

2020 ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY

BY REG RUDOLPH GENERAL MANAGER

For the first time in the long history of San Isabel Electric, there won't be an in-person annual meeting this year. After considerable thought and deliberation, the board of directors decided that it was in the best interest of the membership to postpone the in-person meeting due to COVID-19.

San Isabel will still have a business meeting and elections, but the format will be virtual, over the internet. We realize this may eliminate some members who have historically participated in person, but it also opens the meeting to those who feel the distance is too much to travel.

The meeting will still be held on September 19 at 1 p.m. The membership will still receive a notice in the mail about the meeting, as usual. Instead of a location, you'll receive registration instructions for the online virtual meeting. Only members may participate in the business meeting, so unique logins will be provided. Preregistration will allow members to participate in motions during the meeting. Voting for board members will be done by mail-in ballots and on the day of the meeting, so that process stays the same as previous years.

The meeting will be conducted live by Chairperson Jacquie Sikes, and supported in person by the full board of directors. Reports will be given by the officers, and questions submitted during the registration process will be

answered the following week at siea.com/annualmeeting.

As usual, it wouldn't be an annual meeting without registration gifts and a grand prize. Just for registering, members will receive a \$20 bill credit that will be applied to their bill due October 15. The grand prize giveaway this year is a Black & Decker electric lawnmower. The winner will be drawn randomly from those who register prior to the meeting and will be notified the week following the annual meeting. The San Isabel Electric Annual Meeting has been a celebration at the John Mall High School for years; from bingo to door prizes and a great meal, we all look forward to the meeting every year in September.

Unfortunately, this year COVID-19 has shut down our country, and southern Colorado hasn't been immune to the impacts. Decisions for big events such as the San Isabel Electric Annual Meeting need to be made in advance, and the wisdom of cancellation will only be known after the meeting, but that isn't an option. The safety of our members and employees who work the annual meeting is our top priority. Based on what we know today, canceling the in-person meeting is the best decision.

We will still have an annual meeting. It'll be different, but still a celebration of a great year. Rest assured; this decision will not permanently change the format. We'll



REG RUDOLPH

be back in Walsenburg playing bingo, drawing door prizes and conducting business in 2021 if we're done fighting this pandemic. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this difficult decision. Please consider participating in the virtual meeting as we conduct our cooperative business.

GET YOUR
\$20 BILL CREDIT

REGISTER BY PHONE OR ONLINE
SEPTEMBER 16-19

SAN ISABEL
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

VIRTUAL
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

 **SEPT 19**
2020

siea.com/annualmeeting

GET YOUR
\$20 BILL
CREDIT

V O T E

VIRTUAL

A N N U A L M E M B E R S H I P

MEETING



ANNUAL MEETING

For the safety of our members and employees due to COVID-19, the format of our annual membership meeting has been changed to an online-only meeting.

- ✓ **Saturday, September 19 at 1 p.m.**
- ✓ Voting will be conducted via on-site ballot drop-off or by mail-in ballot.



OPEN DIRECTOR SEATS

Two director seats are open for election. The Nominating Committee met July 1 and nominated:

- ✓ Debbie Rose-District 1, Beulah, Wetmore & Vicinity
 - ✓ Donald Keairns-District 6, La Veta, Cuchara & Vicinity.
- Candidate biographies will be available August 10 at siea.com/annualmeeting.



HOW TO RUN FOR THE BOARD

Candidates must complete the official online petition packet at siea.com/annualmeeting. The petition packet application submission deadline is August 5, 2020 at 5 p.m. **LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**



BALLOTS

Ballot mailing will begin August 21. Mail-in ballots must be received by Thursday, September 17. Ballots can also be dropped off the day of the annual meeting at the Pueblo West headquarters, located at 781 E. Industrial Blvd., Pueblo West, CO 81007.

ONE MEMBER. ONE VOTE. YOUR VOICE MATTERS.



GET A \$20 BILL CREDIT

Members that pre-register to attend the annual meeting will receive a \$20 bill credit. You must pre-register to receive the bill credit. It will be automatically applied to your electric bill due October 15.



HOW TO PRE-REGISTER

Pre-register by phone or online.

To pre-register by phone, call 800-279-SIEA, option 3. To pre-register online go to siea.com/annualmeeting.

Registration is open:

- ✓ September 16 - 18, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- ✓ September 19, 10 a.m. - Noon

After registering by phone, members will be emailed a link to join the meeting.



HOW TO WATCH

Follow the instructions in the registration confirmation email. You must pre-register to participate in the live virtual annual meeting. Members are encouraged to email questions for the annual meeting to contactus@siea.com. Answers to questions and a recording of the meeting will be available at siea.com/annualmeeting the following week.



PRIZES

The grand prize giveaway is a Black and Decker electric lawnmower. The winner will be drawn randomly from the registrants for the meeting and notified the week following the annual meeting.



SIEA Wildfire Mitigation Program

San Isabel Electric is watching over some 9,600 square miles of Colorado service area to identify areas with high fire risk and using programmable devices to reduce fire risk and improve the grid's resiliency.

The cooperative has identified areas with a high-fire risk, and considered the history of wildfires in the area, vegetation, types of electric infrastructure and other environmental factors.

When stage 2 fire restrictions (prohibiting all open burning of any kind) are issued in areas identified as high fire risk areas, the co-op will modify operations of automatic switches and reclosers.

Typically, when something makes contact with a power line, such as vegetation or an animal, there is an increase in electric current. The force of the electric current can often hold the item on the line, which can create arcs and sparks. When the smart switches and reclosers sense the increase in current, they immediately open for a few seconds, and then close again — breaking the flow of electricity, which can allow the item to fall off the line. If the increased current is still present, the equipment opens and closes again and again, three or four times. When members experience their power blinking on and off, this is often the cause — reclosers or switches designed to protect the system are functioning correctly. The opening and closing either causes the item to fall off the line and power remains on, or a fuse is blown, causing a power outage to protect the affected area of the electric infrastructure.

During stage 2 fire restrictions, SIEA will be changing the programming to blow the fuse immediately if the reclosers and switches can't clear the line after the first try, instead of allowing them to repeatedly open and close to clear the line. This reduces the possibility of electricity holding something on the line and catching fire or sparking a fire.

The consequences of wildfires are not taken lightly by San Isabel Electric employees. From the employees behind a desk, to those in the field, our members are the most important part of the cooperative, and they always will be.

SIEA Wildfire Mitigation Program Overview

OPERATION PRACTICES

SIEA currently has 1,537 fuses and reclosers in areas with high fire risk profiles that provide immediate notification of system disturbances, allowing crews to be dispatched quickly.

POLE UPGRADES

SIEA has replaced thousands of poles in the last three years as part of the cooperatives planned upgrade projects.

ENHANCED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

SIEA meets or exceeds state vegetation and fire safety standards. This includes overhanging limbs and branches above and around power lines to help ensure compliance. The co-op has also re-evaluated its tree trimming cycle, to trim every three years in areas where there is rapid growth and eight years in slower growth areas. Two additional full-time employees and a contract crew were hired to help address the new trimming schedule.