

# SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

*The Outlet*

AUGUST 2024



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## SDCEA Board Election Results

Incumbent Charles A. Abel II and new board member Sandra Long have been elected to serve three-year terms as board representatives for the Rural Lake/Chaffee County and At Large seats, respectively, after Sangre de Cristo Electric Association's annual board election, held June 6. The incumbent and newly-elected director assumed their three-year terms at the board meeting June 27.

Long won over Ed Simmons to represent the cooperative's members at-large, securing 1,688 votes to Simmons' 790. This seat was an open seat, previously held by Dan Daly, who passed away in November 2023. Abel, the rural Lake/Chaffee counties board representative, was re-elected unopposed with 1,997 votes.

The date of record was April 8, which determined 12,127 SDCEA members were eligible to vote in the election; both mail-in and online balloting options were available. Ballots and online votes were managed by Survey & Ballot Systems, a third-party election service, and had to be received by or cast online by 1 p.m. on June 3 to be counted.

More than 2,500 ballots were submitted, which represented 21% of SDCEA's membership. The results were certified on June 6 by an SDCEA board-appointed election and credential committee.

On average, voter turnout for cooperative elections in Colorado is 16%. Nationwide, the average is 13%.

SDCEA operates as an electric cooperative, a business model owned and controlled by its members — consumer account holders. Due to the impracticality of direct decision-making by all members, SDCEA is governed by a locally-elected board of directors. These directors, acting collectively, employ the cooperative's

chief executive officer, establish operating policies, and set overall business goals.

Seven board members oversee SDCEA's operations, each representing different geographic areas within the cooperative's service territory. Board member terms are staggered over three years to ensure continuous governance. Cooperative members are eligible to vote for all candidates, irrespective of their district of residence. There is one vote per cooperative membership.

SDCEA serves 14,500 member accounts across Chaffee, Fremont, Custer, Lake, and Saguache counties as a not-for-profit electric cooperative.

For more information about the election or to view the campaign expenditure disclosure forms, please visit our website at [myelectric.coop/about/sdcea-election-center/](http://myelectric.coop/about/sdcea-election-center/).



Charles A. Abel II



Sandra Long

# Sangre de Cristo Electric Association Awards Scholarships to 16 Area Students

We at Sangre de Cristo Electric Association are thrilled to announce that 16 outstanding students from our community have earned post-high school scholarship awards from SDCEA for the 2024-2025 school year. This achievement highlights the ongoing commitment of SDCEA to support the educational aspirations of local youth.

The scholarship recipients were chosen following a comprehensive application process that concluded in January, with awards distributed in March. This year, scholarships were granted to students from high schools in Buena Vista, Cotopaxi, and Lake County. Eligibility for these scholarships extends to members or dependents of SDCEA members. Twenty-seven students applied for the awards this year, showcasing immense talent and ambition within our communities.

Congratulations to Peyton Wakefield, a senior at Buena Vista High School, who was awarded a four-year scholarship valued at \$2,000 per year. Additionally, 12 students received one-year \$2,000 scholarships from SDCEA. Other scholarships include one employee dependent scholarship of \$2,000, and two \$1,000 scholarships sponsored jointly by Tri-State Generation and Transmission and SDCEA.

The selection of scholarship recipients was conducted by a dedicated committee comprised of SDCEA directors and staff who have no familial ties to the applicants. To ensure a fair and unbiased selection process, all personal identifying information of the applicants was redacted before independent reviews were carried out by each committee member. The committee then collectively made the final award decisions.

SDCEA takes immense pride in its longstanding tradition of supporting educational excellence through our scholarship program. Subject to the availability of funds, scholarships may be awarded annually to assist students in pursuing higher education at accredited institutions, including lineworker schools. Students who have applied for or received scholarships in previous years are also eligible to reapply if they meet eligibility criteria. Details regarding the application process are posted each fall on our website and distributed to area high schools within SDCEA's service territory.

We extend our congratulations to all the scholarship winners and wish them the best in their future endeavors. For more information about the SDCEA scholarship program, please visit the Community section online at [myelectric.coop/community/youth-programs](http://myelectric.coop/community/youth-programs).

# CONGRATULATIONS!



# 2024-2025 Scholarship Winners

SDCEA 4-YEAR: \$2,000 PER YEAR



**PEYTON WAKEFIELD**  
Buena Vista



**GWENETH FUESS**  
Buena Vista



**MADELINE LITVAY**  
Buena Vista



**DANICA MCFADDEN**  
Buena Vista

SDCEA \$2,000

SDCEA \$2,000



**CODY MORGAN**  
Buena Vista



**DANIELLE NEUFELD**  
Buena Vista



**CLARA KIRR**  
Lake County



**CHLOE PUCKETT**  
Buena Vista

SDCEA \$2,000



**DAWSON MARTINEZ**  
Buena Vista



**AUDREY JOHNSON**  
Buena Vista



**COLTON MONTOYA**  
Buena Vista



**ELIJAH FLOWERS**  
Buena Vista

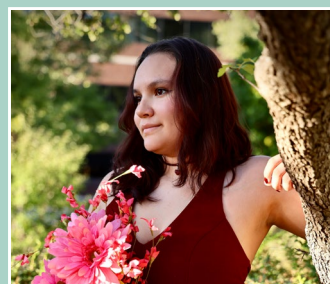
SDCEA \$2,000

TRI-STATE \$500 AND SDCEA \$500 MATCHING

SDCEA EMPLOYEE DEPENDENT \$2,000



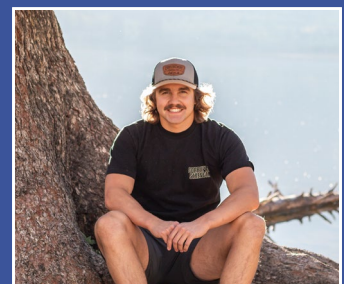
**SIERRA MULLER**  
Buena Vista



**CIALI MCGINNISS**  
Cotopaxi



**ELENA DUNN**  
Buena Vista



**CODY NORTON**  
Buena Vista



^ Crews work safely and diligently to restore power to multiple areas without electricity in storm-battered Custer and Fremont counties.



^ An osprey surveys the work from its SDCEA-constructed perch along Hayden Meadows.

## SDCEA Recovers from Late Spring Snowstorm

Interested in learning more about the May 9-12 storm that hit Sangre de Cristo Electric Association's system? Visit [www.myelectric.coop/storm-recap-may-9-12-2024](http://www.myelectric.coop/storm-recap-may-9-12-2024) or scan this QR code with your smartphone to read more.



Scan this QR code



Lead Lineman Matt Shepherd reaches out as he fixes a broken line. >



^ Lincrews work under a bright moon as skies clear from the May storm in Lake County.

