



POWER-GRAM

June
2022

Clondcroft
575-682-2521
Alto
575-336-4550
Carrizozo
575-648-2352

www.ocec-inc.com

LOBBY HOURS
8 AM - 4 PM
Monday - Friday

**TO REPORT AN
OUTAGE, CALL**
1-800-548-4660

**FOR BALANCE
INFORMATION
OR TO PAY YOUR
BILL, CALL**
1-844-846-2695



A Monthly Newsletter for Members of

**OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Left: Photo by Baylee Sanderson

Capital Credit Allocations

How much of Otero County Electric Cooperative's margins from last year will YOU receive? Your June 2022 electric bill lists the amount allocated to your capital credit account based on last year's margins. The information will appear on the left hand side of the bill, above the kWh Usage History.

As an OCEC member, you have a share in the earnings of your not-for-profit electric cooperative. The allocation reflected on the bill represents your share of the operating margins (excess of income over expenses) realized by your cooperative for the year indicated. The margins are allocated to all members who received electric service from the cooperative in proportion to the amount each member paid for electric service.

The money represented by members' capital credits (also known as patronage capital) is used by your co-op to repay long-term debt, maintain reserves for financing of plant replacements, storm damage, and other contingencies. Because patronage capital is used in this manner, it is not refunded immediately. Instead, the amount of capital credits is recorded on an account established in your name and made a permanent part of the cooperative's records.

Should the Board of Trustees determine that a refund of patronage capital credits be made, they will be refunded in accordance with the bylaws of the cooperative. This year, OCEC retired Capital Credits for the remaining unretired amount for 1996-1997 and a portion of 1998, refunding \$806,079 to members receiving allocations in those years. Capital credit refund checks will be available at the Annual Meeting in August for those in attendance. Checks that are not picked up at the meeting will be mailed shortly thereafter.

Should you discontinue service in the future, it is extremely important to keep your address updated with OCEC. This will insure that you receive future allocation information and a check if and when capital credits are refunded. Any unclaimed Capital Credit refunds are eventually escheated into the Otero County Electric Education Foundation, which provides educational scholarships for members and their dependents.

Capital credit allocations shown on your statement can not be applied to your energy bills.



Auld Completes Training

Colton Auld has successfully completed the Merchant Job Training and Safety Program (MJTS), one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel.

Colton began working for OCEC in June of 2017 as an apprentice lineman and started the 4-year training program. His completion of MJTS has insured his promotion to Journeyman Lineman at Otero County Electric. Congratulations to Colton who can look forward to a very rewarding life-long occupation!



Colton Auld recently completing training to become a Journeyman Lineman.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app. With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!)

Source: energystar.gov

2022 Election Information

There are four (4) positions on the Otero County Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees that are up for election. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting of Members to be held **Saturday, August 6, 2022** in the Cloudcroft High School Gymnasium in Cloudcroft, NM.

Trustees holding positions expiring in 2022 are listed below. Those elected for these positions will serve a **3-year term ending in 2025**.

Denny Burnett—Southeast District
Marty Mills—Central District
Tim Rabon—Southwest District
David Powers—Northeast District

Article IV, Section 3 of the Bylaws states:

SECTION 3. Nominations. Nominations for Trustees to be elected shall be by Petition signed by fifteen or more members acting together, and who are bona fide residents of the district for which the nomination is made. The Petition shall be filed not less than twenty-five (25) days or more than forty-five (45) days before the date of the Meeting of the Members in which Trustees are to be elected. Nominations for the position of Trustee from the floor, at the annual Meeting of Members, is not allowed.

The secretary shall include with the notice of the meeting, at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Trustees to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates. Notwithstanding anything contained in this SECTION, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this SECTION shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of Trustee.

Petition forms are available for pickup in any of our local offices in Cloudcroft, Alto or Carrizozo or downloaded on our website. According to the dates outlined in the bylaws, petitions **will only be accepted between Wednesday, June 22, 2022 and Tuesday, July 12, 2022**. Completed petitions may be turned in at any OCEC office.

Vegetation Management Update

Crews working to trim trees and vegetation in rights-of-way are currently in the following areas and are expected to remain there for the next few weeks

- Mescalero
- White Mountain Road—Mescalero
- Twin Forks to Mayhill
- Ponderosa Pines
- Chippeway

OCEC reminds members that you may see vehicles, ATVs and crew members from Rogers Tree Service cutting trees near existing power lines. Vehicles will be marked with their company name and an OCEC contractor placard.

June Employment Anniversary

Colton Auld—Journeyman Lineman—5 years
Kelly Chavez—Part-time Custodian—2 years
Nick Chavez—Journeyman Lineman—2 years
Saben Lessentine—District Operations Supv.—26 years
Tawnya Lucero—8 years



OCEC Offices will be closed Monday, July 4.

Mark your calendars
and plan to attend the
2022 OCEC Annual Meeting
on **Saturday, August 6!**

