

ENCHANTMENT

THE VOICE OF NEW MEXICO'S RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

**OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

OCTOBER 2026



ABOVE: Denny Burnett attended the Government-in-Action Youth Tour in 2006. RIGHT: Now, Denny has a family and is an Otero County Electric Cooperative Board Member. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DENNY BURNETT



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

From Youth Tour to the Boardroom

Two decades after traveling to Washington, D.C., Denny Burnett is helping give a new generation of students the same opportunity **Page 14**

★
Your Co-op.
Your Community.
Your Magazine.



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: ocec-inc.com

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.

Local Voices SHAPE Local Solutions

October is National Co-op Month

When you hear the word cooperative, what comes to mind? As your local electric co-op, we hope you think of Otero County Electric Cooperative. Regardless of the services offered, all cooperatives have one thing in common: They're led by the people they serve. That simple idea makes a meaningful difference.

Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, such as Ocean Spray and Land O'Lakes, help farmers bring their products to market. Retail cooperatives, like Recreational Equipment Inc. and Ace Hardware, are owned by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while housing cooperatives give residents a voice in managing their communities. And utility cooperatives—such as OCEC—provide reliable, affordable electricity to the communities they serve.

Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Their goal isn't simply to earn a profit—it's to provide value, meet unique local needs and strengthen the communities they call home.

That's exactly what makes OCEC different.

Our story began in 1939 when neighbors came together to bring electricity to an area when other utilities wouldn't. While a lot has changed since then, our purpose has remained steady. We're still here to provide power and make decisions with our community's best interests in mind.

Being locally owned means we have the flexibility to focus on what matters most to the communities we serve. That's why no two electric cooperatives are exactly alike. Every

community has different needs, and every cooperative reflects those priorities.

For some co-ops, that means expanding programs that help members save energy and money. Others may focus on supporting economic development, investing in new technology or creating new opportunities for local students.

Membership comes with another important benefit: capital credits. Because OCEC is a not-for-profit cooperative, margins remaining after expenses are allocated to members based on their use of electricity. When the cooperative's financial condition allows, a portion of those capital credits is returned to the members who helped build the cooperative's equity.

These programs are different in purpose, but they grow from the same cooperative principle: The people who receive service from OCEC are also the people the cooperative exists to serve.

You'll also find the co-op difference in the little things. It's the lineworkers restoring power after a storm. The employees answering your questions when you call. The team members volunteering at community events. The board members—your neighbors—who help guide decisions for the future.

We're your neighbor and local energy partner, and we're committed to serving this community for generations to come.

During National Co-op Month, we invite you to join us in celebrating the cooperative difference. Whether it's OCEC, your local credit union or Ace Hardware, cooperatives prove that when people work together, everyone benefits.

Your membership is what makes our mission possible—and it's what keeps us focused on serving the people and communities that matter most. ■



enchantment.coop

Worker

Membership: Workers who share profits and decision-making

Producer

Membership: Product processors and marketers

Consumer

Membership: Customers who buy goods and services

Utility

Membership: Essential service customers

Financial

Membership: Banking, insurance and lending customers

Retail

Membership: Businesses seeking bulk purchasing and shared marketing

Housing

Membership: Residents who make decisions and control costs

Kinds of Co-ops

Cooperatives come in many forms—from electric utilities and credit unions to farm supply stores and housing co-ops. But all cooperatives are built with a common purpose: to meet the needs of the members they serve.

Co-ops strengthen local communities, keep decisions close to home and invest in long-term success.