



# POWER-GRAM

August  
2023

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A Monthly Newsletter for Members of

**OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Left: Photo by Kelli Pruett

## 2023 Annual Meeting of Cooperative Members

OCEC held its annual membership meeting on Saturday, August 5, 2023, at the Cloudcroft High School Gymnasium. Attendance of members in the meeting was good, and quorum numbers were met with 373 members registering.

The 2023 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. OCEC continues to increase plant value with improvements to the distribution system. The strong net margins also allowed capital credit patronage in the amount of \$800,000 to be refunded to members covering most of the unretired capital for most of 1998. This exemplifies the cooperative principle of returning to the member's net revenue not needed for operations. We can do this without any negative effects on the financial health of our co-op. Members who attended the meeting were able to pick up their checks; others were mailed after the meeting.

Mario Romero, General Manager, spoke about how cooperatives are unique community-based organizations, owned by the members, and operating on a non-profit basis. OCEC is a part of the communities we serve with employees most likely being your neighbors, friends, or maybe even family who work to deliver electricity to you safely, reliably, and efficiently. He also encouraged members to read monthly

publications, *enchantment magazine*, and the *PowerGram*, put out each month, and follow us on Facebook. All these media options allow us to communicate with you about important information affecting members and the cooperative.

One of the pillars of the cooperative model is neighbors helping neighbors, and Operation Round Up® (ORU) is one way that OCEC can make a big impact in their community without breaking the bank. Danica Newton gave a brief speech about how the funds received from ORU benefitted the Technology Student Association from the Cloudcroft School.

OCEC Education Foundation scholarship recipients were recognized, and a brief overview of scholarship totals since the program's inception was given. To date, there have been 364 students awarded \$1.56M in funding for continuing education.

Elections were held for three positions on the Board of Trustees. Bill Bird (NE District) and Kenny Blazer (SW District) ran unopposed so will maintain their positions on the Board. In the Central District, both Cheri Hass and Mario Estrada had submitted petitions to have their name placed on the ballot. However, before the meeting date, Estrada withdrew his name from the ballot, so Cheri Hass will also maintain her position on the board.

The meeting was live streamed on our Facebook page. It is still available there for anyone who would like to watch it and will also be posted on the company website.

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 3, 2024.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)

## 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.

- Alto area
- Sacramento
- Weed
- James Canyon
- Hay Canyon

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.

## Views from the 2023 Annual Meeting

