

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

enchantment

**OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

SEPTEMBER 2023

If You Build It

Cuervo Mountain RV
Park wins a national
award for medium-sized
campgrounds **Page 14**

In the past five years, Rick Anaya has built Cuervo Mountain RV Park into an award-winning facility.

PHOTO BY MYKE GROVES

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 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

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.

COME & JOIN US FOR A FABULOUS AFTERNOON



MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER

22



CLLOUDCROFT
HEADQUARTERS
404 BURRO AVENUE

11:00AM - 2:00PM

HAMBURGERS & HOT DOGS
GIVEAWAYS
TEST-DRIVE AN EV
VISIT WITH EMPLOYEES AND TRUSTEES



Happy Labor Day!

Otero County Electric Cooperative is closed Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day. OCEC and the board of trustees wish you a happy and safe Labor Day!



The annual meeting was August 5 in the Cloudcroft High School gymnasium. Those present could win door prizes.

OCEC Holds Annual Membership Meeting

Co-op returns \$800K in capital credits and boasts strong community impact

Otero County Electric Cooperative held its annual membership meeting August 5 in the Cloudcroft High School gymnasium. Attendance of members in the meeting was great, and quorum numbers were met with 373 registered members and more than 600 people attending.

The 2023 annual meeting report was passed out with registration gifts and 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 available at www.ocec-inc.com. Members may pick up a copy at their local OCEC office.

Treasurer Scott Shafer had a brief financial update during the annual meeting. He reported the co-op is in good financial condition. OCEC continues to increase plant value with improvements to the distribution system. The strong net margins also allowed capital credit patronage in the amount of \$800,000 to be returned to members, covering most of the unretired capital for most of 1998. This exemplifies the cooperative principle of Members' Economic Participation, which encompasses returning members the net revenue not needed for operations. OCEC does

this without any negative effects on the financial health of the co-op. Members who attended the meeting were able to pick up their checks. Checks for those who weren't in attendance were mailed after the meeting.

General Manager Mario Romero spoke about how cooperatives are unique community-based organizations, owned by the members and operating on a not-for-profit basis. OCEC is a part of the communities we serve. Our employees are your neighbors, friends and family who work to deliver electricity to you safely, reliably and efficiently. Mario also encouraged members to read monthly publications such as *enchantment* magazine and *PowerGram* and to follow the co-op on Facebook. Using various mediums allows OCEC to communicate important information affecting members and the cooperative.

One of the pillars of the cooperative model is neighbors helping neighbors. Operation Round Up is one way OCEC can make an impact in the community. Danica Newton gave a brief speech about how the funds received from ORU benefited the Technology Student Association from Cloudcroft High School.

OCEC Education Foundation scholarship recipients were recognized, and a brief overview of scholarship totals since the program's inception was given. To date, 364 students have been awarded \$1.56 million in funding for continuing education.

Elections were held for three positions on the Board of Trustees. Bill Bird (NE District) and Kenny Blazer (SW District) ran unopposed. They maintain their positions on the board. In the Central District, incumbent Cheri Hass and Mario Estrada submitted petitions to have their names placed on the ballot. However, before the meeting date, Mario withdrew his name from the running. Cheri maintains her position on the board.

The meeting was livestreamed on the OCEC Facebook page and is available to view. The meeting footage also is posted on www.ocec-inc.com.

After the meeting was adjourned, there was a drawing for more than 100 door prizes, and the Cloudcroft High School Culinary Arts Program provided a barbecue lunch.

Mark your calendars for the 85th Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, August 3, 2024.