



POWERGRAM

A monthly newsletter for OCEC Members

LARGE CROWD ATTENDS THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

OCEC held its annual membership meeting on Saturday, August 2, 2025, at the Cloudcroft High School Gymnasium. Many members attended the meeting, and a quorum was met, with 379 members registering.

The 2025 Annual Meeting Report was passed out with registration gifts. It 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, 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. Overall, OCEC continued with steady performance in 2024. The total assets are \$131 million, and owner equity is \$43 million at year-end. The plant value grew 4%, as did the equity position to 33%. This is significant and confirms the financial strength of the cooperative. Our margin allocated to members in 2024 was \$2.4 million. Due to these strong operating results, we were able to defer \$1.4 million from the 2024 margins. This brings our total deferred revenue to \$2.9 million. The goal is for these funds to assist with unforeseen issues and hopefully delay the next rate increase.

The strong net margins also allowed capital credit patronage in the amount of \$857,000 to be refunded to members, covering all the unretired capital for 1999 and most of 2000. This exemplifies the cooperative principle of returning to the members' 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 could pick up their checks; others were mailed after the meeting.

During this year's annual meeting, Mario Romero, General Manager, shared key updates regarding the cooperative's ongoing vegetation management and right-of-way maintenance efforts. Following last year's focus on these issues, one substantive change is that we have transitioned the contracted Rogers Tree Service crews to in-house, cooperative-employed crews. In one of those rare, win-win scenarios, long-

time owners, Rick and Pam Rogers, worked with us to transition all their employees and most of their equipment to the cooperative.

Additionally, a pilot program utilizing a masticator attachment on an excavator for right-of-way clearing proved successful, particularly in rural areas. This new method significantly reduces the time required for clearing, demonstrating effectiveness in managing vegetation in less accessible areas.

The meeting also highlighted safety concerns for employees working in the field, especially after a recent incident where an employee was shot at during outage patrols. Attendees were reminded of the importance of recognizing field crews during outages and maintaining a safe distance.

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

After the meeting was adjourned, the drawing for over 100 door prizes was held, and the Cloudcroft Culinary Arts Program provided a tasty barbecue lunch. Be sure to mark your calendars now for next year's meeting to be held on Saturday, August 1, 2026.



A large number of members were in attendance at the 86th Annual Meeting of Otero County Electric Cooperative held Saturday, August 2, 2025.



AUGUST CALENDAR PHOTO
submitted by Conner Knehr

**AUGUST
2025**

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



OCEC employees, Leah Ross, Blanca Parker, Becky Wimsatt, and Rayce Collins watch the annual meeting after handing out capital credit checks to members who had electric service in 1999-2000.



Scholarship recipients wait to cross the stage to shake hand with board members. OCEC Education Foundation has contributed nearly \$2 million in funds since the program inception in 1989.



OCEC line personnel, Baylee Sanderson, Conner Knehr and Elias Orozco man the safety display, which helps educate students and members about the dangers of electricity.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.

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

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Delete deceptive emails. If you receive an email that appears to be from your electric utility but you are unsure about it, delete it. Never click on a link, open an attachment or send a reply to an untrusted source. When in doubt, contact your utility directly to report suspected email scams.

Source: *Utilities United Against Scams*



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.

- o Alto area - South Fork burn scar - Lakeshore Drive & Crown Ridge area
- o Cloudcroft - James Canyon

We kindly ask for your cooperation when you see crews working to keep these areas clear. This task plays a vital role in reducing fire hazards and ensuring consistent delivery of power to members.