

FEC POWER

Source

Vol. 23 No. 03



Nominating Committee Reports for the 2019 Annual Meeting

District No. 2, (Melrose) and District No. 7, (San Jon/Logan), Nominating Committee meetings were held on March 4 and March 6, 2019.

District No. 2 Committee, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, met at Melrose Tire & Restaurant in Melrose on March 4, 2019. Following deliberations, **Ernest Riley** was nominated by the committee to represent District No. 2.

District No. 7 Committee, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, met at Del's Restaurant in Tucumcari on March 6, 2019. Following deliberations, **Donnie Bidegain** was nominated by the committee to represent District No. 7.

My Co-op

Furthermore, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Cooperative, any qualified member of the Cooperative residing in Districts 2 or 7 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 **April 19, 2019**. 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.

Waste Less Hot Water

Every drop of hot water you conserve could add up to savings on your energy bill.

Think about how often you run the hot water faucet or an appliance that uses hot water - and whether you could either turn it off or use cold water instead.



- **Swap your old showerhead** for a low-flow model that bears the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense label. Typical showerheads deliver 2.5 gallons per minute.
- **Set a timer** for five minutes, and turn the shower off when the alarm rings. Five minutes is more than enough time for anyone to shower. Also, turn the water off while you lather up your hair, and turn back on to rinse out the shampoo.
- **Plug the sink** while you're shaving rather than running water the whole time to rinse your razor under the spigot. You could save up to 300 gallons of water and energy.
- **Soak pots and pans** instead of scraping them under running hot water. They'll clean up quicker and you'll save water and energy.
- **Fix a leaky hot water faucet.** Often, it's a simple repair, but even replacing it will cost less than you'll pay for years of wasted water and energy that drips away.
- **Wait until you have a full load** in the dishwasher before you run it.

Manager's Message...

Be Prepared for Wildfire



Lance Adkins, GM

It feels like Spring, with warm daytime temperatures and wind. Unfortunately, our area is very dry, with scant precipitation since this past fall across much of the Farmers' Electric (FEC) service area. Wildfire conditions are extreme, and officials are preparing for a difficult fire season.

Rainfall this past summer provided for growth of native grass and weeds. Nature knows just how to utilize the scant rainfall during the growing season and produced a generous supply of grass and weeds, which are now tinder dry, increasing the danger of

wild fire. Over the past few weeks unseasonably warm temperatures, low humidity, and strong winds have been a factor in several grass fires in our region. Another factor has been human activity, creating the initial "spark" and quickly growing out of control.

Wildfire was a part of life in our area even before the first homesteads and towns were established. Each year wild fire impacts many folks in our area; often we hear of considerable property loss, and tragically, lives have been lost in recent years. Wildfire is difficult to contain, pushed along by strong winds, moving along a wide front. One large fire a few years back was measured at 20 miles in width, moving across the prairie almost as fast as the wind was blowing.

According to fire officials, one key to protecting property is to keep the area around our home and property mowed and cleared of brush and weeds. When looking for the cause of a fire, officials note that in most cases, fires are caused by people, carelessly disposing of fireplace ashes, burning weeds or trash, welding/cutting metal or even sparks from a loose chain dragging behind the truck or trailer. Several fires were attributed to hot exhaust from a car or truck driving through tall grass and weeds



Fire can also start by downed power-lines and other damage caused as high wind events blow through the area. A fire last year damaged several FEC power poles causing one to fall. When we received the initial call of a downed pole from firefighters we were also aware that we had not received any outage reports; the line was down and still energized.

It is much easier for firefighters to protect homes and property if homeowners have taken ample precautions well before a fire begins by limiting fuel sources like brush and tall grass around the home and outbuildings. Area fire departments are on high alert and have several suggestions folks can take to reduce fire hazards around the home and property:

See **WILDFIRE** on **PAGE 3**

- Board of Trustees:**
Mike West
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George Dodge
Vice President
Donnie Bidegain
Secretary-Treasurer
Paul Quintana
Trustee
Pat Woods
Trustee
Billy Tate
Trustee
Ernest Riley
Trustee

General Manager:
Lance R. Adkins

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WILDFIRE from PAGE 2

- Be sure you are fully prepared before burning brush, garden debris, or grass. If state, county, or community has issued a burn-ban; please obey it. To control your fire you will need a source of water and hand tools for making firebreaks and throwing dirt. If the wind is blowing or forecast, don't start a fire!
- If your fire escapes or you see a wildfire, report it to your local fire department immediately; time is very important.
- Never store flammable material like firewood or lumber under or near your home. Keep it at least 100 feet away from the house.
- Be sure firefighters can identify the entrance to your property. Mark the drive with sturdy, easy-to-read signs with your name and address.
- Inspect outside electrical wiring. Old service wires that run to out-buildings can be a fire hazard. The old weather-proof covering on the wire may be worn away by trees or fall off over time, exposing the energized conductor. If exposed wires touch each other or a well-grounded object, they will spark. If the sparks fall on dry wood, brush or grass, a fire may result. If you suspect that your wiring is in poor condition have it inspected and repaired by a qualified, licensed electrician.
- Remember, overhead High-Voltage power-lines are NOT insulated. If you notice a broken pole, cross-arm or wire, notify Farmers' Electric at once. A downed power-line is a fire hazard and a safety hazard.

Until next month,



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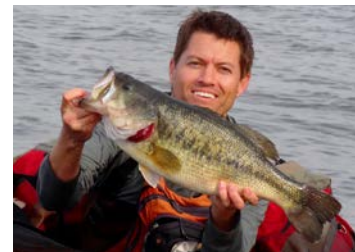
We look forward to visiting with you on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at the Cooperative's 81st Annual Meeting of Members. The meeting will be held in Melrose, New Mexico, at the Melrose High School gymnasium. Door prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served following the business meeting.

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* cooperative.

- 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 2 & 7
- Door Prizes for adults and children



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



4th Annual Big Bass Shootout!

**Sumner Lake State Park, NM
Open Team Tournament
Saturday, April 27, 2019**

- Entry fee: \$100 per team in advance (check or M/O made payable to **Melrose Senior Center**)
- 50/50 Payback! "Big" Bass Pot!
- This team tournament is a **fund-raiser for the Melrose Senior Citizen Center.**

For more information call Mark Latham at
(575) 309-4496

10 Spring Energy Savings Ideas from the Energy Guys!

1. **Air Dry:** Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.

2. **Turn it off:** Use timers and motion detectors to turn off lights and be sure to unplug TV entertainment systems when traveling (use power surge protection strips for easy on/off switching) and don't leave your computer and monitor on needlessly.

3. **Don't get burned with hot water:** Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees and add a water heater blanket. Water heaters are the second highest source of energy consumption in the home.

4. **Fill it up please:** Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes. Also, wash your clothes in cold water as today's laundry detergent is formulated to be used with cold water.

5. **Keep 'em clean:** Check furnace, heat pump, and A/C filters once a month and replace them regularly. A dirty air filter can increase your energy costs and over time can cause problems with your equipment.

6. **Get a check-up:** Have a licensed professional heating and air conditioning technician do a thorough check up on your heating and air conditioning system at least once a year. These check-ups can identify a problem early and save you a lot of heart ache and discomfort.

7. **Stop the breeze:** Caulk and weather-strip around drafty doors and windows. Like we've always said, "when in doubt, caulk." We suggest using clear silicone caulk.

8. **Take a walk:** Circle your home with an easy-to-use spray foam insulation and look for openings and gaps around pipes, chimneys, lights, windows, basement brick, and cement work. Additionally, inside your home you will want to look under kitchen sinks and bathroom sinks to make sure those areas where the pipes enter from the floor or wall are sealed.

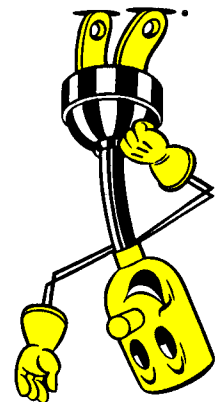
9. **Stay bright:** As "old-school" incandescent and even newer CFL bulbs burn out, replace them with new, light emitting diode bulbs (LEDs) and save about \$90 a year compared to incandescent bulbs. You pay more upfront, but shop around, prices are dropping. They use considerably less energy, last up to 20 years, and you can find in a variety of different shades of white light. Make sure and check the energy use label (aka: nutritional facts) for expected length of

life and color in degrees Kelvin.

10. **Be a star:** Look for products and appliances that have earned the ENERGY STAR label. They meet strict new energy efficiency criteria that will reduce your utility bills. ENERGY STAR clothes washers, for example, use approximately 40% less water and 25% less electricity for washing than standard models.



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