

# Partners in Power

*Arkansas River Power Authority member cities include: Holly, La Junta, Lamar, Las Animas, Springfield and Trinidad*

## ARPA Member Cities Come Together to Rebuild After April 27 Tornado

In the early morning hours of Friday, April 27 residents in parts of southeast Colorado were awakened by warning



sirens. Several tornados had touched down in the area. One tornado in particular traveled a path from southwest to northeast on the east edge of Lamar. The tornado damaged Lamar Light and Power's electrical distribution system and the

Tri-State Transmission system serving Lamar. The damage was extensive and residents and businesses in Lamar and the outlying areas were without power.

Within a short time after receiving the request for mutual aid, crews from the ARPA member cities of Las Animas, La Junta and Springfield responded to Lamar and began the rebuilding effort. By late afternoon that same day, power was restored to the City of Lamar and within the fol-

lowing week the total repair was complete.

In total, the crews replaced 45 distribution poles, 11 transformers, 40 cross arms, 2 circuit reclosers and a two-way radio repeater.

The mutual aid provided to Lamar by the other ARPA members vividly demonstrate the advantages of our group working together for the benefit of our individual members.

*The Lamar Utilities Board is grateful to the Cities of La Junta, Las Animas and Springfield for their assistance throughout the rebuilding process and wish to express their sincere appreciation to them.*

*Houssin Hourieh, LUB Supt.*

member communities have responded to outages that were a result of tornados and fire. They have worked as one to construct major sub-transmission lines and underground high voltage wind turbine distribution lines, and they have worked together to connect temporary substation equipment in order that member utilities could provide uninterrupted service to their consumers while safely and efficiently upgrading and repairing substation facilities.

Mutual aid in the electric industry has been practiced for decades and the benefits are never more apparent than among the ARPA members who by working together, help each other keep the lights on.

**Mutual Aid**—When events occur that result in significant widespread outages, electric utilities often call upon their peers to help restore service. The ARPA members have demonstrated their willingness to come to each others' aid on numerous occasions.

By working together the ARPA



## ARPA 2012 Annual Meeting



Rick Rigel

ARPA held its annual meeting on April 26 in La Junta at the Otero Junior College Student Center.

General Manager Rigel recapped operating statistics and other events that occurred during 2011.

During the year ARPA coordinated a variety of member services including bucket truck and hot stick testing, safety training, and emissions and opacity testing.

Mutual Aid also continues to be an important component of ARPA as the ARPA members worked together to rebuild the fire ravaged Fort Lyon 69 kV transmission line in a successful effort to get the prison facility back on-line.

**John Krajewski**, of JK Energy Consulting, presented three issues that have the potential to affect ARPA and its operations.

“The significant increase in natural gas supplies due to “fracking” have altered the energy landscape considerably and current natural gas prices are less than half of what they were a few short years ago,” Krajewski said.

The concern for non-renewable resources have resulted in regulatory requirements for coal fired plants that makes development of new plants almost impossible. This, combined with the lower natural gas prices, may result in a significant increase in power generated from natural gas.

Krajewski reported the Public Utilities Commission has be-

gun discussing the development of a west-side Energy Imbalance Market and there may be a need to continuously update resource plans, load forecasts, and generation offers if market development goes forward. Small utilities may be required to hire a scheduling agent.

John advised ARPA to be proactive by recognizing the issues now and develop a firm understanding of their implications on ARPA operations.

**Marsha Willhite**, Administrator for the Town of Holly, spoke about the recovery associated with the devastation from the March 28, 2007 F4/F5 tornado.

Marsha said Cities should prepare an emergency disaster response. “Most entities prepare for emergency disaster response; however, very few are prepared for the long and arduous process of RECOVERY.”

Citizens look to their public officials for leadership.

“As Public Officials you have a legal and moral obligation to protect the lives and property of your constituents. You are ultimately responsible for how effectively your community recovers from a disaster.”

*Marsha extended her gratitude to the member cities of the ARPA organization who were in Holly almost immediately to assist with rebuilding the electric power system.*

*“Having the ARPA group and member cities really set the tone for the way the recovery progressed from that point.”*

**Bill Smart**, Senior VP of Business Development for American Public Power Association’s Hometown Connections, shared with the annual meeting attendees trends and challenges affecting how the electric industry conducts its business today.

As the Internet and social media become part of everyone’s daily lives, customers today expect access to information on demand. Today’s grid must be responsive, informative, self-healing and most of all able to join the parts into a seamless system, supporting all aspects of utility operations.

Hometown Connections helps public power meet and exceed these expectations through utility and customer-friendly solutions and applications.

*As Public Officials  
You have a legal and  
moral obligation  
to protect the lives and  
property  
of your constituents.*

*You are ultimately  
responsible for how  
effectively your community  
recovers from a  
disaster.*

*...Marsha Willhite*



John Krajewski



Marsha Willhite



Bill Smart

## ARPA Holds Operations Workshop in La Junta

The ARPA Operating Committee in conjunction with La Junta Municipal Utilities, sponsored operations training on May 23 in La Junta. All the ARPA members were represented with a total of 20 operations personnel including ARPA staff attending. The focus of the training was to gain familiarity with La Junta’s distribution and generating systems and operations, and also to discuss common interests and mutual aid operations.

The agenda included a presentation by La Junta’s Electric Line Superintendent, Reuben DeLeon and Line

Crew Chief, Richard Guerrero. Discussion on La Junta’s facilities included in part, distribution and substation voltages; design and interconnects; a review of switching procedures; critical and emergency loads and on-site generation; a review of safety practices related to lock-out/tag-out and communications; and detailed equipment list, crew sizes and experience.

The group toured La Junta’s substations and the City’s generating facilities.

A round table discussion on safety practices, mutual aid



Reuben DeLeon, Electric Line Superintendent, discussing La Junta substation equipment.

issues, and future training opportunities concluded the day long event.

## Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

The ARPA Board of Directors at its meeting on May 31 approved an Integrated Resource Plan and directed its submittal to Western Area Power Administration as a requirement of its federal hydropower contracts. The following outlines the recommended 2-year and 5-year action plans identified in the IRP.

### 2-Year Action Plan

Consider placing the Lamar Repowering Project into cold standby condition, where it could be reactivated with reasonable notice based on changes in market conditions.

On the DSM front, ARPA member communities should consider offering a refrigerator disposal program.

Continue to purchase market –priced energy under the current power supply agreement.

Investigate replacement purchased power agreements as the end of the current agreement approaches.

**ARPA** members should

consider implementing a refrigerator recycling program to retire old, inefficient refrigerators.

Continue to investigate high-efficiency street light fixtures, particularly as the capital cost of LED or induction lighting decreases.

### 5-Year Action Plan

Continue actions from 2-year plan.

Continue to evaluate the cost of market-priced energy relative to operating the Lamar Repowering Project and consider reactivating the plant from cold standby as market prices dictate.

Evaluate supply-side and demand-side alternatives that become commercially feasible.

**ARPA** member communities should continue low-cost DSM options such as promoting energy efficiency via the ARPA and local member community website and customer newsletters.

## ARPA Welcomes Two New Members to its Board of Directors

**Bernadette Baca-Gonzalez** was appointed on May 15 by the Trinidad City Council to serve



on the ARPA Board of Directors.

Bernadette, a Trinidad native, earned a

Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern Colorado and a law degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Bernadette served many years as legal counsel for various political subdivisions of the State of Texas in the Houston and Austin areas. Upon her retirement in 2010 she and her husband, Reyes, returned to Trinidad where Bernadette volunteered her

time in various clubs and organizations. Just to name a few, in 2010 she served as vice president of the Kiwanis Club. In the 2010-2011 school year, Bernadette was appointed to the Trinidad School District No. 1 District Accountability Committee where she served as its Secretary. Bernadette was elected to the Trinidad City Council and in January 2012 began a 4-year term.

**Garth Nieschburg** was appointed by the City Council on March 26 to represent the City of Lamar on the ARPA Board of Directors.



Garth holds a law degree

from the University of Denver College of Law. He was appointed a Deputy District Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial District in 1972 and in 1976 Nieschburg was elected District Attorney of the Fifteen Judicial District. He served in that capacity until January 1987 when he was appointed a District Court Judge. In 2003 Garth retired and became a Senior Judge in which capacity he served until January 2010. Garth was appointed to serve the City of Lamar as City attorney in February 2010. Garth and his wife Penny are both natives of southeast Colorado. They have 3 sons and 8 grandchildren who also reside in Lamar.

## ARPA—1st Quarter Financial Summary

1st Quarter Income Statement for 2012		
Ordinary Income/Expense	Jan-Mar 2012	Jan-Mar 2011
Income	\$8,079,648	\$8,766,949
Cost of Goods Sold	\$4,166,963	\$5,557,801
Gross Profit	\$3,912,685	\$3,209,148
A & G Expenses	\$3,550,509	\$3,761,930
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 362,176</b>	<b>\$ (552,782)</b>

