



GCEA

AUGUST 2024



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GCEA OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Left to right: GCEA linemen Kevin Fox and Mike Pendy, NTUA equipment operator Joe John, GCEA lineman Justin Hulick, NTUA foreman Benthall Begay, and GCEA lineman Zach Bever work in Chinle, Arizona, to electrify homes on Navajo Nation in June.

GCEA Linemen Bring Light to Navajo Nation

GCEA's dedication to community service goes beyond our local service territory. We are pleased to recognize our line crew members who have gone the extra mile to power possibilities for Navajo Nation.

Since April 7, 46 utility companies and more than 250 electric line workers from 16 states have dedicated their efforts to supplying power to residents of the Navajo Nation. As of June 20, the homes of 125 Navajo families have been connected to the grid for the very first time.

Around 186,500 Navajo citizens live on Navajo Nation. More than 13,000 Navajo families lack essential access to electricity. Providing power to homes will offer modern amenities including electric lighting, refrigeration, and home heating and cooling systems.

On June 9, Journeyman Linemen Justin Hulick and Mike Pendy, along with apprentices Zach Bever and Kevin Fox, traveled to Chinle, Arizona, to volunteer for Light Up Navajo. Their mission was to bring electricity to areas of Navajo Nation that have never had the modern conveniences that many of us take for granted. Their main accomplishment in Chinle was connecting one mile of overhead primary line to a remote home that had been without electricity for 40 years. GCEA lineworkers are honored to have contributed to a project that has such a meaningful impact on the Navajo community.

We are truly impressed by the dedication of the GCEA linemen who volunteered their time to bring electricity to Navajo Nation families as part of the Light Up Navajo project. Their hard work is positively impacting lives, and we take great pride in their important contribution.

GCEA Students Tour Our Nation's Capital

Six local students recently returned from the Washington D.C. Youth Tour, a week long all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by GCEA and organized by the Colorado Rural Electric Association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Colorado Electric Educational Institute. The trip was June 17-23.

Luca Meyer, Elise Hanna, and Josie Feier from Crested Butte joined Annie Harvey and Dakota Sahagun from Gunnison and Priya Hartman from Lake City. Their trip began in Denver where they had the opportunity to meet state government officials and tour the Colorado State Capitol. The group met up with other students from Colorado and Wyoming before flying out to the Washington, D.C., area. The students toured memorials, museums, and cathedrals, visited Mt. Vernon, the Library of Congress, the U.S. Capitol, and even took in a Washington Nationals baseball game.

Recent Gunnison High School graduate Dakota Sahagun said, "Youth Tour was an unforgettable experience that has changed my life. I met incredible people and had an incredible time."



Left to Right: Luca Meyer, Elise Hanna, Josie Feier, Annie Harvey, Dakota Sahagun, and Priya Hartman.

GCEA is pleased to make this trip available each year, thanks to unclaimed capital credits. Capital credits are each member's share of GCEA's operating margins in proportion to the amount of electricity used during the calendar year. When capital credit checks are returned for incorrect mailing address information or are never cashed, the board votes to move unclaimed capital credits into special funds allocated towards care for education and care for community.

GCEA's Washington D.C. Youth Tour participants are sponsored with these funds.

If a student is interested in attending next year's trip, more information can be found at gcea.coop. Applications will be available this fall.



POWERING STUDENTS' FUTURES **GCEA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

GCEA has provided student scholarships for decades thanks to unclaimed patronage capital, the generosity of members, the Allen, Somrak and Drake families, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, individual directors, and GCEA employees. This school year GCEA will provide 118 scholarships to students. You can find the list of all scholarship recipients at gcea.coop.



GCEA's 85th Annual Meeting - A Step Back in Time

Another successful annual event has now become a memorable part of our history! The evening was packed with exciting demonstrations by GCEA linemen, bucket truck rides, discussions about upcoming renewable energy projects and energy efficiency, and savoring delicious 5Bs BBQ.

Additionally, GCEA linemen shared their experiences from the Light Up Navajo project.



Matt Feier discusses the Gunnison to Lake City line rebuild project.

This year there was a contested election for the district 7 board seat. Congratulations to Frank Stern on his successful campaign. GCEA appreciates the candidates and their supporters for promoting a healthy democratic process!

Special thanks to 5Bs BBQ for providing the delightful BBQ and to the Cattlemen's Days Royalty for their presence.

A big thank you to all our fantastic members for contributing to an enjoyable evening of conversations and dinner. We look forward to seeing you at future events.



Matt Schartz and Cattlemen's Days Royalty serve 5B's BBQ.



GCEA Members enjoy a bucket truck ride.



Lois Krause wins the \$300 grand prize.

Thank you, Mark Daily

GCEA extends special recognition to Mark Daily for his dedicated service and contributions as a member of the GCEA Board of Directors for the past nine years. Mark was elected to the Board by GCEA's member-consumers in 2015. We are grateful to all the members who make the effort to vote for their directors.

Mark brought his extensive knowledge of the industry and a commitment to sensible business practices to the boardroom for the benefit of the membership. It was a pleasure working with Mark as we achieved many notable accomplishments over the past nine years.

We thank Mark for giving his time, energy, and expertise to the governance of our cooperative and for his leadership on the GCEA Board and the Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association Board. We wish him much success in his retirement and future endeavors.



Mark Daily and wife Lynn Cudlip

Welcome Frank Stern



Congratulations to Frank Stern on his successful campaign. The board of directors and executive staff looks forward to working with Frank and appreciate the expertise he brings as we continue to pursue our enduring priorities of safety, reliability, and business resilience and our strategic priorities, which focus on our members, our community, our environment, our cooperative, and our employees.

