



# POWER-GRAM

June  
2021



A Monthly Newsletter for Members of

**OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Left: Photo by Damon Marez

## Cloudcroft

575-682-2521

## Alto

575-336-4550

## Carrizozo

575-648-2352

[www.ocec-inc.com](http://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**

## 2021 Election Information

There are six (6) positions on the Otero County Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees that are up for election. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting of Members to be held **Saturday, August 7, 2021** in the Cloudcroft High School Gymnasium in Cloudcroft, NM.

Trustees holding the positions that expired in 2020 are listed below. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic an annual meeting was not held in 2020 so the election of these positions was postponed until the next in-person meeting could be held. Trustees elected for these positions will serve a **2-year term ending in 2023**.

Cheri Hass - Central District

Bill Bird - Northeast District

Kenny Blazer - Southwest District

Trustees holding the positions expiring in 2021 are listed below. Those elected for these positions will serve a **3-year term ending in 2024**.

Preston Stone - Northwest District

Charlie Mulcock - Southeast District

Scott Shafer - Northwest District

**Article IV, Section 3 of the Bylaws states:**

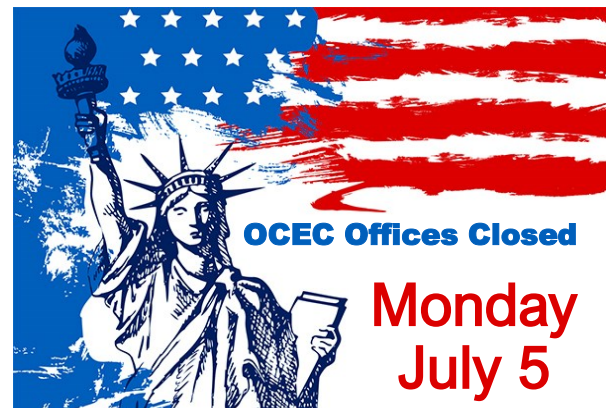
**SECTION 3. Nominations.** Nominations for Trustees to be elected shall be by Petition signed by fifteen or more members acting together, and who are bona fide residents of the district for which the nomination is made. The Petition shall be filed not less than twenty-five (25) days or more than forty-five (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, is 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.

Petition forms are available in any of our local offices in Cloudcroft, Alto or Carrizozo or be downloaded on our website. According to the dates outlined in the bylaws, petitions **will only be accepted between Wednesday, June 23, 2021 and Tuesday, July 13, 2021**. Completed petitions may be turned in at any OCEC office.

**2021 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, August 7**  
**Cloudcroft HS Gym**

A special drive-thru registration option will be held at the OCEC HQ building for those members who are not comfortable attending the meeting in person. More details to come in next month's PowerGram.



## Assistance Available

During the pandemic, there has been a moratorium on electric shutoffs, but that will be ending soon and disconnects for non-payment will resume. OCEC understands the financial hardship COVID-19 has had on our members so there are options available to those needing assistance.

If you are struggling to pay your electric bill, call our Credit Department at **575-682-7607** to set up a payment plan. Representatives will be happy to work with you to find an arrangement that fits your situation.

You may also qualify for other types of assistance that are available from other programs. Below is a list of additional organizations offering assistance to those affected by the pandemic.

### **RENTHelpNM.ORG**

Offering assistance for the following:

- Rent
- Utility bills, including electric and gas
- Water and sewer
- Trash removal, fuel oil, wood and pellets

### **LIHEAP**

Complete the on-line application through the Yes NM portal at [www.yes.state.nm.us](http://www.yes.state.nm.us) or call your local New Mexico Human Services Office.

Otero County—575-437-9260

Lincoln County—575-378-1762

### **SOUTHEAST NM COMMUNITY ACTION CORP.**

Otero County—575-437-1364

Lincoln County—575-887-3939

## Capital Credit Allocations

How much of Otero County Electric Cooperative's margins from last year will YOU receive? Your June 2021 electric bill lists the amount allocated to your capital credit account based on last year's margins. The information will appear on the left hand side of the bill, above the kWh Usage History.

As an OCEC member, you have a share in the earnings of your not-for-profit electric cooperative. The allocation reflected on the bill represents your share of the operating margins (excess of income over expenses) realized by your cooperative for the year indicated. The margins are allocated to all members who received electric service from the cooperative in proportion to the amount each member paid for electric service.

The money represented by members' capital credits (also known as patronage capital) is used by your co-op to repay long-term debt, maintain reserves for financing of plant replacements, storm damage, and other contingencies. Because patronage capital is used in this manner, it is not refunded immediately. Instead, the amount of capital credits is recorded on an account established in your name and made a permanent part of the cooperative's records. Should the

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month to two months to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

*Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)*

## 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

- Hondo Valley
- Hay Canyon
- Agua Chiquita

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

## June Employment Anniversary

Colton Auld—Apprentice Lineman—4 years

Kelly Chavez—Custodian—1 year

Nick Chavez—Journeyman Lineman—1 year

Saben Lessentine—District Operations Supv.—25 years

Tawnya Lucero—Member Service Rep.—7 years

Board of Trustees determine that a refund of patronage capital credits be made, they will be refunded in accordance with the bylaws of the cooperative. This year, OCEC retired Capital Credits for 1996 and a portion of 1997, refunding \$750,050 to members receiving allocations in those years. Capital credit refund checks will be available at the Annual Meeting in August for those in attendance. Checks that are not picked up at the meeting will be mailed shortly thereafter.

Should you discontinue service in the future, it is extremely important to keep your address updated with OCEC. This will insure that you receive future allocation information and a check if and when capital credits are refunded. Any unclaimed Capital Credit refunds are eventually escheated into the Otero County Electric Education Foundation, which provides educational scholarships for members and their dependents.

Capital credit allocations shown on your statement can not be applied to your energy bills.

