

The Voice of New Mexico's  
Rural Electric Cooperatives

# enchantment

**OTERO COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

AUGUST 2023

## Pie Town

This New Mexico town has long been known for its decadent assortment of desserts and pies **Page 14**.

A homesteader feeds his daughter at the Pie Town Fair free barbecue in October 1940. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS





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 12th 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](http://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 at 9 a.m. the third Friday of the month at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# GET SMART

## About Home Lighting

By Abby Berry

Gone are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating homes. While this tried-and-true option is still available, a new era of innovative and intelligent technologies—including smart lighting—has started.

Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

**Smart lighting is energy efficient.** Most smart bulbs use LED technology, which is more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy use.

**Smart lighting provides convenience and control.** Most smart bulbs can be controlled from a smartphone app or can be paired with a voice assistant, such as Amazon Alexa. Light settings can be conveniently controlled from anywhere inside or outside the home.

Whether a schedule for lighting or an adjustment in brightness levels is needed, these smart options offer effortless control from anywhere.

**Smart options empower homeowners to personalize home lighting.** From bright to warm or purple to green, whatever mood you

want to create, smart lighting can help.

For a more traditional look, try dimmable white bulbs. If you want to create the perfect ambiance for movie night, look for bulbs that can be adjusted for a variety of vibrant colors.

While smart lighting offers convenience and control, keep in mind a wall light switch will need to stay “on” so the bulb receives power, which enables it to connect to a Wi-Fi network and enables you to control the smart bulb from a phone or via voice command.

If additional options are needed to operate the lights, consider a smart light switch. Today's smart switches tend to play nicely with smart bulbs.

To control your smart bulbs with a physical switch (in addition to using your phone and voice commands), look for smart switches that include a built-in feature that allows both. Many smart light switches include motion detectors.

If you are looking to take the plunge and integrate multiple smart bulbs into the home lighting system, one option is a kit, such as the Philips Hue starter kit. Most kits include several bulbs and any additional tools needed to get started.

If you are new to smart home technology and looking to start small, try a smart bulb in a high-traffic area of the home. It's also worth noting smart plugs are a great starter option and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet.

Smart plugs are inexpensive. Electrical items connected to the smart plug can be controlled from a smartphone app, just like smart bulbs.

Whether you are looking for more convenience, colorful options or better ways to manage energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits. Determine which smart lighting features are most important for your needs, then start shopping.



# 84th Annual Meeting of Members

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2023**

**Cloudcroft HS Gymnasium**

**Cloudcroft, NM**

**REGISTRATION**

**8:30 A.M.**



**MEETING**

**10:00 A.M.**

## **ELECTION of TRUSTEES**

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 of Otero County Electric Cooperative's Bylaws, the following candidates were nominated by petition:

### **Central District**

Mario Estrada

Cheri Hass

### **Northeast District**

Bill Bird

### **Southwest District**

Kenny Blazer

**Barbeque lunch is served  
after the business meeting.**

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