

# Power Lines



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## It's Annual Meeting Time

BY BRAD GASKILL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**W**ith this message, I extend to you a personal invitation to attend Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association's 69th annual meeting. The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 15, at the Lory Student Center on the Colorado State University campus in Fort Collins. Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at 12 p.m. Lunch will be served at 12:10 p.m. followed by the business meeting and guest entertainment.



Brad Gaskill

The annual meeting is the corner stone of the cooperative principles under which your association operates. The seven cooperative principles include 1) voluntary and open membership, 2) democratic member control, 3) member's economic participation, 4) autonomy and independence, 5) education, training and information, 6) cooperation among cooperatives and 7) concern for community. The annual meeting is an opportunity for the member-owners to provide direct input to the board and management on the operations of the association. The board and management also provide informative reports

to the members on the past year's business activities and future outlook for your association. Most importantly, the members cast a vote to select their representation on the board of directors.

This past year your board of directors did an outstanding job of putting members first in making a number of difficult decisions in trying to strike the right balance between cost effectiveness and being responsible stewards of the environment.

The board took a number of steps to encourage development of small local renewable energy resources and address the concern we all share for the future health of the environment. Your board modified the policy on net metering and energy buyback from small (10 kilowatts or less), consumer-owned renewable generators. The new policy allows for true net metering. Generators of small wind, solar and other qualifying renewable energy projects receive credit for any excess generation delivered to the association at the same retail rate they pay for electricity delivered to [continued on page 8]

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### NEXT BOARD MEETING

March 25

## YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND PVREA'S ANNUAL MEETING AT THE LORY STUDENT CENTER

**P**lan now to attend the 69th Annual Meeting for Members of the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association on Saturday, March 15, on the campus of CSU.

This year's grand prize is an Insignia 32-inch flat panel LCD high definition television. Many other valuable prizes will be given away throughout the meeting.

You must be registered and present to win.

### ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, March 15, 2008

Registration: 10:30 a.m.

Lunch: 12:10 p.m.

Meeting: 1 p.m.



# Meet the Candidates for the PVREA Board

**W**ho do you think should serve on Poudre Valley REA's board? Be sure to mark your calendar to attend this year's annual meeting, March 15, 2008, at Colorado State University's Lory Student Center, and vote for your choice.

This year's board candidates are profiled below. Present and past work experience, memberships and affiliations are included under the section entitled Experience.

## DISTRICT 1, POSITION B, AT-LARGE

**Name:** Tim Hurst  
**PVREA member since:** 2002

**Present occupation:** Energy policy analyst and writer for Green Options Media

**Experience:** Tim has held positions as a director for the Rock Springs Community Association from 1996 to 1998, and as director of PV Pioneers from September 2007 to the present.

**Reason(s) running for board:** "After five years in graduate school at Colorado State, I look forward to applying my knowledge of energy policy by serving on the PVREA Board of Directors. As a director, I will work to meet growing demand by promoting the local development of energy from clean, renewable sources and by strengthening our efficiency programs. Efficiency and clean energy hold great potential for PVREA members, by bringing jobs, increasing energy independence and avoiding future costs."



Tim Hurst

**Name:** James 'Jim' W. Park  
**PVREA member since:** 1968

**Present occupation:** Farmer

**Experience:** Jim has been a PVREA board member for 18 years and has held all board officer positions. He has received his credentialed cooperative director certificate and board leadership certification. In addition to his duties as a PVREA director, Jim served on the Latham Ditch Company and has served as president. He has been a member of the Central Weld County Water District for 23 years and served as secretary/treasurer, and he



Jim W. Park

has been a member of the Weld County 4-H Foundation board for 20 years and served as their vice president.

**Reason(s) running for board:** "I have served on PVREA's board for 18 years. A competent director must not have single-issue agendas which take precedence over the well being of our member-owners. Your current directors have the experience and knowledge to make wise decisions with balance and common sense. Every director has or will soon complete the credentialed cooperative director certification and board leadership education courses sponsored by our national association. I would appreciate your vote to maintain rational, stable leadership."

## DISTRICT 2, POSITION C, BOULDER COUNTY

**Name:** Robert A. Lock  
**PVREA member since:** 1973

**Present occupation:** Retired mechanical contractor

**Experience:** PVREA board member for three years, Robert served as a director for four years on the Big Elk Homeowners Association board. He is a member of the Boulder Elks Lodge #566 from 1970 to the present, and a member of the Left Hand Ditch Company from 1973 to the present.

**Reason(s) running for board:** "I grew up on a farm in northeastern Colorado with no electricity until the early 1950s, so I know the importance of reliable electricity. I have now completed my first three-year term as director and would like to serve another three-year term. I have served on many PVREA committees and need only one more class to complete my credentialed cooperative director certification. Please vote for me and help keep the lights on."



Robert A. Lock

**Name:** Steve Szabo  
**PVREA member since:** 2003

**Present occupation:** Past director at Qwest and currently an Organic Grower

**Experience:** Steve served as a director of the I Have a Dream Foundation of Boulder County from 2004 to present, and as director of PV Pioneers from 2007 to the present.

**Reason(s) running for board:** "As the director responsible for telecommunications disaster recovery from 9/11 in New York City, I know the importance of uninterrupted utility service. I will work for improved reliability and minimized rate increases. PVREA must boldly pursue energy efficiency programs and promote renewable energy that is cost effective. For the last two years, I have attended PVREA board meetings as a concerned member. I will bring new leadership, relevant experience and vision to the board."



Steve Szabo

## DISTRICT 3, POSITION F, WELD COUNTY

**Name:** Jack R. Schneider  
**PVREA member since:** 1969

**Present occupation:** Farmer, rancher and developer.

**Experience:** Jack has been a PVREA board member from 2002 to present and is serving as the secretary-treasurer. Jack has been involved with many organizations: the Colorado Livestock Association from 1995 to present, serving on board of directors, executive committee, vice president and council chairman; Colorado Cattle Feeders Board of Directors from 1989



Jack R. Schneider

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# Meet the Candidates for the PVREA Board

to 1995, serving as the vice president; and the T-Bone Club of Weld County from 1990 to present, serving as board president.

**Reason(s) running for board:** "As a member of PVREA since 1969 and serving on the board for the past six years, currently as secretary, I am amazed at the growing demand for electricity. As a board member, I must work to strike a balance between wind, solar, natural gas and coal-fired generation to assure a cleaner, constant and economical supply of electricity. I believe with my credentialed cooperative director certification and board experience, I can strike that balance."

## DISTRICT 4, POSITION H, LARIMER COUNTY

### Name:

Roger Alexander

**PVREA member since:**  
2001

### Present occupation:

Sales engineer for a solar energy integrator

**Experience:** Roger has held positions as treasurer of PV Pioneers from 2007 to the present, a director for the Northern Colorado Renewable Energy Society from 2008 to the present, director at the Florida Audubon Society from 1993 to 1995, Kissimmee Valley Audubon Society as vice president from 1995 to 1996, and chapter representative at the Kissimmee Valley Audubon Society.

**Reason(s) running for board:** "I want to maintain affordable and reliable service for PVREA members by meeting our current



Roger Alexander

challenges head-on. We can increase electricity production and reduce carbon emissions by adding alternative energy sources to our energy portfolio, which encourages investment of PVREA dollars in our agricultural community. Aggressively pursuing energy efficiency programs will reduce expensive open-market electricity purchases and reduce rates. As a PVREA board member, I will be attentive at meetings and accountable to PVREA members."

### Name:

Dean G. Anderson

**PVREA member since:**  
1962

### Present occupation:

Farmer and Rancher

**Experience:** Dean has been a PVREA board member for 24 years and has held all board officer positions. He has received the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's board certification for directors. Dean served as PVREA's representative on the Colorado Rural Electric Association board from 1988 to 1999. He has also served on Little Thompson Water District's board from 1978 to 2004 holding all officer positions, Handy Ditch Company from 1985 to 1994, served as president from 1990 to 1994, Big Thompson Soil Conservation District from 1972 to 1999 and served as president and director for Carter Lake Filter Plant.

**Reason(s) running for board:** "Poudre Valley REA is facing a large and challenging future: balancing the need for green power along with the high demand for more



Dean G. Anderson

power. We have to keep in mind both cost and reliability for our consumers, so we can give them the lowest possible rates. I would like to continue serving on this board to help with this enormous challenge."

### Name:

Robert L. Berling

**PVREA member since:**  
1967

### Present occupation:

Retired consulting engineer

**Experience:** Robert was an international consulting engineer from 1985 to 1996. He also served as project manager for the Colorado-Big Thompson Project with the Bureau of Reclamation from 1974 to 1984. He also worked in operations planning for Western Division power system for the Bureau of Reclamation from 1967 to 1974, and development of water and power projects from 1956 to 1967, also for the Bureau of Reclamation.

**Reason(s) running for board:** "My family has been a member of Poudre Valley REA for 40 years. I have always admired the conservative management of PVREA in providing reliable electric power at a reasonable cost. My primary interest is assisting PVREA to continue that tradition. I also have a passion for the rural and mountain areas that would not have electric power except for PVREA and for those members who are hard pressed to pay our ever-increasing costs."



Robert L. Berling

## Kites, Kids and Power Lines

**A**s kids of all ages start flying kites this spring, we want to remind them to be careful not to get their kites tangled in power lines. (Win \*Grace Helen Greene)

Every year in this country, children are electrocuted when their kite strings come in contact with a power line. Even though kite string is not a conductor of electricity, it can easily become contaminated with dirt and sweat, which will conduct the electrical current down the kite string.

Electricity is always trying to find the shortest path to ground. It is not picky

as to what path it uses. If that path is a kite string with conducting properties and a child, it doesn't care. It will follow that path until the path is broken.

Instruct your children not to fly their kites close to any power line. If a kite or kite string does come in contact with a power line, turn loose of the string.

If the kite or string becomes tangled in the power line, don't try and get it out. Call Poudre Valley REA, and linemen will be glad to come and extricate it from the power line.

Kites and power lines just don't mix.



Deborah McGlasson

## Masonville Junior to Join Youth Tour

**D**eborah McGlasson, a junior from Thompson Valley High School in Masonville, will represent Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association at the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour. Deborah was selected as this year's top candidate for the Youth Tour based on an essay that she wrote on "The Interaction of an Irrigation Pipe and Electricity: A Potentially Fatal Mistake." She will be joining other top candidates from across Colorado for a weeklong stay in Washington, D.C.

Deborah is involved in many activities, which include, belonging to Youth group (a church function), reading, writing and playing her clarinet. She also likes to run and walk her dog. Her extracurricular activities include being in the Thompson Valley High School marching band, and she is a member of the staff for the school newspaper. Deborah is also a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish honors society.

In 2007, Deborah went to Mexico with her church, where she helped build houses for Mission Discovery. She also volunteers with United Way. Deborah definitely keeps busy. The Washington, D.C., Youth Tour will be a great adventure for Deborah. PVREA congratulates her.

### ARE YOU A WINNER?

If you see your account name in the Poudre Valley insert, you have until the last day of the month that the magazine is dated to claim your reward by calling PVREA at 970-226-1234. More than ever, it pays to keep informed about your electric utility.

## It's Annual Meeting Time

*[continued from page 5]* them. The association dedicated a 2.1-kW solar demonstration project at the headquarters office. The project allows members to see real-time data on the system's energy output and become informed on how the technology works and educated in determining its pros and cons for a personal application. It is also a commitment by your board to research, test, promote and invest in renewable technologies in the interest of the membership.

To continue supporting and encouraging members' use of renewable energy sources, the board approved reducing the price of the voluntary Green Power program from \$1.25 per 100-kWh block to 50 cents. The board also eliminated the maximum number of blocks a consumer may purchase as well as the three-year minimum contract period.

In an effort to promote and encourage energy conservation, the board eliminated all the association's declining block rate tariffs. With the assistance of Tri-State Generation and Transmission, PVREA's wholesale power supplier, the co-op continued to promote energy efficiency by offering rebates for energy efficient electric and dual-fuel heating systems, electric water heaters and efficient electric motors. The association continues a three-year old compact fluorescent light program to assist members in becoming more conscious about energy efficiency and using their energy wisely.

While many of these actions have been supported by those PVREA members who have a strong focus on renewable energy and are actively concerned with the energy policies of the association, these actions originated with your PVREA board. It is a board working hard to balance cost and environmental concerns.

Other highlights from the year include the board's decisions that all new development and growth should pay its own way. As a result, the board eliminated all development incentives for commercial and industrial developers.

In keeping with the fundamental cooperative business model principles,

the board approved the refund of \$1.9 million of capital credits to current and former members. Over the past 11 years, the board has refunded more than \$16.5 million in capital credits.

The association made contributions of more than \$21,000 to worthy community events, nonprofit and charitable organizations. This represents a true commitment of co-op involvement and concern for its communities.

The board also approved a number of amendments to the bylaws. Most notable was a change that allows all members to receive a ballot and vote for the election of the board of directors by mail. Also of significance was the elimination of the board's appointment of a nominating committee. Nominations for a director position on the association's board will now only be made by written petition.

A number of important items and issues will be reported on and discussed at your annual meeting. In addition, a number of vendor and PVREA booths will be set up to provide you with valuable information on e-business, green power, energy conservation and efficiency, safety and much more.

This year's guest speaker is Doug Rye, nationally acclaimed architect and renowned residential energy consultant. Rye, known as the "King of Caulk and Talk," will entertain us with his humor and enlighten us on ways we can make our homes more energy efficient and cost effective.

I encourage you to mark your calendars and plan to attend your annual meeting. If you are unable to attend the annual meeting, please vote by mail and exercise your rights as a member-owner of PVREA. I look forward to seeing you there.

### SPRING FORWARD

Daylight-saving time begins Sunday, March 9, at 2 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks forward.