

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2024



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Our primary mission is to provide high-quality, reliable electric service at a reasonable cost to our members, improve their quality of life through new technologies and services, be a visible and active member of the community and serve our members with respect, courtesy and responsiveness.

SOUTHEAST COLORADO
POWER ASSOCIATION IS AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND
EMPLOYER



GIVING BACK IS THE COOPERATIVE WAY



KEVIN BRANDON

BY KEVIN BRANDON CEO | KEVINB@SECPA.COM

The holiday season brings a spirit of generosity and compassion. It's a time to reflect on our many blessings and uplift those in need. While this is certainly a special time of year, cooperatives like Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA) are deeply rooted in giving back to their local communities year-round.

Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people — the members we're proud to serve. That's why we organize things like holiday food drives and participate in many fundraising events throughout our service territory to make a positive, meaningful impact for our community. You help us power that purpose, too.

Another way SECPA gives back is by investing in tomorrow's leaders. Through presentations at schools, scholarship opportunities, and the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we aim to empower students for a brighter future. When we invest in our local youth, we strengthen the fabric of our community.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe in giving credit where credit is due — to the members who shape our co-op. One of the ways we do this is through capital credits. Because SECPA operates at cost, we give cash back to our members rather than outside investors or shareholders.

HOW DO CAPITAL CREDITS WORK?

SECPA members use the electricity we provide and pay their monthly bills, and we track their business with the co-op over time. SECPA pays all operating expenses throughout the year, and if any operating revenue is left over as margins, we allocate those margins as capital credits. When financial conditions permit, SECPA's board of directors votes to retire capital credits and return them back to the members. Once capital credits are retired for a certain year or years, SECPA sends a check to the members who have allocated capital credits for that year.

This year, SECPA is returning nearly \$600,000 to our local members, and those checks should be arriving before the end of the year.

Capital credits are just one of the many benefits of co-op membership. Giving back to our local members instead of outside parties is one of the many aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses.

Our members guide every decision we make and are the reason our co-op exists. To us, you're more than a customer. This holiday season, we hope you're proud to be part of a community-focused co-op that puts people before profits.

From your friends at SECPA, we hope you have a bright, blessed holiday season filled with lots of family and friends.

ACCEPTING PETITIONS FOR SECPA BOARD DIRECTOR POSITIONS

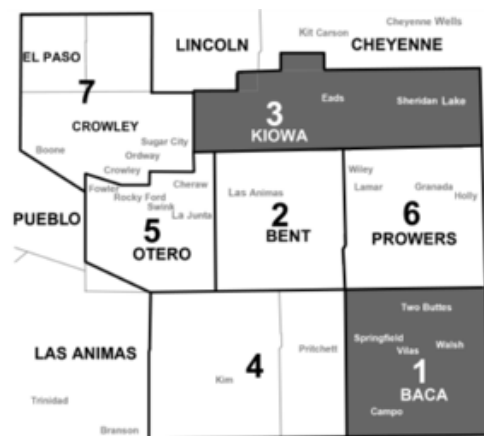
Southeast Colorado Power Association Board positions up for election in 2025 are District 1—Baca County and District 3—Kiowa County. See map below.

Director elections are for three-year terms, beginning April 2025 and ending March 2028, for District seats 1 and 3.

To be eligible to be a director:

- 1)** a person must be a SECPA member and bona fide resident of the district he or she is to represent;
- 2)** cannot be an employee or have been an employee of SECPA or its subsidiary within the preceding five years;
- 3)** cannot be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to SECPA.

- Petitions must be signed by 15 bona fide members in the nominee's district and must be returned no later than 5 p.m., January 6, 2025. Petitions are available in all SECPA offices or on the website at secpa.com/annual-meeting-elections.
- Return petitions to Debbie Howard at any SECPA office, or mail to SECPA, ATTN: Debbie Howard, P.O. Box 521, La Junta, CO 81050.



'TIS THE SEASON TO HAVE
SECOM FAST INTERNET



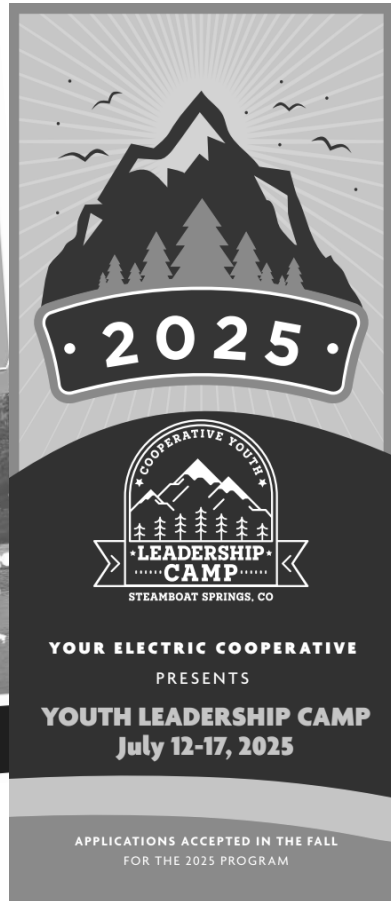
Put the SECOM
Blast Wi-Fi
experience on
your list!

Call us today! (719) 383-1349



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS

Win a Trip to Washington, D.C., or a week at Leadership Camp at Glen Eden Resort!



Each year Southeast Colorado Power Electric Association (SECPA) sponsors two students to attend the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour held June 16-22, 2025. High school students who are 16 by June 1 AND whose families are SECPA members are eligible to apply to go on the trip. The tour provides students with an eight-day adventure that offers in-depth exposure to the electric cooperative network while exploring our nation's capital. The selected youth's expenses, including airfare, lodging, meals and all tour admission fees, are paid by SECPA. Activities during the trip include tours of the U.S. Capitol, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, war memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, National Archives, the White House and Smithsonian Museums; a Potomac River dinner and dance cruise, visits with Colorado's U.S. senators and representatives and the chance to connect with students nationwide.

If you're not chosen to attend the Washington, D.C., trip, you may be the recipient of a trip to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp held at Glen Eden Resort, located just outside Steamboat Springs.

At this camp, held July 12-17, 2025, students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Wyoming will gather at a beautiful resort on the Elk River and spend the week at an outstanding leadership camp. You'll participate in activities to improve leadership skills and there is also time for swim parties, barbecues, whitewater rafting, and dancing. Many of the attendees call this camp a "life-changing experience."

For more information and to apply, go to our website at secpa.com/youth-programs or contact Debbie Howard at 719-383-1314.

The deadline to apply is December 31, 2024. Mail your application to SECPA, ATTN: Debbie Howard, P.O. Box 521, La Junta, CO 81050.



Thank You
for your membership

SECPA \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

Southeast Colorado Power Association is once again making scholarships available to area high school seniors. **Students' parents must be members of SECPA.**

SECPA is offering ten \$1,000 scholarships. In conjunction with Tri-State, an additional two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. Eligible applicants must be high school seniors graduating in 2025 who plan to attend a two or four-year college, trade school, or other non-traditional secondary education institution.

Students interested in applying for the scholarships are asked to submit a completed SECPA application form (available on the SECPA website at <https://secpa.com/scholarships>) with a school transcript, letter of recommendation, and a short essay on the benefits of cooperative membership.

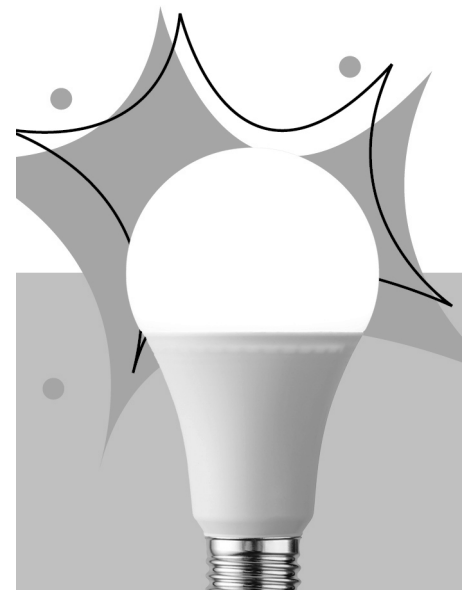
Applications for the SECPA scholarships are due on **FEBRUARY 10, 2025**. For additional information, please visit the SECPA website or contact Debbie Howard at 719-383-1314.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Source: energystar.gov



SAVE the Date!

You're Invited to SECPA's Annual Meeting

Southeast Colorado Power Association will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2025.

Cash prize drawings will be given away throughout the meeting.

Please join us at the
Lamar Community Building:
610 S. 6 th Street, Lamar CO.

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

SECPA Board positions up for election in 2025 are District 1 – Eastern Baca County and District 3 - Kiowa County.

- Registration - 5 p.m.
- Dinner - 6 p.m.
- Meeting - 6:45 p.m.



ARE YOU THE WINNER THIS MONTH?

If you find your name in this issue as follows (WIN* Your Name, your account number), please contact Southeast Colorado Power Association at 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634 to receive a credit on your next power bill.