

# THE NEWSBOY

News for Members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative

Ciello powered by REC—why? As the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, we are just doing what cooperatives do. We bring utility and innovation to underserved areas. We did this in 1937, with the electrification of rural areas throughout the Valley. We brought power to the mountain towns and farmland of the San Luis Valley.

Once again, we are reaching out across the Valley's 8,000 square miles to bring fiber optic high-speed broadband internet and telephone service—not only to cooperative members but to every Valley resident we can reach. This is the progressive and helpful nature of the cooperative business model. We look to serve and build the community by whatever means we can.

Providing fiber optic broadband means that we can provide faster and better service to areas that simply do not have it. It means a chance for economic development through fortified connection on a global level. Ciello delivers a faster connection for telemedicine, telecommuting, and distance learning for schools

through virtual classrooms. It provides the opportunity for businesses to enter the marketplace; without a powerful internet connection, many had been excluded.

In a further effort to reach consumers and businesses, Ciello is deploying a fiber optic backed wireless network this summer, throughout certain areas of the Valley. Fiber will be connected to REC substations, from which a wireless signal will be transmitted. These transmittal points can cover up to seven miles, giving us the ability to reach our more sparsely populated areas faster, while we continue the fiber-to-the-home project.

We are proud to be the San Luis Valley's electric cooperative and its local partner for high-speed broadband internet and telephone service.

## Why Ciello Powered by REC?



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JUNE 2017 | VOLUME 42 | ISSUE 6

# Company News



Most consumers would not equate active involvement with their electric company with helping their community. But San Luis Valley REC is not an ordinary utility company. We're a cooperative, and our business model is meant to serve the members and the community in which it operates—not to make a hefty profit for investors five states away. REC's customers are more than consumers; they are members of their cooperative. And herein lies the difference.

Our core purpose and mission is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power to our members. But as a co-op, we are motivated by service to the community, rather than by profits. After meeting our annual expenses, we invest the extra money back into the co-op and the wider community. We depend on the guidance and perspective of our members and board to help set priorities for the co-op and to guide governance decisions. At our annual meeting, we raise issues for voting consideration by the general membership. Our board of directors is comprised of members who live and work in our service area, for they are in a position to know where community investments are most needed.

REC is controlled by members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. This is why we value your participation in our annual meeting, held June 13, and in other co-op events.

REC has numerous ongoing programs that impact the community. Every summer, for example, we participate in Youth Tour and take local high school students to the nation's capital to meet with lawmakers, enabling students to learn firsthand how our democracy works. We have a scholarship program, and we will be proudly recognizing our scholarship recipients at the annual meeting.

We recognize the vital role San Luis Valley REC plays in energizing our local economy. But to continue to innovate and more effectively serve the community,

we rely on you, our members, to provide guidance. We value your perspective, and we cannot operate effectively and help our community thrive without you. As part of this commitment, we are testing and depolying Ciello wireless broadband to reach more households faster as we continue our fiber-to-the-home project.

We look forward to seeing you all at the annual meeting. REC appreciates the member involvement and contributions.

# 80

Years

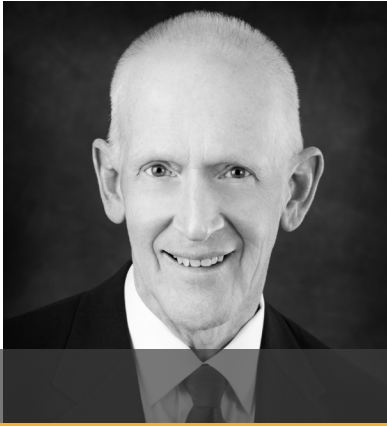
*Lighting the Way*

**You are invited to attend the  
SLVREC Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, June 13, 2017.**

**Located in the  
Banquet Rooms at  
ASU Student Union Building**

**Annual Meeting Agenda  
5:30 p.m. Registration Opens  
6:45 p.m. Presenting of Colors  
6:50 p.m. Invocation  
6:55 p.m. Determination of Quorum  
7:00 p.m. Start of Business Meeting**

**Please RSVP  
If you are planning to attend please  
RSVP with the number in your party by  
June 6, 2017  
719-852-3538**



## LOREN HOWARD

# The Importance of Annual Meeting

Every year, San Luis Valley REC has an annual meeting. One of the most important activities we conduct is the election for the board of directors. These are the seven people we entrust to give strategic direction and ensure the co-op has good governance.

In 1844, when the 28 Rochdale pioneers created the modern cooperative movement, they were insistent that members have the right to vote. Unless we consistently remind ourselves about how precious this right truly is, we can easily take it for granted.

At REC, we try to make it as convenient as possible for members to participate in the election by mail-in ballot or by voting at annual meetings. As the utility industry is experiencing some of the biggest changes since its founding, electric co-ops need your active participation. As a member of a co-op, you have the right (and some may even say the obligation) to help set the direction for the co-op. This is a critical difference between co-ops and other electricity providers, such as investor-owned utilities (IOUs) or municipally owned systems.

With IOUs, you are a customer, and there is no required ownership. IOU stockholders live far away and have no direct attachment to the organization other than seeking a return on their investment. Communities served by municipally owned systems may vote for the mayor or city council, but their connection to the electric service is very indirect.

The board of directors of a co-op makes important strategic decisions for the organization, while the operations (day-to-day running of the business) is entrusted to the employees. Examples of decisions boards make that impact all the members are:

- The level of involvement in community economic development
- Whether to offer renewable types of energy such as solar or hydro generated power to the members
- Offering other services, such as broadband
- Approving the budget for the co-op

As locally owned businesses in the community, electric co-ops have the opportunity to introduce neighbors to neighbors and rekindle that spirit of democracy at the grassroots level. We can encourage respectful debate about the role we see our co-op playing in our community.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cole Wakasugi, President  
719-379-2629

Carol Lee Dugan, Vice President  
719-852-5412

Scott Wolfe, Secretary  
719-852-0966

Mike Rierison  
719-754-2588

Rick Inman  
719-658-2455

Eleanor Valdez  
719-274-5680

Keenan Anderson  
719-992-1857

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

### CEO

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### PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

The Newsboy (publication #551-450) is an official publication of the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.; 3625 US Hwy 160 W, Monte Vista, CO 81144. The Newsboy is published monthly for SLVREC's members. Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, CO 81144. Subscription price \$20/year.

Postmaster, send Form 3579 to NEWSBOY, P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144-3625.

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**719-852-3538**

[www.ciello.com](http://www.ciello.com)

- SYMMETRIC SPEEDS
- NO DATA CAP
- NO MONTHLY EQUIPMENT FEE
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Available:  
Creede  
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Del Norte



## Conservation Corner



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Let the sun work for you! Consider solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge during the day.

*Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*





## RECIPES OF THE MONTH

### INGREDIENTS

4 tablespoons white wine vinegar  
 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
 2 1/2 teaspoons granulated sugar  
 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt  
 1/2 teaspoon black pepper  
 3 cups shredded cooked chicken  
 2 pounds heirloom tomatoes, cut into 1/2- to 1-inch wedges  
 1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion  
 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil  
 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh chives  
 2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves  
 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme

### Heirloom Tomato and Chicken Toss

Whisk together vinegar, olive oil, sugar, salt, and pepper in a small bowl. Gently toss together chicken, tomatoes, onion, basil, chives, parsley, and thyme in a large bowl. Add vinegar mixture and gently toss until thoroughly combined. Serve immediately, or cover and let stand at room temperature for up to 1 hour.

### INGREDIENTS

1 tablespoon cornstarch  
 1 1/4 cups sugar, divided  
 6 cups assorted fresh berries (use 2 cups each: blackberries, raspberries, and blueberries)  
 1/2 cup butter, softened  
 2 large eggs  
 2 tablespoons red liquid food coloring  
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour  
 1 1/2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa  
 1/4 teaspoon salt  
 1/2 cup buttermilk  
 1 1/2 teaspoons white vinegar  
 1/2 teaspoon baking soda

### Red Velvet Berry Cobbler

Preheat oven to 350°F. Stir together cornstarch and 1/2 cup sugar. Toss berries with cornstarch mixture, and spoon into a lightly greased 11 x 7 inch baking dish.

Beat butter at medium speed with an electric mixer until fluffy; gradually add remaining 3/4 cup sugar, beating well. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating just until blended after each addition. Stir in red food coloring and vanilla until blended.

Combine flour, cocoa, and salt. In a separate bowl, stir together buttermilk, vinegar, and baking soda in a 2-cup liquid measuring cup. (Mixture will bubble) Add flour mixture to butter mixture alternately with buttermilk mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Beat at low speed until blended after each addition. Spoon batter over berry mixture.

Bake at 350° for 45 to 50 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in center of cake topping comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack 10 minutes.



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## POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

P.O. Box 3625  
Monte Vista, CO 81144

June 2017

### Annual Meeting Reminder

June 13, 2017

Registration starts @ 5:30 p.m.

ASU Student Union Building

80 *Years*

*Lighting the Way*



## 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.energyoureach.org](http://www.energyoureach.org)

### SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting—June 27 @ 9:30 a.m.

The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

Your Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative 

