

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

enchantment

OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

FEBRUARY 2022

A Place of Power

Explore Pueblo culture and history at
Pecos National Historical Park. **Page 14**

Pecos National Historical Park
visitors can see how Puebloan
people lived until the late-1830s
when most moved to Jemez.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Office Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (M-F)

Board of Trustees

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Vice President

Denny Burnett, SE District

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Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets the third Friday of the month at 9 a.m. at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Meet Your Trustees

Otero County Electric Cooperative Trustee Denny Burnett serves as vice president and represents members in the Southeast District. He was appointed to the board in 2015 after his predecessor retired from the position. Denny was then elected to maintain his position in 2016 and 2019.

Having been a Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour delegate when he was younger, Denny was familiar with electric co-ops and was excited about the opportunity to become a part of and contribute to a great organization.

He grew up in Las Cruces and Hope on a cattle ranch, graduated from Artesia High School and attended New Mexico State University. After college, Denny and his wife, Sherida, knew they wanted to raise cattle, so when the Lord provided the opportunity to lease the ranch they live on now, they went for it. In Denny's words, "God has seen us through and provided for us, even blessed us enough to expand our operation," with the recent purchase of a ranch that borders the place Denny grew up on south of Hope.

Denny and Sherida were high school sweethearts before getting married in 2009. They have three children: Kendi (9), Koy (7) and Kayton (5), with child No. 4 on the way. Being a full-time rancher and parent doesn't leave much time for hobbies or free time, but Denny enjoys helping his oldest show 4-H animals and even manages to fit in participating in a ranch rodeo now and then.

The Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is a weeklong co-op sponsored trip to Washington, D.C., that gives attendees the opportunity to learn about cooperatives and our nation's history and heritage.

"I vividly remember the sense of awe that I had while history came to life for me," Denny says. "It really did give me a greater sense of pride and love for my country. On that trip, I bought a copy of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, which I still have today. More importantly, I read those documents and they have shaped the way I try to walk out my life."

Denny is an advocate for Youth Tour at OCEC. He is proud to offer the chance to go on



OCEC Trustee Denny Burnett is supported by his family, from left, Koy, Sherida, Kayton and Kendi.

this trip to students in rural communities who might not otherwise have the opportunity to see our nation's capital.

Denny says a benefit of belonging to the cooperative is that it operates as a not-for-profit company. Any margins above what is necessary for the continuation of business are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

In addition, members have a say in the way things are done. Board members are elected and answer to the members. The board members must also be members of the co-op, so any decisions made affect them the same as every other member.

"As a board member, I answer to those who elected me," Denny says. "If I don't do a suitable job, then they will elect someone else."

"One thing I would like to share is that while we have quite a mess on our hands in this country these days, there is nothing new under the sun, and our problems are nothing God hasn't already seen or taken care of. I don't know all the answers, but the one thing I know for sure is we as humans will never be able to solve our problems alone. We live in a broken world, and the only hope we have is to put our faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The more we strive for that, the more our hearts can be changed and the closer we can come to fixing some of the problems that face us today."

Save Energy When Working From Home

By Abby Berry

More Americans are working from home, and more time spent at home means more energy used throughout the day.

If you are punching the clock from home, here are five steps you can take to reduce your energy use and save on electric bills:

Use a smart power strip. Plugging your most-used devices—such as computers, monitors and routers—into a smart power strip ensures these devices don't draw power when not in use. Smart power strips also allow you to select which devices stay in always-on mode.

Unplug your least-used equipment. If your home office includes printers and scanners, you probably are not using them daily. Unplug them, since they likely draw energy even when not being used.

Choose Energy Star-certified office equipment. When buying new equipment for your workspace, look for the Energy Star label to ensure you get the most energy-efficient features. Computers, monitors, imaging equipment and other office electronics that receive Energy Star ratings include power management



ABOVE: Take advantage of natural light and open blinds, curtains and other window coverings. ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY SNOWING12

features to make saving energy easy. Most are designed to run cooler and last longer.

Flip the switch and use natural light. Take advantage of daylight and additional warmth from the sun. Open blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light in during the day—and turn off the lights to reduce energy use.

Lower the thermostat. Home heating makes up a significant portion of

energy bills. Turn down the thermostat a few degrees during the day to reduce energy use and save money. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting the thermostat to 68 degrees or cooler during winter.

Working from home doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bills. Even if not working remotely, these tips can help you reduce energy use.

Keep Your Account Information Up to Date

Your phone number is used to help identify and locate your account information when reporting an outage to our after-hours dispatch center. If the number we have on file for you is not correct, it could keep us from getting to your location to restore electricity in a timely fashion. Please call our office today to verify and update all contact information, including mailing address, email address and phone number.

The only way Otero County Electric Cooperative can keep you up to date is with accurate contact information. ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY PANITAN

