

DAVE HENDERSON RETIRES

BY DAVE FRICK GENERAL MANAGER

Morgan County Rural Electric Association wants to recognize a person whom many co-op consumer-members have had contact with and has been so instrumental in the success of the cooperative. Dave Henderson retired from the co-op in mid-June.

Dave began his career in 1985 at Mountain View Electric Association in Limon, Colorado. Dave was an electrical lineman, and he was hired on at MCREA in 1998 as a lineman. Dave worked for several years as a lineman before taking the role as our SCADA and substation technician. This was a newly created position at the time. This was a new technology and Dave had to learn and install a system that we still utilize today. This was groundbreaking for our co-op and put us years ahead of most other utilities. The operations department owes Dave a great amount of gratitude for rolling out one of the best utilized technologies we have

seen at MCREA: the SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) and AMR (automated meter reading) projects. The engineering and design were truly thrust upon Dave, and he worked endlessly on these projects.

We have reaped the benefits from his efforts then and will continue to in the future.

In 2003 Dave was promoted to the position of manager of member services. Then in 2007 Dave was promoted to director of external affairs,

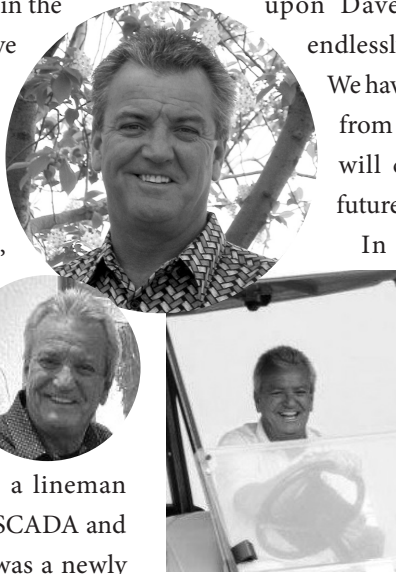
the position that he held until his retirement.

Dave's other talents came out when he was selected to work with our membership as manager of member services and then later director of external affairs. His ability to give our membership his all was something I definitely enjoyed watching. He loved so much to get out and meet with

our members at any function that presented itself. He would always bring the biggest smiles out at our annual meeting — his sense of humor was contagious. I'm afraid I could go on forever and not scratch the surface of what he meant to our cooperative and to me. He also knew how to run a good golf tournament, one that has afforded many young people the chance to attend an accredited lineman school.

During Dave's time at Morgan County REA he was an outstanding leader for the company and, more than that, he was a friend to all. He truly cared about giving the best to our consumer-members. He enjoyed the interaction with each and every one of you. One of the many talents that Dave has is the gift of telling a story. He always seems to have a story for the more humorous things in life. If he doesn't happen to have a story, you can darn well bet he has a joke.

We all wish Dave the best in his retirement and future plans. He will always have a special place in MCREA's history. Enjoy your retirement, my friend.



MCREA Welcomes New Employee



MCREA is pleased to welcome its newest apprentice lineman, Sergio Baquera. Sergio started with Morgan County REA on June 1. Sergio graduated from Fort Morgan High School and then went on to Rocky Mountain Lineman School in Fort Collins. Sergio comes to MCREA from Foothills Energy.

Sergio is excited to join Morgan County REA because this is his hometown and he's happy to be back. When not at work, Sergio enjoys hunting and fishing. Please join us in welcoming Sergio to the Morgan County REA family.



MCREA Office Closed on Independence Day

Morgan County REA headquarters will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2020. MCREA wishes one and all a happy and safe Independence Day.



Morgan County REA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Morgan County REA ANNUAL MEETING

BY JAMIE PLAKORUS MEMBER SERVICES SPECIALIST

This year our annual meeting was different from what we are all used to because of COVID-19. We held our annual meeting on Wednesday, May 27 at 9 a.m. via telephone town hall. Once you registered online you were called on the morning of the meeting just before 9 a.m. to hear all of our reports and what has been happening at Morgan County REA over the past year.

Board President Randy Graff reported that the board of directors approved a budget for 2020 that had no rate increase, making this the fourth year straight. The board also approved a patronage capital retirement of \$2.75 million last year. This retirement was \$250,000 more than 2018 and \$750,000 more (Milton and Rita Beydler, account #xxx0800) than the 2017 patronage capital retirement. The three director candidates who petitioned for the available board seats ran unopposed and were unanimously voted in for three-year terms. The director candidates were Tim Peggram, David Arndt and Terry Linker.

General Manager David Frick reported that the top priority at Morgan County REA is safety. He talked about the constant work that the internal joint health and safety committee is doing to improve the safety culture at the co-op. MCREA completed several distribution tie lines in 2019 that will provide for a more reliable and robust system. Frick also spoke about the use of UAV RECON, a drone company helping with preventive substation and transmission inspections. He talked about MCREA refinancing \$5 million in high-interest loans to save consumer-members \$215,000. General Manager Frick spoke about the member services department educating businesses, schools and clubs with electric safety education workshops and partnering with Tri-State Generation and Transmission to bring “Story Behind the Switch” to students in local schools. Frick updated everyone on the net-metering program and also congratulated Alan Mason on his promotion to line superintendent.

The financial report delivered by Robb Shaver, office services manager, indicated that Morgan County REA continued to be in sound financial condition in 2019, with operating revenues of \$43 million and total cost of electric service at \$39.9 million. Shaver also noted that MCREA had an operating margin — or total revenues minus total expenditures — of \$3.1 million for 2019.

All of the meeting materials can be viewed on our website at www.mcrea.org. There you can view the annual report, scholarship winners, annual meeting minutes, youth camp video and a video of the new mechanic shop.



Win \$25 Off Your Electric Bill

Each month Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a \$25 credit on their electric bill, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*!

Congratulations, Tim Jones (account #xxx1900) and Sarah Hunt (account #xxx8900), you saw your names and account numbers in the May edition of *Colorado Country Life*. You both received a \$25 credit on your bill.

There are two more MCREA member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call member services at 970-867-5688 by July 31 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.



WHEN TO CALL IT

Between 2006 and 2018, **396 people were struck and killed by lightning** in the U.S.

62%

Two-thirds of the fatalities happened during outdoor leisure activities.



Outdoor sports accounted for 13% of lightning-related deaths.

TOP SPORTS-RELATED LIGHTNING FATALITIES



- 1) Soccer 38%
- 2) Golf 31%
- 3) Running 16%
- 4) Baseball 9%
- 5) Football 3%
- 6) Disc Golf 3%



70% of the fatalities occurred in **June, July, or August.**

Have a GAME PLAN to stay safe when severe weather STRIKES.

1. **Check weather forecasts** in advance.
2. At first signs of stormy weather, **seek shelter** in a **hard-top car** or **four-sided** building.
3. **Do not** seek shelter under a pavilion or tree.
4. **Do not** sit on or lean against **metal** (e.g. bleachers, fencing).
5. Before resuming activities, **WAIT at least 30 MINUTES** after the last rumble of thunder.

Safe Electricity.org



Source: National Lightning Safety Council



BILL ANNAN RETIRES

BY DAVE HENDERSON

Bill Annan announced his retirement from Morgan County REA after 27 years as the member services representative. Bill left a teaching career to join MCREA and has worn many hats during that time. Early in his career, he helped deliver and install satellite dishes to the rural members of MCREA who had no cable access at that time. Bill also became one of the most trusted and knowledgeable experts in the state on the use of off-peak heating and cooling systems and installed many of them in our service territory. He was also highly regarded as a specialist in the surge protection program, which is still a popular program to this day.

One of the best high-use and energy audit representatives a consumer-member could have, Bill always made it his mission to track down and find what the problem was and always had a story to tell afterward. Bill loved working with consumer-members and it showed. Everyone knows Bill. We've attended (Arvin and Lynette

Janzen, account #xxx1800) many fairs and events around the service territory and always knew that as soon as we arrived, Bill would be visiting with someone about their electric bill or something ag-related. He also helped organize and plan one of the biggest events in northeast Colorado: the MCREA Invitational Golf Tournament, which raised money to support local youth to go to line school.

To this day, we still hear from young adults about Bill visiting their schools, speaking to them about electric safety and doing his famous high-voltage demonstrations. His gift for teaching kids about electricity has always made his presentation one of the most requested courses by teachers at our local schools.

A trusted friend and colleague, Bill's "electric" personality and laughter will truly be missed at MCREA. If you see him out and about playing golf (he's also pretty famous for his golf attire!), wish Bill the best in his retirement. He earned it!



Farm Safety: Don't Get Out!

If your machinery, vehicle or other equipment makes contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box, DO NOT get out of your cab. Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

To avoid becoming electrocuted:

- Call 911 and wait for us to arrive to cut the power.
- Wait to exit your cab until the power is de-energized.

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. If you must get out, make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle, and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop.

For more information visit SafeElectricity.org.

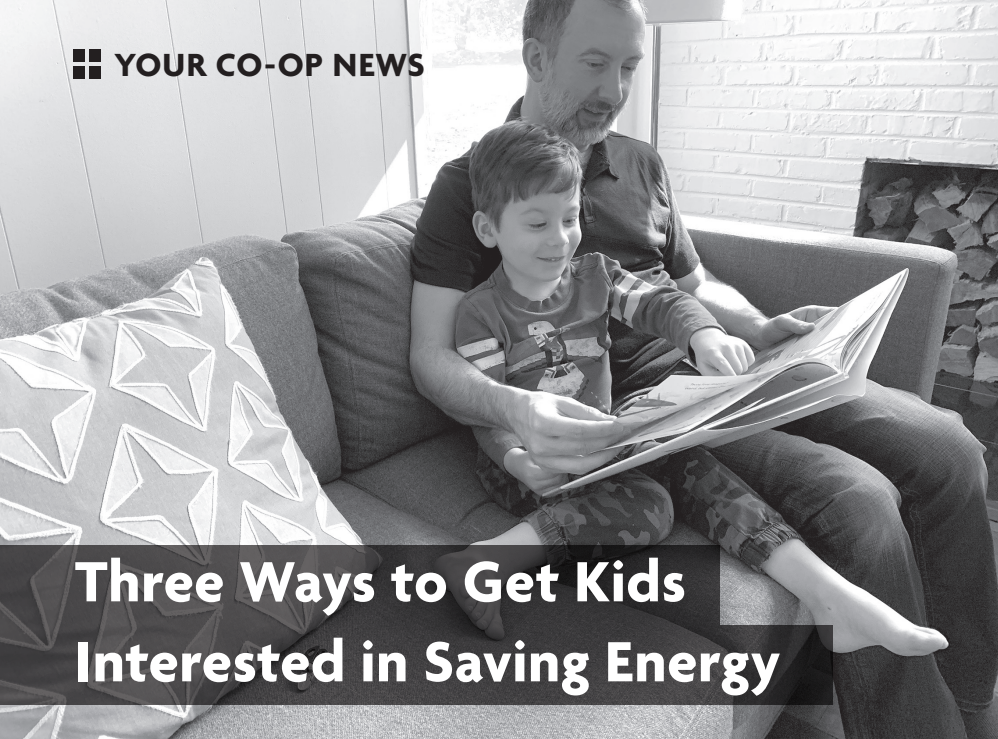


July 2020

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

If you're spending more time at home, try an online energy audit to assess its overall efficiency. Visit energystar.gov, then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started.



Three Ways to Get Kids Interested in Saving Energy

BY MARIA KANEVSKY

Getting kids interested in saving energy can seem tough at first, but it doesn't have to be. With warmer months here, saving energy is crucial for keeping electricity bills low, and getting kids engaged now will help them form energy-saving habits for the future. Believe it or not, there are fun ways to teach kids how to be energy efficient that will actually get them excited about saving energy.

1. Turn the learning experience into a game. Games create a fun, interactive option for kids to become engaged with learning more about saving energy. One example is to create an “energy treasure hunt” around the home, where the family searches for devices or appliances that use the most electricity. After finding these items, you can discuss with your kids a few ways for those devices to use less energy. You could also have them search for other proactive efficiency measures, like weather stripping, LED bulbs and air filters.

2. Create a reward system. One simple method is a star chart. You can use the chart to keep track of stickers and reward your child for every 10 stickers they earn for doing some activity that saves energy. Stickers could be earned every time your

child remembers to turn off the light in a room after they exit, unplugging devices (like phone chargers) they're not using or showering in less than 5 minutes. Rewards can be small things that get your child excited, like a piece of candy or a small toy. These actions taken by your kids will add up over time and help save energy around the home.

3. Discuss lifestyle changes as a family or as an individual. This could be getting the family together to play a board game instead of watching television. You could also suggest reading a book together instead of using electronic devices. Encourage them to play outdoors instead of playing video games indoors. Incorporating energy-saving practices into everyday life is the best way to ensure the habit has a lasting impact.

Got teens? If your kids are a little older and the suggestions noted above won't work, try getting them involved in simple efficiency projects around the home. There are several DIY tasks that teens can help with, like caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors, or replacing the heating and cooling filter.

◀ Making simple lifestyle changes, like setting aside time to read a book instead of watching television, can help you and your family save energy. *Photo: Holly Wetzel, NRECA*



▲ Teaching kids about saving energy and helping our environment when they're young is the best way to ensure the habits have a lasting impact. *Photo: Holly Wetzel, NRECA*



▲ If you have teenagers and the game approach won't work, try getting them involved in simple energy efficiency projects around the home. *Photo: Scott Van Osdol*

Teaching your kids to save energy can be easier when you make it fun. With a little creativity, each of these suggestions can be modified for your family. Each of us, including our kids, can do our part to save energy.

Maria Kanevsky is a program analyst for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.