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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **LPEA Announces 2026-27 Board Leadership**

*Pagosa Springs' Nicole Pitcher Re-elected as Board President*

**DURANGO, Colo. – (June 17, 2026)** – At its June meeting, the La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Board elected new leadership roles for the 2026-27 term. Nicole Pitcher of Pagosa Springs (District 1) was re-elected to a second term as president of the Board of Directors, leading the 12-member group in representing the cooperative's membership.

Other officers elected include:

- **Dusty Mars**, District 1, Vice President
- **Joe Lewandowski**, District 3, Secretary
- **Tim Wheeler**, District 4, Treasurer

Jennifer Jenkins of District 3 and Greg Barber of District 2, two of the Board's most recently elected members, were appointed to serve on the Round Up Foundation board. The foundation distributes grants to local nonprofits and community programs, funded by LPEA members who choose to round up their monthly electric bills.

Additionally, Ted Compton of District 3 was appointed to serve as LPEA's representative to the Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) and as the alternate representative for Western United Electric. Barber was appointed as the new representative for Western United and will serve as the alternate for CREA.

"LPEA is at an important moment as we continue to shape our energy future," said LPEA CEO Chris Hansen. "The Board's leadership and commitment will be key as we work to balance reliability, affordability, and innovation for our members."

LPEA's board of directors is elected by members to represent four districts and guide the cooperative's power supply, finances, policies, and oversee its critical energy transition toward more sustainable and local resources. For more information on LPEA's board and governance, visit [lpea.coop/board-directors](https://lpea.coop/board-directors).

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### **About LPEA**

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is a locally owned, member-governed electric cooperative serving approximately 37,000 homes and businesses across Southwest Colorado. As an independent co-op, LPEA is committed to keeping power reliable and affordable while ensuring members have a direct voice in how their energy future is shaped. LPEA serves a diverse region, from rural communities and Tribal partners to growing towns and businesses, each with different energy needs. Whether members are focused on keeping the lights on, managing their bills, or adopting new technologies like solar and battery storage, LPEA is working to meet them where they are. In 2026, LPEA joined the Southwest Power Pool, expanding access to a broader mix of energy resources to strengthen reliability, reduce costs, and support a cleaner, more flexible energy future, while keeping decisions local. Learn more about LPEA at [lpea.coop](https://lpea.coop).