



ELEANOR VALDEZ

Director Gold

San Luis Valley REC is proud to announce that yet another of our esteemed board member has received the Director Gold credential from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Eleanor completed her set of five core courses, as well as numerous other board relevant classes, and her ten credits of board leadership classes. She believes staying involved in ongoing education is one the best ways to serve the cooperative and its members. Eleanor will continue her education in new governance skills and cooperative principles, as well as increasing her knowledge of changes in the electric utility business. The Director Gold credential recognizes directors who are committed to continuing their education throughout their service on the board by earning three continuing education credits over a two-year period.

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Eleanor Valdez, continued

Eleanor was appointed to complete the term of Conejos County director in 1995. In 1997, she was reelected to continue serving as director. In June 2004, she was elected to serve as board president.

She has been involved in many community activities and currently is a member of the Conejos Hospital Auxiliary, the Republican Central Committee, Cattlegirls Association and St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

"First and foremost," Eleanor says, "my pride and joy is my family which has grown with the addition of our children getting married and their children, our wonderful 13 grandchildren."

Eleanor is a great asset to the San Luis Valley REC Board of Directors. The cooperative congratulates her on her accomplishments.



Michael Hagner is the most recent addition to the San Luis Valley REC line crew. He comes to us from the Permian Basin in Texas, where he spent five years doing electrical construction, including three phase, single phase, troubleshooting and consumer care. Michael brings his adaptability and knowledge to REC.

He hopes to find a long-term home here in the Valley for his wife of 21 years and their three children. Michael has already enjoyed a San Luis Valley spring storm. He says that kind of weather doesn't bother him, as he originally hails from Oregon.

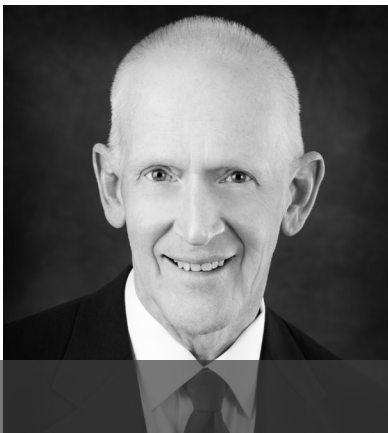
REC is pleased to welcome Michael and his family to the San Luis Valley and our cooperative.



San Luis Valley REC would like to welcome our new telecommunication technician, Chris Villagomez. Chris is a Valley native, born and raised in the Center area. He came to us from Charter Communications and is trained in fiber optic installation.

Chris was recently married in August. He and his wife are expecting their first son in May. Chris is sure that his three-year-old daughter will be a wonderful big sister. He believes REC will be a great benefit to his family.

We are pleased to add Chris's skills to our team.



LOREN HOWARD

SLVREC Linemen

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has designated April 11th as a Lineman Appreciation day. REC will, on April 11th, take time to recognize the linemen who are employees of REC whose work ranges from pleasant on a bright, warm autumn day to downright difficult and dangerous in a winter snow storm.

REC has twelve linemen and four area servicemen that work diligently to ensure the electric system serving our members is maintained and repaired as needed. Spring winds, summer thunderstorms and errant vehicles are the usual culprits that cause most power outages. The work our linemen do directly impacts the reliability of REC's electric system. In the electric industry, there are several metrics used to measure a distribution system's reliability, but the most frequently used metrics are System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) and System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI). For the past 12 months, REC's SAIDI is 140 and SAIFI is 0.6. What do those numbers mean? In plain words, a REC member can expect an outage about once every other year with a duration of 140 minutes. There are many systems that REC uses to keep our reliability high and outages infrequent, but the efficiency and effectiveness of the line crew is the single largest influence on reliability. REC's SAIDI and SAIFI numbers are excellent for a rural electric cooperative.

It is also important to recognize the training and education it takes to become a qualified journeyman lineman. The first step to becoming a lineman is to attend a line worker training program which is typically a year

long study of electricity, safety, math, reading drawings. After completing this initial training, graduates can qualify to enter an apprentice lineman program. At REC, this is a four-year program requiring on-the-job training and continuing education. Apprentice linemen are evaluated every six months and if they do not complete the advancement requirements, they may either not advance or lose their job. This lineman apprenticeship program is a rigorous program which prepares the apprentice to take the state exam which is both written and oral. Pass the exam and the apprentice becomes a journeyman lineman with a great career ahead.

Safety is always forefront in a lineman's world. They often have to work up in a bucket or have to climb a pole to work next to an energized line, line usually carrying 7200 volts. Working as a team is crucially important to the line crew in order to work safely. Recognizing that when the line crew is working distractions can be fatal, the next time a safe opportunity arises, stop and thank the crews. REC's linemen take great pride in serving our members and our communities and they are appreciative of simple thanks.

Electric linemen do not often receive the recognition they deserve. They work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions far from their families, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities. Our linemen, as well as linemen from across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition.

#ThankALineman

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COMPANY NEWS

Save the Date!

**Annual Meeting
June 14, 2016**

7:00 p.m.

**Adams State University in the
SUB Banquet Rooms**

Please RSVP

**If you are planning to attend please
RSVP with the number in your party by
June 7, 2016
719-852-3538**

Additional Proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws

At the annual meeting of the membership beginning in 2016, directors shall be elected as follows:

2017 - Districts No. 3 and 5

2018 - District No. 6

2019 - District No.1 and 7

2016 - Districts No. 2 and 4

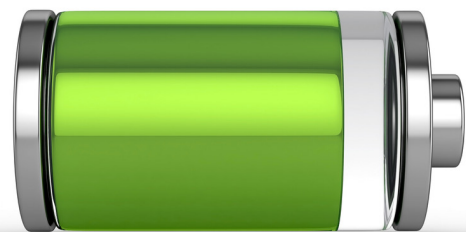
Thereafter, at each annual meeting of the membership, two (2) directors except every fourth year one (1) director shall be elected, in the foregoing sequence, each for a term of four (4) years.

Conservation Corner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Earth Day is April 22. Give back to the environment by planting a deciduous tree near your home. Deciduous trees lose their leaves during the fall, allowing sunlight to warm your home. The extra shade during summer months will keep your home cooler and give your AC a much needed break.



Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries – and an ENERGY STAR charger for them – which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually. Source: energy.gov



RECIPES OF THE MONTH

INGREDIENTS

- 4 (6 ounce) halibut fillets
- 1 lime, cut into wedges
- salt and pepper to taste
- 3 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

GRILLED HALIBUT WITH CILANTRO GARLIC BUTTER

Preheat a grill for high heat. Squeeze the juice from the lime wedges over fish fillets, then season them with salt and pepper.

Grill fish fillets for about 5 minutes on each side, until browned and fish can be flaked with a fork. Remove to a warm serving plate.

Heat the oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic; cook and stir just until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Stir in the butter, remaining lime juice and cilantro. Serve fish with the cilantro butter sauce.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/4 cups white sugar
- 1 cup sour cream
- 3 eggs
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups chopped fresh rhubarb
- 1 (9 inch) unbaked pie shell
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 cup butter, softened

SOUR CREAM RHUBARB PIE

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Beat 1 1/4 cups sugar, sour cream, eggs and 2 tablespoons flour in a large mixing bowl until smooth. Stir in vanilla and salt. Fold in rhubarb. Pour rhubarb mixture into pie shell.

Bake for 30 minutes in the preheated oven. Meanwhile, combine 1/3 cup sugar, 1/3 cup flour, and cinnamon in a small bowl. Cut in butter with fork or pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Set aside.

Remove pie from oven. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Sprinkle topping mixture evenly over pie. Return pie to oven and bake until filling is set and crust and topping are golden brown, about 30 minutes.



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POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

P.O. Box 3625
Monte Vista, CO 81144

April 2016

REMINDER:

Please remember to update your credit card information online. This will help avoid past due charges and declined cards.

#ThankALineman



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's offices are open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Thursday.
Offices are closed Friday through Sunday.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

866-HEAT HELP (866-432-8435)
www.energyoutreach.org

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting April 26 @ 9:30 a.m.
The Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.



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