



Community. Connection. Commitment.

2020 Election of LPEA Directors

La Plata Electric Association is a cooperative, which means it is owned by you - our members. Each year, LPEA's membership elects four representatives to the LPEA Board of Directors. Make sure your voice is heard in the boardroom by voting for the candidate you feel best represents you.

LPEA has four director districts, established geographically. The enclosed ballot includes the candidates running in your district, based on your electric service address. To help you decide, this packet includes unedited statements from all candidates.

LPEA
La Plata Electric Association, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

lpea.coop
970.247.5786

2020 LPEA Board of Director Candidates

Representative District 1, Archuleta County



Bob Lynch
Named Board Representative
Pursuant to Article III, Section 5 of the LPEA Bylaws, the election in District 1 (Archuleta County) has been cancelled due to only one nominee in the district.

As board president, I ensure that we hear all sides of an issue and consider what is best for all LPEA members. I focus the board on new ideas and urge openness to learning about how renewable power is transforming the electric grid. An energy landscape is emerging that allows us to position LPEA to be a reliable, and safe supplier of the cleanest and most affordable power possible. I represent LPEA on a committee at our power supplier developing ways that Co-Ops can choose options for generating a large share of power locally. These options open doors for achieving our goals with local resources and keep energy dollars here. We can shape our energy future if we ignore those voices that want to retreat to the old status-quo of dirty power and higher prices. I am a 5th generation resident of Colorado. After college I founded a management consulting firm and worked with some of the best companies in the US and internationally. I helped companies plan for the future and thrive as major changes happened.

LPEA is in the midst of a changing energy world and needs board members who learn the lessons of the past, thoughtfully plan for the future, and make wise and timely decisions. I am a cattle rancher, as well, and have a profound appreciation for land stewardship. I believe that how we produce electricity directly effects the health of this beautiful place.

One candidate will be elected to represent District 2, South and West La Plata County



Doug Fults
New candidate for District 2

There's a reason we're proud to call La Plata County home. Here, we have a chance to live on our own terms. We value our rural freedom and self-determination. But right now these qualities are missing from our energy system. Our families are dependent on some of the most expensive energy in Colorado, with forecasts showing no relief in sight.

Restricted by contract through 2050, our community is not free to generate our own power. Every year, \$70 million is taken out of our local economy for (mostly) coal power from far off plants, despite having abundant energy resources here at home. I support the LPEA staff and Board's efforts to investigate our energy supply options for the future. I am running for the LPEA Board because my technical, financial, and management experience will make me a valuable asset to those efforts.

Coming from Colorado farming stock going back three generations, I understand the impact that energy access and affordability has on rural Coloradan families. My strong work ethic and ability to think strategically has enabled a successful career in startups and establishment of a public company. I've served as Engineering Director, Software Engineer, Chief Technology Officer and CFO. My degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science adds to my understanding of the challenges facing our energy system and responsible process for improving it.

With your vote, I will lend my skills to help LPEA rigorously evaluate options and build a roadmap to more affordable, reliable, local, and clean energy.

Notice of the Annual Meeting for La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

**The annual meeting may be postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. For updates visit lpea.coop/annual-meeting*

**SATURDAY
MAY 16, 2020**

**Pagosa Springs
High School
800 S. 8th Street
Pagosa Springs CO
Registration 9a.m.
Business Meeting 10:30a.m.**

Attendance Bonus

Members attending the annual meeting will receive a \$5.00 credit on their electric bill.

LPEA Annual Report

LPEA's 2019 Annual Report was included in the April 2020 edition of Colorado Country Life. Additional copies will be available at the annual meeting. lpea.coop/annual-reports

Agenda Highlights

- Reports from LPEA's new Chief Executive Officer Jessica Matlock, Board President Bob Lynch, and LPEA Attorney Shay Denning
- Updates for CREA representative Jack Turner, Round Up Foundation President Briggen Wrinkle, and Tri-State representative Kirsten Skeeahan
- Q & A from members

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John Lee, Jr.
New candidate for District 2

After college with mounting student loan debt, I joined the military to pay off student loans and serve my country. A quarter century later, I retired from Active Duty. My family, wife and four children, have lived here for the past decade. We love living in La Plata County. With four adult children attending Fort Lewis College, I am proud of them and the community that provides such quality experiences and higher educational opportunities in STEM (science technology engineering mathematics).

As an emergency responder, I see much of the westside and rural parts of La Plata County. The growth and future of the community are as important to me now as they were to my great-grand parents when they homesteaded here more than 100 years ago, I want to work to guide long-term stability within our region. As a Sergeant Major, Director, instructor and currently Fire Chief of Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District, I know the need for good decision making, communications and planning.

I have spent the better part of my life serving the greater good. I effectively work in small group and collaboration efforts. I can see the big picture and direction to go. To me, LPEA is about power distribution, it has ancillary projects and efforts, which can be good if the core principles are tended to. I want to serve District 2 and LPEA as a voice for our rural community and way of life.

One candidate will be elected to represent District 3, City of Durango



Rachel Landis
Incumbent candidate for District 3

I am running for re-election to the LPEA Board of Directors because in the past three years, I have seen the power of our cooperative to make a positive difference in our community. In 2019, I was proud to vote in support of LPEA's commitment to drastically reduce carbon emissions through the purchase and production of clean energy and I am eager to advance this critical climate effort. To keep money within our community, I will continue to develop local clean energy projects, explore ways to bring high speed broadband to underserved businesses and community members, and keep rates low. I will also continue to champion efforts like our recent Town Hall meetings and live-streaming program, which provide greater transparency and opportunities to hear what you, our members, want from your cooperative.

I am a mission-driven person who is deeply committed to strengthening the well-being of our community and our planet. Towards this end, I served as the Director of the Environmental Center at FLC for seven years and am now the Director of The Good Food Collective working with farmers and ranchers, small business owners, and consumers to build an intact local food system. I am also the Co-Founder and Director of San Juan Mountain SOLES, an outdoor program that empowers local high school girls. I am a collaborative leader who has demonstrated the ability to address complex issues, work with diverse opinions, and operate with integrity and look forward to employing these skills to best serve you.



Dave Nulton
New candidate for District 3

Dave Nulton has been a resident of Southwest Colorado for sixteen years. He has enjoyed a 43-year career in the energy field, has an extensive background in project management, and has led large organizations and projects; most involved with power plant construction, operation and maintenance. He has worked with large utilities, managed the preparation of environmental impact statements, conducted formal public meetings and worked with local, state and federal government agencies on energy-related matters. Mr. Nulton has an understanding of nuclear, renewable, and carbon technologies, and has been a regular presenter at numerous energy-related meetings and conferences; including the 2009 Colorado Rural Electric Association Annual Meeting. Mr. Nulton is an active advocate of science education. He works with Durango High students on science & engineering programs, helps with career development, and serves as a judge in local and international science fairs. Mr. Nulton earned his BS in mechanical engineering from Drexel University and his MS in mechanical/nuclear engineering from Stanford University.

"As an LPEA board director I will work to assure an adequate, reliable and safe energy supply for local businesses and residents while keeping electricity rates reasonable and protecting our environment. I support use of appropriate renewable energy alternatives and believe it is important that our community understand all energy alternatives - the pros and cons. I also support the continuation of local area conservation and efficiency improvements. LPEA has always been a leader in local economic development, and I will encourage the co-op's continued efforts in this area as well."

One candidate will be elected to represent District 4, North and East La Plata County



Guinn Unger

Incumbent candidate for District 4

I am running for re-election to the LPEA Board of Directors because I want to continue working to make LPEA a leader in clean, affordable and locally produced energy. LPEA must be aggressive in promoting local generation of energy, particularly solar, which will keep jobs in our area, keep electricity prices low, and drastically lower carbon emissions. I will continue to work hard to make sure that as we transition away from coal, we are purchasing much of our energy locally and keeping our monthly bills low. I have worked during my term as the corporate Secretary and on various Board committees to investigate options for LPEA rather than insisting that we just keep doing the same things we have done for decades.

I believe in serving my country and my community. I grew up in a military family and served 28 years in the US Army Reserve, retiring as Lieutenant Colonel. After graduating from Rice University with a degree in Electrical Engineering I chose to serve our country working on the NASA Space Shuttle Program. After leaving NASA, I founded two small businesses and served as a consultant in Corporate America.

I promise to continue to dedicate my efforts and skills to work for my community and make the changes at LPEA that will enable us to do our part to fight climate change at the local level, create local jobs from renewable sources and keep our energy costs low.



Sue McWilliams

New candidate for District 4

I'm a Colorado native; born and raised in Southwest Colorado. I have a finance and business background. My career includes 11 years at LPEA in the billing/meter reading departments, 18 years in senior management for USDA's Rural Utility and Rural Development Services, and I have owned several successful businesses. In the rapidly changing electric industry, it is important to have a director who is experienced, knowledgeable and prepared to meet new challenges. I was a Director on LaPlata Electric's sister co-op, Empire Electric for 14 years, holding numerous board positions and serving on Tri-State committees. My knowledge of the electric industry, "common-sense" leadership style, and attention to detail, enables me to develop balanced solutions to complex issues important to LPEA's diverse membership.

My goal is to make sure that you and I have safe, reliable, and affordable electricity! I will work to listen to member concerns and be responsive; lower rates by stopping wasteful and excessive spending by the Board; increase board transparency; review the rate structure and implement changes that benefit members; refund Tri-State and LPEA capital credits annually to members.

I like renewable energy, but we must maintain sufficient baseload generation to ensure reliable electricity to our 34,000+ members. At present, renewables alone cannot accomplish this. I support Tri-State's recently implemented "Responsible Energy Plan", which will increase their renewables to 50% by 2024, and includes a 120 MW solar project in LPEA's territory. I would appreciate your vote in District 4. THANK YOU!

CASTING YOUR VOTE

To be counted, your ballot must be received no later than 4p.m., Friday May 15, 2020. You can submit your ballot in multiple ways:

► BY MAIL

Use enclosed envelope

► DROP OFF

DURANGO:

LPEA Office

45 Stewart Street
8a.m. - 5p.m. M-F

La Plata County Clerk & Recorder

679 Turner Drive, Ste. C
24-hour drop box

County Administration Building

1101 E. 2nd Avenue
24-hour drop box

Fort Lewis Community Concert Hall

1000 Rim Drive
24-hour drop box

BAYFIELD:

Bayfield Town Hall

1199 Bayfield Parkway
24-hour drop box

IGNACIO:

Farmer's Fresh Market

535 Goddard Avenue
24-hour drop box

PAGOSA SPRINGS:

LPEA Office

603 S. 8th Street
8a.m. - 5p.m. M-F

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All election materials are published as submitted by candidates.