



POWER-GRAM

**November
2020**



A Monthly Newsletter for Members of

**OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Cludcroft

575-682-2521

Alto

575-336-4550

Carrizozo

575-648-2352

www.ocec-inc.com

LOBBY HOURS

8 AM - 4 PM

Monday - Friday

**TO REPORT AN
OUTAGE, CALL
1-800-548-4660**

**FOR BALANCE
INFORMATION
OR TO PAY YOUR
BILL, CALL
1-844-846-2695**

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OCEC Trustee Elected to Serve on Tri-State Board

OCEC's wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State) held its 68th Annual Meeting virtually in early August. Discussion at the meeting focused on progress and implementation of Tri-State's Responsible Energy Plan with updates on strong operational and financial performance in 2019. Additionally, election of officers was held and Tim Rabon came out the winner of a top leadership role on the executive committee.

Rabon has served on the OCEC Board since 2010 as trustee representing members in the Southwest District and has served on the executive board for Tri-State since 2014. His recent election as Vice-Chairman to the Tri-State Board is a testament to the strong leader and successful businessman he is. OCEC General Manager Mario Romero agrees. "Tim's election to this position comes as no surprise to those of us that know him well. His dedication, integrity, and leadership make him a great Board Member here locally. His peers at Tri-State obviously see the same attributes in Tim, electing him as Vice-President at a time

when Tri-State is undergoing a major transition. I can't overstate what an accomplishment this is. Tri-State is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative just like OCEC, but Tri-State operates in four states and has annual revenues exceeding \$1 billion. Tim's election to the number two position on Tri-State's board speaks volumes about his leadership abilities."

Tri-State is one of the largest generation & transmission cooperatives in the country and has become a leader in the industry, responsibly transitioning to renewable energy, while maintaining reliability, and recently committing to reduce member rates by 8% by the end of 2023. Congratulations, Mr. Rabon and thank you for your continued service to cooperative members here at OCEC and across the Tri-State membership.



**We are thankful and grateful for our
members, friends, and families!**

**Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Thursday & Friday
November 26-27, 2020**



Vegetation Management Update

Crews working to trim trees and vegetation in rights-of-way are currently in the following areas and are expected to remain there for the next few weeks

- Capitan
- Cloudcroft
- Pinon
- Timberon

OCEC reminds members that you may see vehicles, ATVs and crew members from Rogers Tree Service, Wilson Thinning and Penasco Gravel trimming and cutting trees near existing power lines. Vehicles will be marked with their company name and on OCEC contractor placard.

Co-op Remembers Former General Manager

Otero County Electric Cooperative would like to offer condolences to the family of Bill Mershon who passed away on October 23, 2020.

Bill's father, John Mershon was one of the incorporating members of the cooperative and served on the OCEC Board from 1939-1947, so it was no surprise that Bill became a valued employee and life-long supporter of OCEC. Bill worked as the co-op's engineer before becoming the general manager where he served longer than any other GM in OCEC's history, serving for 20 years, from 1982 until his retirement in 2002.

Bill not only served his cooperative, but also his community. He offered his wisdom and dedicated countless hours to numerous boards for banks, hospitals, schools and more. He will be genuinely missed by those who had the honor of knowing him.

No services will be held at this time. Donations can be made in Bill's honor to the Otero County Fair Association, a cause that he devoted a great deal of time and energy to, promoting area youth in true cooperative spirit.

Please keep his wife, Marilyn, and the entire Mershon family in your thoughts and prayers.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: energystar.gov

**For account balance or
to pay by phone, call toll free,
1-844-846-2695**

October Employment Anniversary

Andy Carrell—Safety Officer—22 years
Matt Chavez—Crew Chief—9 years
Jake Chesney—Apprentice Lineman—1 year
Janscen Davis—Equipment Operator—5 years
Kathy Davis—Operations/Eng. Assistant (PT)—23 years
Tanner Dean—Apprentice Lineman—1 year
Isaiah Dominguez—Apprentice Lineman—1 year
Wesley Green—Journeyman Lineman—5 years
Garrett Hacker—Apprentice Lineman—1 year
John Martin—Meter Reader—22 years
Sam Sanchez—Apprentice Lineman—3 years

November Employment Anniversary

Wes Gaskill—Vegetation Mgmt. Coordinator—16 years
Kathy Powell—New Construction Rep.—12 years
Luisa Ruiz—Member Service Representative—4 years
Mike Winrow—Meter/Collections Supervisor—25 years

Winter Season Disconnect Moratorium Notice

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2020. To avoid potential disconnection of service please contact the Human Services Department at 800-283-4465, or the appropriate tribal or pueblo entity for eligibility information for Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2020, through March 15, 2021, if you meet the qualifications of LIHEAP and have no past due amounts or you remain current on any settlement or installment agreement for amounts due as of November 15, 2019. Member of New Mexico tribes or pueblos who need help with translation or with other matters may contact the commission's consumer relations division at 888-427-5772, who will contact the appropriate tribal or pueblo official for assistance.

Deck your halls with LED holiday light strands - they're 70% more energy efficient than the old incandescent bulbs.

