



GCSECA

Annual Report

2023

Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.

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OUR MISSION

To champion the
interests of
Arizona's member-
owned, rural electric
cooperatives

OUR VISION

To be the leader in
advancing rural
electric cooperative
issues in Arizona



The GCESCA TEAM



Dave Lock

Chief Executive Officer



Jorge Canaca

Director of Federal Relations & Regulatory Services



Casey Ratlief

Director of Government Relations & Grassroots Advocacy



Hannah Capozzi

Director of Communications



Sylvia Cruz

Member Engagement & Professional Development Specialist



Nancy Garcia

Executive Assistant



2023 Year in Review

by Jeff Larson, President of the Board

I look back on 2023 with mixed emotions. I am very proud of what GCSECA has accomplished. I am grateful that my fellow Board members have trusted me to lead the GCSECA Board for the past six years. And I admit to a bit of melancholy. Limits to the terms that officers can serve on the GCSECA Board mean that 2023 was the last year I was able to serve as President. Having said that, 2023 certainly allowed me to fulfill my presidential responsibilities on a high note.

As is GCSECA's tradition, the year started with our Annual Meeting, followed by the Winter Meeting, state legislative visits and the ever-popular Rustler's Rooste event. We changed the format of the Winter Meeting in 2023, shortening it by one day, which seemed to be a very positive change. In addition to attending to association business, we heard from newly-elected members of the Arizona Corporation Commission, met with many legislative offices at the Capitol and all five ACC Commissioners, and welcomed a record number of guests to the Rustler's Rooste Legislative Reception.

GCSECA led an effort to write and pass a bill at the state level that will shorten significantly the amount of time it takes to site utility infrastructure. Gov. Katie Hobbs signed the bill into law, and our Members should see immediate results as they work toward building the electricity generation and transmission systems of the future. GCSECA has been very involved with the Corporation Commission, working to lessen the administrative burden on our Members as they engage with that regulatory entity. We continue to work hard to preserve co-ops' ability to self-govern their organizations.

We continued to actively engage our Congressional Delegation. While politics in Washington can be bewildering at times, we have maintained excellent relationships with our House and Senate members in Congress. We also have been assisting our co-op Members to weave through the processes to obtain many of the grants that Congress has made available to utilities in order to bolster their systems.

Our Summer Meeting in Flagstaff continues to grow in both participation and popularity. During the event we heard from many interesting speakers, enjoyed some time on the golf course and broke the 2022 record for raising funds which help us to participate in state and federal political activities.

GCSECA welcomed a new staff member in 2023, Sylvia Cruz, who will lead our professional development and member engagement efforts. She has quickly become a valued teammate to her fellow statewide staff members and is already providing valuable services to our Members.

It's been a real pleasure to work with my fellow GCSECA Board members, the excellent GCSECA Team and with many friends in the Arizona co-op landscape. As I look back on my tenure, I do so with pride, knowing we have accomplished a lot for our Members. I wish my successor well, and I know he or she will continue to lead GCSECA to new levels of success.

Jeff Larson





Dave Lock

Chief Executive Officer



I know I speak for the entire GCSECA Team when I say it's a privilege to represent Arizona's rural electric cooperatives. It's especially gratifying to be so unified in our collective mission to assist our Members in excelling at what they do best – providing affordable and reliable power in an environmentally responsible way.

What does this assistance look like? It's working with the Arizona Legislature and the administration of Gov. Katie Hobbs. It's advocating for measures that help co-ops and expressing concern about those that do not. In 2023, GCSECA championed a bill in the General Assembly that makes it easier to site equipment that enables the generation of clean and reliable energy. Gov. Hobbs signed the bill after its passage. It will save our Members time and money as they forge ahead with their energy plans for the future.

We continue to assist our Members at the Arizona Corporation Commission – always endeavoring to ease their regulatory burden. In 2023, we requested that co-ops be relieved of constant information requests that are generated by “generic dockets” often intended for other utilities. We are working to streamline the ponderous rate and financing processes co-ops must endure. We've been able to reduce the number of routine filings co-ops must make, saving them time. Members of the current Commission have been very receptive to working with our co-ops in these endeavors.

In Washington, D.C. we assist our co-ops by tracking bills and regulations that could impact them. We have close working relationships with the Arizona Congressional Delegation. Delegation members have been very helpful in sponsoring bills, posing questions during hearings and advocating for Arizona's electric cooperatives.

Our Members are assisted by the robust communications program GCSECA operates. We use magazines, monthly newsletters, trade press, social media and publications like this one to tell the story of Arizona's rural electric co-ops. Our constant messaging helps bring understanding and support to our Members and the issues they face.

In 2023, we took an additional step to provide assistance to our Members. We created a new position that focuses on proactively engaging with our Members to ascertain how GCSECA can best serve their needs. Our newest teammate who fills this role – Sylvia Cruz – also focuses on bringing the best training, education and professional development offerings to our Members. Creating a new relationship with Western Governors University and upgrading our Learning Management System are two steps we've taken in that direction.

I constantly challenge the GCSECA Team and myself to focus on sustained excellence. Because of our supportive Board of Directors and talented team members, GCSECA has had a good run these past few years, including 2023. However, we never will rest on our laurels. We always will work to provide the best assistance – through all of the avenues mentioned here – so Arizona's rural electric co-ops can be the best for their Members.



**Jorge
Canaca**

Director of Federal
Relations & Regulatory
Services



Many accomplishments at the state and federal levels have provided incredible opportunities for Member co-ops. From a Corporation Commission more receptive to reducing/eliminating bureaucratic red tape, to the implementation of key federal programs making available funding streams of grants and loans to deploy rural broadband, cyber and physical security, clean energy programs, electric vehicles infrastructure and grid resiliency and modernization. The 118th Congress ushered in a divided government and a return to checks and balances. Both chambers are operating under slim majorities, meaning neither party has a path to enact major legislation. In 2023, we saw brinkmanship dominate and at times, pure congressional gridlock.



Regulatory Barrage

President Biden's term expires in January 2025. Until then his legislative agenda, which stalled in Congress, is being implemented through executive agency rulemaking authority. 2023 ushered in a resurgence of agency (EPA, DOI, USDA, and DOE) rule promulgation impacting co-ops with the goal of finalizing them by April 2024. However, these federal guidelines, rules, and regulations will undoubtedly face litigation from impacted parties. The 6-3 Republican majority on the Supreme Court may also provide a counterbalance via judicial decisions that limit the Administration's overreach.

Public Lands Proposed Rulemakings

An onslaught of federal land management proposed rules were also announced this year. Below are the ones GCSECA continues to monitor and engage on as necessary:

- U.S. Forest Service (USFS) proposed rule would impose strict liability in tort from \$1 million per incident up to \$2.88 million. It also would increase special use authorization processing costs and other fees.
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal that would make conservation a major use under the Federal Land Planning and Management Act.
- Upcoming proposed BLM rules on right-of-way renewable leasing and geothermal leasing; wildfire and cost recovery; and bonding.
- Upcoming proposed USFS rules on carbon capture and storage, climate resilience and oil and gas development.
- National Park Service rulemaking on rights-of-way.

Energy & Permitting Reform

One silver lining in the regulatory arena was the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) permitting reform. Under NEPA, federal agencies are required to complete environmental impact analysis prior to making decisions on permit applications, providing financing through federal loans, grants, and loan guarantees, or issuing rights-of-ways for construction and maintenance. The passage of the BUILDER Act:

- **Established firm time and page limits for all federal permitting decisions. A two-year time limit now applies to all Environmental Impact Statements. A one-year limit now applies for less intensive environmental assessments.**
- **Provided new opportunities for Project Sponsors to engage directly throughout the NEPA process.**
- **Broadened the use of “categorical exclusions” for projects that do not have significant environmental impacts.**
- **Created a new expedited permitting process for large energy storage projects.**
- **Did not include transmission provisions that expands the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or cost allocation metrics that would increase costs for cooperatives.**

We believe the federal environmental review process must be modernized to expand electric infrastructure project development in a manner that strengthens our economy while maintaining environmental stewardship. As electric utilities are encouraged – sometimes mandated – to upgrade transmission and construct more renewable energy projects, there needs to be additional relief from burdensome regulatory reviews that delay and often impede the energy transition.

Arizona Corporation Commission

GCSECA worked with the Legislative and Government Relations (LGR) Committee to solicit proposal ideas that we should pursue at the ACC which would enshrine flexibility, increase efficiencies/process improvements and make routine annual filings optional to save both the ACC and regulated cooperatives time and resources. Over the past year, GCSECA advanced cooperative regulatory priorities at the ACC and positioned ourselves to execute long-term initiatives in 2024. In general, the proposals below deal with truncating current approval procedures and timelines including the 2018 Streamline Rate and Financing case rules:

- Pursued co-op preemptive exemption from generic dockets
- Explored making REST, EE, & DSM Plan filings optional for co-ops
- Secured an exemption from the Development and Integration of Competitive Community Solar and Energy Storage Order
- Further streamline rate and financial case processes
- Secured exemption from Value of Solar Investigative docket
- Substantive policy for line siting process

USDA Grants and Loans for Rural Electric Co-Ops



Two new programs administered by the USDA Rural Development made nearly \$11 billion in loans, grants, loan modifications, and partially forgivable loans available to the nation's electric cooperatives. Arizona's cooperatives are pursuing grants under both programs.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

New ERA: The Empowering Rural America (New ERA) Program made \$9.7 billion available to eligible rural

electric cooperatives. The aim of the New ERA is to make energy efficiency improvements to eligible systems; both transmission and generation to purchase, build or deploy renewable energy, zero-emission systems, carbon capture storage systems or to purchase renewable energy.

PACE: The Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Program makes available the remaining \$1 billion in partially forgivable loans. The Program is open to renewable energy developers and electric service providers including municipals, cooperatives and investor-owned and Tribal utilities to help finance large-scale solar, wind, geothermal, biomass and hydropower projects and energy storage in support of renewable energy systems. Loans through the PACE Program may be forgiven by 40% of the loan amount, with the maximum loan amount of \$100 million.

Five-Year Farm Bill Reauthorization Critical for Rural Electric Cooperatives

The Farm Bill contains significant funding opportunities for electric cooperative priority programs including electrification, broadband and economic development. The Farm Bill programs such as the RUS Electric Loan Program, Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, Rural Energy Savings Program and Rural Energy for America Program that invest in and meet the needs of co-ops, have been extended until September 30, 2024. Beyond then, timely passage of a 5-year reauthorization would provide clarity and certainty to cooperatives seeking to leverage these programs.



The Farm Bill provides the means to help co-ops perform three vital functions:

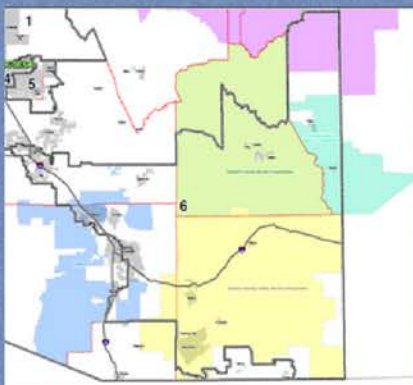
1. Securing financing for basic electrification in rural America
2. Facilitating innovation in energy broadband technology and deployment
3. Supporting co-ops' role as important economic development partners in the communities we serve.

GCSECA will work with NRECA and our Delegation to protect these programs from potential budget cuts and urge Congress to oppose policies that lead to higher electricity costs for rural households.

2023 Washington D.C. Legislative Fly-in



As we do every spring, GCSECA along with co-op CEOs, Board members and key management staff, attended the annual NRECA Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. GCSECA led meetings with policymakers to champion our rural electric cooperatives' policy and regulatory priorities. We met with the congressional offices to discuss how the electrification of the economy, the disorderly retirement of existing generation, permitting challenges, and supply chain shortages are all interconnected. We also asked that policymakers preserve and reauthorize the 5-year Farm Bill and its critical programs that enable cooperatives to help improve the lives of families, businesses, and rural communities in Arizona.



CD6 encompasses AEPCO, DVEC, GCEC, NEC, TEC, and SSVCE

One of the highlights of NRECA's 2023 Legislative Conference was Republican Congressman Juan Ciscomani's (CD6) participation on a moderated, two-freshman member panel. He discussed his experiences in Congress thus far and provided advocacy advice to our industry leaders. The audience of approximately 2,000+ representing 900+ co-ops from across the country reveled in the exchange which encouraged seeking bipartisan solutions for communities in rural America.



Rep. Ciscomani (center) participated in NRECA's Legislative Conference Panel.



Casey Ratlief

Director of Government Relations & Grassroots Advocacy

Important Line Siting Reforms Achieved with Passage of HB2496

HB2496, sponsored by Rep. Gail Griffin (R – Hereford), the Bill that altered the definition of “transmission line” was signed by the Governor on April 5th. Broadly, the Bill will ease the backlog of applications at the Arizona Power Plant and Line Siting Committee because many of the transmission lines that are being constructed to connect renewable energy projects to the system will be exempt. These lines, also known as generation tie-in lines, are typically less than a mile in length. The Bill changed the definition to being five poles in length or one mile, which is expected to reduce the backlog at the Committee by as much as 50 percent.

The Bill also exempted poles and wires on the “substation, switchyard or generating site” which is helpful for the Arizona Electric Power Cooperative. The Bill met resistance from the environmental community, with Sierra Club leading opposition. This meant that the Bill was passed out of the House Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee on a party-line vote. However, on the floor the Bill passed with a 38-22 vote. The vote tally included seven Democratic votes, including Rep. Alma Hernandez (D – Tucson) and Rep. Consuelo Hernandez (D – Tucson) who represent a portion of Trico Electric Cooperative’s service territory.

In the Senate, the bipartisan mood shifted and the legislation was once again passed along partisan lines with all 16 Republicans voting in favor. After passage in the Senate, the Bill was sent to Governor Hobbs, where she ultimately signed the legislation into law.

We applaud the leadership of Rep. Griffin in managing this Bill through the process, and for Governor Hobbs for understanding the importance of the issue and its positive impacts on Arizona’s rural electric cooperatives.

National Truck Stop Association Makes Move to Prohibit Utility Ownership of EV Charging Stations

SB1501, sponsored by Sen. Frank Carroll (R – Sun City), was a Bill that would preclude utilities (including co-ops) from owning electric vehicle charging stations through rates. The Bill made it through the the Senate Commerce Committee, with all Republicans in support. However, due to co-op ally Sen. Sine Kerr (R – Buckeye) vocally opposing the Bill, it was apparent that the Legislation lacked the votes necessary to pass on the Senate floor. It was also clear that every Democratic Senator was set to vote against the legislation due to concerns that its passage would impede the development of EV charging stations throughout the state.

Sen. Kerr expressed serious concern with the Bill, its constitutionality and whether or not the Legislature was the appropriate place to settle this issue. It also became clear that other co-op allies, such as Sen. Sonny Borrelli (R – Lake Havasu City) and Sen. T.J. Shope (R – Coolidge) had concerns about the legislation because of its impacts on Arizona’s rural electric cooperatives.

There were talks with the Bill’s proponents to provide some sort of exemption for the co-ops, but those never fully materialized and a full exemption never appeared to be on the table. Our concerns were frequently shared with Sen. Carroll, who while disappointed, understood and said that he would not put the Bill up for a final vote if the votes are not there.

We expect this Bill to come back in 2024, with a renewed aim at bringing Democratic Legislators on board.

Governor Hobbs Signs \$17.8 Billion Bipartisan Budget

Governor Hobbs signed a bipartisan \$17.8 billion budget in mid May. The Senate passed the budget in the wee hours of the previous morning while the House acted later the same day. The vote was the culmination of several weeks of negotiations, which by all accounts went more smoothly than many expected in the Capitol community.

When budget bills were dropped, it was unclear if the votes to passage were there. However, the Senate proceeded with an Appropriations Committee hearing, where the budget agreement was passed along party lines, with all Republicans in support. Senate Democrats were voting “no” in Committee due to what they viewed as an unbalanced agreement that did not include as many of their priorities as those of Republican legislators.

Later, when the House took action, the budget bills were bound together and voted on in a mass motion while the time available for testimony and debate was reduced. House Appropriations Chair David Livingston (R - Glendale) reasoned that the bills have been out for a few days at this point and doing this ensured that the process remained on schedule. The move was met with consternation from Committee Democrats, who argued that voting on the budget bills in a mass motion (rather than individually) and limiting testimony shut the public out of the process. While Republicans reasoned that there would be plenty of time for debate in the Committee of the Whole.

Without much in the way of Democratic support in Committee, it seemed like a path to passage was arduous at best. However, as hours wore on, it became apparent that the Senate and House Democratic caucuses were going to show up in support of the budget agreement once it came to the floor and certain concessions were made.

Budget Highlights

HIGHLIGHTS

- *The Arizona Corporation Commission receives an appropriation increase of \$13 million. This will go, in part, towards increased staff salaries and filling vacant positions*
- *\$250 tax rebates to families for every child 17 and under, \$100 for each dependent older than 17 and cannot claim more than three rebates. Filing for these rebates is based on the number of dependents reflected on 2021 state tax returns*
- *\$341.9 million towards school facilities*
- *\$300 million in one-time funds towards K-12*
- *An increase of \$88.6 million into the baseline for K-12 (putting money towards the baseline means it's ongoing, as opposed to one-time funds which are a one-time infusion, ongoing funds will automatically be reflected in next year's budget)*
- *\$150 million into the Housing Trust Fund*
- *Water Infrastructure Financing Authority (WIFA), the organization created under Gov. Doug Ducey to fund and shepherd water augmentation /conservation projects, saw the appropriations get reduced by nearly \$139 million; these dollars were reallocated toward local projects throughout the state*
- *\$30 million towards broadband projects (\$25 million with the Arizona Commerce Authority and \$5 million with the Arizona Department of Education)*



Commerce Authority Program

- 25% to counties with a population of 100,000 persons or more. A county with a population of more than 1,000,000 is not eligible for funding
- 25% to counties with a population of less than 100,000 persons
- 25% to municipalities with a population of 10,000 persons or more. A municipality that is partially or entirely located in an urbanized area of a county that has a population of more than 1,000,000 is not eligible for funding
- 25% to municipalities with a population of less than 10,000 persons



KEEPING OUR MEMBERS FIRST





2023 has been a year of many transitions and strides towards building better communication alliances and tools. With the addition of our new Member Engagement & Education Specialist, Sylvia Cruz, to the team in July, GCSECA's Communications Department has transitioned to a more focused and poignant approach in communicating our messaging. Though this transition only started halfway through 2023, we have worked diligently throughout the year to communicate the co-op story, utilize all media channels, as well as advocating and engaging with industry leaders and allies; building new communications networking relationships.

The Director of Communications provides several services, as needed, for the statewide designed to assist the Member organizations in their communications, public relations, and various initiative/campaign materials. In 2023, GCSECA maintained a steady pace while also incorporating new practices. Outlined below are our successes from 2023:

- Continued the timely development and distribution of GCSECA's monthly editions of the electronic newsletter, Current Activities.
- Successfully transitioned to and executed a bi-monthly schedule for the publication of the GCSECA Currents magazine, in partnership with Pioneer Utility Resources (PUR), which is directed toward key leaders within the electric utility industry.
- Planned, coordinated, and directed the 2023 GCSECA Summer Meeting and 23rd Annual Miles Oldfather Golf Tournament at the Little America Hotel in Flagstaff, AZ.
- Secured numerous sponsorships for both the 2023 Annual Winter Meeting and the 2023 Summer Meeting, resulting in an overall record-breaking revenue of \$66,500 in sponsorships throughout 2023. This is double the amount of revenue collected in 2022. *(Please note that all sponsorship revenue is used to offset costs associated with events hosted by GCSECA.)*
- Created and managed the GCSECA 2024 printed directory of Member systems and affiliate organizations.

GRAND CANYON STATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

- Planned, organized, and directed the 2023 Washington Youth Tour (WYT) with 51 total participants (both students and chaperones).
- Served as Staff Liaison to the Education and Professional Development Committee, the Group Purchasing Committee, and the Member & Public Relations Committee.
 - Sylvia Cruz transitioned to the Staff Liaison for the Education & Professional Development Committee and the Group Purchasing Committee in October of 2023.
- Continued content planning and coordination with PUR to increase the engagement, frequency and quality of content posted to GCSECA social media pages and sites.
- Assisted, designed, and executed an overall communications toolkit for the AEPCO ACC financing application regarding the Reliable Energy Arizona Initiative for new gas units and solar installation.
- Presented to and increased networking relations with the communications staff at NRECA and other statewide communicators to further highlight Arizona's co-op success.
- Coordinated and published the content, design, and printing of GCSECA's Annual Report and ACRE Annual Report.
- Successfully transitioned the GCSECA education programs and member engagement connections.
- Analyzed, developed, and created a new 2024 Communications Plan which highlights key improvement areas found in the National Survey on the Cooperative Difference.
- Researched, analyzed and continues to develop a state-wide communications plan that will enshrine the values of co-op community-owned power.
- Fortified and assisted in deepening connections and relationships with allied public power organizations.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Sylvia Cruz

Member Engagement &
Professional Development Specialist

In 2023, GCSECA expanded its workforce and added a new position which focuses on Member Engagement & Professional Development. In July, Sylvia Cruz was hired and assumed this position. For the second half of 2023, GCSECA's new hire stepped in with a goal to understand the various needs of our Members.



The Member Engagement and Professional Development Specialist provides several services for the statewide. These services are designed to benefit the Member organizations with their education, professional development and engagement needs.

The last five months of the year have proven to be a whirlwind but fruitful for this new position. Outlined below are the achievements from 2023:

-
- Made in-person visits to all co-ops. Focused meetings with members of the Education Committee from each co-op and any other key personnel.
 - Made in-person visits to all associate Members. Focused meetings with key employees, including CEOs/General Managers, Executive Assistants and Human Resource professionals.
 - Took direction from the above visits to research new Learning Management Systems. This resulted in meetings with five LMS companies and settling on two that best fit the needs of GCSECA Members. These two companies demonstrated their systems for the Education Committee.
 - Facilitated the chosen Learning Management System, Absorb, in a trial period for any Members who chose to participate.
 - Negotiated a proposal from Absorb that would be within the budgeted allotment.
 - Served as Staff Liaison for the Education and Professional Development Committee and the Group Purchasing Committee.
 - Coordinated and hosted two quarterly meetings for the Education and Professional Development Committee.
 - Helped facilitate the fourth quarterly meeting place for the Group Purchasing Committee.

- Facilitated a partnership with Western Governors University to benefit all GCSECA Members.
- Worked with the Human Resources Ad-Hoc Committee to provide a meeting space and training. Notified all Members of its existence.
- Worked with the Safety Ad-Hoc Committee to satisfy any meeting needs and notified all Members of its existence.
- Facilitated the creation of an IT Ad-Hoc Committee. Scheduled and participated in its initial meeting. Helped determine logistics such as meeting formats and schedules.
- Created an Educational Needs Survey. The purpose of the Survey was to identify areas in which GCSECA could better meet the educational needs of its Members.
- Analyzed data from the Educational Needs Survey to create targeted direction for the 2024 educational trainings/courses/programs offered.



**TOGETHER WE
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

GRAND CANYON STATE
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
ASSOCIATION, INC.

2023 SUMMER MEETING





OUR TIME WYT

2 0 2 3



IT'S #OURTIME

Washington Youth Tour - Trip of a Lifetime

WYT

In 1957, future President Lyndon B. Johnson addressed the Annual Meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). He charged the membership with developing a program targeted at the youth of rural America. He declared, "If one thing comes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national Capitol where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents." Flash forward to 2023, and there are now on average over 1,800 students attending the annual Washington Youth Tour from across the United States.

45 students and 10 chaperones from Arizona's electric co-ops and tribal utilities attended the 2023 Youth Tour, as well as Hannah Capozzi, GCSECA's Arizona Youth Tour Director and Director of Communications. Students and chaperones alike experienced a full schedule of events and experiences while in D.C., setting a tone of hope and adventure.

One of the biggest highlights of the week is the evening river boat cruise. During the event, students from Arizona have the opportunity to mingle with participants from 4 other states while they enjoy dinner and an evening full of dancing with a live D.J. "A little secret about the river boat cruise is that it's one of the chaperones' favorite nights of the trip too! And not just because we're all in the same place for the evening," says Arizona Youth Tour Director Hannah Capozzi. "We aim to have this event on one of our first nights in D.C. as an icebreaker to meet other students in states from around the country that are in the 'same boat' as our Arizona students - literally. As a chaperone and statewide Director, it's always one of my favorite events. This is where we really get to see our students come out of their shells. The most introverted student of the group can suddenly become the life of the party, and it does such a fantastic job at setting the tone for the rest of the week," adds Hannah.



Among the fast-paced fun and adventure, students learn about electric co-op structure and history, meet with their elected officials face-to-face, and learn about U.S. history. Students also have a night specifically dedicated to joining with every other participating state under the coordination of NRECA. National Youth Tour Director Beth Knudson leads the charge of a night filled with laughter, fun, and education. Students hear from past Youth Tour alumni, lineworkers who have participated in NRECA's International Program, NRECA employees, and the ever-favorite inspirational speaker, Mike Schlappi.

"I will remember this experience and this trip for the rest of my life," expressed Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) Delegate Kevin Tran. "Thank you to my co-op for giving me this opportunity to visit our nation's Capitol."

Navopache Electric Cooperative (NEC)-sponsored student Jackson Blackburn shared his warm-hearted sentiments on the trip as well. "Thank you for giving me this amazing once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I'm grateful to have met so many life-long friends. I will remember this trip forever!"



Other students shared similar sentiments when thinking back on the trip:

"You shaped one of the most life changing experiences of all of our lives,"

- Kyrie 'Bambi' Luptak from NEC.

"It was so awesome getting to know everyone. It was an extraordinary trip."

-Alayna Mark, sponsored by Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority (GRICUA),



Youth Tour ignites a passion within delegates to look at the world with a fresh perspective, challenge the status quo, invest in rural America, and create change in their communities. Youth Tour is about elevating students to the next level, and it all happens in just one week. GCSECA looks forward to participating with students in the Washington Youth Tour again in 2024. We'll D.C. you again soon!

STANDING COMMITTEES

ARIZONA ACTION COMMITTEE FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Patrick Ledger — Chair
Casey Ratlief — GCSECA, Treasurer
Jorge Canaca — GCSECA Staff Liaison

Patrick Ledger, CEO..... AzGT Co-ops
Kassi Mortensen, CEO.....Duncan Valley EC
Phil Cook, CEO.....Graham County EC
J. Tyler Carlson, CEO.....Mohave EC
Floyd William “Bill” Arendell, Director.....Navopache EC
Jason Bowling, CEO.....Sulphur Springs Valley EC
Brian Heithoff, CEO.....Trico EC

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Natalie Groeneveld — Chair
Sylvia Cruz — GCSECA Staff Liaison

Charlene Harris, Manager of Human Resources.....AzGT Co-ops
Kimberly Waters, Administrative Manager.....Duncan Valley EC
April Mayhall, Purchasing, HR & Benefits Administrative Assistant.....Graham County EC
Andrea Harless, Executive Assistant.....Mohave EC
Natalie Groeneveld, VP of Human Resources.....Navopache EC
Steve Garate, Safety and Training Manager.....Sulphur Springs Valley EC
April Park, Human Resources Manager.....Trico EC
Vacant..... Associate Member Representative

GROUP PURCHASING COMMITTEE

Charlie Gourdin — Chair
Sylvia Cruz — GCSECA Staff Liaison

Beth Welch, Manager of Supply Chain.....AzGT Co-ops
Dan Coats.....Duncan Valley EC
April Mayhall, Purchasing, HR & Benefits Administrative Assistant.....Graham County EC
Charles Lopez, Warehouse Purchasing Supervisor.....Mohave EC
Jennifer Wade, Communications Specialist.....Navopache EC
Steve McAdams, Purchasing Manager.....Sulphur Springs Valley EC
Charlie Gourdin, Warehouse Supervisor.....Trico EC
Fran Berry, Warehouse Procurement Supervisor.....Electrical District No. 3
Peter Eberhardt, Purchasing..... Gila River Indian Community UA
Antonio Lopez, Purchasing Agent.....Tohono O’odham

LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Patrick Ledger — Chair
Casey Ratlief — GCSECA Staff Liaison
Jorge Canaca — GCSECA Staff Liaison

Patrick Ledger, CEO.....AzGT Co-ops
Kassi Mortensen, CEO.....Duncan Valley EC
Phil Cook, CEO.....Graham County EC
J. Tyler Carlson, CEO.....Mohave EC
Floyd William “Bill” Arendell, Director.....Navopache EC
Jason Bowling, CEO.....Sulphur Springs Valley EC
Brian Heithoff, CEO.....Trico EC

MEMBER & PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Roberta Lopez-Suter — Chair
Hannah Capozzi — GCSECA Staff Liaison

Charlene Harris, Manager of Human Resources.....AzGT Co-ops
Jimmie Sue Jones, Member Services.....Duncan Valley EC
Kim Larkey, Communications Manager.....Graham County EC
Allison Ellingson, Public Affairs Manager.....Mohave EC
Jennifer Wade, Communications Specialist.....Navopache EC
Eric Petermann, Public Relations Manager.....Sulphur Springs Valley EC
Roberta Lopez-Suter, Director, Marketing & Communications.....Trico EC



**GRAND CANYON STATE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

2023 GCSECA Membership List

Full Members – Class A

Duncan Valley Electric
Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 440 | Duncan, AZ | 85534
P: 928-359-2503
F: 928-359-2370

Graham County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Drawer B | Pima, AZ | 85543
P: 928-485-2451
F: 928-485-9491

Mohave Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 22530
Bullhead City, AZ | 86439
P: 928-763-1100
F: 928-763-6094

Navopache Electric
Cooperative, Inc.
1878 W. White Mtn. Blvd.
Lakeside, AZ | 85929
P: 928-368-5118 &
800-543-6324

Sulphur Springs Valley Electric
Cooperative, Inc.
350 N. Haskill Ave. | Willcox, AZ | 85643
P: 520-384-2221
F: 520-384-5223

Trico Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 930 | Marana, AZ | 85653
P: 520-744-2944 &
866-337-2052

Full Members – Class B

Arizona Electric Power
Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 670 | Benson, AZ | 85602
P: 520-586-3631
F: 520-586-5343

Sierra Southwest Cooperative
Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 670 | Benson, AZ | 85602
P: 520-586-3631
F: 520-586-5343

Associate Members - Class A

Aha Macav Power Services
P.O. Box 6870
Mohave Valley, AZ | 86446
P: 928-768-2200
F: 928-768-2262

Columbus Electric Cooperative,
Inc.
P.O. Box 631 | Deming, NM | 88031
P: 575-546-8838 & 800-950-2667
F: 575-546-3128

Dixie Power
71 E. Highway 56 | Beryl, UT | 84712
P: 435-439-5311
F: 435-439-5352

Electrical District No. 2
P.O. Box 548 | Coolidge, AZ | 85128
P: 520-723-7741
F: 520-723-5252

Electrical District No. 3
41630 W. Louis Johnson Dr.
Maricopa, AZ | 85138
P: 520-424-9021
F: 520-423-4949

Electrical District No. 4 & 5
231 S. Sunshine Blvd. | Eloy, AZ |
85131
P: 520-466-7336
F: 520-466-7778

Garkane Energy
P.O. Box 465 | Loa, UT | 84747
P: 435-836-2795
F: 435-836-2497

Gila River Indian Community Utility
Authority
6636 W. Sundust Rd.
Chandler, AZ | 85226
P: 520-796-0600
F: 520-796-0672

Associate Members - Class A

Salt River Project
P.O. Box 52025 | Phoenix, AZ | 85072
P: 602-236-5900

Tohono O'odham Utility Authority
P.O. Box 816 | Sells, AZ | 85634
P: 520-383-2236
F: 520-383-2218

Tri-State Generation &
Transmission Association
P.O. Box 33695 | Denver, CO | 80233
P: 303-452-6111
F: 303-254-6007

Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation &
Drainage District
30570 Wellton-Mohawk Dr. |
Wellton, AZ | 85356
P: 928-785-3351 &
602-254-5809
F: 928-785-3389

Associate Members – Class B

Arizona Municipal Power Users'
Association
1642 E Culver St. | Phoenix, AZ |
85006
P: 602-687-9017

Associate Members - Class C (Vendors)

Arizona Sun Sales
120 N. 44th St., Ste. 420
Phoenix, AZ | 85034
P: 602-437-0469

Border States Electrical Supply
763 E. MacArthur Cir.
Tucson, AZ | 85714
P: 520-294-1414

Burns & McDonnell
1850 N. Central Ave. Ste. 800
Phoenix, AZ | 85004
P: 480-203-7269

CoBank
P.O. Box 5110 | Denver, CO | 80217
P: 800-542-8072

DiGioia Gray
535 W Harvard Ave., Ste. 102
Gilbert, AZ | 85233
P: 480-666-9264

Milwaukee Tool
P: (480) 617-1693

Pioneer Utility Resources
5605 NE Elam Young Pkwy.
Hillsboro, OR | 97124
P: 503-357-2105

T&D Services
9550 San Mateo Blvd. NE., Ste. G
Albuquerque, NM | 87113
P: 505-344-4234

TWN Communications
255 Pine Ave. N. | Oldsmar, FL | 34677
P: 813-891-4735
F: 800-253-0665

Western United Electric Supply
Corporation
100 Bromley Business Pkwy
Brighton, CO | 80603
P: 800-748-3116



2023 Board of Directors



Arizona Electric Power Cooperative
Gene Robert Larson & Patrick Ledger



Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative
Frank Downs & Tom Lovett



Graham County Electric Cooperative
Chris Claridge & Jeff Larson



Mohave Electric Cooperative
Toni Barbaro & Joe Anderson



Navopache Electric Cooperative
Chuck Moore & Bill Arendell



Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative
Jason Bowling & Tom Goodman



Trico Electric Cooperative
Marsha Thompson & Brian Heithoff



Columbus Electric Cooperative – Associate Member
Chris Martinez