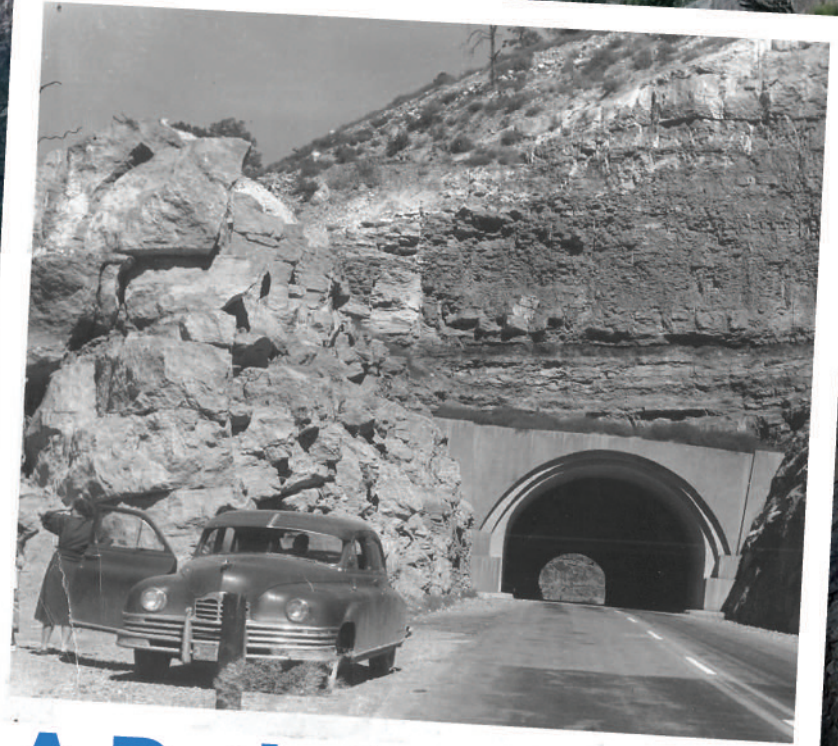


enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

SEPTEMBER 2025




A Path for Power

Cloudcroft Tunnel eases access to
electric services **Page 14**

The Cloudcroft Tunnel makes travel between Alomogordo and Artesia
significantly faster. BACKGROUND PHOTO BY EILEEN FLINT, INSET PHOTO
COURTESY OF SACRAMENTO MOUNTAINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Office Hours
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday)

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.

OCEC Members Receive \$857K in Capital Credits

At the annual meeting, members heard updates on the co-op's financial status, vegetation management

Otero County Electric Cooperative held its annual membership meeting Saturday, Aug. 2, at the Cloudcroft High School Gymnasium. A quorum was met with 379 members registering.

The 2025 Annual Meeting Report was passed out with registration gifts. It contained written officer reports from the president and treasurer of the board, as well as a report from the general manager.

The Annual Report is available online at ocec-inc.com. Members can also pick up a copy at their local OCEC office if they are interested in reading the co-op's updates.

Financial Update

During the annual meeting, Treasurer Scott Shafer briefly updated the membership on the co-op's financial status.

Overall, OCEC maintained steady performance in 2024. Total assets were \$131 million, and owner equity was \$43 million at year-end. The plant value grew 4%, and the equity position rose to 33%, reaffirming the continued financial strength of the cooperative.

The margin allocated to members in 2024 was \$2.4 million.

Based on these strong operating results, OCEC was able to defer \$1.4 million from the 2024 margins. This brings our total deferred revenue to \$2.9 million. Our goal is for these funds to assist with unforeseen issues and hopefully delay the next rate increase.

The co-op's strong net margins also allowed \$857,000 in capital credit patronage to be retired to members, covering all of the unretired capital for 1999 and most of 2000. This reflects the cooperative principle of returning unused revenue to members—all without harming our co-op's financial health. Members at the meeting picked up their checks; remaining checks were mailed after the meeting.

Vegetation Management

Key updates regarding the cooperative's ongoing vegetation management and right-of-way maintenance efforts were shared by General Manager Mario Romero.



The annual meeting drew a large crowd.
PHOTOS BY OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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let's get all fired up

MEMBER APPRECIATION COOKOUT

Friday, Sept. 19, 2025 ~ 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Cloudcroft Headquarters ~ 404 Burro Avenue

Serving Hamburgers & Hot Dogs Giveaways Visit with OCEC employees & managers

Ride in or test drive one of our ALL ELECTRIC vehicles!

Following last year's focus on these issues, OCEC has transitioned from using contracted Rogers Tree Service crews to in-house, cooperative-employed crews. In one of those rare, win-win scenarios, longtime Rogers Tree Service owners Rick and Pam Rogers worked with OCEC to transition their employees and most of their equipment to the cooperative.

Additionally, a pilot program using a masticator attachment on an excavator for right-of-way clearing proved successful, particularly in rural areas. This new method significantly reduces the time required for clearing, demonstrating effectiveness in managing vegetation in less accessible areas.

In other business, the meeting also highlighted safety concerns for employees working in the field, especially after a recent incident where an employee was shot at during outage patrols. Members were reminded of the importance of recognizing field crews during outages and maintaining a safe distance.

Elections

Elections were held for four positions on the OCEC Board of Trustees:

- CN District: Marty Mills
- NE District: David Powers
- SE District: Denny Burnett



- SW District: Tim Rabon

The four trustees ran unopposed and will maintain their positions on the board.

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

Be sure to mark your calendars now for next year's meeting Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026. ■

OCEC line personnel, from left, Baylee Sanderson, Conner Knehr and Elias Orozco staff the safety display, which helps educate students and members about the dangers of electricity.