

Annual Meeting 2017

Another successful REC Annual Meeting has been filed in the books. The annual meeting was held at the Adams State University Student Union Building in the Banquet Rooms on June 13, 2017; 192 people were in attendance, with 107 members present. The meeting opened with a visit from Cub Scouts Troop 307, with the presentation of colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Not only was the event well attended, but many members were also present to vote for the REC Board of Directors from Conejos and Saguache counties. The vote was conducted via mail-in ballot and also in person at the annual meeting.

Mike McInnis, CEO of Tri-State Generation and Transmission was in attendance. He was available to answer questions and speak to the membership after the meeting. Mike Prom, CEO of Western United Electric Supply Corp., was also able to attend this year's annual meeting.

In addition, Eleanor Valdez — long-time board member of San Luis Valley REC, representative for CREA, and representative for Western United was honored for her many years of service to the board as she steps away from her position.

Many of the scholarship recipients were also in attendance, including Bailey Jones, who was this year's ASU 4-year scholarship recipient.

The membership was updated on the REC and Cielo financials, the work plan, and the fiber optic build. We certainly appreciate the engagement and attendance of the membership.



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Board Election News



Keenan Anderson will remain the director for Saguache County, District 3.

Keenan was appointed by the REC Board of Directors in 2016 to fill the open seat for Saguache County. He was officially elected to the board during the recent election.

As a farmer and rancher in Saguache County, he hopes to represent the ideals of both of those agricultural perspectives.

Keenan believes that keeping our members' electricity affordable and reliable (by using technology and energy produced from all resources) is a must in today's modern world.

Responding to members' concerns and questions will remain a priority as he continues to serve as the director from District 3. Keenan promises to be diligent in working to educate himself, so he can be informed in the interests of members about cooperative programs and services.



Stephen Valdez will be the director for Conejos County, District 5.

Stephen will be replacing longtime board member Eleanor Valdez for the District 5 seat. As a Valley native, he is committed to doing his best for the membership.

Transparency in addressing membership interests and concerns is paramount to Stephen. He also believes that the cooperative must be on the cutting edge of available technologies to maximize efficiency.

Stephen is also interested in learning more about renewable energy and the co-op's renewables portfolio. He believes this diversification is important to the cooperative and its members.

Stephen looks forward to serving on the REC Board of Directors.



LOREN HOWARD

Energy Independence

While fireworks and Independence Day parades are synonymous with the Fourth of July, no such fanfare comes to mind when discussing energy efficiency. Perhaps it should. If you think about it, energy efficiency not only benefits individuals and families, but the country as a whole. Energy efficiency, combined with energy conservation and advances in technology in the utility industry, ultimately help our country on a path toward greater energy independence. And that's worth celebrating.

At its essence, greater efficiency means less energy is used for the production of goods and services. For individual consumers, a reduction in energy use usually translates to a tangible financial benefit — more money in your wallet at the end of the month. If your co-op neighbors are also using less energy, collectively, it means the overall cost of providing that electricity could be lower and may result in reduced costs for co-op members. For many, this is reason enough to strive for greater energy efficiency. On a national level, energy efficiency, sometimes called the “fifth fuel,” has a more profound impact. It can potentially boost the economy by allowing consumers and businesses to invest in other areas. As important, greater energy efficiency may slow the rate at which domestic energy is depleted and, therefore reduce or diminish the need for foreign energy.

There's no need to wait for the first exploding burst of fireworks in the night

sky to start your energy efficiency efforts. Every American can take charge of their own energy use, regardless of the date on the calendar. Small steps can lead to a big difference for you and your neighbors, whether across the road or across the country.

Energy efficiency can generally be achieved in two ways. The first is with mechanical change, such as replacing an older HVAC unit or less efficient appliance or with a new ENERGY STAR model, or upgrading to new, insulated windows. Less expensive actions include improving the seal of your home's “envelope” by caulking exterior windows and doors and sealing openings where pipes and ductwork meet the outside. Swapping out the last incandescent bulbs (inside and outside) with LEDs also makes a noticeable difference.

The second way to realize energy efficiency is through smarter management of your energy use. Leveraging smart thermostat technology is a good place to start. Most smart thermostats contain an app allowing remote control by mobile phone or tablet. Program your thermostat to reflect your family's schedule. Many thermostat programs allow you to view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor the amount of energy used. Sometimes, however, energy efficiency is simply a matter of changing old habits, such as washing clothes in cold water instead of hot or running the dishwasher during off-peak times.

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Appreciating Electricity a Penny at a Time

I'm old enough to remember when penny candy actually cost a penny. For a nickel, you could buy enough candy to rot your teeth out, as my mother used to say.

But what does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can't even make a penny for a penny anymore. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs 1.5 cents to produce one.

About the only thing of value you can still get for a penny is electricity. You might call it "penny electricity."

No, I'm not kidding. Think about it.

To make the math easier, let's say the average rate for a kilowatt-hour of electricity is 10 cents. That is 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity for a dime, so a penny of electricity equates to 100 watts. It's enough to power a 9-watt LED lightbulb—the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb—for 11 hours, all for only a penny.

Where else can you get that kind of value? How many eggs will a penny buy? How much milk, bread, coffee, medicine or gasoline?

Gas has come down from its stratospheric levels of several years ago, but there is still no comparison to the value of electricity. For example, if a gallon of gas costs \$2.50 and your car gets 25 miles to the gallon, you can drive 176 yards—about two blocks—on a penny's worth of gas.

I will take 11 hours of lighting for a penny over a two-block drive any day.

The value is just as evident when powering things other than lighting. Take, for instance, your smartphone. Using the same 10 cents per kWh price, penny electricity allows you to fully charge your iPhone more than 18 times for a penny. You can charge it once every day of the year for about 20 cents total.

Not impressed? Well, how about these other examples of what you can do with just a penny's worth of electricity: power a 1,000-watt microwave on high for 6 minutes; run a 200-watt desktop computer for 30 minutes; watch 2.5 hours of your favorite shows on a 40-watt, 32-inch LED television or 1.3 hours on a 75-watt, 75-inch mega TV.

The examples are endless.

We are fortunate electricity is such an excellent value, because we have a huge appetite for it. We tend to forget that.

Electricity is not expensive. It's that we use it for so many different things: lighting, heating, cooking, cooling, refrigeration, cleaning, washing, pumping, entertainment, communications—even transportation these days.

Few corners of our lives are left untouched by electricity.

Unfortunately, we don't always appreciate it. When our monthly electric bill comes, we open it and may complain about the cost. It's a knee-jerk reaction ingrained in us as consumers. We don't stop to think about the value we received for the money.

By Curtis Condon, editor of Ruralite magazine in Hillsboro, Oregon



RECIPES OF THE MONTH

INGREDIENTS

1 cup pecan pieces
1 head savoy cabbage, sliced
8 fresh peaches, pitted and sliced
1 red bell pepper, sliced
1 yellow bell pepper, sliced
1/2 cup chopped green onions
2 tablespoons celery seed
1/2 cup fresh peaches, pitted and chopped
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup lemon juice
salt and pepper to taste
1 bunch fresh mint sprigs

Summer Peach Slaw

Place the pecan pieces in a skillet over medium heat and cook, stirring constantly, until lightly toasted.

In a large bowl, mix the pecans, cabbage, 8 fresh peaches, red bell pepper, yellow bell pepper, green onions, and celery seed. Cover and chill 45 minutes in the refrigerator.

In a blender or food processor, blend the 1/2 cup chopped peaches until smooth. Transfer to a bowl, and mix with the oil, honey, lemon juice, salt, and pepper. Chill until slaw is ready to be served, then toss with slaw to coat. Garnish slaw with mint sprigs.

INGREDIENTS

1/4 cup olive oil
1/4 cup lemon juice
3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
1 tablespoon minced garlic
Ground black pepper to taste
Crushed red pepper flakes to taste (optional)
1 1/2 pounds medium shrimp, peeled and deveined

Grilled Shrimp Scampi

In a large, non-reactive bowl, stir together the olive oil, lemon juice, parsley, garlic, and black pepper. Season with crushed red pepper, if desired. Add shrimp, and toss to coat. Marinate in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Preheat grill for high heat. Thread shrimp onto skewers, piercing once near the tail and once near the head. Discard any remaining marinade.

Lightly oil grill grate. Grill for 2 to 3 minutes per side, or until opaque.

INGREDIENTS

2 fluid ounces fresh pineapple-infused gold Barbados rum
1 fluid ounce lime juice
1/2 fluid ounce almond syrup
ice cubes
1/2 lime slice
1 sprig fresh mint

Beachside Daiquiri

Combine Barbados rum, lime juice, almond syrup, and ice in a cocktail shaker. Cover and shake until the outside of shaker has frosted. Strain into a couple glass. Garnish with lime and fresh mint.

* To make fresh pineapple-infused rum: Peel and cut a ripe pineapple into chunks. Place in a large glass container and pour in a 25 fluid ounce bottle of gold Barbados rum making sure all the pineapple is covered. Store on cool, dark shelf, stirring once a day, until rum reaches desired flavor, at least 1 week but preferably 2. Strain out pineapple. Infused rum keeps for up to 6 months.



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July 2017

Our office will be closed
Tuesday, July 4, 2017



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Thursday.
The office is closed Friday through Sunday.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

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

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting — July 25 @ 9:30 a.m.
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each
month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

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