

## A Solid Investment In Your Electric Co-Op

As a member of OCEC, you make an investment in the co-op every time you pay your bill. This collective investment in the co-op benefits you and the community immediately and over time. So what exactly is this monthly investment, and how do you benefit from it?

The system charge is a monthly investment that helps your co-op cover the expenses of maintaining the overall electric system. Combatting cyber security threats and maintaining poles, wires, substations and co-op equipment takes strategic planning and significant resources. The system charge essentially ensures that all equipment operates properly and staff is trained and ready so the lights turn on when you need them.

Regardless of how much electricity a particular family uses, the cost of delivering power to that house is the same. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe the operational costs should be spread fairly and equitably across all of our members, regardless of the level of electricity use. That is why every member pays the service charge each month to cover basic operational costs.

Your monthly investment ensures you have access to safe, reliable and affordable power when you need it. We appreciate and value the investment that you make in the co-op each month, and we strive to use that investment wisely for the benefit of all members of our community.

### There's Still Time!

There's still time to apply for the Otero County Electric Education Foundation Scholarship! The scholarship is \$1,000 per semester and is renewable for up to four years. Applications may be downloaded at [www.ocec-inc.com](http://www.ocec-inc.com) or picked up from your school counselor or local OCEC office. Deadline for applications is **Wednesday, March 15, 2017**.

### Did you know?

You can obtain your account balance, pay your bill or set up automatic payments by calling our interactive voice response system (IVR) at 1-844-846-2695. This is a simple, convenient way to access your electric account information 24 hours a day.



**Don't forget to set SPRING FORWARD on March 12 for Daylight Savings Time.**

## Outdoor Safety Tips

- Listen to the weather forecast before you venture outdoors. If you know a storm is coming, consider rescheduling the activity for a safer time.
- Stay close to shelter. If you see lightning and then hear thunder within 30 seconds, find cover. If you hear thunder only, lightning probably isn't far behind. Once the thunder stops, stay indoors for 30 more minutes.
- The best shelters are permanent, enclosed buildings, like houses. Dugouts, bleachers, and open gazebos will not protect you from a lightning strike.
- If you're boating or swimming, get out of the water and off of the beach or shoreline.
- Stay away from trees.
- A car isn't an ideal shelter during a storm, but being inside one is better than being in the open.
- Once the storm passes, stay away from fallen power lines and report them to Otero County Electric immediately.
- Your best bet for safety is to make a plan so you know what to do if you see lightning. If it doesn't happen, great! If it does, you'll know what to do.

### Board of Trustees



**Charles Mulcock**  
President • SE District



**Matt Flotte**  
Vice President • Cent. District



**Fred Hansen**  
Secretary • NE District



**Scott Shafer**  
Treasurer • NW District



**Bill Bird**  
Trustee • NE District



**Shawn Bell**  
Trustee • SW District



**Denny Burnett**  
Trustee • SE District



**Marty Mills**  
Trustee • Central District



**Tim Rabon**  
Trustee • SW District



**Preston Stone**  
Trustee • NW District

### Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets the third Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the cooperative.



# OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

**Cloudcroft Office**  
404 Burro Avenue  
PO Box 227  
Cloudcroft, NM 88317  
575-682-2521

**Carrizozo Office**  
513 12th Avenue  
PO Box 669  
Carrizozo, NM 88301  
575-648-2352

**Alto Office**  
1135 Hwy. 48  
PO Box 1135  
Alto, NM 88312  
575-336-4550

**Emergency/Outages**  
1-800-548-4660  
**Fax**  
575-682-3109  
**General Manager • Mario Romero**

**Website Address**  
[www.ocec-inc.com](http://www.ocec-inc.com)  
**Office Hours**  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (M-F)