

THE OUTLET

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

November 2021

Director Newsletter

Dear CORE member:

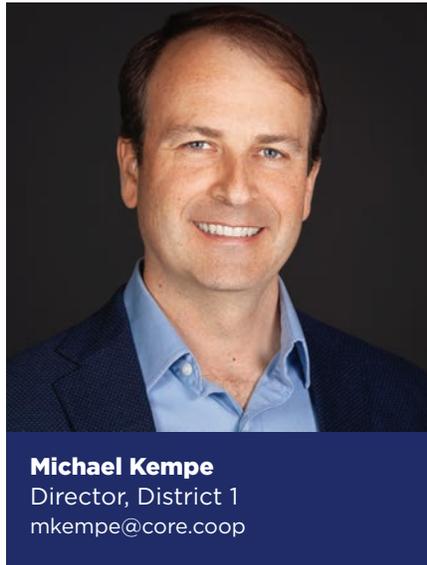
Welcome to CORE Electric Cooperative! Our recent name change is something my fellow board members and I considered for years. This cooperative simply is not the same today as it was when founded in 1938. We outgrew the old name. CORE better reflects our current identity. We are CORE to your lives, and many of the things we most value begin with that same "CO": COoperative. COmmunity. COlorado. COmmitment. COnnection.

CORE is committed to giving you The Energy to Thrive, which includes reliable, affordable electric service. If you have any questions or concerns about your service, please visit www.CORE.coop or call (800) 332-9540.

Some notable developments here at CORE I would like to share with you:

Potential Franchise Agreement with Cañon City

I believe the cooperative model is the premier option for providing electric service, and that adding new members to CORE is the best way to stabilize and reduce rates. CORE recently submitted a proposal to Cañon City to explore the potential for a new franchise agreement. Last month, its City Council voted to move forward with that proposal, which grants CORE 120 days to assess Cañon City's current electric infrastructure. This comes after the voters of Cañon City had already rejected the renewal of an agreement with



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their current provider, Black Hills Energy, indicating a strong desire to find other options. The purpose of the 120-day due diligence period is to determine if such growth would be economical for both CORE and Cañon City. I believe this is very likely to be of substantial benefit to the residents of Cañon City but also to you, our 170,000 current CORE members. If the economics work out and Cañon City accepts our proposal, I will be excited to add them to our cooperative membership. Updates on this process can be found online at www.CORE.coop.

CORE District 1 Town Hall Meetings

Last month, CORE staff hosted town hall events in Castle Rock, Bennett, Woodland Park and Conifer. Members who attended had the opportunity to speak directly with the Board of Directors and CORE professionals about rates, billing and payment services,

system improvements, vegetation management, wildfire mitigation and many other topics. These meetings were separate from the town hall meetings I have held in the past. Last year I did not hold a District 1 Town Hall meeting because of concerns with the COVID pandemic. The next one will be held at CORE headquarters in Sedalia on Monday, Dec. 13. The difference between these and the CORE staff town hall meetings is that I will have a formal presentation given from my personal perspective as your representative on the board. I like to talk and will be more than happy to answer your questions about CORE. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to me at mkempe@core.coop and I will get you on the official attendance list.

Rate Redesign Resources

In September, we introduced a rate redesign, eliminated the load factor adjustment (LFA) and replaced the temporary power cost adjustment (PCA) with a wholesale PCA. The rate redesign implemented a three-part residential rate that includes a service charge, energy charge and demand charge. The demand charge is the main thing that is new to most customers. Currently, it is a nominal charge related to the peak in electricity usage and is designed to begin to capture the costs of generation and distribution infrastructure that must be built to meet peak usage. To help understand the changes, CORE added more resources to our rate redesign webpage, at

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www.CORE.coop/rate-redesign. Those resources include short videos with two of CORE's experts – Rates Analyst David Stowe and Engineering Services Manager Michelle McAndrew – who directly answer questions about the need for a three-part rate, its benefits, and how you can reduce the demand charge portion of your monthly bill. As temperatures get colder, the new AMI meters enable you to use the My Power portal to monitor your daily energy and peak demand (or energy rate) usage. You can access My Power through My Account at www.CORE.coop.

Customer Service Appreciation Week

Last month, CORE celebrated Customer Service Appreciation Week. Many of you have provided words of acknowledgment for our member service employees, and those kudos were shared with them. Thank you to our members who took the time to let us know when an employee provided great service!

CORE Linemen Compete at International Rodeo

Congratulations to the CORE linemen who competed last month at the International Lineman's Rodeo in Overland Park, Kansas. Apprentice Lineman Duncan Beth,

out of our Sedalia headquarters, and our Journeyman-level team of Levi Collison, Grant Kleweno and Heath McCoy – also out of our Sedalia headquarters – all competed. CORE Journeyman Lineman Foreman Dustin Taylor was their coach, and Journeyman Lineman Cody Griffin served as a rodeo judge. Their excellent showing at the rodeo is a great example of the skill and dedication all of CORE's line workers possess. These attributes are especially important as CORE linemen work to "keep the lights on" during the adverse weather we can expect through winter and spring. If you see any of our linemen or other personnel out in the field, please take a moment to thank them for their hard work. You can also share your thanks on any of our social media channels.

Keep Fellow Coloradans Warm this Winter

Friendly reminder: We are collecting new and gently used winter coats for the annual Coats for Colorado drive at each of our offices through Nov. 30. Donations can be left in a designated bin during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. (We are closed Nov. 25 and 26 for Thanksgiving.) You can also make a one-time or recurring monetary donation to Energy Outreach

Colorado (EOC), which helps struggling families pay for home energy costs. Your donations are matched by CORE dollar-for-dollar, up to \$75,000 each year. To donate, visit www.EnergyOutreach.org or fill out the back of the remittance portion of your CORE monthly bill.

Drone Work Aids Wildfire Mitigation

We recently began inspections of our overhead lines and equipment using aerial drones. This work is part of CORE's wildfire mitigation and is necessary for overall system reliability. This maintenance is taking place primarily in the Conifer and Woodland Park areas and will continue into 2022. Residents within the area of work will be notified via automated phone calls. Personnel conducting the inspections carry CORE credentials and are in vehicles with CORE branding. We appreciate your understanding as we work to protect our members, employees and distribution system. You can learn more about our comprehensive wildfire mitigation plan at www.CORE.coop/wildfire-mitigation.

Enroll in Free AutoPay, eBilling

The U.S. Postal Service recently implemented service changes that have and will continue to affect delivery times. I encourage you to sign up for CORE's AutoPay and eBilling to help avoid these delays. You don't have to remember due dates or initiate payment when enrolled in AutoPay, which will automatically deduct your total due on your bill's due date. With eBilling, you will receive your electronic bill approximately one week quicker than a paper bill. Visit www.CORE.coop/payment-options or call (800) 332-9540 for more info or to enroll in either service.

Thank you for being a CORE member!



CORE linemen (from left) Duncan Beth, Cody Griffin, Grant Kleweno, Heath McCoy, Levi Collison and Dustin Taylor all participated in the International Lineman's Rodeo.