

Member Appreciation Lunch is July 9

At SLVREC, our members are at the heart of everything we do. As a member-owned cooperative, we appreciate the trust you place in us to provide reliable electric services throughout the San Luis Valley.

To say thank you, we invite all SLVREC members to join us for our first annual Member Appreciation Lunch on **Thursday, July 9, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at SLVREC headquarters, located at 3625 Highway 160 West in Monte Vista.

Stop by and enjoy a complimentary lunch, made by

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Annual meeting held June 9

Congrats to our door prize winners:

Kelly Roberts, Center, \$250 bill credit

Sandra Aloisi, Del Norte, \$250 bill credit

John Jemison, Carmel, Tri-State Gift Card

Randy Kelly from Villa Grove was drawn for the \$1,000 cash; however, he was not on the call to win.

There were 187 eligible members pre-registered with 126 members joining the meeting:

Alamosa County 14, Conejos County 14,

Costilla County 4, Mineral County 11,

Rio Grande County 53, Saguache County 30

Meet Your Coop

A full-circle journey for Isaias Minchaca

“My community has always had my back in everything I do. They have given so much to me, and I have always wanted to give back.”

Those were words Isaias Minchaca wrote in his 2020 SLVREC Lineworker Scholarship application as a senior at Sierra Grande High School. Six years later, he is doing exactly that.

Isaias began at SLV Rural Electric Cooperative in April 2026 as a journeyman lineman. Prior to coming here,

he spent five years working for a contractor in northern Colorado, where he completed his apprenticeship and gained valuable experience in the electric utility industry.

For the Fort Garland native, joining SLVREC represents a full-circle moment. The cooperative's scholarship helped him pursue line school, launching the career path that would eventually bring him back home to serve the Valley where he was raised.

In his scholarship essay, Isaias described the line profession as more than a job. He wrote about the brotherhood among line-workers, the importance of teamwork and the responsibility that comes with helping restore power and maintaining services that are essential to every day life. He also shared his desire to return home one day and serve the community that had supported him

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Above: Isaias Minchaca, 2020, and at right: today, working with the crews in the Baca area.



THIS ISSUE

Member Info/Meet Your Coop

Meet Your Coop/Efficiency/Ciello

Eric Eriksen

Article continued

Recipe/Historical Happenings

JULY 2026 | VOLUME 53 | ISSUE 6

Meet Your Coop

Engineering Manager Terry Daley retires

Congratulations to Engineering Manager Terry Daley on his retirement after more than 10 years of dedicated service to SLVREC. We thank Terry for his leadership, expertise and commitment to our members and wish him all the best in this next chapter.



LUNCH

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Western United's famous BBQ trailer, visit with fellow members and meet the employees and directors who serve your cooperative. We'll also have prize drawings, swag bags, a bouncy house, cornhole, bucket truck photo opportunities and more making it a fun opportunity to connect with your co-op and your community.

Whether you've been a member for decades or recently joined the cooperative, we'd love the opportunity to visit with you and thank you in person for your membership.

Please RSVP at SLVREC.com/annual-meeting so we can plan accordingly. We look forward to seeing you there!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time—like your dishwasher, laundry machines and oven—can spike energy demand and strain the electric grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.



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MINCHACA

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throughout his life.

Today, that vision has become reality.

As a journeyman lineman, Isaias is responsible for construction, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground electrical distribution systems. He enjoys the hands-on nature of the work and appreciates the opportunity to spend his days working outdoors. While the position comes with significant responsibility and physical demands, Isaias embraces the challenges. He also values being part of the SLVREC team and working alongside experienced coworkers.

Outside of work, Isaias enjoys fishing, hunting, riding side-by-sides and spending time outdoors with family and friends.

In his scholarship application, Isaias wrote that he was ready to “build myself and see where the future takes me with this career.” Today, that future has brought him back home to the San Luis Valley as a lineman with SLVREC, helping provide reliable electric service to the communities that invested in his success.

Welcome home, Isaias!

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THIS IS OUR WHY...

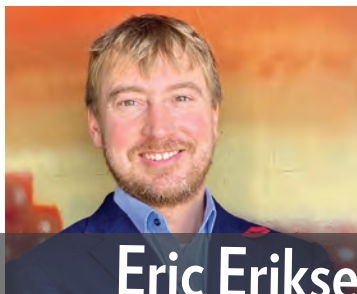
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Eric Eriksen

An engaging annual meeting

Our 2026 SLVREC Annual Meeting was a good reminder that cooperatives are different. Your member-owned not-for-profit rural electric cooperative, SLVREC, is focused on people, over profit. Rooted in 89 years of history guided by seven cooperative principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

This year's Annual Meeting looked a little different, and that was by design. Many of you told us you wanted a format that was easier to participate in. The Telephone Town Hall accomplished exactly that. More members were able to listen in, ask questions and hear updates directly from the SLVREC team. In fact, we had four times more registration than at previous annual meetings in the recent past. Thank you to everyone who joined to listen in and those who submitted questions. Your engagement is what keeps this cooperative strong.

What we covered this year

During the meeting, we walked through the major areas that define our service to you: safety, reliability and affordable service through responsible long-term planning.

On the electric side, we reviewed our recent national safety award and many system improvements funded partially by \$1.3 million in grant awards and long-term planning. From pole

replacements to wildfire mitigation and system automation, these investments aren't flashy, but they're the backbone of reliability. Every mile of line we harden and every piece of aging equipment we replace reduce outage risk for years to come.

We also talked about the continued growth of Cielo and our national recognition as one of the top 5 Internet providers in America. Expanding to more neighborhoods and offering more services, we're seeing strong adoption across the Valley. Reliable Internet is no longer a luxury; it's essential for work, school, healthcare and staying connected. Our team remains focused on building a network that has served the Valley.

Financially, the cooperative remains strong. Like every utility, we're navigating rising costs — materials, equipment, labor and power supply — but we're doing so carefully and transparently. Our goal is always the same: deliver reliable service at the lowest possible cost while planning responsibly for the future.

Member questions

One of the most valuable parts of the Annual Meeting is hearing directly from you. This year, member questions centered around a few key themes:

Capital Credits — The Board reviews and approves capital credit retirements for our member-owners every year. For 2026,

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Your email will be forwarded based on the direction you provide in your subject line.

CEO

Eric Eriksen
719-852-6630

SLVREC Office (toll free)
800-332-7634

SLVREC Office (local calls)
719-852-3538

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ANNUAL

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the Board approved a retirement of \$562,713. Part of the retirement was distributed in January, and the remaining amount will be distributed in June. The retired amount paid some of the oldest capital credits from 1994. Over the past 10 years, SLVREC has returned more than \$4.47 million to our member-owners. If you'd like to look at your individual account, we're always happy to walk through it with you.

Wildfire Mitigation— SLVREC has a wildfire mitigation plan, including Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS), which can be found on our website under the member information section of the “About Us” tab. We will only use a PSPS if there is imminent danger to life or if public authorities request it — and that remains an unlikely event. slvrec.com/fire-mitigation-plan

Rates & Cost Drivers— Energy costs will continue to rise over the next 4-5 years as power producers transition toward renewables to comply with the state of Colorado's Clean Energy Policy mandates and federal requirements, but we work hard every day to find savings and protect affordability.

Electric Vehicles — EV Charger rebates are available today on our website under the “Programs” tab. If you already have an EV charger or are considering getting one, then you may also want to consider one of our Time-of-Day rates, which give EV owners the best savings when charging off-peak. The SLVREC Board recently approved a new EV fast-charging tariff that goes live after June 26, with rates at the Colorado state average and below many neighboring utilities. www.slvrec.com/rebates

Data Centers — SLVREC is required by law to serve any legal customer in our territory, including any data center that chooses to build a facility here, but we're not in the data-center business. We've had no inquiries from large hyperscale data centers — only four small inquiries — three of which were local. Our studies of these small inquiries verify that they use no water, are environmentally friendly and can lower costs for all members. That makes sense. Regarding large hyperscale data centers, it's not likely we'd ever

be asked to serve these because the Valley doesn't have the resources— that doesn't make sense. To address member-concerns, SLVREC has never in its 89 years— and will never— allow any new project of any kind that harms reliability or pushes the cost of that project onto other members. You can find more information about Data Centers on our website under the FAQ section of the “Account Center” tab. slvrec.com/faqs

Renewables — SLVREC is a co-applicant on a 96-MW solar-plus-battery storage project near Cortez, CO, that could be online by 2030 and save members up to \$500,000 per year. This would account for 40 percent of our energy. A state-funded microgrid study is wrapping up this month and shows promise for an additional local savings opportunity. By 2030, the energy serving you will be over 80 percent renewable.

Ciello Internet — Ciello continues expanding into new areas and continuously assesses new service offerings. Ciello is faster and has more bandwidth today than satellite providers and always will due to the physics of fiber versus satellite. Recognized as one of the top 5 Internet providers in America, you have the best Internet available right here in the Valley with Ciello.

These questions weren't just helpful — they were thoughtful. They showed that our members are paying attention, care about the future and want to understand the “why” behind our decisions. That's exactly the kind of engagement that makes this cooperative healthy.

What's ahead

As we move into the next year, our focus remains steady: safety, reliability and affordable service. And of course, we're looking forward to seeing you at the Member Appreciation Lunch on July 9. It will be one of your new favorite days of the year— a chance to share a meal, visit with neighbors and celebrate the cooperative spirit that makes the San Luis Valley special.

Thank you for your trust, your questions and your continued engagement. We're honored to serve you, and we're committed to doing it with transparency, reliability and the cooperative values that have guided us for more than 89 years. The future is bright.



Recipe of the Month

INGREDIENTS

Citrus Sauce:

- $\frac{2}{3}$ c. fresh orange juice
- $\frac{1}{3}$ c. fresh lemon juice
- $\frac{1}{3}$ c. packed brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ t. grated orange zest
- $\frac{1}{2}$ t. grated lemon zest
- 1 t. vanilla extract

Salad:

- 2 c. cubed fresh pineapple
- 2 c. strawberries, hulled and sliced
- 3 kiwi fruit, peeled and sliced
- 3 bananas, sliced
- 2 oranges, peeled and sectioned
- 1 c. seedless grapes
- 2 c. blueberries

PERFECT SUMMER FRUIT SALAD

1. Gather the ingredients.
2. To make the sauce: Bring orange juice, lemon juice, brown sugar, orange zest and lemon zest to a boil in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until slightly thickened, about 5 minutes.
3. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla extract. Set aside to cool.
4. Layer fruit in a large, clear glass bowl in this order: pineapple, strawberries, kiwi fruit, bananas, oranges, grapes and blueberries. Pour cooled sauce over fruit; cover and refrigerate for 3 to 4 hours before serving.

www.allrecipes.com

Historical Happenings

From May 2003 Newsboy

System Upgrades in Progress

San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. hired contract crews to rebuild sections of the power lines near the Zinzer substation and between the Moffat substation and the town of Crestone.

Crews completed work on the Zinzer project in April. Crews started work on the Moffat project in early April and will complete the project in May.

On both jobs, the contractor, Waffensmith, will replace poles and wires. Approximately two miles near the Zinzer substation was improved. About three and one-half miles will be improved near Moffat.

By reconstructing the line,

SLVREC will improve reliability. Additionally, the new line will provide increased capacity.

Between the two projects, service to slightly more than 8 percent of the cooperative's 11,116 meters will be improved.

In April, crews started work on a different

type of upgrades: meter banks are being improved. In the past, meter bank components were exposed to the elements. Under this project, meter banks are being placed inside cabinets to help protect sensitive equipment from weather damage.

Waffensmith crews built new power line from the Zinzer substation near Home Lake. The project, like other maintenance projects at the cooperative, was funded by the recurring "wires and maintenance fee" members pay as a component of their electric service.



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2026 Scholarship winners are pictured with the Board of Directors



CREA Executive Director Tom Walch

POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

San Luis Valley REC's office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. We will be closed for Independence Day on July 2.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 9:30 a.m.
The REC Board of Directors *typically* meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice required.

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