

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

**OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

MAY 2024


Seeing the Light

The rise of solar power generation
in New Mexico **Page 14**



Tri-State Generation and Transmission runs
Escalante Solar Project in Prewitt, New
Mexico. PHOTO COURTESY OF TRI-STATE
GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION



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 8:30 a.m. the third Friday of the month at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Board of Trustees Nominations

Three positions on the Otero County Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees are up for election. Elections will take place at the annual meeting of the members Saturday, August 3, 2024, in the Cloudcroft High School gymnasium in Cloudcroft.

Trustees holding positions expiring in 2024 are:

- Charlie Mulcock—Southeast District
- Scott Shafer—Northwest District
- Preston Stone—Northwest District

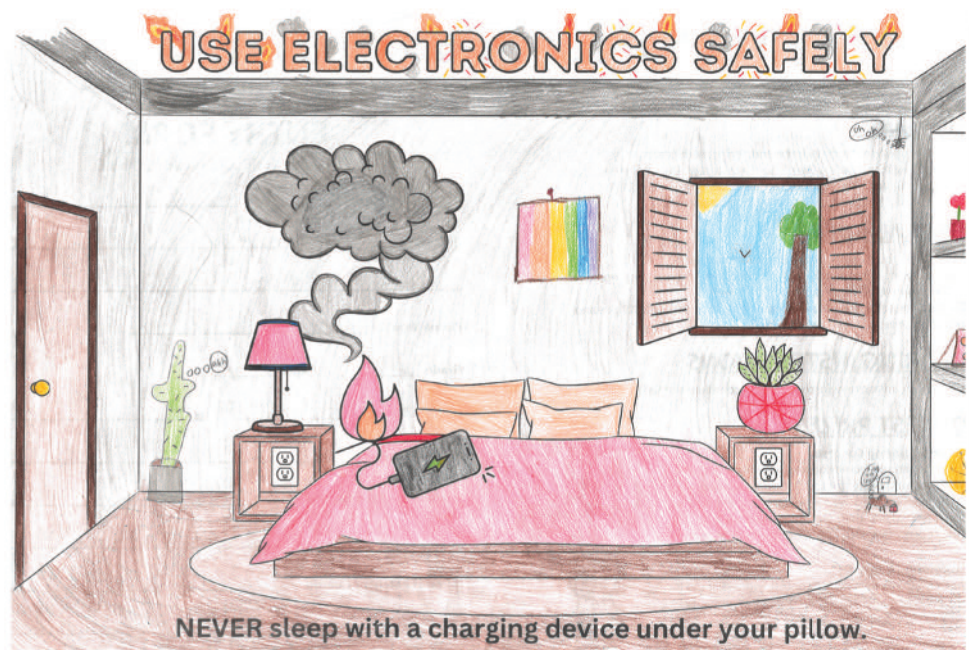
Those elected for these positions will serve a three-year term ending in 2027.

Petition forms are available for pickup in any of OCEC's local offices in Cloudcroft, Alto or Carrizozo, or can be downloaded at www.ocec-inc.com beginning June 1. According to the dates outlined in the bylaws, petitions will only be accepted between June 19 and July 9. Completed petitions may be turned in at any OCEC office.

Article IV, Section 3 of the Bylaws States:

SECTION 3. Nominations. Nominations for Trustees to be elected shall be by Petition signed by fifteen or more members acting together, and who are bona fide residents of the district for which the nomination is made. The Petition shall be filed not less than twenty-five (25) days or more than forty-five (45) days before the date of the Meeting of the Members in which Trustees are to be elected. Nominations for the position of Trustee from the floor, at the Annual Meeting of Members, are not allowed.

The secretary shall include with the notice of the meeting, at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Trustees to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates. Notwithstanding anything contained in this SECTION, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this SECTION shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of Trustee.



OCEC Coloring Contest Winner Announced

Everlee Cornella, a third grade student at Cloudcroft Elementary School, was the winner of Otero County Electric's Safety Coloring Contest. Everlee's winning poster will be framed and returned with a cash award from OCEC. Congratulations, Everlee!

Otero County Electric Cooperative wishes members a meaningful Memorial Day. Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, May 27, 2024, for the holiday.

HOME ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Safety is Smart, Prevention is Power

Each year, electrical malfunctions account for **35,000 home fires** causing over **1,130 injuries**, **500 deaths**, and **\$1.4 billion in property damage**.

The average American home was **built in 1977**. Many existing homes **simply can't handle** the demands of today's electrical appliances and devices.

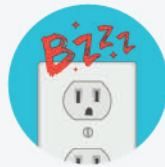
! Learn the warning signs of an overloaded electrical system:



Frequent **tripping of circuit breakers** or **blowing of fuses**



Dimming of lights when other devices are turned on



Buzzing sound from switches or outlets



Discolored outlets



Appliances that seem **underpowered**

⚡ How to avoid overloading circuits:



Label your circuit breakers to understand the different circuits in your home



Have your home **inspected by a qualified electrician** if it's older than 40 years or has had a major appliance installed



Have a qualified electrician **install new circuits** for high energy use devices



Reduce your electrical load by using **energy-efficient appliances and lighting**