

October at the international competition testing the skill and safety of utility workers. “Their performance reflects the skill and dedication of our crews—they are the backbone of our safety culture and the heroes of our story,” he said.

More than 200 members and their families attended the meeting, which also included highlights from the SSVEC Foundation. Board President Randy Redmond noted that the Foundation has awarded over \$275,000 in education grants so far in 2025 and is on track to meet its \$1 million goal for the second consecutive year. “These funds don’t come from your electric bill—they’re made possible by unclaimed capital credits and member donations,” Redmond said.

Just before the meeting began, Sam Gonsowski of SSVEC announced a \$30,000 donation to Lori’s Place, a Sierra Vista-based center that provides care for victims of abuse and trauma. The donation includes a \$15,000 direct contribution from SSVEC and a matching grant from CoBank, a national cooperative bank and SSVEC partner. “Their mission is urgent, their work is powerful, and we are proud to support them,” Gonsowski said.

Bowling also addressed financial challenges and explained that SSVEC has submitted a rate case to the Arizona Corporation Commission. “Despite strong cost control efforts, rising expenses have led us to request our first rate increase since 2016,” Bowling said. “If approved, members will see an eight percent increase beginning next year.”

Congressman Ciscomani praised the cooperative and its members. Drawing from his own upbringing in Tucson as the son of a bus driver, he encouraged perseverance and pride. “I tell my kids every day that nothing is out of reach—and the same goes for this cooperative,” he said. “Thanks to your support, SSVEC is meeting the growing energy needs of this region.”

The results of the annual board elections were also announced. Directors Russ McNeill (District 8) and Janice Beam (District 10) were re-elected unopposed, and Dan Barrera won a contested race in District 6. All three were sworn in at the meeting.

Formed in 1938, SSVEC now enters its 88th year of service with a renewed focus on safety, reliability, affordability, and the enduring power of community.



SSVEC Linemen (from left) Marcus Olivares, Jacob Shull, Efrén Gallego, and Chuy Hernández were recognized by CEO Jason Bowling (at podium) as qualifiers for the upcoming international linemen rodeo competition in Kansas City, Kansas.



SSVEC board members re-elected to three year terms were sworn-in to office, including (from the left) District 8 Director Russ McNeill, District 10 Director, Janice Beam, and District 6 Director Dan Barrera.