

FEC POWER *Source*

Vol. 26 No. 05

Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Riley and Bidegain Re-elected at 84th Annual Meeting of Members

Farmers' Electric Cooperative held its 84th Annual Meeting of members Saturday, May 14, 2022, at the Fort Sumner High School Gym, Fort Sumner, New Mexico with 157 members and their guests present. Board President,



Vice-President George Dodge, Jr. speaking to crowd

Michael West, called the business meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Ernest Riley (District 2 - Melrose), Donnie Bidegain (District 7 - San Jon/Logan) both ran unopposed and were re-elected by acclamation. Terms for FEC Trustee positions are three years.

Thanks go out to all those in attendance and all the employees who worked to help make the annual meeting a huge success. Employees who worked, (not eligible for annual meeting door prizes), did participate in a separate

drawing. The winner, Levi Bickham, Apprentice Lineman from Melrose, will receive a gift certificate to his favorite restaurant, courtesy of Farmers' Electric. Congratulations Levi!

Congratulations also go out to Sally Griego of Santa Rosa for winning this year's grand prize of \$1,000 in free electricity! Two "first-time" attendee prizes, (\$50 energy certificates), were also awarded. A child's grand prize, an 8" Android Tablet was awarded to a lucky young lady in attendance. There was a total of 106 prizes awarded to adults and children.

A special "Thank You" goes out to Fort Sumner Schools, Sharon Rowely, and Matt Moyer for making us feel so welcome. Thanks to the Fort Sumner Vixen basketball program and Coach Jasi Roberts for all their help serving the meal to approximately 308 guests. Also, thanks to Samantha Griego and the Daily Grind Restaurant of Fort Sumner for catering an exceptionally good traditional BBQ lunch.



Lance Adkins (left) retiring CEO/GM and Antonio Sanchez, Jr. (right) new CEO

Grady Alumni Memorial Dinner!

Sunday, May 29, 2022
Allen Hall

- Lunch served at 11:30 a.m.
- Grady Ext. Club providing a home-cooked meal!
- Meeting after the meal!
- 50 Year Grady High School Class of 1972!

Donations are appreciated and go to the Grady Alumni Scholarship Fund and Cemetery Fund

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Manager's Message...**Lance Adkins, GM**

Goodbyes Are Never Easy

It is with mixed emotions that I write this final message as General Manager of Farmers' Electric (FEC). There are so many more things I want/need to tell folks about! As many

are aware, I will be retiring in June, having worked for the membership of FEC for just over 42 years. It seems like just yesterday, I was working part-time for Safeway grocery in Clovis, looking for full time work. Pamela, my fiancée at the time, and I were engaged to be married and full-time work would better support a growing family. A coworker

at Safeway told me about a position in the line-department at the company where her husband worked, FEC. Though I had grown up in Clovis, and driven by the old FEC office many times, I was unaware of who FEC was or what they did. At the same time, I also applied for a position at ENMR/Plateau, a good friend of the family was operations manager over the outside crew, so I figured I had a better than even shot with ENMR. I learned later that the ENMR operations manager said, "I might have hired ol' Lance if his hair wasn't so long." Like many, as I look back over my life and career, I can see points in time, crossroads really, where seemingly small events shaped my future. It would appear the timing of a simple haircut was instrumental in my future at FEC.

Another of those crossroads came in March 1992, I was now a lineman, though FEC did not have a formal apprenticeship program at the time. I had been in Las Cruces most of week attending a Basket Truck (Bucket) School. Other FEC crew attending the school took Friday off, I chose to work. It was a simple job, upgrading residential services just north of Clovis. Our supervisor decided to leave our brand-new basket truck at the office and complete the work old-school. While climbing down through service wire attachments I took my safety-belt loose, and in the blink of an eye, I was on the ground. After ten days in the hospital, I was wheeled out several pounds heavier with multiple screws, rods and pins in my right foot, right femur, and right arm. I was fortunate, after several months of recovery I was able to return to linework, though climbing was not as enjoyable as before! Within the year a position opened in the office, Director of Member Services, and the General Manager, Cliff Stewart, decided to give me a shot. It was a short five-years later when the FEC Board of Trustees took another chance, deciding to give me a shot at "The Big-Show."

I am confident in the Board of Trustee's grasp of the ever-changing utility industry as well as their support of the FEC management team and employees. Your Board of Trustees spent the time necessary in selecting the next Chief Executive Officer, Antonio Sanchez. Antonio has local roots too, having served as General Manager for Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative, Portales, and is very familiar with the challenges we face here in New Mexico. Layle (Sealey) Sanchez, Antonio's wife, grew up on the FEC system just north of Clovis. More

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than once, Layle’s dad, Joe Sealey, pulled us out of a muddy ditch on a rainy night as we worked to retore power in the area.

I am very grateful for the opportunities I have been given at FEC and the tremendous support I have received through the years from the Board, from coworkers, and many of you. It is these relationships I will miss most, though we do not plan to leave the area, this is home.

It has been a pleasure serving you,

FEC’s 84th Annual Meeting



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Sanchez Named FEC’s New CEO



Antonio R. Sanchez, Jr., M.S.E., P.E.

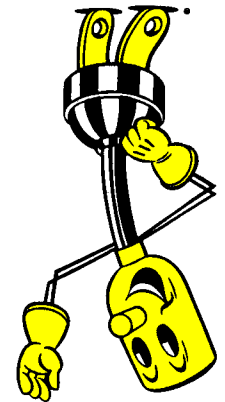
Antonio Sanchez, Jr. was recently hired to serve as Farmers’ Electric Cooperative’s seventh CEO since 1938.

Antonio has been employed at Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (RCEC) for more than twenty-two years, having served in the capacities of Engineering Manager and General Manager & Executive Vice-President. He is a licensed, Professional Engineer in the states of Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. He is also a graduate of the NRECA, Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program.

Antonio received his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from New Mexico State University in 1994 along with Minors in Mathematics and Economics. He received his Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Arizona State University in 1999.

Antonio married his college sweetheart, Layle (Sealey) Sanchez, of Clovis, NM in 1995 and together have three children; Haston, Aubrie and Gavin. Antonio began his engineering career with Westinghouse Hanford Company, in WA State, at the Department of Energy’s Hanford Nuclear Site, working as a cognizant/plant electrical engineer. A few years later, he moved to Scottsdale, Arizona to work for Motorola in their Space & Systems Satellite Division as a power converter test engineer. In 1999, Antonio and his wife moved back to New Mexico, where he begin his electric cooperative career at RCEC.

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