

LPEA Currents



INSIDE ...

- * LPEA Board Candidates
- * Golf Tournament Sign-up
- * Rebate Incentives
- * Archuleta County Safety Expo
- * Alpine Bank Honored

Join Us May 8 for Your LPEA Annual Meeting

BY TERRY ALLEY, LPEA BOARD PRESIDENT

The coming years do promise to be challenging ones in the energy industry. Your board of directors is already looking ahead, planning and forecasting in an attempt to do what is best for the entire membership of the cooperative — your cooperative. Yes, if you pay an electric bill to La Plata Electric, you are a member.



Terry Alley

Now, more than ever, is it vital for the membership to be actively involved and aware of pending issues. The directors are your representatives when it comes to keeping the power on and managing the distribution of electricity in La Plata and Archuleta counties. We truly need your participation and want to hear your ideas, as well as any concerns you may have, so we can make the best possible decisions.

An easy opportunity to learn more and become more actively involved is coming up quickly as the annual meeting of La Plata Electric Association will be held at Fort Lewis College in the Student Union on Saturday, May 8. Registration begins at 9 a.m., with the business meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. This is your annual meeting of your electric coop.

There are many reasons to attend the annual meeting beyond the challenges in the industry, and following are just a few to consider:

- You will have a chance to visit with long-time friends and neighbors.
- You will have the opportunity to talk individually with your board members and candidates.
- All who register will receive a \$5 credit on their next electric bill.
- All attendees will receive a goody bag filled with useful, energy saving items.
- A free lunch will be prepared and served by the college catering service.
- You will have a chance to win one of numerous door prizes.
- You will hear a report from Tri-State Generation and Transmission CEO Ken Anderson.
- A report will be given by Kent Singer, newly hired executive director of the Colorado Rural Electric Association.
- LPEA CEO Greg Munro will report on LPEA programs and plans.
- You will hear the results of the board of directors' election.
- You will be among the first to see the beautiful, newly-remodeled Student Union Ballroom.

We hope this date and time are already marked on your calendar, and that you're planning to join us. Your electric cooperative is part of your community and is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to its members.

LPEA continues to thrive because of you, the members, and we hope to see you on May 8.

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 2750
Durango, CO 81302-2750

STREET ADDRESS
45 Stewart Street
Durango, CO 81303

970-247-5786 Phone
www.lpea.coop Web

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Terry Alley, president — District 1
Jerry McCaw, vice president — District 2
Pam Patton, secretary — District 4
Joe Wheeling, treasurer — District 4
Jeff Berman, director — District 3
Herb Brodsky, director — District 4
Harry Cole, director — District 1
Tom Compton, director — District 2
Bob Formwalt, director — District 1
Harry Goff, director — District 3
Bobby Lieb, director — District 3
Davin Montoya, director — District 2

Mission Statement
La Plata Electric Association provides its members safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost while being environmentally responsible.



**La Plata Electric offices
will be closed
May 31 for Memorial Day.**



Director Elections to Be Held in Districts 1 and 3

In accordance with LPEA's bylaws, annually one seat in each of La Plata Electric's four districts comes up for election. Though elections in Districts 2 and 4 have been cancelled, elections will be held in Districts 1 and 3.

In Districts 2 and 4, incumbent board members Tom Compton and Pam Patton, respectively, had no challengers. Pursuant to Article III, Section 5 of the LPEA bylaws, these board members will retain their seats for the next three years.

In District 1, incumbent Terry Alley faces challenger J.B. Smith, with Harold (Harry) Riegle challenging incumbent Harry Goff for the seat in District 3.

District 1 covers Archuleta County, containing nearly 7,400 eligible residential

and commercial voters. District 3 is essentially the city of Durango and includes more than 7,100 eligible voters.

Election packets were mailed to member-owners in Districts 1 and 3 on April 16, and ballots will be tallied at the annual meeting, May 8, using La Plata County's official ballot counting equipment (the same used in the county elections). The annual meeting will be held at the Fort Lewis College Student Union with registration beginning at 9 a.m., followed by the business meeting at 10:30 a.m. A complimentary lunch follows.

LPEA Board Candidate Profiles

ONE CANDIDATE WILL BE ELECTED TO REPRESENT DISTRICT 1, ARCHULETA COUNTY



Terry Alley
PO Box 601,
Pagosa Springs,
incumbent
candidate District 1

Terry Alley is currently serving as president of the LPEA Board of Directors. A native of Pagosa Springs, Alley pursued a career in education, earning his bachelor's degree from Fort Lewis College, master's degree from Western State College and superintendent endorsement from the University of Colorado. He retired after 31 years with Archuleta County (School) District 50 Joint. During his tenure, he served as teacher, coach and school principal, though for his last 21 years with the district, he was superintendent of schools.

Alley has been involved in a variety of organizations over the years and currently sits on the board of directors for Archuleta Housing, Charles Hughes Foundation, Archuleta Scholarships in Escrow and Archuleta Housing for the Elderly. He is also lending his grant writing expertise to several non-profit organizations.

A member of the LPEA board since 2001, Alley currently serves on the Administration Committee, Budget Finance and Audit Committee, as well as the FastTrack board.

"I would be honored to remain a member of the LPEA Board of Directors to be of service to our area as well as help ensure that LPEA's members continue to enjoy reliable electric power at the lowest possible cost."



J.B. (James) Smith
43 Scratch Court,
Pagosa Springs,
new candidate,
District 1

Originally from Rockford, Illinois, J.B. Smith studied business and history at Colorado State University, and is now retired from a rich career in the print media industry. Most recently, until his retirement in 2002, he was the owner of the Mountain Valley News in Cedaredge. His experience also includes director of special education buses at Denver's Cherry Creek schools and classified advertising manager and circulation manager of the *Denver Business Journal*. Earlier he served in advertising, classified

and circulation positions for the Gillette News Record (Wyoming), Fort Collins Coloradoan and Cervi's Journal (a precursor of the Denver Business Journal), notably increasing circulation and advertising in all positions.

A recipient of awards from the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Club Press Group, Smith is currently involved in the Pagosa Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis and the Good Government Association.

"I want on the electric board to keep rates stable. I also want trucks to drive the speed limit. I think board members are over-paid."

REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS 2 AND 4 ELECTIONS CANCELLED

Winners To Be Declared:

Tom Compton, incumbent (District 2)

Pam Patton, incumbent (District 4)

Pursuant to Article III, Section 5 of the LPEA

Bylaws, the elections in Districts 2 and 4

have been cancelled due to have only

one nominee for each position.

SIGN-UPS UNDERWAY FOR LPEA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Pagosa Springs Golf Course is the location for the annual LPEA Golf Tournament, this year set for Saturday, June 19. Designed as a four person scramble, with four flights, the deadline to register for the tourney is June 11.

"We had to turn 10 teams away last year because we had the maximum that the golf course would allow," says Mike Alley, line superintendent. "Don't wait to sign up."

Cost to enter is \$65 per person (tax deductible), with hole sponsorships available for \$150 each. Proceeds from the day will benefit Hospice. In 2009 the event generated \$4,000 for Archuleta County Victim Assistance.

For further information, or to participate, donate or volunteer, contact Alley, 970-749-0260, or Darin Rome, 970-946-2398.



ONE CANDIDATE WILL BE ELECTED TO REPRESENT DISTRICT 3, DURANGO



Harry Goff
1824 Eastlawn,
Durango,
incumbent candi-
date, District 3

Harry Goff, a 43-year resident of Durango, was born in Casa Grande, Arizona. He graduated from Colorado State University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and then saw duty with the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After military service, Goff spent 36 civilian years in the engineering and surveying fields, with eight years as a part-owner of Ernst Engineering and the last 22 years as president of Goff Engineering & Surveying in Durango, from which he has retired.

Goff is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado, which named him Citizen Surveyor of the Year in 1999. In 1991, then Governor, Roy Romer appointed Mr. Goff to the State Board of Registration for Engineers and Surveyors, a position he held for eight years. Along with being a member of various other professional and technical societies, he is a member of the United Methodist Church of Durango, the La Plata County Historical Society and the Durango Bird Club.

"Our board worked throughout the past year to avoid increased rates for both Tri-State G&T and La Plata Electric. I now wish to continue on the LPEA board to tackle other present and future challenges such as the current economic hardship on members, industrial load volatility, assistance in conservation efforts and a gradual shift to more locally created generation."



Harold L. (Harry) Riegle, Jr.
543 E. 30th St.
Durango,
new candidate,
District 3

Born in Reading, Pennsylvania, Dr. Harry Riegle has been self-employed as a small business owner for some 30 years, working as an optometrist. He earned his bachelor's degree in engineering from Western Michigan University and his doctor of optometry from Pacific University. While serving as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and an Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters. Dr. Riegle is currently a member of the Sustainability Alliance of Southwest Colorado (SASCO) and on the board of directors of the San Juan Citizens Alliance.

"As the cost of electrical generation increases for fossil fuels and decreases for renewables, solar is becoming more economically viable. One way for LPEA to control inevitable rate increases in the future is to begin transitioning to renewable generation now. As an LPEA board member, my goal is to develop a pilot program which would enable families, ag folks and small businesses to join together to create and finance shared 'neighborhood' solar and micro-hydro co-ops. Additionally, one of the least expensive ways LPEA can control costs is to continue its successful demand side management by supporting 4CORE and its energy efficiency programs."

WATTWATCHER® TIMES ADJUST MAY 15

La Plata Electric Association residential customers participating in the WattWatcher® "Time-of-Use" (TOU) program are reminded that on-peak, off-peak times adjust for the season, May 15. The TOU program is designed to help conserve energy and save customers money.

From May 15 through midnight September 14, 2010, the "summer" off-peak (lower rate) hours are Monday through Friday, 10 p.m. to 10 a.m., and all day Saturday and Sunday.

To take full advantage of the program, TOU customers are reminded to use those appliances that draw the most power – such the dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer or self-cleaning oven – during the off-peak hours. To fully maximize benefits, customers can also install timers on their water heaters or electric thermal storage (ETS) units.

For further information, TOU customers or those interested in signing up for the cost-cutting program are encouraged to call 970-247-5786.

Rebate, Tax Incentive Dollars Available to Members

LPEA member-owners can tap into a full variety of rebates and tax incentives now available on the local, statewide and national level.



Of primary note, the long-awaited rebate campaign from the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) – valued at approximately \$18 million from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act – went into effect April 19. A push for energy efficiency, the GEO program christened Recharge Colorado covers a range of rebates from home appliances to renewable energy installations. Visit www.rechargecolorado.com for specific requirements and instructions. The rebates are by reservation on a first-come, first-served basis, and reservations can be made prior to purchases.

"Also, we want to remind members that LPEA, in partnership with Tri-State Generation and Transmission, continues to offer our rebates for energy star refrigerators, clothes washers and dishwashers," says Sue Maxwell, project specialist. "Information is available on our website, www.lpea.coop."

In addition, LPEA continues to provide rebates up to \$3,000 for installation of renewable energy generation (solar photovoltaic, micro-hydro and wind power), and is partnering with the GEO for solar thermal rebates as well.

"There is a great deal going on right now," says Maxwell, acknowledging that it can be confusing. "I want to urge our members if they are considering purchase of new appliances or implementing energy efficiency measures, to give us a call and let us help facilitate the process."

Reach Maxwell directly at 970-382-7170 or smaxwell@lpea.coop.

Safety Expo in Pagosa Springs Set for June 12

LPEA and local emergency response organizations teaming up

With the rousing success of the inaugural Safety Expo held in 2009, LPEA is again teaming up with the Pagosa Fire Protection District and additional local emergency response organizations, to host the second annual event Saturday, June 12 at Centerpoint Church (parking lot), Pagosa Springs.

With a focus on home, road and outdoor safety for children and adults, the family-friendly Safety Expo will feature more than 20 local and regional service providers. Activities, slated to run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., feature informational, educational and live demonstrations, including management of a mock-emergency incident.

For LPEA's part, linemen will be on hand to not only illustrate the "power" of electricity through an arc demonstration, but show the expertise, challenges and even danger experienced by



Lineman Brent Tanner demonstrates repelling from a disabled bucket truck during the 2009 Safety Expo.



Linemen Bobby Turner and Brent Tanner demonstrate the "power" of electricity at the Safety Expo.

linemen in the course of doing their jobs to keep the power on.

"The Safety Expo was met by tremendous response in 2009 – even in the rain," says Mike Alley, LPEA line superintendent, working with the emergency responders to organize the event. "It's a very illuminating event for everyone who attends, and we hope the community comes out to really learn more about safety, as well as appreciate the challenging work of all these dedicated professionals."

To participate as a vendor at the Safety Expo, or for further information, contact Kelly Robertson, Pagosa Fire Protection District, 970-731-4191 or kellyrobertson@pagosafire.com.

Alpine Bank Honored for Green Power Commitment

Alpine Bank has been named to the Environmental Protection Agency's 2010 Green Power Leadership Club.

This elite group made up of the EPA's Green Power Partners has demonstrated a high level of environmental leadership and purchase Green Power through the local utility — in this case La Plata Electric. Alpine Bank Durango signed up to offset 100 percent of its electricity usage through LPEA's Green Power program in 2007 — the first financial institution in Durango to make the 100 percent commitment.

The EPA Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that supports organizational purchase of Green Power by offering expert advice, technical support, tools and resources. Green Power is electricity produced from a renewable

resource such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass and micro-hydro. Partner organizations must buy Green Power in amounts proportional to their annual electricity use. The Green Power Leadership Club (GPLC) honors partners that substantially exceed EPA's minimum purchase requirements for an organization-wide commitment.

Notes Alpine Bank Durango President Mike Burns, "Alpine Bank is honored to receive this recognition, however Green Power is only part of what we do. We strive to measure all of our green initiatives with efficiency, effectiveness, and durability."

To learn more about energy efficiency efforts through LPEA, or to sign up for Green Power, call 970-247-5786 or visit www.lpea.coop.

RENEWABLE GENERATION MEETING MAY 6

LPEA will host the second in its series of Renewable Generation meetings Thursday, May 6, 9-10 a.m. at the cooperative's headquarters in Durango (45 Stewart Street, Bodo Park).

"The central topic will be adding on to an existing solar system," says Sue Maxwell, LPEA project specialist. "And we hope to address the creation of local solar farms or gardens — or larger solar systems in general."

With the recent launch of the Governor's Energy Office's rebate programs, a representative from the GEO will also be on hand to provide an overview of opportunities and procedures.

To R.S.V.P. or for additional information, contact Maxwell at smaxwell@lpea.coop or 970-382-7170.