

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

**OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

JANUARY 2023




Recognizing Changemakers

Roadside markers honor
New Mexico women **Page 12**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Yetta Kohn,
Sadie Creech Orchard, Sarah "Sally" Rooke,
María "Concha" Concepción Ortiz y Pino de
Kleven. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NEW MEXICO
HISTORIC WOMEN MARKER INITIATIVE. BACKGROUND
ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY PALADIN1212



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Chief Executive Officer

Mario Romero

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800-548-4660

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Website: www.ocec-inc.com

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 at 9 a.m. the third Friday of the month at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Operation Round Up Helps Local Organizations Every Year

Otero County Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up Program has distributed more than \$774,000 to community-minded groups, organizations, and individuals in Otero and Lincoln counties since its inception in 2012.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which members agree to have their utility bill "rounded up" to the next whole dollar amount. The extra money assists area nonprofit organizations, school groups, fire departments, senior citizen groups and individuals.

The average annual contribution per member is approximately \$6. That amount may not sound powerful, but when donations from all members are combined, Operation Roundup can offer an immense amount of assistance in our community.

Participation in Operation Round Up is voluntary, but OCEC has a high participation rate. More than 83% of members contribute each month.

Organizations that have received funding from this program in 2022 include:

- Ski Apache Adaptive Sports: \$2,500.
- Hope Harbor: \$2,500.
- Otero County Fair Livestock Exhibitors: \$550.
- Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce: \$2,000.
- Cloudcroft HS Technology Student

Association: \$2,500.

- Eddy County Fair Livestock Exhibitors: \$150.
- Lincoln County Fair Livestock Exhibitors: \$3,900.
- Alamogordo HS Volleyball: \$2,500.
- Cloudcroft Football: \$2,500.
- Sacramento Mountain Historical Society: \$2,500.
- Tiger Booster Club: \$2,500.
- Tularosa FFA: \$2,500.
- Tularosa Wildcat Football: \$1,200.
- James Canyon Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary: \$2,500.
- Carrizozo Music, Inc.: \$1,000.
- Friends of Historic Lincoln: \$2,500.
- Mescalero Violence Against Women Program: \$2,500.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Otero County: \$2,500.
- Carrizozo Women's Club: \$900.
- Mescalero Apache School Robotics Team: \$2,400.
- Otero County 4-H Youth Development: \$500.
- Pinon Extension Club: \$2,500.

Thank you to all our members who participate in this community-minded program. Information on how to apply is available at www.ocec-inc.com.

Scholarship Opportunities Available

The Otero County Electric Cooperative Education Foundation began awarding scholarships to area students in 1989. Since its inception, more than \$1.4 million have been awarded to students attending a New Mexico university, college or technical school.

The scholarship is \$1,000 per semester for the first two semesters. It increases to \$1,500 per semester for an additional six semesters if the required GPA is maintained and the student continues enrollment.

To be eligible, the student must be an active member receiving electric service from OCEC. Applications are available at OCEC offices, at www.ocec-inc.com or from your school counselor.

The deadline to apply is March 15.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative will award

scholarships to upcoming high school graduates who receive electric service from OCEC and will attend a post-secondary school during the fall of 2023. This scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the achievements of children of member-cooperative consumers.

The scholarship is administered by BEPC in conjunction with OCEC.

Scholarship applicants must be U.S. citizens who plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

Applications are available at OCEC offices, from your school guidance counselor or can be downloaded at www.ocec-inc.com.

Applications are due to OCEC by February 15.

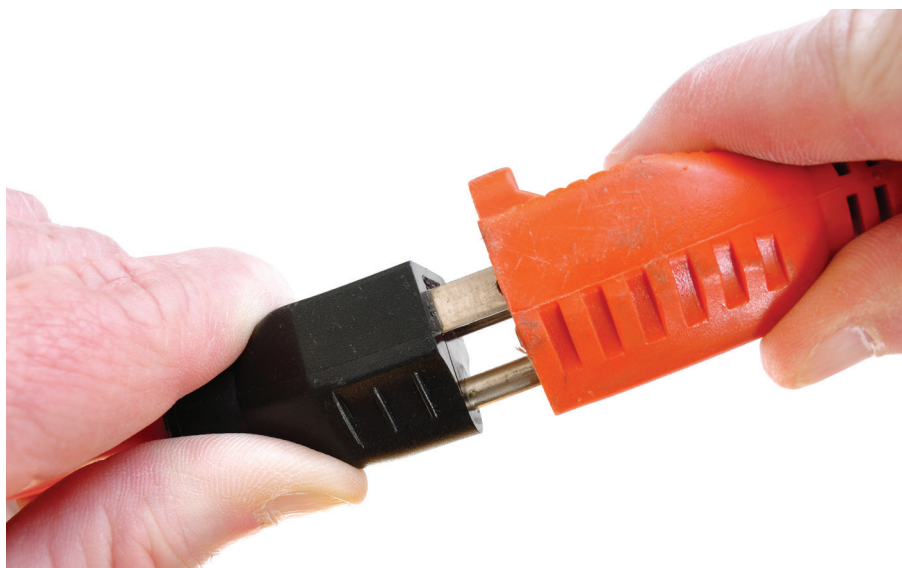
Resolve to Eliminate Electrical Hazards

Check plugs, outlets, cords and fuses to ensure a safe living space

Protecting your family from electrical shocks, house fires and tripping hazards is easier to do than losing 20 pounds or quitting smoking, so make safety New Year's resolution No. 1.

To help you do that, the Energy Education Council offers these tips:

- **Inspect your outlets.** Loose-fitting plugs can surprise someone with a shock or even start a fire. If your wall plate is broken, replace it so wires are not exposed. Insert plastic safety caps into unused outlets if your family includes young children.
- **Make peace with plugs.** If a plug does not comfortably fit into an outlet, do not force it. Never remove the grounding pin (third prong) to fit a three-prong plug into a two-prong outlet.



Extension cords are for temporary use. Don't get carried away. ADOBE STOCK IMAGE BY MARK HERREID

- **Be careful with cords.** They are not designed to last forever. Discard frayed or cracked cords. Move them out from under carpets or rugs.

- **Pack up extension cords.** They are fine to connect strands of holiday lights together and help decorations reach plugs during December. But come January 1, pack them up and store them.

- **Watch your wattage.** The lightbulbs in your lamps and overhead fixtures should match the specifications on those fixtures. A bulb whose wattage is too high can overheat.

- **Upgrade the wiring.** Faulty electrical wires start many house fires. If you hear popping or sizzling sounds behind the walls or if light switches feel hot, do not use those fixtures or switches until a licensed electrician replaces them.

- **Find no fault.** Ground-fault circuit interrupters are a must in every outlet in the kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, basement, garage and outdoors.

- **Fuss with your fuses.** If you do not know if your fuses are the right size for the circuit they are protecting, call an electrician.

- **Adjust appliances.** If a circuit trips every time you plug in your hair dryer, or if your coffeemaker has ever shocked you when you plugged it in, you have faulty appliances or an overloaded circuit. An electrician can identify and solve your problem.

- **Get what you need.** Unless you live in a new house, you probably use more electricity than the builder ever dreamed you would. Call an electrician to determine if your home needs more electrical capacity.

Otero County Electric offices are closed for the new year on Monday, January 2.

2023
HAPPY NEW YEAR

ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY MH