



# The Outlet

**INSIDE ...**

- \* Annual Meeting Plans
- \* Daylight-Saving Time Saves Energy
- \* Time of Use: A Very Special Rate
- \* Recycle CFL's
- \* Protecting Our Consumers

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 2013  
Buena Vista, CO 81211-2013

**STREET ADDRESS**

29780 North US Highway 24  
Buena Vista, CO 81211

719-395-2412 Phone  
800-933-3823 Toll Free  
719-395-8742 Fax

www.myelectric.coop Web  
info@myelectric.coop Email

**OFFICE HOURS**

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
(except holidays)

**AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY**

Contact the office at  
719-395-2412 or 800-933-3823  
to report outages or emergencies



Touchstone Energy®

## Nature's Pantry Gets Refrigerated Case Lighting Upgrade

*With A Little Bit Of Help From Sangre De Cristo Electric*

BY LINDA NYBERG, MEMBER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

Owner of Nature's Pantry Tom Liverman recently decided to perform a face lift for the store's refrigerated case lights. The cases were fitted with old tube incandescent lights that create a lot of heat. Not only did they heat up the products that were next to them, they faded the labels. The new LED lights will prevent both of these problems. Tom replaced the lighting for six cases and added doors for the dairy and produce cases and in addition, was able to receive a \$720 rebate from Sangre De Cristo Electric Association in conjunction with its power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Inc.

Tom is excited about the retrofit. "It will save me time juggling products and replacing labels, and my produce and dairy products will stay fresher longer," he said. "But the biggest benefit is that it will save money on my electric bill." Tony Rizzo, the account manager for Hussmann, Inc., (a subsidiary of Ingersoll Rand) who is responsible for the retrofit, estimates that this small change will save Tom \$1,267 per year with a payback on his investment of 2.80 years. "It just makes sense," commented Tony. "For a little bit of work you can realize savings well into the future and make your operation more efficient."

If you would like more information about the LED refrigeration case lighting retrofit program for commercial applications please contact Linda Nyberg, member services representative at nyberg@myelectric.coop.



Old tube incandescent lights



New LED lights

# SDCEA Annual Meeting Plans

**S**angre De Cristo's Electric's Board of Directors set Friday, June 11, for the cooperative's 70th Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held in Buena Vista.

Members of the cooperative will vote on two director positions, act on financial data for the year of 2009 and consider any other business that may come before the meeting.

Director terms in Custer and Fremont counties expire this year. Howard Eggleston (Custer County) and Arlie Riggs (Custer County) currently hold those seats.

Members will be able to vote on director candidates by mail or in person at the meeting.

All director candidates are nominated by petition. Fifteen or more members of the cooperative must sign each nomination petition. Any member interested in running for a director seat should review the guidelines listed below and may pick up an official nomination petition at association headquarters in Buena Vista. Nomination petitions must be submitted before 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27.

## **Candidate guidelines**

Directors of rural electric cooperatives establish policy and provide leadership in a complex, technical and ever-changing industry. They do not deal with day-to-day operations of the cooperative and do not work in the cooperative office on a daily basis. Directors attend a minimum of one board meeting a month and may attend other meetings or training programs held outside Sangre De Cristo's service territory or out of state. In addition, rural electric directors spend a considerable amount of time reading co-op and industry material and maintaining a current knowledge of industry trends. The following should be used as guidelines when considering a member for nomination or when considering running for a director position.

## **Qualifications**

No person is eligible to become or remain a board member of the cooperative who:

- Has been convicted of, is pleading or has pled guilty to a felony.
- Is not the designated representative of an entity which is a bona fide member or is not a bona fide resident in the district within the service area of the cooperative that such member will represent.
- Is employed by the cooperative, is the spouse of an employee of the cooperative, or has been an employee or spouse of an employee of the cooperative within the three years preceding the date of the member meeting at which the director election will be held.
- Is employed by, has been an employee within the previous five years or has a controlling financial interest in a business that sells or provides products or services to the cooperative.
- Is an employee, owner, director or otherwise connected with an entity that competes with the cooperative.

- Is employed by an electric or natural gas utility or a propane company.
- Is a close relative of an incumbent director or present employee of the cooperative.

Candidates should be aware that directors serve without salary and on a fee and reimbursement basis only for regularly scheduled meetings and approved Association business. Candidates should agree to serve the entire term of office for which elected. The position of director shall not be used to further any political ambition, and directors must be capable of representing the entire membership on an impartial basis.

## **Responsibilities**

A director must be willing to:

- Promote and safeguard the interests of the Association.
- Expend the effort necessary to understand the Association's problems and provide the needed judgment to reach decisions in constantly changing circumstances.
- Support all official decisions and action made or taken by the board.
- Study information in reports submitted to the board.
- Contribute to the development of statements on board functions and responsibilities, and work toward their constant improvement.
- Objectively evaluate and consider the questions and problems which face the Association.
- Keep informed on Association ideals and objectives, and study and analyze the policies, plans and problems that result from efforts to achieve those ideals and objectives.
- Keep informed on and aware of the attitudes of members, employees and the general public toward the Association's objectives and policies.
- Inform all interested persons about Association ideals, objectives, programs, and services.
- Attend classes to attain National Rural Electric Cooperative Association director certification within the first full three-year term of office and to work toward NRECA board leadership certification within the second or third term.

## **Personal qualifications**

A director candidate should display the following personal qualifications:

- Good business record and possession of sound business judgment.
- Demonstrated capacity for leadership and reputation for honesty and good judgment.
- Demonstrated capacity for working with others.
- Ideals and objectives compatible with the cooperative philosophy and principles.



## DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME SAVES ENERGY

It's that time of year again to spring forward and lose an hour's worth of sleep by setting our clocks an hour ahead for daylight-saving time. But did you know that extending daylight-saving time saves energy?

Congress extended daylight-saving time for four weeks in the 2005 Energy Policy Act to help reduce energy use. Oak Ridge National Laboratory estimated that energy consumption in the U.S. dropped by 17 trillion Btu during the first year after implementation of the extended period of time.

As you set your clock forward this year, keep in mind that you are helping save energy. Daylight-saving time begins this year at 2 a.m. on March 14.

## EFFICIENT COOKING

Follow these two simple tips to improve your energy efficiency in the kitchen.

### Buy sturdy, flat-bottomed cookware

The ideal pan has a slightly concave bottom — when it heats up, the metal expands and the bottom flattens out. An electric element is significantly less efficient if the pan does not have good contact with the element. For example, boiling water for pasta could use 50 percent more energy on a cheap, warped-bottom pan compared to a flat-bottomed pan.

### Use high-conductivity materials

Certain materials also work better than others when cooking and usually result in more evenly cooked food. For instance, copper-bottom pans heat faster than regular pans. In the oven, glass or ceramic pans are typically better than metal — you can turn down the temperature about 25 degrees and cook foods just as quickly.

## Time Of Use: *A Very Special Rate*

The time of use rate is an optional rate that bills consumers at different rates for electricity used during peak and off-peak periods. The amount Sangre De Cristo Electric pays to its wholesale supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, for electricity is based on three components: the amount of energy SDCEA sells, the highest 30-minute demand SDCEA has during the month and the demand it is placing on the system during the highest 30-minute demand for the entire Tri-State Generation and Transmission system during the month. By shifting load to the off-peak hours, SDCEA's power bill is reduced and that allows it to pass along those savings to you. The peak periods usually occur either in the early morning or early evening. The time-of-use rate is designed around those periods as an incentive for members to shift loads during off-peak periods.

"The time-of-use rate has been a successful program," said CEO Paul Erickson. "We've got over 250 consumers with that special rate, and it has helped us significantly reshape our load curve. That saves us money on our power costs and that, in turn, helps our consumers by allowing us to keep our costs down. The program will continue well into the future."

If you have any questions about the time-of-use rate go to [www.myelectric.coop](http://www.myelectric.coop) or email us at [info@myelectric.coop](mailto:info@myelectric.coop)

## Sangre De Cristo Electric Collecting CFL's to Recycle

Sangre De Cristo Electric is now collecting spent residential compact fluorescent lightbulbs at its headquarters located at 29780 N. U.S. Highway 24 in Buena Vista. Through a program offered by its power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission,

SDCEA will ship the unbroken bulbs to be recycled by Veolia, a leader in recycling technology. The mercury, glass and metals in the ballast are all recycled. Bring your bulbs to SDCEA headquarters and the co-op will do the rest.

## PATIENCE REQUESTED WHILE CO-OP RESTORES SERVICE AFTER STORMS

Major storms can cause power outages that last from several hours to several days. Unfortunately, power cannot be restored to everyone at the same time. Sangre De Cristo Electric works as safely as possible to quickly restore power. It responds immediately to dangerous situations, such as fallen wires or sparking equipment. Emergency and health-related facilities are top priorities. Sangre De Cristo Electric then works to restore power to the largest number of members first.

During a major outage, damaged high-voltage lines are repaired first because they feed power to large numbers of homes and are the source of power for secondary and service drop lines. Other lines are then isolated and repaired in the order that will serve the most members first.

Smaller lines that serve clusters of homes are repaired next. During this time, members who are without power because their individual lines are damaged may see power restored nearby. Once the lines serving home clusters are restored, individual lines are repaired.

Please call immediately to report a safety hazard, but please make only one call to report an outage at your home or neighborhood. Repeated calls during major storms can overburden phone lines. We are dedicated to restoring service to all members as safely and efficiently as possible. We appreciate your patience and support.

# Statement of Nondiscrimination

**S**angre De Cristo Electric Association, Inc. is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; the rules of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and Colorado law, which provide that no person in the United States shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, age 40 or over, disability, gender, sexual orientation, religion, genetic information, or veteran or military status or any other applicable status protected by federal, state or local law.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Paul A. Erickson, CEO of Sangre De Cristo Electric Association, Inc. Any individual or specific class of individuals who feel that this organization subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within the applicable time frame after the alleged discriminatory action (180 days for claims filed under federal law; 300 days for claims filed under Colorado law) or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Certification:**

I, Suzanne Kelly, Secretary of Sangre De Cristo Electric Association, Inc., do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the board of directors of said corporation and entered in the minutes of the meeting held on the Twenty-seventh day of January 2010, at which meeting a quorum was present and acting throughout.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name as Secretary and affixed the corporate seal of said corporation this 27th day of January 2010.

.....

## Sangre De Cristo Electric:

### *Protecting Its Consumers*

**I**n mid-March you will be receiving a special mailing from us at Sangre De Cristo Electric. On the outside of the envelope it will say, "Help us protect your identity." We are asking you to provide some basic answers to simple questions so that we can verify your identity for certain secure transactions. We are doing this to comply with the new Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act (FACT) that was mandated by the Federal Trade Commission. The mailing will include a letter explaining our request and a return card and envelope. If you return the card to us by April 16, 2010, you will be entered in a contest where you could win one of 13 prizes, including a 24-inch Vizio 1080p ECO high-definition television.

Please help us in our efforts to strengthen physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to shield your identity and personal information.



**F**rom clovers to leprechauns, green is the color of spring. Get your house in on the trend: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by turning it green with energy-saving practices.

A few major overhauls can make your house greener or more energy efficient. Some examples include installing energy-efficient doors and windows, buying Energy Star-qualified appliances and investing in solar panels.

Small changes can also save energy on a daily basis and improve the environment. Here are a few changes you can try.

- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light-bulbs, which save energy and last longer. Upgrade light fixtures and lamps that won't accept CFLs.
- Save gas and postage stamps by banking and paying your bills online. Deliver other documents by email rather than regular mail to save time and gas.
- Make it a habit to turn off lights and computers at night or when you're finished using them.
- Lower the heating or raise the air-conditioning set point before you leave the house. Close heating and cooling vents in rooms that you rarely use.
- Before turning on the air conditioner, open a window to cool the house. Install shades or blinds to keep the sun's heat from getting