



# POWER

Source

October 2018 Vol. 22 No. 10



## Scholarship Applications Available Now...

Farmers' Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers' Electric Education Foundation. Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counselors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Ft. Sumner, and Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541 or by going online to [www.fecnm.org](http://www.fecnm.org). All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Only the interest earned on donations is used for scholarships, ensuring that the Education Foundation will continue to support higher education for our members for many years to come. Through 2018, the foundation has awarded 1203 scholarships totaling \$849,730.00.

### Don't Delay! Deadline For Applications Is February, 1, 2019!

This year there are two different scholarship forms. Be sure when requesting a form that you specify either the "Graduating High School Student Application" or the "Returning College Application." Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from [www.fecnm.org](http://www.fecnm.org).



*The Farmers' Electric Education Foundation was established by the members of the cooperative in 1986 and is funded through donated and unclaimed patronage capital refunds and donations by private individuals.*

## Youth Tour 2019



In 2019, FEC will again sponsor two area high school Juniors (summer after Junior year) on the week-long, Government in Action Youth Tour in Washington, D. C. Please call 800-445-8541 for more details on this exciting opportunity! We promise this will be a trip of a lifetime!

### Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2018. To avoid potential disconnection of services, please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2018 through March 15, 2019, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

### Atención

Proteccion contra la interrupcion de servicio de invierno comienza el 15 de Noviembre del 2018. Para evitar la posibilidad de desconexion. Favor de ponerse en contact con el Departamento de Servicios Humanos para informarse acerca de los requisitos de elegibilidad para el Programa de Asistencia Energetica de Bajos Ingresos (LIHEAP) al 1-800-283-4465, Su servicio no sera desconectado 15 de Noviembre del 2018 a 15 de Marzo del 2019 si califica para el Programa de Asistencia Energetica de Bajos Ingresos y no tiene saldo atrasado ni a falla-do con su acuerdo de pagos fijos.

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

volunteer support, coordinating through our national organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

In this fourth installment of the “early days” of FEC, minutes of the Board meeting held in November 1938, reflect construction of the “A” Section of line is nearing completion. We read where Mr. Kimbrough, Project Superintendent, has been in contact with the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in Washington, requesting that the construction contractor be authorized to continue with construction beyond the limit (100 miles) contained in the original contract. We read further that REA approves this request with the labor costs remaining the same and approving additional funds for the increasing cost of copper wire conductor.

In addition, we find that as the “A” Section nears completion, Mr. Kimbrough has identified the need to hire a “maintenance man” to be responsible for new connects and any repairs necessary. Mr. Fred C. Porter was hired at a rate of \$125.00 per month, was instructed to “familiarize himself with the distribution system and to secure equipment and take care of such matters as would probably be in his department.” Minutes do not reflect the level of experience Mr. Porter possessed, but with the level of responsibility entrusted to him, it appears he was well qualified and had experience working with high voltage electricity. Readers will recall, while electricity was new to folks in rural areas, several communities served by FEC today already had power provided by local, privately owned, light and power plants. On November 30, 1938 the “A” Section of line was energized, marking a critical milestone in the life of FEC.

Reading through the minutes from December we read that the fledgling utility was facing a legal challenge. It appears that two area businessmen, who had installed telephone systems in several communities where FEC was building line, had filed suit against FEC to prevent FEC from energizing lines in those communities. While the minutes do not contain a complete record of the suit, minutes from April 1940 reflect a New Mexico Supreme Court decision in favor of FEC, finding that FEC’s lines were “constructed to the highest standard and therefore, not responsible for interference to grounded telephone systems.”

Over time, the small light and power plants in area communities would close, likely due to the availability of reasonably priced power from FEC and the cost of upgrading

**HEADLINES:** Farmers’ Electric Cooperative Energizes First 100 Miles of Line!  
President Franklin D. Roosevelt Recalls U.S. Ambassador to Germany!

I hope readers enjoy reading about the early days of Farmers’ Electric (FEC). Creation of the Rural Electrification Administration in 1935 is considered one of the most successful programs ever developed by the U.S. Government, changing lives in all corners of this nation. Even today, developing countries around the world strive to emulate U.S. rural electrification efforts with many co-operatives providing financial, material, equipment, and



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**HISTORY** from PAGE 2

local plants to meet the demands of area load growth. Expansion of telephone service into rural areas would follow several years later as the REA expanded the program to include telephone service in 1949.

On the morning of Wednesday, January 11, 1939 FEC held the first Annual Meeting of the membership with 70 members registered. Minutes of the meeting reflect that Mr. Kimbrough gave a report of line construction progress and new services connected; C.J. Todd, Curry County Agent, “spoke briefly on the benefits of rural electricity to this section of New Mexico,” and Mr. C.C. Curren presented “facts and figures on electricity in connection with the poultry business, particularly as to brooding baby chicks and caring for laying hens.”

Until Next Month,



## Make Fright Night a Delight

**H**alloween is one of the happiest holidays for kids and their parents. Don't let it turn into a frightening experience because of outdoor safety hazards at your home.

Welcome trick-or-treaters to your door by making your yard and porch safe to visit. Here's how:

**Keep it clean.** Clutter can cause trouble when children are traipsing through your yard. Pick up rakes, power tools, tree branches, and anything else that could either trip or tempt young visitors.



**Keep the lights on.** Light a waking path to your front door. The light will help direct the kids to the single spot at your house where you'd like them to be, and offer them a safe way to get there. Before October 31, replace all burned-out outdoor lights with LED lighting.

**Keep your message clear.** The best way to tell trick-or-treaters that you've run out of candy is to turn off all outdoor lights and most of the indoor ones. A dark house signals a parent to take the party elsewhere.

**Keep it simple.** Homeowners decorate nearly as much for Halloween as they do for Christmas. If your display includes outdoor lights, choose products rated for safety by Underwriters Laboratories. If you don't see a UL mark on the box, don't buy them. Every year before handling your outdoor decorations, check them all for defects and damage. Unchecked decorations could become a fire hazard. Finally, remember to turn off all lighted decorations when you are not at home.

## Energy and Safety Tips – Have Your Furnace Checked Annually

**D**id you know that your furnace and air conditioner, on average, account for 50% of your utility bill; more in the summer and winter, and lower in the spring and fall. Did you also know that if your equipment is not properly maintained, it could be costing you additional money each month? Each heating season you need to have your furnace and/or heat pump checked by a licensed service company.

There are a few things that you, as a homeowner, can do to help keep your system running most efficiently – like replacing your air filter at least every other month. If gas, visually inspecting the burner flame (it should be blue in color, yellow means it is getting too much gas flow). Also, keep items clear from all sides of the furnace. However, a heating service company can disassemble the furnace and clean it properly. They will inspect the heat exchangers, the flue piping and fittings, test the ignition, ensure proper burning, inspect the electrical components, test all the equipment safeties, and perform a carbon monoxide test. They can also address and check all components associated with electric furnaces.

Because many Farmers' Electric members utilize gas/propane to heat their homes, we suggest this maintenance not only to make your system operate as efficiently as possible, but we want you to be safe as well. Gas has proven to be a very effective heat source, but at the same time, if neglected, can be dangerous. Each year, over 500 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning. Many of these deaths could have been avoided with a simple check of the heating system.



Here are some additional safety tips for you:

- Never discard hot ashes from your fireplace or wood-burning stove inside or near the house. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating source.
- If you use an electric space heater, do not over-load the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the neces-

See **FURNACE** on **PAGE 4**

FURNACE from PAGE 3

- sary rating to carry the load.
- Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms, any other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame, (the pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space). Use hot water or a UL labeled device such as a hand-held blow dryer for thawing.
- If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event fire should start. Be sure that all windows open easily.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so that when it is needed, it can be located easily. In the summer keep weeds clear of the hydrant.
- Be sure every area of your home has working smoke alarms. If utilizing gas, make sure you have carbon monoxide detectors as well.

**Be careful with those space heaters! Running just one space heater, 10 hours a day, could add up to \$55 to your monthly electric bill!**



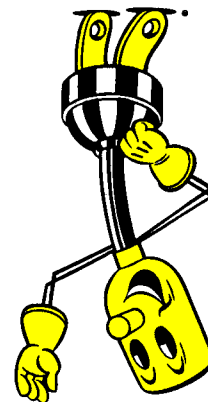
**ATTENTION: IRRIGATION CONSUMERS**  
**SUBJECT: IRRIGATION ANNUAL**  
**MINIMUM CHARGES**

In accordance with Farmers' Electric Cooperative's irrigation rate schedule, certain annual minimum charges apply to all irrigation accounts. Your original minimum charges were calculated through a contract with the Cooperative based on the cost of line extension to the irrigation load. Upon expiration of the contract, the horsepower on that account determines the annual minimum at the rate of \$20.00 per horsepower, but not less than \$110.00 for single-phase service, and not less than \$165.00 for three-phase service.

Under the irrigation rate schedule, consumers have one calendar year, (approximately December 20 through December 20 of the following year), in which to use the annual minimum charges. The December billing will reflect the remaining charges, if any.

If you have any questions regarding the annual minimum charges for your irrigation account(s), please contact the Cooperative's Billing Department at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541.

**"Owned By Those We Serve"**



**FARMERS' ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
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