

Join MCREA For Our 88th Annual Meeting

By **Dave Frick** General Manager

Morgan County Rural Electric Association was first established in 1937, which means our electric cooperative has been working on behalf of our members for nearly nine decades. Whether your family has been on our lines for generations or you are new to our community, MCREA is proud to serve you. You aren't just another customer. Rather, you are one of the nearly 5,000 member-owners who make this cooperative what it is.

At MCREA, our mission is to provide safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and a vision for the future. Our annual meeting, held each March, plays an essential role in upholding that mission. Our annual meeting informs members of the state of their electric cooperative and allows them to actively participate in the decisions being made.

The board of directors, employees of MCREA, and I kindly invite all of our members to attend MCREA's 88th annual meeting, which will be held by phone call at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18.

Colorado-based telecommunications service provider Telephone Town Hall will once again facilitate our annual meeting. The format has proven time and again to be highly efficient in carrying out all business functions of our annual meetings.

This format has increased accessibility and open dialogue among our membership, who no longer need to be in attendance physically, to voice questions and concerns. The telephone meeting has also eliminated weather cancellation concerns, as we have seen heavy winter blizzards hit our area around this time in years past.



Of course, it wouldn't be an MCREA annual meeting without prizes. By joining this year's call, attendees will be entered to win a brand-new, 65-inch LCD Smart TV. Another lucky winner will win a \$250 cash prize. And as is done every year, one name will be drawn from our entire membership. If the member selected is on the call, he or she will receive a \$1,000 cash prize.

In addition to a chance to win these prizes, those who register for the telephone meeting will be entered into a drawing for gift cards to area businesses.

Click the banner on our website at mcrea.org to register and don't forget to answer your phone at 6 p.m. on March 18.

We look forward to connecting with you!

2025 MCREA ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 18 | 6 P.M. | HELD BY TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

TO REGISTER, CLICK THE BANNER AT MCREA.ORG
ENTER YOUR
• NAME
• TELEPHONE NUMBER
• SERVICE ADDRESS

REGISTERING FOR THIS YEAR'S MEETING WILL ENTER YOU TO WIN GIFT CARDS!

ANSWER THE PHONE MARCH 18 @ 6PM.

MORGAN COUNTY REA
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

MCREA MISSION



Morgan County REA, a member-owned cooperative, is dedicated to serving our members by providing safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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mcrea.org

facebook.com/MorganCountyREA

@morgancountyrea



Morgan County REA Awards Years of Service Pins to Employees


At the Morgan County REA Christmas party, the co-op recognized four employees with Years of Service pins. Dave Frick, general manager, earned his 35-year pin. Steve Sundet, manager of engineering, received his 30-year pin. Josh Bristol, SCADA/substation technician received his 10-year pin. Fabian Vigil, lead line-man, received his 5-year pin.

Each of these individuals is an important part of the MCREA team and dedicated to serving our members.



Save the date! Morgan County REA is excited to host our annual Member Appreciation Picnic on Thursday, June 12, at our headquarters in Fort Morgan. This is a great time to enjoy a meal with friends and neighbors, while also catching up with your local electric cooperative.

As always, we'll have door prizes and activities for all ages, so bring the family! We look forward to gathering with all our members. Mark your calendars for June 12 and watch for more details in future issues of *Colorado Country Life*. See you this summer!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use ENERGY STAR®-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.

Source: energy.gov



COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORY

DOWNLOAD FOR FREE AT mcrea.org/legislative-news

Morgan County REA Lineworker Scholarship:

Applications Due Friday, April 18, 2025

Morgan County REA is proud to offer a \$5,000 lineworker scholarship to assist a deserving individual who is pursuing a career in the power industry. The scholarship aims to encourage, promote, and educate an individual for their future career as an electric lineworker.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must reside within the outer boundaries of MCREA's service territory and be enrolled in or currently attend an approved lineworker training program as a full-time student. Assuming the applicant has met the age requirement for enrollment, there are no other age restrictions to apply for the scholarship.

Applicants must complete and submit the MCREA lineworker scholarship application by Friday, April 18—coincidentally, Lineworker Appreciation

Day. Applications will be reviewed by MCREA's lineworker scholarship committee, whose decisions are based on several factors, including academics, work experience, a statement of goals and aspirations, and overall impression. Based on their application, applicants will be selected for interviews.

The scholarship winner must verify enrollment and record of at least a 3.0 GPA upon completion of each semester to maintain the scholarship. Recipients are in no way guaranteed or required to be employed by MCREA upon completion of training.

The application can be found and submitted online at mcrea.org/lineworker-scholarships. (Paul Ulloa, acct. #xxx9000) If you have any questions regarding the scholarship program, please contact MCREA's communications department at 970-867-5688.



2025
LINEWORKER
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION DEADLINE:
18
APRIL



Win \$25
OFF YOUR
ELECTRIC BILL

Each month, Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a chance at a \$25 bill credit just by reading *Colorado Country Life*. Unfortunately, neither member whose name was hidden in the December magazine called to claim their \$25 bill credit.

There are two more member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call MCREA's communications department at 970-867-5688 by February 28 to claim a \$25 credit on your next bill.

An Icy Situation

Winter is here, bringing with it the cold, snow, and ice. In weather like this, power outages are always a possibility, especially when it comes to the impact that the elements can have on our equipment. For example, freezing rain creates icicles and odd-shaped ice formations on power lines and conductors. The ice buildup changes how wind and air impact the now misshapen, ice-covered line. The change in airflow causes power lines to bounce — this is what we call galloping lines. (Mark McGlynn, acct. #xxx7700)

Once the lines get going, they can bounce and buck enough to hit each other, often causing lights to blink. Sometimes they damage themselves enough to cause an outage or even fall to the ground.

There is not much Morgan County REA can do to completely stop galloping lines since the wild motion is caused by Mother Nature. To help prevent this, many power lines have special mechanisms, such as twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal, attached to the line. While they can help, sometimes they are no match for severe ice and whipping wind.

Aside from ice storms, other storms throughout the year can cause damaging winds, which can knock down lines and blow trees onto lines. Keep the following safety tips in mind:

- When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact MCREA or 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.

- Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, also making it dangerous. Do not try to guess the types of lines — stay away from all lines.
- Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide electrical hazards. Downed power lines can energize objects around them, such as chain-link fences and metal culverts.
- Keep in mind that a dead line could become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators.
- Never drive over a downed line. It could start a chain reaction and cause additional poles or other equipment to collapse.
- If you are in a car that has contacted or is near a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility crew has arrived and deenergized the line. Warn others not to approach the car.
- Only exit a car or cab near or on downed lines if there is a fire. If this happens, cross your arms over your chest and make a solid jump out and away from the car with both feet together. Then hop away at least 50 feet or more while continuing to keep both feet together.

For more electrical safety information, visit [Safe Electricity.org](https://www.safelocal.org/).

2025 MCREA COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIPS
APPLICATION DEADLINE: **FEBRUARY 14**
Submit application at mcrea.org/college-scholarships.