

SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Outlet

JANUARY 2023



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Your community electric service provider.



ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

SDCEA's annual meeting will be held on **June 15, 2023**, at Buena Vista High School. Details to follow.



SUZY KELLY HONORED FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES OF SERVICE TO SDCEA

After an incredible three decades of devoted service, Suzy Kelly recently stepped away from her role on the SDCEA board of directors. Her colleagues are in awe of all she accomplished during her time here at the co-op and have faith this really isn't goodbye.



SDCEA Board President Joe Redetzke presents retiring board member Suzy Kelly with flowers at a statewide electric co-op meeting.

Kelly proved that electricity isn't just a commodity, but an integral part of everyday life here in the Valley. With her dedication and drive as a member of the board of directors, she ensured our members had access to reliable power at an affordable price point — all while responding quickly in times of outages.

"Electricity is essential to the things we all need to do each day. I have always strived to manage this cooperative to provide safe, reliable power to all the consumers in our area with local needs in mind," Kelly remarked as she reflected on her more than 32 years serving the member-consumers of SDCEA.

Kelly said SDCEA has prioritized learning about new technologies and alternative energy options applicable to this high mountain region, including wind and solar power, small hydroelectric, and microgrids.

"Sangre has to be open to new technologies in the electric industry, but also remain aware of the reliability of our system."

Kelly added, "The future of energy in Colorado is being open to change. National and state programs are looking at the use of small hydroelectric, small nuclear and the possibility of geo-thermal energy sources. All of these will become part of the energy available to cooperatives. SDCEA has always been open to learning about new technologies,

and if feasible, incorporating these new sources of power."

Kelly said she will miss learning more about these new options. "I want our consumers to know that Sangre will pursue these options if they are right for our cooperative."

Kelly served as SDCEA director since 1990; past president, vice-president and secretary of the SDCEA board. She attained a Director's Gold Credential, the highest recognition of the successful completion of continuing education on the management of and the upholding of fiduciary duty to the cooperative. This recognition included Kelly's completion of 55 courses from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in electric cooperative utility management.

Kelly was also instrumental in establishing the scholarship and Operation RoundUp (now Power of Change) programs at the cooperative that benefit those in need locally.

Despite her eagerness to experience the cooperative, Kelly had one deal-breaker: heights! "The linemen offered to take me up in a bucket truck, but I am afraid of heights so I declined!" Kelly said.

As a rancher at the base of beautiful Mt. Princeton, and a businesswoman (co-owner of the iconic Hi Rocky Store in Buena Vista for 26 years, which sold in 2003) and having raised a family here, Kelly has connected with many different people in this region.

Kelly is a true treasure for Buena Vista, having been part of the Buena Vista Heritage organization since day one. Not only does she talk and write about our town's history but also plans to preserve it as part of her job in the Historic Preservation Commission. Plus - if that wasn't enough - Kelly even uses her talents to create beautiful oil paintings depicting some iconic sites like St Elmo, Mt Princeton Hot Springs or Vicksburg! But there's more: She can whip up delicious raspberry freezer jam too!

We are grateful for all these gifts from this local legend and will miss her dearly when she moves on with her new life adventures.

Thank you, Suzy, from all of us at SDCEA.

Chaffee County Community Foundation Announces 28 Nonprofit Recipients of Fall Grants

The Chaffee County Community Foundation has awarded 28 local nonprofit organizations with \$42,155 in funding from its fall grants cycle. The average award size for each nonprofit was approximately \$1,500. For this cycle, CCCF partnered with SDCEA to administer up to \$25,000 in funding to nonprofits from Lake, Chaffee, Fremont and Custer counties. An additional \$18,755 in funding was awarded to Chaffee County nonprofits from the CCCF Community Grants Fund, which is supported by donations from local businesses, individual donors, and BlueTriton Brands.

The organizations receiving funding from the SDCEA Annual Community Grants program are:

Mini-Blessings; Colorado Farm To Table, Inc.; Arkansas Valley Advocates for Dyslexia; Ark Valley High Rollers; Cañon City Police Department Disaster Preparedness; Uncaged Today, Inc.; Foodshed Alliance; Ark-Valley Humane Society; Wet Mountain Fire Protection District; Chaffee County Search and Rescue North; Chaffee County Childcare Initiative; Shining Mountains Montessori School; The Alliance; Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County; Custer County Community Sharing Center; Achieve, Inc.; Chaffee Housing Trust; Chaffee County Hospitality, Inc.; Full Circle Restorative Justice; ElevateHER; JJs Helping Paws; Cloud City Conservation Center; and Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments WIC.

The organizations awarded funding from the CCCF Community Grants Fund are:

Arkansas Valley Advocates for Dyslexia; Mini-Blessings; Colorado Farm To Table, Inc.; Foodshed Alliance;

Ark-Valley Humane Society; Ark Valley High Rollers; Collegiate Peaks Chorale; Shining Mountains Montessori School; Chaffee County Search and Rescue North; Chaffee County Childcare Initiative; Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County; The Alliance; Achieve, Inc.; Truth Has A Voice Foundation; Chaffee Housing Trust; Chaffee County Hospitality, Inc.; KHEN 106.9 FM Community Radio; Full Circle Restorative Justice; ElevateHER; Greater Arkansas River Nature Association; and Tabor Opera House Preservation Foundation, Inc.

The CCCF Community Grants Fund is made possible by donations from local businesses and individuals, including Bluebird Day Mercantile and Lofts; Deerhammer Distilling Company; The Trailhead outdoor sports store; Wood's High Mountain Distillery; BlueTriton Brands; Diesslin Structures, Inc.; and The Wool Family Foundation.

“On behalf of CCCF and all those who donated to these funds and contributed to the selection process, we offer our sincere congratulations to all the recipients of this year’s fall grants,” CCCF Executive Director Betsy Dittenber said. “It’s so important to support the nonprofits that are providing critical services to our local communities.”

The recipients were determined by the CCCF Grant Review Committee, which consisted of 11 volunteers who contributed at least 25 hours each to review applicants and make funding recommendations.

Dittenber said, “The time, energy and dedication of our review committee volunteers was incredible. We are always grateful for individuals who help us provide a fair and balanced community review process to steward available funding to high-impact programs and organizations.”

CCCF formed a partnership with SDCEA in 2020 to conduct a community-reviewed, impact-focused process for distributing community grants. CCCF also administers SDCEA’s matching grant program that allows nonpolitical, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in the four-county region to submit donations for a 100% match, up to \$1,000 per calendar year.

The SDCEA annual grant awards funded 23 organizations this year, including eight organizations serving Fremont County, four serving Lake County, two serving Custer County and 17 serving Chaffee County. Dittenber said the 2022 fall grant cycle process shifted from project-based funding to operating funding, which helps the nonprofit sector cover “difficult-to-pay-for” expenses that are inherently necessary for the program to exist.

Launched in 2020, the CCCF Community Grants Fund program is an area-of-interest fund to which local businesses are encouraged to donate 1% of annual profits to support the community. Since the fund’s creation, 12 local businesses and individual donors have contributed to the Community Grants Fund, allowing CCCF to administer \$18,755 to 21 organizations as part of the fall grants cycle.

“We are so appreciative of the local businesses and the individual and family donors who are giving back to our community through CCCF’s Community Grants Fund,” Dittenber said. “We hope that new businesses in the area will join our 1% initiative so that we can continue to fill funding need gaps in the community.”

Founded in 2018, Chaffee County Community Foundation is a public, nonprofit organization established to promote and facilitate philanthropy in

Chaffee County, created by and for the people in that area.

CCCCF acts as a catalyst to inspire positive change through the power of philanthropy to enrich the lives of all people within the county. Its goals are to make informed philanthropy accessible to all, build local nonprofit capacity, and enable community conversations. Since 2018, CCCC has actively supported nonprofit organizations for the betterment of Chaffee County and the local communities. To learn more, visit chaffeecommunity.org.



MATCHING GRANTS

A reminder for the new year: If you are a member (named account holder) of SDCEA who supports charitable, civic and educational organizations through financial contributions, SDCEA will match up to \$200 of your donation to qualifying organizations based on the criteria outlined on our website, myelectric.coop/community/matching-grant-program.

To be considered for the matching grant program, donations must be made in the calendar year in which you are submitting the request (2023). Funds for the matching grant program are available until expended on a first-come, first-served basis.



OUTAGES

Do you have an outage to report? Don't hesitate to call 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412.

DO NOT email your outage information or post your outage information on social media. SDCEA cannot monitor that information effectively, especially after hours. The only way to be sure we know you have an outage is to phone it in.



SUPPLY CHAIN LEAD TIMES

SDCEA is alerting contractors, builders and members that lead time on materials is longer than normal. This may impact line extension, service upgrade projects and programs in 2023. SDCEA is working to maintain a healthy inventory of equipment to minimize the potential delays, yet we encourage stakeholders to review their project estimates and timelines closely. To ensure realistic expectations, please reach out to our engineering department regarding any changes in your project timeline.



REBATES

SDCEA and our power supplier, Tri-State G&T have teamed up to bring you rebates for installing Energy Star-rated appliances, water heaters, heat pumps, outdoor power equipment and more. Got to our website, myelectric.coop, click on Save Energy & Money and head to the Rebates tab.



NEW PHONE/EMAIL

If you changed your phone number or email address since you've started service with SDCEA, please update your information with us.

Go to our website, myelectric.coop, to the login box to create an account with updated information; you can also update your information if you already have an account.

You may also email us at info@myelectric.coop or call us 8 a.m.–5 p.m. M-F at 719-395-2412 or toll-free 844-395-2412.



SDCEA INFO

SDCEA's bylaws, rates, policies, meeting summaries, board contacts and other information is posted on the top of our home page, myelectric.coop, under the Governance button for our members to review at any time.

We also welcome you to call us during business hours toll-free at 844-395-2412 with any other questions you may have about the cooperative.



Sangre de Cristo Electric Association
Your Community Electric Cooperative

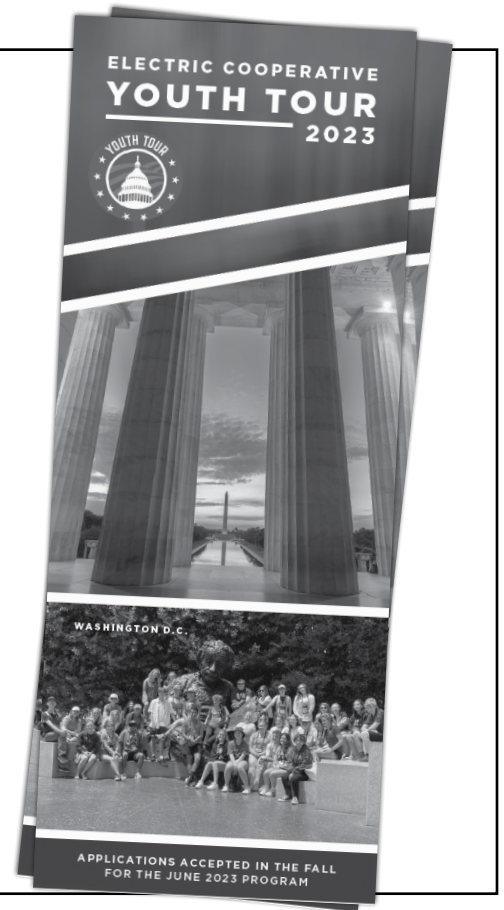
SDCEA SCHOLARSHIP & YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS ARE DUE SOON!

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

- Washington D.C. Youth Tour — Friday, January 13, 2023 by 5 p.m.
- Scholarship Application — Friday, January 20, 2023 by 5 p.m.

For more information and directions on how to apply for these opportunities, visit myelectric.coop and click on the **Community** tab and choose **Youth Programs** from the drop-down menu.

Call 719-395-2412 or toll-free 1-844-395-2412; or email communications@myelectric.coop.



Happy New Year!

Best wishes for a wonderful new year from the board of directors, staff and employees of SDCEA.

