



# POWER-GRAM

September  
2022

**Cloudcroft**  
575-682-2521  
**Alto**  
575-336-4550  
**Carrizozo**  
575-648-2352

[www.ocec-inc.com](http://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 Adam Raulerson

## *let's get all fired up*

# MEMBER APPRECIATION COOKOUT

Friday, September 23, 2022

11 AM - 2 PM

Cloudcroft Headquarters  
404 Burro Avenue

*Serving Hamburgers & Hot Dogs*

*Giveaways*

*Visit with OCEC employees & managers.*

*Ride in or test drive one of our ALL ELECTRIC vehicles!*

## OCEC Holds 2022 Annual Meeting

OCEC held its annual membership meeting on Saturday, August 6, 2022, at the Cloudcroft High School Gymnasium. Attendance of members in the meeting was good, and quorum numbers were met with 313 members registering.

The 2022 Annual Meeting Report was passed out with registration gifts and contained written officer reports for the President and Treasurer of the Board, as well as a report from the General Manager. The Annual Report is also available online at [www.ocec-inc.com](http://www.ocec-inc.com) or you can pick up a copy at your local OCEC office if you are interested in reading the updates about your cooperative.

Treasurer, Scott Shafer, did a brief financial update during the annual meeting and reported that the co-op is in good financial condition. The most significant information in Mr. Shafer's report was about a special capital credit retirement this year that was possible after the Paycheck Protection Program Loan received during the pandemic was forgiven. The forgiveness gave the Board the rare opportunity to retire almost \$1.3 million dollars using the LIFO (last in, first out) methodology. This allowed those who were members in 2021 to receive a check long before the typical 20+ years that it takes to receive a regular retirement check. This special retirement was in addition to the regular capital credit retirement for the years 1996-1998. Both retirements amounted to \$2,079,000 paid out to cooperative members this year. Members who attended the meeting were able to pick up their checks; others were mailed after the meeting.

Mario Romero, General Manager, spoke about what great organizations co-ops are and how being member-owned means that our only interest is in serving our members. Any decision made is focused on safety, reliability, and affordability for you, our members. Rates have been stable for many years at OCEC, and electricity remains very affordable, with prices staying well below the rate of inflation. The last rate increase for OCEC members was in 2020, and another is not expected at least through 2023, if not longer.

OCEC Education Foundation scholarship recipients were recognized,

and a brief overview of scholarship totals since the program inception was given. To date, there have been 341 students awarded \$1,397,450 in funding for continuing education. That number will grow again this year as the Board authorized an increase in the scholarship amount from \$8,000 to \$11,000 for eight semesters.

In addition to the regular scholarship, there was a \$4,000 scholarship made available to students enrolling in the Electric Lineworker Pre-Apprenticeship program at CNM in Rio Rancho. This program trains the next generation of linemen who will be tasked with keeping the lights on.

Elections were held with 4 uncontested races for positions of trustee. David Powers (NE District), Marty Mills (CN District), Tim Rabon (SW District), and Denny Burnett (SE District) all ran unopposed so will maintain their positions on the Board.

The meeting was also Livestreamed on our Facebook page. It is still available there for anyone who would like to watch.

After the meeting was adjourned, the drawing for over 100 door prizes was held and a tasty barbeque lunch was provided by the Cloudcroft Culinary Arts Program. Be sure to mark your calendars now for next year's meeting to be held on Saturday, August 5, 2023.

Recipients of the OCEC Education Foundation Scholarship were recognized during this year's meeting.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Our faucets and appliances use a lot of hot water. You can lower your water heating costs by using less hot water in your home. Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

*Source: Department of Energy*

## 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.

- Glencoe
- Twin Forks

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.

## September Employment Anniversary

John Gillen—Journeyman Lineman—15 years  
Cory Meeks—Staking Technician—1 year  
Jerry Porteous—Staking Engineer—9 years