

# Annual Meeting & Director Election Notice

**S**DCEA Board of Directors set June 19, 2025, for the cooperative's 85th annual meeting, which will be held this year in Buena Vista. Details will follow. Members of the cooperative will act on financial data for the year 2024, hear speakers, and consider any other business that may come before the meeting.

If this year's director election is contested, it will be held separately from the annual meeting by mail and online vote.

Petitions for director seats were made available beginning January 15, 2025. Nomination petitions and candidate questionnaires must be received at SDCEA's office in Buena Vista by 5 p.m. Monday, April 7.



**A lively crowd enjoys great food, engaging presentations, and meaningful conversations with neighbors during the annual meeting held last year in Custer County at the Wet Mountain Saddle Club. Don't miss the next annual meeting June 19 in Buena Vista for a morning of connection and community!**

## 2025 ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION DEADLINES:

- April 7** - Nomination petitions and candidate questionnaires are due by 5 p.m.
- April 18** - Date of Record
- June 13** - 1 p.m. Ballot receipt at Survey & Ballot Systems or ballot cast online deadline
- June 17** - SDCEA Board of Directors Election results announced
- June 19** - SDCEA Annual Meeting, Buena Vista

## DIRECTOR SEATS

Two seats are up for election in June, one seat as the Custer County representative, currently held by board chair Sandra Attebery, and one seat as the Fremont County representative, currently held by Rob Canterbury. Both representatives have indicated they wish to run again for their respective seats. All director candidates are nominated by petition. Fifteen or more current members of the cooperative must sign each nomination petition. Any member interested in running for a director's seat in a future election should review the following guidelines.

**If you are interested in running for a board seat,** please contact us at 844-395-2412 or [info@myelectric.coop](mailto:info@myelectric.coop). Members must reside within the director's district to be considered for nomination.



**Temporary Office**  
211 Railroad Right-of-Way, Suite 101  
Buena Vista

P.O. Box 2013  
Buena Vista, CO 81211-20131  
ph 719-395-2412  
tf 844-395-2412

[info@myelectric.coop](mailto:info@myelectric.coop)

[www.myelectric.coop](http://www.myelectric.coop)

[facebook.com/SDCEA.Inc](https://www.facebook.com/SDCEA.Inc)

[@sdceaenergy](https://www.instagram.com/sdceaenergy)

## YOUR CO-OP NEWS

### CANDIDATE GUIDELINES

Directors of rural electric cooperatives establish policy and provide leadership in a complex, technical and ever-changing industry. They do not deal with daily cooperative operations or work in the cooperative office daily. Directors attend a minimum of one day-long board meeting per month and may attend other meetings or training programs held outside SDCEA's service territory or out of state. In addition, rural electric cooperative directors spend a considerable amount of time reading cooperative and industry material and maintaining a current knowledge of industry trends.

Consider the following qualifications and responsibilities when choosing a member for nomination or when deciding to run for a director position.

### QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify for directorship, a person shall:

- Be a member of the cooperative or an individual authorized by an entity member;
- Be a resident of the designated director district;
- Have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts;
- Disclose all monetary and in-kind contributions and expenditures directly or indirectly to or from his/her campaign for election to the board.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- At any time during such person's nomination, election campaign, or term of office, fails or has failed to meet the qualifications provided in Article II, Section 3.A of SDCEA's Bylaws. The Board of Directors shall establish a policy to execute a vote to expel a Director for failure to meet the qualifications provided in Article II, Section 3.A of SDCEA's Bylaws.
- Fails to protect the confidentiality of Personal Identifiable Information and other confidential information provided to SDCEA by members, consumers, employees, directors, vendors, and the public.
- Has been convicted of, is pleading guilty to, or had pleaded guilty to a felony.
- Is or has been within the five years preceding June 17, 2025:
  - Employed by SDCEA or the spouse of an employee.
  - Employed by or has a significant financial interest in a business that sells or provides commodities, products, or services to the cooperative.
  - Employed by or a full or partial owner of an electric or natural gas utility, a propane company, or a renewable/alternative energy

company, or has a significant financial interest in an entity that regularly competes with SDCEA, any entity that the cooperative controls or in which it has a substantial interest.

Directors serve without salary but may be allowed fair remuneration for their time spent in the cooperative's service as directors, consistent with rural electric cooperative practice. Candidates should agree to serve the entire term of office for which they are elected. The position of director shall not be used to further any political ambition, and directors must be capable of representing the entire membership on an impartial basis.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

A director must be willing to:

- Promote and safeguard the interests of the cooperative;
- Expend the effort necessary to understand the cooperative's problems and provide the needed judgment to reach decisions in constantly changing circumstances;
- Support all official decisions and actions made or taken by the board;
- Study information in reports submitted to the board;
- Contribute to the development of statements on board functions and responsibilities, and work toward their constant improvement;
- Objectively evaluate and consider the questions and problems which face the cooperative;
- Stay informed of the cooperative's ideals and objectives, and study and analyze the policies, plans, and problems which result from efforts to achieve those ideals and objectives.
- Keep informed on and aware of the attitudes of members, employees, and the public toward the cooperative's objectives and policies;
- Inform all interested persons about the cooperative's ideals, objectives, programs, and services;
- Attend classes to attain NRECA director certification within the first full three-year term of office and work toward NRECA board leadership certification within the second or third term.

### PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

A director candidate should display the following personal qualifications:

- Good business record and possession of sound business judgment;
- Demonstrated capacity for leadership and reputation for honesty and good judgment;
- Demonstrated capacity for working with others;
- Ideals and objectives compatible with cooperative philosophy and principles.



Board Chair Sandra Attebery of Custer County shares key messages with the community at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

SDCEA members (named account holders) may vote in the upcoming board of directors election either online or by mail.

Early in May, all cooperative members will receive a ballot in the mail along with instructions for voting

online or mailing in their vote. Members and voting delegates with an email address on file will also receive detailed online voting instructions via email.

All ballots must be received by the election company Survey & Ballot Systems, or cast online by 1 p.m., June 13, 2025, to ensure they are counted for the June 17, 2025, election. If you do not receive the ballot mailing or need any assistance in voting, please call our office, 1-844-395-2412 or email us at [info@myelectric.coop](mailto:info@myelectric.coop).

Voters are encouraged to take advantage of voting, as each vote counts towards deciding who will become a part of the board of directors. SDCEA is dedicated to making sure all members have the chance to make their voice heard.

Candidate question and answer columns will also be published and available after April 7, 2025, and featured in the May edition of *Colorado Country Life* magazine.

Board candidate financial disclosures may be found here when available. Candidate disclosure document due dates are April 30, May 12, and June 11.

## Understanding Power Outages

Power outages are an occasional reality, particularly in remote areas. While we work hard to minimize disruptions, it is important to know more about outages, their causes, and how they are addressed to ensure electricity is restored efficiently and safely.

### WHAT CAUSES POWER OUTAGES?

Power outages can happen for a variety of reasons. The most common causes include:

- **Weather-Related issues**  
Snowstorms, high winds, lightning, and ice can damage power lines or cause tree branches to fall, disrupting service. Even if the weather is relatively mild at your location, the electric grid is connected. Storm impacts elsewhere may impact you.
- **Equipment Issues**  
Normal wear and tear or unexpected equipment failure can lead to outages.

- **Accidents and Wildlife**  
Vehicle collisions with utility poles, homeowners working on projects such as tree trimming that end up contacting power lines, dig ins to primary wire by homeowners or contractors, or animals interfering with electrical equipment are less common but still significant causes of outages.
- **Transmission or Supply Line Disruptions**  
Outages can happen when the main power supply lines we rely on, managed by external transmission providers such as Black Hills Energy, Xcel, and/or Tri-State G&T experience an issue. Because these lines deliver electricity to us, we are unable to provide power to your home until the provider resolves the problem. Once their repairs are complete, power will flow through our system, allowing us to restore electricity to your location as quickly as possible.



Under the glow of the moonlight, our dedicated crews work tirelessly through the night to restore power during a spring storm.

## YOUR CO-OP NEWS

### WHY CAN REPAIRS TAKE TIME?

Outage restoration can vary in complexity and time based on several factors such as distance, location, and weather conditions.

- **Reaching outage sites**  
Restoring power in rural areas can require crews to hike in with equipment or travel long distances, often in challenging conditions like icy or snow-covered roads.
- **Identifying the cause**  
Pinpointing the exact issue, particularly in rugged or remote terrain, can add time — especially during nighttime or severe weather.
- **Safety first**  
Crews will prioritize safety by taking necessary precautions during repairs, often relying on specialized equipment to access downed lines or damaged infrastructure.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED OUTAGE QUESTIONS

#### Why do lights blink?

Blinking or flickering lights often occur as the system works to maintain power. During severe weather, this may result from tree branches brushing against power lines or temporary disruptions that resolve automatically. To limit longer outages, protective devices will temporarily interrupt power to address the issue.

#### How is restoration prioritized?

To restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest amount of time, repairs are prioritized as follows:

1. Fix large transmission lines supplying power to substations.
2. Repair substations (feeders) that distribute electricity to many households.
3. Address issues with smaller distribution lines impacting fewer residents.

#### What should I do during an outage?

- Report the outage by calling our 24/7 dispatch line toll-free at 844-395-2412.
- Avoid contacting us for minor blinking or flickering; instead, call only if your power is fully out.
- Keep essential supplies and a backup power source, especially during winter months.

#### What about wildfire risks?

To reduce wildfire risks, we adjust system settings during high-risk periods to shut off power at the smallest signs of disruptions. While this may increase outages' frequency and length, it ensures greater community safety. Unlike some utilities, we avoid preemptive shutoffs, favoring thorough inspections before restoring power.

### Restoring power as quickly — and safely — as possible

Our hardworking crews are on call 24/7 to restore power safely and efficiently. Even in adverse weather, they work tirelessly to ensure your household regains access to electricity as quickly as possible, prioritizing their safety and yours.

#### Stay updated

We aim to keep you informed during outages. Updates are available online at [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop), social media pages, and through direct calls; note that limited communication in the field (such as no cell service) may delay update availability.

To learn more about power outages and how they're resolved, scan this QR code, visit [myelectric.coop/safety/outages](http://myelectric.coop/safety/outages), or give us a call. Thank you for trusting us to power your home and/or business — we appreciate your patience and understanding.



### STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

Please contact SDCEA to discuss your situation. Call toll-free at 844-395-2412 or visit us online at [myelectric.coop/energy-efficiency/energy-assistance](http://myelectric.coop/energy-efficiency/energy-assistance).



SDCEA's business office in Buena Vista will be closed February 17 in observance of Presidents Day. Dispatch will be available to report any outages toll-free at 844-395-2412.

### OFFICE REOPENING

We are excited to share that the Sangre de Cristo Electric Association office in Buena Vista is scheduled to reopen this month.

For updates on the exact reopening date, please call us toll-free at 844-395-2412, email [info@myelectric.coop](mailto:info@myelectric.coop), or visit our website at [myelectric.coop](http://myelectric.coop).

Until then, SDCEA will continue holding office hours at our temporary location at 211 Railroad Right-of-Way, Buena Vista (north of Town Hall).

We appreciate your patience and look forward to welcoming you back to our main office soon!