

FEC POWER

Source

Vol. 19 No. 03

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Nominating Committee Reports for the 2015 Annual Meeting

District No. 1, (Clovis), District No. 4, (Santa Rosa), and District No. 6 (Broadview/Grady) Nominating Committee meetings were held during the first part of this month.

District No. 1 Committee, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, met at FEC’s Headquarters in Clovis, New Mexico on March 9, 2015. Following deliberation, **William “Billy” Tate** 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 in Santa Rosa, New Mexico on March 4, 2015. Following deliberation, **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 Headquarters in Clovis, New Mexico on March 3, 2015. Following deliberation, **John Pat Woods** was nominated by the committee to represent District No. 6.

Furthermore, 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 **April 3, 2015**. If you have any questions, contact Lance R. Adkins at 1-800-445-8541 or 575-762-4466 or by email at lance@fecnm.org.

Look Up and Live!

Increasing our awareness of electrical hazards can help to decrease accidents. Remember, looking up can keep us all safer and happier outdoors this spring!



- Use clean cotton string when flying kites and always fly away from overhead power lines.
- Keep ladders, trampolines, swimming pools, and swing sets away from all power lines.
- Use extra caution when on the roof, making certain to stay clear of your service drop.
- Make sure there are no power lines in or near trees before climbing, pruning, or harvesting fruit.



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Manager's Message...



Lance Adkins, GM

Updates: LPC and Renewables

As an update to our January newsletter article on the impact of the Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) when extending service in areas identified as critical habitat, we have some good news. In working with other electric cooperatives, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), we have been able to reach agreement for extending service in areas where we expect to receive the most requests for new services.

Readers may recall from past articles that the USFWS determined to list the LPC as a threatened species last year and endorsed a specific conservation plan, often referred to as the Five-State Plan, to provide a framework for protecting the LPC within the bird's historic range. This conservation plan was developed and is administered by WAFWA, with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) responsible for oversight of conservation activities and enforcement.

“In working through these challenges with WAFWA and USFWS, we have been cleared for construction within the municipal limits of these communities and up to one mile outside the municipal boundaries.”

For the members of Farmers' Electric, we quickly learned that further development in an existing "impact buffer," an area that already contains some development such as an existing power line, road or railroad, would require an LPC "survey" or complete burial of all lines, including in the communities of Melrose, San Jon, Grady, and Broadview. In working through these challenges with WAFWA and USFWS, we have been cleared for construction within the municipal limits of these communities and up to one mile outside the municipal boundaries. We remain hopeful that additional discussions will result in approval to develop along other impact buffers such as existing roads.

In other news, I often get asked how much of the electricity we provide is generated by renewable energy resources and specifically, the commercial scale wind farms folks see in the Farmers' Electric (FEC) service area. When talking about renewable energy most folks think of solar and wind, though other resources are recognized such as hydroelectric and biomass. Last year 25 percent of all energy purchased by FEC was generated by renewable resources, 22 percent wind, 3 percent hydroelectric and a very small amount of solar. Most of the wind resource was generated by the two Brahms wind farms that interconnected with FEC last year. FEC was not an "early adopter" of renewable energy technology due to wholesale contract restrictions and the high cost of energy produced in comparison to conventional resources. However, the Board and management of the Cooperative continue to look for opportunities to incorporate renewable energy in a way that makes economic sense for the membership. I am pleased to report that almost 100 percent of this renewable energy was purchased at or below the average cost of conventional energy supply resulting in cost savings to the members of FEC.

Until Next Month,

Board of Trustees:

Mike West

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George Dodge

Vice President

Ernest Riley

Secretary-Treasurer

Paul Quintana

Trustee

Pat Woods

Trustee

Billy Tate

Trustee

Donnie Bidegain

Trustee

General Manager:

Lance R. Adkins

POWER SOURCE

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Segura Recognized For Safety

Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) administers safety training for all of New Mexico's 16 distribution cooperatives, including Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC).

In honor of those linemen who have been killed or injured on the job, OAEC has instituted the "Long Rope" Safety and Attitude Award. Each Co-op is asked to nominate a lineman from their service area that possess and adheres to the following qualities:

- Safety is part of the job – a priority
- Safety rules are necessary
- Never use short-cuts
- Good listener
- Leads by example
- Good teacher
- Open to change
- Not affected by peer pressure
- Always looking for safer ways
- Participates in safety meetings



Jerome Segura (Left) holding his Long Rope Safety award. Pictured with Jerome is Bucky Minton, Farmers' Electric Cooperative's Line Superintendent.

The objective is to give recognition to a person at each Co-op who is a leader in safety and actually walks the walk. This year, Jerome Segura, Lineman, Fort Sumner, was nominated and received this prestigious award. Jerome is highly respected by his peer linemen and is very deserving of this award. Those that work closest with Jerome, the Fort Sumner line crew of John Duke, Anthony Griffin, and Bucky Minton have only high praise when it comes to how Jerome approaches safety concerns on the job. They say it is clearly the most important aspect of the workday for Jerome. According to them, Jerome's safety conscious mindset is just one of the many positive traits that make Jerome a natural leader and someone with whom they enjoying working.

Jerome is the fifth FEC employee to be honored with the "Long Rope" award.

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.

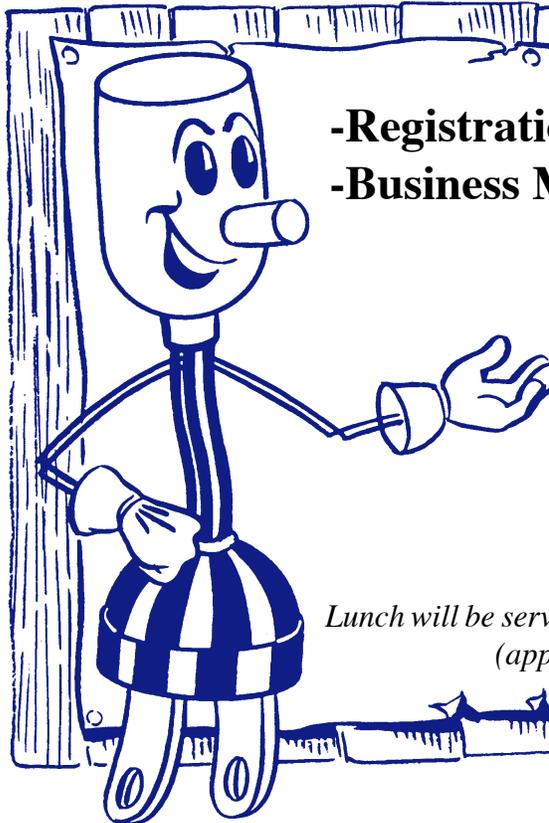


Here are six ways to use less hot water:

- 1. 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.
- 2. Set a timer** for five minutes, and turn the shower off when the alarm rings. Five minutes should be long enough for anyone to shower. Also, turn the water off while you lather up your hair, and turn it back on to rinse out the shampoo.
- 3. 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 a month this way.
- 4. Soak pots and pans** instead of scraping them under running water. They'll clean up quicker, and you'll save water and energy.
- 5. 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 escape through a leaky tap.
- 6. Wait until you have a full load** in the dishwasher before you run it.

We look forward to visiting with you on Saturday, April 25, 2015, at the Cooperative's 77th Annual Meeting of Members. The meeting will be held in San Jon, New Mexico, at the San Jon High School gym. Door prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served following the 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* electric cooperative.

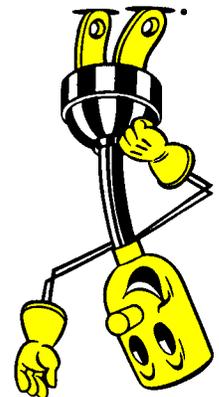


-Registration: 9:30 to 10:30 am
-Business Meeting: 10:30 am

- 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 am)

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