

# FEC POWER Source

Vol. 18 No. 01

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative    

## 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, Fort Sumner, or Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 762-4466 or (800) 445-8541. All cooperative members and their dependants are eligible to apply for these scholarships.



**Don't Delay! Deadline For Applications Is February 3, 2014! Contact Your Guidance Counselor Or Our Office Today!**

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 Student - Non-Traditional Student Application." Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from the FEC website at [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. 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 2013, the foundation has awarded 935 scholarships totaling \$618,880.*

## Humanitarian... Hero

For FEC meter reader, Ronnie Marez, this December day started off like most of his days... scrape the frost off his work truck windshield, let it warm up a bit while he grabs a cup of coffee for the road, make sure he has his warm gear, coat, gloves, etc. Off he goes just ahead of the rising sun. He was headed west this fateful day.

By the time he reached Melrose his hands had started to warm. The steam from his coffee cup was still rising, but it just over the brim. It was cold outside and the winter winds had already started to blow.



Ronnie Marez (R) receives the FEC Humanitarian Award

When you spend a lot of time behind the windshield, particularly along our area's lonesome stretches, you become quite observant, in-tune with your surroundings. You have time to take things in, clear your mind or muddle it with thoughts of splendor. Even in our flat, arid, wind-blown prairies, one can find beauty. They don't have to look far either, perhaps it's an antelope buck grazing in a pasture, a herd buck acting ever so cautious. Maybe it's a sand dune that has risen to such heights that it has enveloped most of a fence with only the very tops of the posts visible, drowning, struggling to stay afloat. There's a crane taking a break from its long journey in a playa pond, quenching its thirst and washing the heavy dust from its feathers. Sometimes, if the timing is just right, the sun strikes the yucca's blades and sends a reflection reminiscent of a lucid dream.

As Ronnie passes through Fort Sumner, he reflected on his day – where he had to be and his tasks that lie ahead. Casually glancing over his shoulder, he sees something... something quite out of the ordinary. He begins to slow down. "Was that a person lying in the bar ditch?" he asked himself. He pulls over onto the shoulder and stops. "Is it a homeless person?"

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## Manager's Message...



Lance Adkins, GM

## Lend Your Voice and Stay Informed: [www.Action.coop](http://www.Action.coop)

In October, I reported to members on recent actions by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issuing new “proposed” regulations aimed at reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from new power plants. A key provision in these proposed regulations will require new power plants that burn coal to be equipped with technology to capture and store CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. As we have noted in the past, this technology continues in the experimental and developmental phases and is not yet available

for use on a large commercial scale such as a power plant. As a result, new power plants planned for construction will burn natural gas, a reliable energy source and currently very affordable. Unfortunately, the cost of natural gas is historically unstable, subject to dramatic swings in cost, and those costs are directly borne by consumers in the cost of goods and services purchased, including the monthly electric bill.

Also of concern, the EPA is now working on amending regulations for existing power plants to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Again, there is no technology available to capture CO<sub>2</sub>. We are concerned that the only way to meet the expected requirements will be to significantly limit the operational “run time” for coal fired power plants and/or replace the plants with new generation that burn gas much earlier than planned. Consumers should be concerned, as they will continue to pay for the old plants that will not be permitted to run, as well as the new plants built to meet the need for electric power. In a report issued by the Congressional Budget Office, it is estimated, once developed, the technology to capture and then build facilities to store the captured CO<sub>2</sub> would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75 percent. Almost half of the electric energy consumed by members of Farmers’ Electric is generated by coal-based generation. How will these added costs impact folks already struggling to make ends meet?

***“...neither Congress nor the EPA pays for the their costly mistakes, it is always the consumer who pays!”***

In some ways, it seems that history is repeating. Concerned about natural gas supplies, Congress passed the Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act in 1978. This legislation prohibited the burning of natural gas to generate electricity in new plants and utilities invested heavily in coal and nuclear generation to meet the growth in demand for electricity. These plants were designed to operate reliably for many decades and were very expensive to build. After some nine years, Congress repealed the law, after determining natural gas resources were more abundant than originally thought. Unfortunately, neither Congress nor the EPA pays for their costly mistakes, it is always the consumer who pays!

In October, we asked that members of Farmers’ Electric get involved in the discussion, to let the EPA and Congress know we are concerned about the cost of their laws and regulations. I am pleased to report that a number of Co-op members have done just

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[www.fecnm.org](http://www.fecnm.org)

### To Report An Outage

We are on-call 24 hours each day, 365 days each year, to serve **your** electric power needs.

**Clovis**

762-4466

**Fort Sumner**

355-2291

**Santa Rosa**

472-3971

**Toll Free**

1-800-445-8541

**HERO from PAGE 1**

Thoughts of denial run through his head. It is way too cold for someone to be out. Ronnie puts his truck in reverse to make sure what he saw wasn't merely a mirage, a figment of his imagination. The body lay motionless. "Are you ok?" "Do you need help?" Ronnie shouts from his opened passenger window. At that moment a helpless arm raises slowly from grass. Ronnie knew then that it was time to act.

As Ronnie approached the body he realized that this person (an elderly lady) needed his help. Ronnie began asking questions. "Are you okay?" "How long have you been here?" "Are you in pain?" Only seconds had passed, but for Ronnie, she couldn't answer fast enough. "Ma'am, can I help you somehow?" Finally the lady answered, "I'm very cold." Ronnie noticed she wasn't dressed appropriately for the frigid morning temperatures and her shoes had come off during her fall. Carefully removing the stickers from her feet, Ronnie assured her that he would take care of her.

After convincing himself that it was safe to lift her, Ronnie helped the frail woman to her feet. He asked if she was okay to walk over to the car and she believed she could. Ronnie strapped her in her seatbelt and headed back into town, back to her family.

When something like this happens, there are questions that always arise. Why was she out there? How did she end up in the ditch? Where was she headed? How many had passed her without seeing her lying there? When asked how he thought he was able to spot her there when he only had that very instance of opportunity to see her. Ronnie responded by saying, "God put me there, right at that time. He turned my head at the perfect moment."

Ronnie said anyone would have done the same thing. Maybe they would have, but then again, these days, folks just don't want to "get involved" sometimes. Ronnie, we're glad God put YOU there that day.

**ACTION from PAGE 2**

that by logging on to [www.Action.coop](http://www.Action.coop) for more information and send a message to EPA regarding the rules they are working on right now. By participating in our national consumer-action campaign, our national association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), will continue to send up-to-date and relevant messages to members of congress as the debate continues and engage directly with EPA. I hope readers will take a few minutes to look at the website and consider lending their "voice" to the debate.



Changes in laws and regulations must take into account what those changes will cost. Your voice will let them know you are concerned and that you are watching.

Until next month,

**Highlight Business of the Month!**

**Pizza Hut**

Two Locations:  
3317 N. Prince St.  
- Clovis  
and  
1200 W. 21st St.  
- Clovis



**\*Deal: 10% Off Total Ticket**  
(Excludes Alcohol)

To learn more about how your business can benefit from becoming a Co-op Connections partner or to **request a card**, call the Co-op today at 800-445-8541. To view all the local, regional, and national deals, visit [www.fecnm.org](http://www.fecnm.org).

*\*Pharmacy discounts are not insurance and are not intended as a substitute for insurance.*

**Attention**

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2013. 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, 2013, through March 15, 2014, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

**Atención**

La protección del interruptor de invierno empieza el 15 de noviembre de 2013. Para evitar desconexión potencial de servicios contacta por favor al Humano Atiende al Departamento para la información de elegibilidad para los Ingresos Bajos que Calientan Programa de Ayuda de Energía (LIHEAP) en 800-283-4465. Su servicio no será desconectado del 15 de noviembre de 2013, por el 15 de marzo de 2014, si califica para LIHEAP y tiene no cantidad debida pasada ni hace el aceptó pagos.

**Be careful with those space heaters! Running just one space heater, 12 hours a day, could add up to \$55 to your monthly electric bill!**



## Ask Willie! Re: Water Heater Blankets

**Q.** Dear Willie: What do you know about water heater blankets? Should I install one?

**A.** Great Question! Let's see... I think I know a bit about them.

**W**ater heaters use a lot of energy even when you're not using hot water. This stand-by loss happens when heat travels through your water heater's walls, and can account for a substantial portion of your water heating costs.

Most older water heaters have only an inch of fiberglass tank insulation, and most newer ones have just an inch of foam insulation. You can reduce your energy consumption by installing an additional blanket of fiberglass insulation. This is one of the most common and effective energy-conservation measures available.

Water-heater blankets come in kits that contain a blanket, straps and tape. The straps hold the insulation to the water heater, and the tape seals the seams in the insulation.

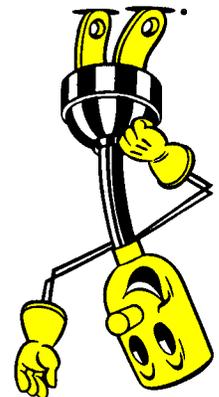


- Turn the water heater off before installing the blanket. Read all the instructions that come with the blanket.
- Identify the areas where the blanket will be taped to the water heater. Wash these well so the tape will stick.
- Cut the blanket to size with scissors or a sharp knife. Leave some extra until you know for sure how much you'll need.
- Identify the pressure relief valve on either the top or side. **Don't cover this important safety device.**
- For electric water heaters, you can insulate the top of the tank as well as the sides. Note where two rectangular covers provide access to the thermostats and elements. Cut small flaps in the insulation to provide access to these panels.
- For gas water heaters, don't insulate the top. Note the gas valve and burner access door near the bottom of the tank.
- Cut the blanket so it is at least two inches away from these.
- Install the blanket so it is snug, and fasten it well so it will stay in place.

This long-lasting conservation measure will save energy day and night for the life of your water heater.

*\*As a side note: FEC currently offers a \$150 cash-back rebate on newly installed electric water heaters with a .94 Energy Factor (EF) or higher. For more details, call us today at 1-800-445-8541 and ask for someone in Member Services.*

**“Owned By Those We Serve”**



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