

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

**OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

JULY 2024


MASTERING THE FLAMES

A Comprehensive Guide to
Summer Grilling Safety **Page 14**



ADOBE STOCK
PHOTO BY KAMPUS



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.

5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

1. Raise your thermostat.

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

2. Install window coverings

like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.

3. Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping

around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.

4. Run ceiling fans

for additional cooling, but turn them off when you leave the room.

5. Lower your water heater thermostat

to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.



Source: Dept. of Energy



Otero County Electric Cooperative offices are closed Thursday, July 4. We wish members a safe and happy Independence Day!

Otero County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

85TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

www.ocec-inc.com

- Lunch will be served after the meeting
- Door Prizes
- Giveaways
- Elect Three (3) Trustees

 August 3, 2024

 Cloudcroft High School Gym
Cloudcroft, NM

REGISTRATION – 8:30 AM
BUSINESS MEETING – 10:00 AM

enchantment (ISSN 0046-1946) is published 10 times a year—every month except June and December—by the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperatives, 614 Don Gaspar Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87505. enchantment provides reliable, helpful information on rural living and energy use to electric cooperative members and customers.

More than 113,000 families and businesses receive enchantment magazine as electric cooperative members. Nonmember subscriptions are available at \$12 a year or \$18 for two years, payable to NMREC. Allow four to eight weeks for first delivery.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE paid at Santa Fe, NM 87501-9998 and additional mailing offices.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Postmaster, please send address changes to 614 Don Gaspar Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87505-4428. Readers who receive the publication through their electric cooperative membership should report address changes to their local electric cooperative office.

THE NEW MEXICO RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES provide legislative and educational services to the cooperatives that are members of the association and deliver electric power to New Mexico's rural areas and small communities. The mission of the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperatives is to strengthen, support, unify and represent cooperative member interests at the local, state and national levels. Each cooperative has a representative on the association's board of directors, which controls the editorial content and advertising policy of enchantment through its Publications Committee.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Morrow, President, Springer Electric Co-op, Springer; Charles G. Wagner, Vice President, Western Farmers Electric Co-op, Anadarko, Oklahoma; Duane Frost, Secretary-Treasurer, Central NM Electric Co-op, Mountainair.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles Pinson, Central Valley Electric Co-op, Artesia; Chris Martinez, Columbus Electric Co-op, Deming; Keith Gottlieb, Continental Divide Electric Co-op, Grants; Antonio Sanchez, Farmers' Electric Co-op, Clovis; Manny Bustos, Jemez Mountains Electric, Española; Bobby Ferris, Lea County Electric Co-op, Lovington; James Ortiz, Mora-San Miguel Electric Cooperative, Mora; Thomas G. Rivas, Northern Rio Arriba Electric Co-op, Chama; Preston Stone, Otero County Electric Co-op, Cloudcroft; Gene Creighton, Roosevelt County Electric Co-op, Portales; George Biel, Sierra Electric Co-op, Elephant Butte; Joseph Herrera, Socorro Electric Co-op, Socorro; Joe Reeser, Southwestern Electric Co-op, Clayton; Wayne Connell, Tri-State G&T Association, Westminster, Colorado.

NEW MEXICO RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

614 Don Gaspar Ave. Phone: 505-982-4671
Santa Fe, NM 87505 Fax: 505-982-0153
nmelectric.coop enchantment.coop

Charise M. Swanson, CEO, cswanson@nmelectric.coop
Lonnie Tucker, Vice President, Communications, ltucker@nmelectric.coop

DISPLAY ADVERTISING: Rates available upon request. Co-op members and New Mexico display advertisers, email Shaylyn at enchantmentads@nmelectric.coop or call 505-252-2540. National representative: American MainStreet Publications, 800-626-1181.

Advertisements in enchantment are paid solicitations and are not endorsed by the publisher or the electric cooperatives that are members of the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperatives. PRODUCT SATISFACTION AND DELIVERY RESPONSIBILITY LIE SOLELY WITH THE ADVERTISER.

© 2024 New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperatives, in partnership with Pioneer Utility Resources. Reproduction prohibited without written permission of the publisher.

July 2024 CONTENTS

- 04 Your Electric Co-op
- 06 The enchanted CEO
- 10 Hale to the Stars
- 12 A Life Changing Trip
- 14 Mastering the Flames
- 16 Co-ops and the Constitution
- 20 On the Menu
- 30 Youth Art



**Take a photo of you holding
YOUR MAGAZINE AND WIN!**

Take a photo of yourself or someone else with the magazine and email it with a few words about the photo. Include your name, mailing address and co-op name.

One lucky member will win \$20. Submitting your photo(s) gives us permission to publish or post the photo(s) in enchantment, on Facebook and in other media outlets.

Email tcondit@nmelectric.coop

Congratulations to
James and Olivia Casaus, Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative members, who took their March enchantment to San Sebastian, Spain, where their daughter Adrianna was studying abroad. Brothers Joaquin, Santiago and Marcos also joined the trip.

James and Olivia win \$20!

