

# THE OUTLET

The Official Member Newsletter of CORE Electric Cooperative (Formerly IREA)

October 2021

## CORE Cares About Community

CORE invests in groups and programs that help the communities we serve.

At our recent Summer Showcase, we held a silent auction to benefit the **Douglas/Elbert Task Force Help & Hope Center**, a non-profit human service organization that assists people in Douglas and Elbert counties who are in severe economic need, at risk of homelessness, or in crisis. Thanks to the generosity of our Summer Showcase guests, we raised more than \$8,400 for the center.

During that same event, each of our seven elected district directors presented a check to a worthy cause within his district:

- District 1 Director Mike Kempe presented \$7,500 to **Castle View High School**.
- District 2 Director Ron Kilgore presented \$7,500 to the **LifeBridge Food Pantry**, which provides food and other services to those in need in Park County.
- District 3 Director Mike Sperry presented \$5,000 to **Focus on the Forest**, which uses alternative solutions to motivate and enable communities in and around

Woodland Park to keep public lands clean.

- District 4 Director Tim White presented \$7,500 to the **Cherokee Ranch and Castle Foundation**, which seeks to preserve the natural environment, enhance cultural life in Colorado, and provide educational opportunities related to western heritage, wildlife and the arts.



Stay plugged in with CORE: Bookmark **www.CORE.coop** and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn for our latest news and announcements. We also send important updates via email. Add your email address to your CORE account to receive them.

- District 5 Director Bruff Shea presented \$7,000 to **Elbert County Coalition Outreach**, which helps families become self-sufficient through the development of life skills.

- District 6 Director Bob Graff presented \$7,500 to the **Arapahoe County 4-H Youth Livestock Auction**, which is dedicated to raising the next generation of agricultural leaders.

- District 7 Director Jim Anest presented \$20,000 to the **Parker Task Force**, which provides Douglas

County families with food, financial aid and other support services. Half of that donation was a matching contribution from **CoBank**, which provides financial services to cooperatives, agribusinesses and other rural infrastructure.

## CORE Takes Legal Action to Protect Members

CORE is taking legal action on behalf of its members against Public Service Company of Colorado, a subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc. Xcel breached its contractual obligations related to the operation and maintenance of the Comanche 3 coal plant in Pueblo, and we have filed a lawsuit in district court.

CORE is committed to providing reliable, affordable power to our members and to protecting their assets. We enter into contracts to protect our members and we take action when necessary to recover unjustified costs imposed upon them or for damage to CORE's assets.

CORE only pursued this course of action after many months of attempted business resolution and extensive consultation with our legal and technical advisors.

More info regarding the lawsuit is at **www.CORE.coop/XcelDispute**.

# CORE Proud to Power FarmBox, the Future of Sustainable Farming

CORE Electric Cooperative provides businesses The Energy to Thrive and is proud to power innovative and emerging businesses. One of the most unique businesses we serve is **FarmBox Foods**, which is just across the road from our Sedalia headquarters.



FarmBox's creative and ground-breaking approach to farming promises to connect communities with sustainably sourced, locally grown food year-round. Its patented product is a vertical hydroponic farm (VHF) housed within a 320-square-foot shipping container. Each VHF can grow leafy greens, tree saplings, peppers, grape tomatoes and more from seed to harvest. A single VHF yields the equivalent of more than 2 acres of traditional farmland – about 9,000 plants or 35,000 tree saplings per year. Top-of-the-line software called Agrowtek monitors the temperature, humidity and lights.

FarmBox's VHF's are protected against drought, hail, pest, heat waves, freezes and other hazards that often ruin traditional crops, and are less prone to food-borne illnesses. They also use 90% less water than traditional farms.

CORE is exploring a partnership with FarmBox to grow seedlings for local reforestation. This unique partnership will help CORE develop a planting program to replace trees damaged by fires or removed to protect nearby power lines.

For more information about FarmBox, visit [www.FarmBoxFoods.com](http://www.FarmBoxFoods.com).



## CORE Begins Rebuild Project in Palmer Lake Area

CORE has begun a rebuild project that upgrades distribution lines in the Palmer Lake area to improve reliability and bring them up to CORE standards.

The upgrade is substantial and will be completed in four phases. The first phase, in the northwestern portion of town, began construction this summer.

About 7 miles of line will be replaced across the project's four phases. The anticipated total investment in the project is approximately \$4 million.



## Coats for Colorado Drive Under Way

CORE members can help keep fellow Coloradans warm this winter by donating coats at any of our offices.

As part of the annual **Coats for Colorado** drive, visit any CORE office during regular business hours – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday – through Nov. 30\* and leave new or gently used winter coats in the designated bin.

- 1092 Cedar St., Bennett
- 13404 Old U.S. Highway 285, Conifer
- 5496 N. U.S. Highway 85, Sedalia
- 800 N. Highway 67, Woodland Park

Coats can also be donated at any metro-area Dependable Cleaners. Last year CORE members donated nearly 600 coats to the drive. Since its establishment in 1982, Coats for Colorado has distributed more than 2 million coats to Coloradans. For more information, visit [www.CoatsForColorado.org](http://www.CoatsForColorado.org).

*\* Please note: All CORE offices will be closed Nov. 25 and 26 for Thanksgiving.*

## Old Company Apparel Will Go to Good Use

Long before implementing the new CORE brand, we eliminated purchases of new IREA-branded apparel; however, many employees still had old IREA-branded clothing. Rather than simply destroy or send these items to a landfill, we researched ways in which they could be used to help others.

Enter **Planet Aid**, a non-profit that collects and recycles used textiles to protect the environment and support sustainable development in impoverished communities throughout the world. We recently delivered to Planet Aid IREA-branded

clothing and other apparel, which Planet Aid will sell, reuse or otherwise repurpose in developing countries, where demand for used clothing is high.

We felt it was important to donate our old company-branded apparel to a cause that would put it to good use. We were happy to partner with Planet Aid in this effort.

Visit [www.PlanetAid.org](http://www.PlanetAid.org) for more information about that organization and its work.

## Annual Meeting Scheduled for Saturday, April 30

The annual meeting of the membership of CORE Electric Cooperative will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 30, 2022, at CORE headquarters, 5496 N. U.S. Highway

85, Sedalia, CO 80135. The meeting will include:

1. The presentation of reports covering the previous fiscal year.

2. All other business that may properly come before the meeting.

*Please note: Registration is from 9 to 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.*



# Let's Go to the Rodeo!

We recently held our own Lineman Rodeo in which CORE line workers competed in various skill-based events based on traditional line work.

Apprentice Linemen from each of CORE's four offices – Bennett, Conifer, Sedalia and Woodland Park – participated individually in three events: Hurtman Rescue, Obstacle Course and Egg Race. Our Journeymen Linemen participated in three team-based events: Hurtman Rescue, Transformer Changeout and Egg Race.

**Duncan Beth**, out of our Sedalia headquarters, had the highest combined score across the three Apprentice Lineman events. The Sedalia trio of **Levi Collison**, **Grant Kleweno** and **Heath McCoy** had the highest score among our Journeyman-level teams. Those four will represent CORE at the International Lineman's Rodeo in Overland Park, Kansas, this month.

Thank you to all of those who competed and made this inaugural CORE Lineman Rodeo a success!



## CORE's Feuerstein Wins C-Suite Award

CORE **Chief Operating Officer Pam Feuerstein** was recently named a Denver Business Journal C-Suite Award recipient.

The award honors C-suite executives who demonstrate vital leadership and business savvy in guiding their companies to success. Feuerstein was one of just 36 C-Suite Award recipients this year. She was honored at a celebratory event last month and featured in a special section of the Journal's Sept. 17 edition.

Pam joined CORE in 2010 as System Planning Engineer and later served as Engineering Manager.

She has more than 25 years of experience in the electric utility industry. As CORE's COO, she leads our engineering, distribution, transmission, power supply and safety programs and operations. She also serves on the Foundation for Douglas County Schools, volunteers at local schools and events and, next year, will join the board of a global engineering firm.

Pam's leadership, especially with all the challenges faced over the past year, has provided a steady strength that has helped us provide our members with Energy to Thrive. The award is well-deserved, and we are proud of her accomplishments.

