

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MARCH 2022



What Happened to Sadie Orchard's Stagecoach? Page 14

Sadie Orchard's stagecoach now sits at Lincoln County
Courthouse at the Lincoln Historic site. PHOTO COURTESY
OF THE PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS PHOTO ARCHIVES

Otero County Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Chief Executive Officer

Mario Romero

Cloudcroft Office

404 Burro Ave. • P.O. Box 227
Cloudcroft, NM 88317
575-682-2521

Carrizozo Office

507 Twelfth St. • P.O. Box 669
Carrizozo, NM 88301
575-648-2352

Alto Office

1135 Hwy. 48 • P.O. Box 1135
Alto, NM 88312
575-336-4550

Emergency and Outages

800-548-4660

Fax: 575-682-3109

Website: www.ocec-inc.com

Office Hours

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

Board of Trustees

President

Charles Mulcock, SE District

Vice President

Denny Burnett, SE District

Secretary

Marty Mills, Central District

Treasurer

Scott Shafer, NW District

Kenny Blazer, SW District

Bill Bird, NE District

Cheri Hass, Central District

David Powers, NE District

Tim Rabon, SW District

Preston Stone, NW District

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

Longtime Alamogordo resident Tim Rabon is no stranger to hard work. He began working at the age of 14 setting up mobile homes. Within a year, he took a job in residential construction building homes in La Luz, where he worked until he graduated from Alamogordo High School in 1978.

After graduation, Tim moved to Las Cruces. He worked as a delivery driver for a plumbing supply company during the day and took welding courses at the Dona Ana County Occupational Educational Branch of NMSU from 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. for the 12-month course. Upon completion, Tim received his structural welding certification.

For the next few years, he worked as a welder in the iron-working industry, then in the oil and natural gas market. From 1986 to 1993, Tim partnered with his brothers to purchase a local plumbing company and the Mesa Verde Ranch—a cow-calf operation that is still in business today. They teamed up to start a construction business selling ready-mix concrete, hot-mix asphalt and other related aggregate products, as well as provide excavation and paving services. This business is also still in operation and has 130 local employees.

Tim and his wife, Debbie, have three adult



sons: Chaney, Thomas (wife, Whitney) and Samuel (wife, Brianna); and three grandchildren: Paisley, Noah and Abby. Tim's love and adoration for Debbie shined through when obtaining information for this article. He even mentioned she was one of his heroes.

When they married, Debbie was almost finished with her degree in electrical engineering, but abandoned her lifelong goal to follow Tim around Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico while he worked construction projects in the early years of their marriage and now as they attend various co-op related events for OCEC, NRECA and Tri-State.

"Debbie deserves a gold medal for tolerating me and my ventures over the past 32 years," Tim says before declaring she is the absolute best cook on Earth.



Fast Facts About Tim

Favorite TV Show: Gunsmoke

Favorite Movie : Lonesome Dove

Favorite Podcast: Thru the Bible With J. Vernon McGee

Biggest Pet Peeve: Rude behavior from men when around women and children

Heroes: His wife, Abraham Lincoln and George Catlett Marshal

Tim was elected to the OCEC board in 2010 to represent members in the Southwest District. His decision to run was influenced by his family's dependence on the co-op's supply of electricity for both his home and business operations in the Tularosa Basin.

In addition to serving on OCEC's board, Tim has been a member of the executive board for Tri-State Generation and Transmission—the co-op's electric supplier—since 2014. In August 2021, he was named chairman of the Tri-State Board of Directors.

"I am honored and very proud to have served this cooperative for the past 12 years and hope to continue to serve in this capacity as long as I bring value to the membership," Tim says. "Thank you for allowing me to serve in this role."

OPPOSITE PAGE: Tim Rabon, right, with his brothers, Randy and Jeff. **ABOVE:** Tim and his wife, Debbie. The two have been married more than 30 years.

In addition to his human family, Tim has a 22-year-old bay quarter horse named Chunky Kai that he purchased 20 years ago. He broke him, has roped and drug calves on him, used him for trail rides, to pack game and gear while hunting and anything else that needs to be done horseback. Tim also has two dogs: a Jack Russell named Susie who likes to be spoiled, and a blue heeler his

granddaughter named Rainbow. Around his fellow macho types, Tim tries to misrepresent her name and has learned that if he says it fast enough, he can make it sound like Rambo.

In his spare time, Tim likes to hunt, fish, fly airplanes and shoot custom long-range rifles. His ideal day off would be spent fishing with his family on the Piedra River in Colorado.

Electrify and Save

Powering up with electric garden and outdoor tools not only is reliable, it's also affordable. OCEC makes it even more affordable for our members by offering fantastic rebates for corded and cordless lawn mowers, trimmers, snow blowers, chain saws and power washers.

While there are many who still believe gas-powered lawn equipment is superior, there are benefits to electric equipment.

- **Less maintenance.** There are no spark plugs, fuel filters or oil to change.
- **Easier to maneuver.** They are lighter than gas-powered siblings, which means they are easier to move around tight corners and navigate through your yard.
- **Better for the environment.** They are a clean alternative to gas-powered engines.

- **Quieter operation.** They make less noise to disrupt neighbors.

We think battery-operated tools are great. We even have a few available in each of our offices to try if you are on the fence about which type of lawn tool to buy. That's right, we will let you try our trimmer, mower or leaf blower to help you make a decision between gas-powered or battery-operated tools.

Stop by your local OCEC office in Cloudcroft, Alto or Carrizozo to see what equipment is available and try it out today.

After your purchase, don't forget to complete and submit your application for a rebate from our energy-efficiency program.

Electric Power Equipment Rebates

Push mower or snow blower (36-volt minimum): 25% of cost up to \$150.

Riding mower: 25% of cost up to \$1,000.

Chainsaw: 25% of cost up to \$100.

Trimmer, pruner, blower or power washer: 25% of cost up to \$50.

Additional rebates from our power supplier, Tri-State, may be available. Applications will be evaluated and submitted to Tri-State by OCEC staff. Payment to member will be made upon approval.

Learn more about our Energy Efficiency Program and other rebates available by visiting our website.