

MANY IN ATTENDANCE AT THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

members registering.

out with registration gifts. It contained written irritated, even threatening crews. online at www.ocec-inc.com. You can pick up a lawsuit. copy at your local OCEC office if you are interested in reading the updates about your OCEC Education Foundation cooperative.

Treasurer Scott Shafer did a brief financial program's inception in 1989 was given. To date, update during the annual meeting and reported there have been 392 students awarded \$1.72 that the co-op is in good financial condition. million in funding for continuing education. Operating margins for the year were strong, with net margins of \$1.3 million, However, it Elections were held for three positions on the should be pointed out that we deferred \$1.5 Board of Trustees. Preston Stone (NW District), million of operating revenue in 2023. This is the Scott Shafer (NW District), and Charlie Mulcock first time OCEC has used this financial tool. This (SE District) ran unopposed so will maintain deferred revenue can be used in the future for their positions on the Board. special projects or general operation expenses and may assist in delaying a rate increase for The meeting was live streamed on our members. The strong net margins also allowed Facebook page. It is still available there for capital credit patronage in the amount of anyone who would like to watch it. \$869.000 to be refunded to members. covering all of the unretired capital for 1998 and most of After the meeting was adjourned, the drawing 1999. This exemplifies the cooperative principle for over 115 door prizes was held and a tasty of returning to the member's net revenue not barbeque lunch was provided by the needed for operations. We can do this without Cloudcroft Culinary Arts Program. Be sure to any negative effects on the financial health of mark your calendars now for next year's our co-op. Members who attended the meeting meeting to be held on Saturday, August 2, could pick up their checks; others were mailed 2025. after the meeting.

Mario Romero, General Manager, spoke about the risk of wildfires, and how preventing a catastrophic wildfire is one of the co-ops highest priorities. Each year, OCEC spends over \$1 million on vegetation management and triple that amount on system maintenance. As you might imagine, preventing every tree, branch, or limb from coming in contact with almost 2,800 miles of power line in our service area is all but impossible, especially given 100+ foot tall trees, paired with easements that only allow us to maintain the right-of-way up to 15 feet from the centerline.

OCEC held its annual membership meeting on What we do in this arena has numerous Saturday, August 3, 2024, at the Cloudcroft High impacts on our members. The expense of tree School Gymnasium. Members attended the cutting vegetation management, right-of-way meeting well, and a quorum was met, with 317 maintenance, and line maintenance all increase expenses, which you pay in higher rates. As we are becoming more aggressive The 2024 Annual Meeting Report was passed with these efforts, many members get angry or Your officer reports for the President and Treasurer of cooperation is requested as the crews are the Board, as well as a report from the General simply trying to protect our communities and Manager. The Annual Report is also available membership from the next outage, fire, or

> scholarship recipients were recognized, and a brief overview of scholarship totals since the



President of the Board of Trustees, Charlie Mulcock, addresses the membership at the 85th Annual Meeting of Members held Saturday, August 3, 2024.



JULY CALENDAR PHOTO submitted by Kelli Pruett

AUGUST 2024

CLOUDCROFT 575-682-2521

ALTO 575-336-4550

CARRIZOZO 575-648-2352

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** 1-855-940-3957

WWW.OCEC-INC.COM

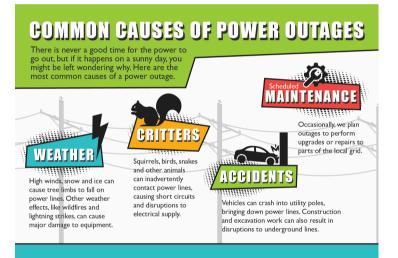
ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers, or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts. Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: energy.gov

WHAT CAUSES POWER OUTAGES

There's never a good time for a power outage, but you might be surprised to learn disruptions can occur from a variety of causes beyond the weather. Vehicle accidents and excavation work, small critters and scheduled repairs are also common causes of power outages. Whatever the reason, OCEC crews are always ready to respond and get your power back on as quickly and safely as possible.





Attendance was good at the 85th Annual Meeting. Members heard updates about the co-op's financial standing, vegetation management, scholarship funding, and learned other valuable information from Tri-State and NM Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Plus, a great tasting barbeque lunch was served and some fabulous door prizes were handed out. Make plans to attend next year!

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT UPDATE

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

- Lakeshore Drive, Crown Ridge, Avalanche Trail, & Elk Run - Alto
- Apple Valley Sugarloaf, Piney Woods, Chippeway Park, Section 13 Road & Elliot Ranch - Cloudcroft
- Glencoe

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.



Alto Lineman Garrett Hacker explains electrical safety to members at this year's Annual Meeting. Contact the Member Services Department if you would like an electrical safety demonstration at a function or meeting in your area.

to make a payment by phone or obtain your balance, please call **1-855-940-3957**