with an equal amount of misunderstanding. Because of the impact this will have on every person and business that relies on the use of energy, we all need to understand what is going on.



Greg W. Munro

Basically, the premise of a cap-and-trade system is to reduce Green House Gases (GHGs) by placing a tax on carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that you and I will pay for through our use of energy. At the federal level, plans and legislation are already in the works to get cap-and-trade enacted, and though it is complicated and not completely understood, the legislation is moving quickly. We believe a great deal of debate is needed before such a tax is imposed.

At the time of this writing, legislation has not yet passed. What we've seen of the proposals, however, indicates that the magnitude of potential electric rate increases could be the largest we have ever seen in the history of the rural electric industry.

A recent *Wall Street Journal* article revealed that the President's budget assumes that the U.S. will adopt a cap-and-trade system that would set limits on the amount of GHGs that industries can emit, but allow companies to buy and sell rights to emit those gases. At \$20 per ton of carbon emissions, (conservative and expected to rise) \$645 billion will be assessed between 2012 and 2019 from the auction of emissions credits.

Since LPEA's wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, uses coal to generate more than 80 percent of its electric power, Tri-State will need to off-set the GHGs and purchase emissions credits. Tri-State's costs

will go up as a consequence of the federal proposed budget and/or potential federal legislation. Someone will have to pay that suggested \$645 billion. It will be you and I.

You might say, Tri-State should generate electricity from renewable resources.

Well, the effort is underway to do just that through wind farms (LPEA's Green Power program), and now through the country's largest solar farm currently being built in northern New Mexico. However, these new generation facilities do cost money to build (and the cost will be passed on to you), are not necessarily producing power all the time, are just a fraction of what we need, and they can't be built fast enough to meet the great demand for electricity.

In the fall of 2008, your elected board of directors recognized this looming issue and adopted a Position Paper regarding a National Policy that reduces GHGs in an effective way that will not threaten reliability, economic vitality and safety. You can view the Position Paper, which was published in our October 2008 *Colorado Country Life* at [www.lpea.coop](http://www.lpea.coop). The Position Paper concludes with:

"It is vital that Congress weigh all outcomes as it grapples with possible solutions. LPEA recommends that extensive modeling, including economic, be applied to each taxing or carbon trading proposal to ensure that new policies get the intended improvements in the environment without jeopardizing reliability or creating crippling economic costs.

"Our bottom line at LPEA is that we need to keep all three legs of our mission viable: environmental responsibility, reliability and controlling costs. We should all insist that

*[continued on page 7]*

# DIRECTOR ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN DISTRICTS 3 AND 4

*LPEA Board of Directors to welcome at least one new member*

In accordance with LPEA's bylaws, annually one seat in each of La Plata Electric's four districts comes up for election. Though elections in Districts 1 and 2 have been cancelled, elections will be held in Districts 3 and 4. With the incumbent not running in District 3, at least one new member will enter the boardroom in June 2009.

In Districts 1 and 2, incumbent board members Bob Formwalt and Jerry McCaw, respectively, had no challengers. Pursuant to Article III, Section 5 of the LPEA bylaws, these board members will retain their seats for the next three years.

In District 3, however, three new candidates, Connie Imig, Bobby Lieb and Harry Riegler will vie for one available director's seat, as incumbent John Gardella has retired from the board. In District 4, incumbent Herb Brodsky faces chal-

lenger John Beebe.

District 3 is essentially the city of Durango and includes approximately 6,700 eligible voters. District 4 is the north and east parts of La Plata County, containing 7,200 eligible voters.

Election packets were mailed to member-owners in Districts 3 and 4 on April 17, and ballots will be tallied at the Annual Meeting, May 9, using La Plata County's official ballot counting equipment (the same used in the county elections).

The Annual Meeting will be held at Pagosa Springs High School, with registration beginning at 9 a.m., followed by the business meeting at 10:30 a.m. A complimentary lunch follows.

## DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES



**Connie Matthews Imig**  
115 Alamo Drive  
Durango

Originally from Harrisburg, Illinois, Ms. Imig is a tile artist and active member of the Durango community. She studied photojournalism in college prior to obtaining her degree from the Institute of Organizational Management in Washington, D.C. A former small business owner, Ms. Imig served as executive director for two chambers of commerce before moving to Durango, and is the former executive director of the local Habitat for Humanity organization. Her current involvements include mem-

bership of the state board of Habitat Colorado, executive board of Southwest Conservation Corp, City of Durango Natural Lands Advisory board, and county commissioner appointee to the Regional Housing Alliance.

*"Renewable energy HAS to be the forefront of our future. I pledge to vote for the change needed to make this a reality. We also take personal responsibility by driving a hybrid vehicle, a neighborhood electric vehicle and purchasing green power."*

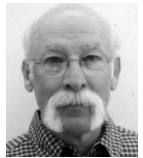


**Robert A. (Bobby) Lieb, Jr.**  
2616 W. 2nd Ave.  
Durango

Mr. Lieb was widely known as the executive director who handled the merger of the Durango Chamber of Commerce and La Plata Economic Development Action Partnership (LEAD), a position from which he stepped down in 2007 to head up development of the new Durango Airport Business park. When the Lieb family owned and operated Durango Threadworks, Mr. Lieb served as its vice president, overseeing all operations. A graduate of Arizona State University with a bachelor of science in international marketing, he also launched Berghaus, a clothing retail store in Newport, Rhode Island. Mr. Lieb, originally from Newport Beach, Cali-

fornia, is a graduate of Leadership La Plata and currently sits on the Hundred Club, FastTrack Communications and Durango Youth Soccer boards of directors, the latter he is president.

*"I am running for the La Plata Electric Association board of directors for purposes of: 1) providing safe, reliable and affordable power for all its members; 2) further promoting local economic development for the purpose of retaining our youth in the community through better career opportunities; and 3) ensuring the success of dependable and economically viable renewable energy technologies."*



**Harold L. (Harry) Riegler, Jr.**  
543 E. 30th St.  
Durango

Born in Reading, Pennsylvania, Dr. Riegler has been self-employed as a small business owner for some 30 years, working as an optometrist and part-time ski instructor. He earned his bachelor's degree in engineering from Western Michigan University and his doctor of optometry from Pacific University. While serving as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and an Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters. Dr. Riegler is currently a member of the Sustainability Alliance

of Southwest Colorado (SASCO) and the San Juan Citizens Alliance.

*"As an LPEA board member I will advocate for increasing energy production from local, renewable sources such as solar and micro-hydro. We are overlooking abundant and sustainable resources that could create good jobs and boost the economy of our community. I will also advocate for increasing existing efficiency programs that reduce costs for co-op members."*

## CO-OP MEMBERS ASK

**Q:** What is the difference between kilowatts and kilowatt hours?

**A:** To understand the difference between kilowatts (KW) and kilowatt hours (kWh), con-

sider the difference between the speedometer and odometer in your vehicle. The KW demand is the speedometer showing what's going on at the moment. The kWhs used is the odometer showing what's happened over time. If you drive 60 mph for an hour, you travel 60 miles. If you use 10 KWs for an hour, you've used 10 kWhs.

## MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org), the website of the Electrical Safety Foundation International, to learn more about home electrical safety. View and download the "Indoor Electrical Safety Check" and "Outdoor Electrical Safety Check" booklets to help you conduct an electrical safety audit of your home.

**DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES**



**Herbert C. (Herb) Brodsky**  
1824 CR 204  
Durango

An independent business consultant who has lived in Colorado and been an LPEA member since 1980, Mr. Brodsky provides organizational and financial planning to a wide range of clients. His professional experience includes vice president/director of property management for Melvin Simon and Associates; sales engineer/product manager, The Carborundum Company; sales engineer, Rockwell Standard Corporation; and staff engineer, central engineering division, Chrysler. In the non-profit arena, he is board president of the La Plata County Community Development Corporation

and Fox Farm Village Owners Association, and a member of the LPEA Round-up Foundation board. Former leadership roles include president of the LPEA Board of Directors, American Cancer Society, Durango Natural Foods and more. Originally from Chicago, he earned his bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from Purdue University, and his masters in automotive engineering from the Chrysler Institute of Engineering.

*"My service to La Plata Electric during the past years has provided me with in-depth knowledge of our company and the electric industry as a whole. In addition, my many years of business experience enable me to actively contribute to the success of our co-op. I would like to continue to serve our members and add a progressive voice to our Board of Directors."*



**John A. Beebe**  
445 Elk  
Valley Road  
Bayfield

Mr. Beebe, born in Warsaw, Indiana, has amassed 34 years of professional experience, most recently serving 12 years as chief operating officer for Thompson & Knight LLP, a Dallas, Texas-based commercial law firm of some 320 attorneys. His background also includes leadership positions with Guaranty Bank, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and University of Indianapolis, the latter from which he received his bachelor of science in business administration and economics. He earned his master of business administration from

Indiana University. Currently semi-retired, Mr. Beebe has worked in land development and homebuilding since moving to Colorado in 2003. He is currently board president for the Deer Valley Estates Property Owners' Association and has served as a volunteer firefighter with the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District and cultural site steward with the San Juan Mountains Association. Professional and charitable positions have included vice president of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas and Financial Executives International, Dallas chapter.

*"Unprecedented economic, political and social forces challenge our electric cooperative. I offer fresh thinking, career-proven business and community leadership experience anchored by conservative yet progressive values."*

**Representative Districts 1 and 2 Elections Cancelled**

**Winners Declared:**

**Bob Formwalt, incumbent (District 1)**  
**Jerry McCaw, incumbent (District 2)**

Pursuant to Article III, Section 5 of the LPEA Bylaws, the elections in Districts 1 and 2 have been cancelled due to only one nominee for each position.

**Cap-and-Trade Will Affect You**

*[continued from page 5]*

Congress look for solutions that will do all three. We at LPEA are going to be talking with our legislators about it and hope you will as well."

As I stated, thus far the proposed legislation (of which there are several versions) is very complicated, not understood and moving quickly. We need your help in telling Washington that we deserve transparency in how they write bills, what the economic consequences of those bills are, and how they will spend the money.

One of many questions we have, which have not been answered, is, if you are one of those many customers who are purchasing Green Power from us, or have a renewable energy source at your home or business, shouldn't you NOT be taxed via a Carbon Tax, or Cap-and-Trade system? We will keep trying to get those answers.

We will work diligently in doing what we can to shape the legislation, in getting answers and keeping you informed on this crucially important issue and its ultimate consequences. We also will try to inform you, no matter what legislation is ultimately adopted, what the impact to you is as a separate line item on your electric bill. We hope we can figure out a way for you to be able to actually see in dollars and cents what you have been taxed because of this cap-and-trade legislation.

Further information about GHG issues is available on our website, as well as on our national business association's site at [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop), where you can also gain more information about contacting your legislators.

**4CORE**

Four Corners Office For Resource Efficiency

**Clean Energy Finance Forum:  
Technology, Policy, Finance, Contracts  
A forum for decision makers in renewable  
energy technology and implementation**

**Tuesday, May 12, 2009  
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Durango Public Library**

**For details visit [www.fourcore.org](http://www.fourcore.org)  
or call 970-259-1916**

# Neighborhood Ambassadors Share Wildfire Prevention Message

BY PAM WILSON, COORDINATOR, NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

**W**ildfire — it's the single biggest natural disaster threat facing communities in southwestern Colorado. Yet, every year more homes are built next to or in our forests. In an average year, firefighters are dispatched to 300-400 fires on public lands, most of which are lightning strikes.

We can't control when the fires come, but we can control what happens after they start — not through hiring more firefighters and buying more engines, but by manipulating the vegetation on your property to affect the fire's behavior. By removing shrubs and the lower limbs of trees, you can effectively keep the fire on the ground where firefighters have a better chance of controlling the fire.

Also, using more fire-resistant materials when building or remodeling your

home can decrease the chances of your home igniting from flying embers.

These messages, along with others on emergency preparedness and the importance of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, are those the neighborhood ambassadors of the Firewise Council of Southwest Colorado carry forth to their neighbors.

The program, which began in 2004 with 11 ambassadors, now boasts 60 representing 38 moderate to high-risk subdivisions in La Plata, Archuleta and Montezuma counties. In 2008, these ambassadors donated more than 1,700 hours valued at \$33,500, though how does one really put a dollar value on work that may save many homes or the life of a firefighter?

Preparedness comes in many forms

and our ambassadors have found many creative ways to share the message. They have created e-mail and phone trees to share information, organized "chipper" days, helped new property owners mitigate their property, purchased a fire truck for their neighborhood, installed a community cistern to aid with firefighting efforts and modified HOA covenants. In an area that ranks third highest in the state for wildfire danger according to the Colorado State Forest Service, no action is considered too small.

What are YOU Waiting For? Become a neighborhood ambassador today and help share the message. May is Fire Prevention and Education Month in southwestern Colorado.

Pam Wilson can be reached at 970-385-8909.

## WattWatcher® Times Adjust May 15th

**L**PEA residential customers participating in the WattWatcher® "Time-of-Use" (TOU) program are reminded that on-peak, off-peak times adjust for the season, May 15. The TOU program is designed to help conserve energy and save customers money.

From May 15 through midnight September 14, 2009, the "summer" off-peak (lower rate) hours are Monday through Friday, 10 p.m. to 10 a.m., and all day Saturday and Sunday.

To take full advantage of the program, TOU customers are reminded to use those appliances that draw the most power — such as the dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer or self-cleaning oven — during the off-peak hours. For further information, TOU customers or those interested in signing up for the cost-cutting program are encouraged to call 970-247-5786.

## UNITED WAY THANKS LPEA FOR SUPPORT

**F**or its support of the 2008 United Way campaign, La Plata Electric Association has received four awards from the organization that helps sustain numerous non-profit agencies in Southwest Colorado.

Tim Walsworth, CEO of United Way of Southwest Colorado, stopped by the LPEA offices in Durango recently to thank the La Plata County staff of the cooperative and present the "Highest Average Gift" and "Pacesetter Award" to LPEA Public Relations Coordinator Jeannie Bennett, who organizes the out-reach effort for the co-op. He made a visit to Pagosa Springs as well, as in Archuleta County LPEA also stood out as the business with the "Highest Average Gift" and was named an "Outstanding Business Supporter."

LPEA raised \$33,660 for United Way of Southwest Colorado through direct employee contributions and creative fund raisers. LPEA's 2008 contribution was approximately 5 percent of the overall funds raised by United Way.



LPEA's Jeannie Bennett and United Way of Southwest Colorado CEO Tim Walsworth show the awards.