

# FEC<sup>®</sup> POWER

## Source

Vol. 25 No. 06

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

## Nominating Committee Reports for the 2021 Annual Meeting

**D**istrict No. 1, (Clovis), District No. 4, (Santa Rosa), and District No. 6, (Broadview/Grady) Nominating Committee meetings were held during the month of May, 2021.

**District No. 1** Committee, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, met at FEC's Clovis office on May 20, 2021. Following deliberations, **Justin Barnes** was nominated by the committee to represent District No. 1.

**District No. 4** Committee, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, met at FEC's Santa Rosa office on May 21, 2021. Following deliberations, **George Dodge, Jr.** was nominated by the committee to represent District No. 4

**District No. 6** Committee, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, met at FEC's Clovis office on May 24, 2021. Following deliberations, **John (Pat) Woods** was nominated by the committee to represent District No. 6.

# My Co-op

**F**urthermore, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Cooperative, any qualified member of the Cooperative residing in Districts 1, 4, or 6 wishing to be on the Annual Meeting ballot as a candidate,

may do so by petition. Article IV, Section 3 (d) reads, "Any fifty (50) members, in good standing with the Cooperative, residing in a district from which a trustee is to be elected, may make nominations by petition for a trustee from that district, providing such nominating petition is filed in the principal office of the Cooperative not less than 20 days prior to the annual meeting."

The filing deadline this year is **July 2**. If you have any questions, or wish to have more information regarding the proceedings, please call Lance Adkins at the Cooperative's Clovis office at 800-445-8541 or 575-762-4466 or by email at [lance@fecnm.org](mailto:lance@fecnm.org).

## Annual Meeting Information

**W**e look forward to visiting with you on Saturday, July 24, 2021 at the Cooperative's 83rd Annual Meeting of Members. The meeting will be held in Santa Rosa, New Mexico, at the Santa Rosa High School gym. Door prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served following the business meeting.

Because Farmers' Electric is locally owned and operated, your involvement is crucial. Mark your calendar today and plan to attend the Annual Meeting of *your* coop-

- Registration: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m.
- Reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees
- Election of Trustees from Districts 1, 4, and 6
- Door Prizes for adults and children



Lunch will be served following the business meeting (approximately 11:30 a.m.)

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

## Recent Storms Bring Much Needed Moisture and More

**A**s spring transitions to summer, the month of May has been good as most of our service area finally received some rain! In talking with Cooperative members and employees it seems most of the Farmers' Electric (FEC) service area has received at least some moisture. Attending a meeting in Tucumcari recently, I noticed the Quay Valley looked like the Emerald Valley, green and lush, at least when compared to most of the FEC service area.

Recent storms have brought more than rain, thunderstorms have also produced large hail and high winds; it looks as though most of the homes in my neighborhood will get new roofs this summer. Winds from these storms have also been a challenge, with more damage than we would normally expect. On a Friday night in early May I received a call requesting assistance from the General Manager of our neighbor, Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative (RCEC). A storm in their area had damaged some 29 transmission poles and over 30 distribution poles. FEC crews worked from sunup to sundown on Saturday, along with crews from RCEC and Lea County Electric Cooperative (LCEC), restoring service to most all customers by the end of the day. I recall being thankful we were not hit!

Just a week later, it was our turn as a storm rolled through the Grady area downing 17 transmission poles just north of Grady and more than 10 distribution poles in the Grady service area. Results from this storm demonstrated once again the "power" in powerline as crews reported 5 head of cattle dead by electrocution as the cattle were apparently "investigating" a downed pole and line that was still energized. I cannot emphasize enough the dangers posed when working with, on, and around energized powerlines. It is impossible to determine, just by looking, if a line is energized.

Another weekend, another storm with damaging results as FEC loses another 8 transmission poles and 10 distribution poles between Tucumcari and Lesbia. On the bright side, our transmission pole losses have been between switching points, enabling crews to isolate the damaged section and restore transmission service to affected substations relatively quickly. FEC crews then

See **STORMS** on **PAGE 3**



**Board of Trustees:**  
**Mike West**  
*President*  
**George Dodge**  
*Vice President*  
**Donnie Bidegain**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*  
**Justin Barnes**  
*Trustee*  
**Judy Smith**  
*Trustee*  
**Ernest Riley**  
*Trustee*  
**Pat Woods**  
*Trustee*

**General Manager:**  
**Lance R. Adkins**

### **POWER SOURCE**

is published monthly by Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. Questions or article ideas should be directed to :  
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We are on-call 24 hours each day, 365 days each year, to serve your electric power needs

To Report an Outage Call:

**Clovis**  
 (575) 762-4466  
**Fort Sumner**  
 (575) 355-2291  
**Santa Rosa**  
 (575) 472-3971  
**Toll Free**  
 (800) 445-8541

STORMS *from* PAGE 2

focused on distribution and service repairs. We are also thankful for our area electrical contractors who have been quick to respond with help when needed and assist with transmission repairs over the following days. Best of all, I understand Ute Lake is up several feet and pastures are finally greening up.

For me, the month of May is special too, I began my career at FEC 41 years ago, the youngest employee on the payroll at that time. I still recall my first day on the job, riding along with Jack Manning, the lineman I would apprentice under. That first day I was made to understand the danger posed by a downed powerline. We were working a trouble call about a pole down and came across a pole laying across the bar-ditch with the line still tied to the insulator, jutting out into the roadway. Jack got on the two-way radio to call in the location as I pulled on my work gloves and got out of the truck. Jack told me to stay put, but I continued around to the front of the truck. Jack, using some “colorful language” told me to get back in the truck. As there were no reported outages in the area, Jack assumed the line to be energized and we guarded the pole until another crew could check the upline breaker. As it turned out, the line was energized, and I was just seconds’ away from my first day on the job also being my last, perhaps the last day of my life.

Over my 41 years with FEC I have become all too familiar with the results of living things coming in contact with high-voltage electricity. Please do not take any chances; if you see a pole or line down, or something that just does not look right, give us a call – your safety is our first priority!

See the graphic to the right on **Step Potential** for more information on what it is and how to avoid its danger.

Unitl next month,



# STEP POTENTIAL



## What you need to know:



A downed line does **NOT** have to be arcing or sparking to be energized — and dangerous.



Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be killed or seriously injured.



The **danger** exists **beyond** the point where the downed line is making direct contact with a vehicle or the ground.

Electricity can flow **360°** around it.

### What is step potential?

If a person connects **two different points** of this gradually decreasing voltage by **walking away, stepping out of a vehicle, or touching the vehicle and ground** at the same time — electricity flows through the individual (path to ground).



### Stay safe.

If you're in a car accident that involves downed lines, **stay in the car**. If you come upon a scene with a downed line, stay far away and **call 911** to have the utility notified.



**“Stay safe and live!”**

Electric Safety pamphlets available by calling FEC at 1-800-445-8541





The moratorium on disconnects associated with the New Mexico Health order has ended. If you have an **outstanding balance** with FEC, contact us today to make arrangements to pay. We will be happy to work with you. Please call (800) 445-8541 and ask to speak to someone in Billing.

There is also additional "Utility Payment" aid available through the state's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). Under ERAP, New Mexico residents (those that are renters) can apply for assistance with: rent, utility bills, water and sewer, fuel oil, firewood, pellets, and expenses related to housing costs such as hotel/motel costs.



For more information, go to [renthelpnm.org](http://renthelpnm.org)



**Attention Farmers' Electric Members: Please Take Our Survey**

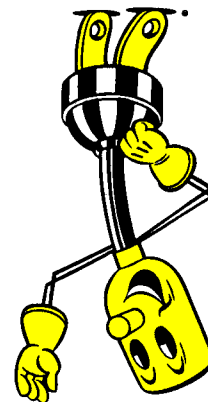
If you are a Residential member of Farmers' Electric Cooperative, please take a few minutes (10-15) to complete this important survey from our wholesale power company, WFEC. The purpose of the survey is to gather data related to energy usage patterns among members to help us plan for future needs. The survey is anonymous with no identifying information collected.

We know your time is valuable, and we appreciate your effort to participate in the survey.

This link will take you to the survey and you can get started: [forms.office.com/r/6svykSRdkD](https://forms.office.com/r/6svykSRdkD)  
Thank you in advance for your help.



Are you a senior 60+ years of age needing help paying your utilities? If so, go to: [helpnm.com](http://helpnm.com) and see if the folks at HelpNM can assist you. You can also call: 1-800-432-2080. Don't be ashamed, Covid-19 has caused financial hardships for many.



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**FARMERS' ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
**OF NEW MEXICO**

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