

Sun River Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone Numbers: 406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

Website: www.sunriverelectric.coop

After Hours & Weekend Dispatch:
406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

If calling from a local number or cell phone –
please use: 406-467-2526 or 406-467-2527

Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.

Ripples

MARCH 2025

WE SAY GOODBYE

Longtime Sun River Electric trustee Sivumaki steps down

By **BRAD BAUMAN** | GM/CEO

Leonard Sivumaki will step down from the Sun River Electric board after 27 years of service.

To say that he will be missed would be a huge understatement. His ability to listen to the various opinions and inputs and offer comments that captured the elements of the discussion, and then offer his opinion in a non-contentious way was impactful. Some of his suggestions even gained labels as “The Leonard Rule” and “Leonard Rule 2”. This was done in fun of course, but it shows the impact that he had on his peers.

His commitment to reducing the payment cycle of capital credits from 35 years to less than 20 years has been one of his legacy actions that all of the membership should appreciate. He did not do it alone as the other trustees have been supportive, but he has been a constant lobbyist for this action.

Alongside Leonard is his wife, Eva. The support that she has offered to Leonard and the Sun River Electric organization is monumental. Eva volunteered to use her artistic abilities to



Leonard Sivumaki poses for a photo with his wife Eva. Leonard will step down from the Sun River Electric Cooperative board after 27 years of service. | **COURTESY PHOTO**

paint a picture for the Montana Electric Cooperatives’ ACRE auction for many years. These paintings would be placed in the live auction and consistently brought top dollar; most years going for between \$4,000 and \$6,000 dollars. The total amount would likely be in the \$60,000-\$70,000 level of funds raised.

We will miss Leonard at our monthly and various other meetings. He has represented District #1 (Fort Shaw/Sun River) extremely well over nearly three decades of service. Leonard, best of luck and may you find peace in your journey ahead, and thank you for your leadership for the cooperative. RM

REMINDER:

Bills not paid by the 10th of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.



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SIGN UP FOR FREE KIDS BOOKS

Preschool children, ages birth to 5, who live within the Sun River Electric Cooperative service territory, are eligible.

You can register online at <https://imaginationlibrary.com> or scan the QR code below.



Mark your calendars

Annual Meeting is set for Friday, March 28

PLEASE join us on March 28, for the Annual Meeting of the Sun River Electric Cooperative membership. Registration will open at 11 a.m., with lunch served at noon and the regular meeting at 1 p.m.

What is an electric co-op?

An electric cooperative is a private, not-for-profit company whose purpose is to safely deliver electricity to its consumers or members at the most affordable price.

Member-owned and operated

Because electric cooperatives are member-owned and operated, the democratic process allows members a vote in annual cooperative board elections, in which elected directors are nominated from among the members. 288122. Cooperatives also encourage members to voice their thoughts and ideas within the cooperative. Members maintain equal status and work together for the good of their communities, and adhere to the seven guiding principles.

The advantages of electric cooperatives

- Upon joining an electric cooperative, you are considered a member and/or an owner rather than a customer.
- Electric cooperatives are service focused. We are dedicated to providing electricity to rural areas while commercial utility companies are hesitant because they can make more profits in urban areas and businesses.
- Cooperatives follow democratic processes and allow each of our members to vote in board member elections, participate in policy making, and influence the cooperative in sharing their ideas and concerns.
- Cooperatives are community focused and work to improve the sustainability and well-being of local and surrounding communities.
- Electric cooperatives return revenues or margins to cooperative members in the form of patronage capital credits.

You are a Sun River Electric customer, therefore you are a "Member" – the Annual Meeting on March 28 is your annual meeting – we look forward to seeing you there. RM



APPLIANCE REBATES

Remember that SREC has appliance and water-heater rebates. Go to www.sunriverelectric.coop for details.

HIDDEN NUMBER

If you find your account number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$50 credit on your next statement. There is one number hidden in every issue. Give us a call if you are the lucky consumer.

**406-467-2526 or
1-800-452-7516**

ALWAYS | BEFORE YOU
CALL | DIG



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

Robert Pasha, President 406-799-2292
Mitch Johnson, V.P. 406-467-2109
Chris Music, S/T 406-600-8375

TRUSTEES

Russ Bloom 406-431-0168
John Burgmaier 406-463-2522
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Leonard Sivumaki 406-264-5482

MANAGER

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