

# **Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members of Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. of New Mexico**

**Place: San Jon High School - Gym  
202 N. 7th St.  
San Jon, New Mexico**

**Date: Saturday, May 13, 2023**

**Registration: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

**Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m.**

**Lunch: Following Business Meeting  
(Approximately 12:00 Noon)**



**To take action upon the following matters:**

- 1. The reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees**
  - 2. The election of Trustees from Districts 3 and 5**
  - 3. All other business which may come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof**
- Grand Prize Drawing (\$1,000 of free electricity!)**
  - Door Prizes for Adults and Children**

**In addition to drawing for the grand prize and door prizes, there will be a special drawing of two \$50 Energy Certificates for “First Time” Farmers' Electric Cooperative members in attendance.**

Manager's Message...



**Antonio Sanchez, Jr., CEO**

## Legislative Update

This year's Legislative Session was interesting to say the least. It was a 60-day session, so there was opportunity for lots of bills to be introduced. There was new leadership in the House in both parties and there was a large number of new members of the legislature (17 in the House and 1 in the Senate). It was the first time in three years that the session was open to the public and virtual public participation was allowed. This may become the new norm for future legislative sessions. In total, 1,089 bills were introduced and of these, 248 were passed by both Chambers. Prior to the end of the session, the Governor had already signed 25 bills into law. By the time the April 7 deadline for the Governor to sign these bills into law had passed, she had signed 211 and vetoed 13. The remaining bills suffered a 'pocket veto.' Those were the bills, left unsigned, that the Governor chose not to act upon.

FEC remained engaged in the session and listened to and voiced our concerns on many of the bills that would have an impact on the Cooperative and its members. With the help of our Statewide organization, New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NMRECA), we remained up-to-date on the current status of the bills we supported, opposed and simply monitored. Included in this year's session were many bills related to renewable energy, climate change and the strive for zero carbon emissions. There were bills associated with minimum wage, health care, education, oil & gas and taxes. There were pros and cons to all these bills and our objective was to advocate on behalf of our members so that bills that would have a negative effect on our members were stalled, tabled or not passed. All in all, FEC is satisfied with the outcome of the session.

FEC recognizes the importance of renewables in the market and continues to work with their G&T to make sure the power purchased and provided to FEC members is in conformance with the Energy Transition Act that was passed in 2019. Wind, solar and hydro are a large portion of FEC's renewable energy portfolio. FEC has approximately 70 members who have solar systems behind their meter and the number continues to grow year after year. Some of the bills in this year's legislative session could have had a negative effect on our members by creating subsidies that would be paid by members who should not have to pay them. One of the largest concerns the rural electric cooperatives have is that we are a not for profit entity and our rates are cost based meaning they are not designed to create large margins. Many of our members make it financially month-to-month and there was potential in some of these bills to make it more difficult, if not impossible, for some of our members to be able to pay their electric bills. When bills go unpaid for specified length of



### Board of Trustees:



**Mike West**  
Trustee Dist. 3  
President



**George Dodge**  
Trustee Dist. 4  
Vice-President



**Donnie Bidegain**  
Trustee Dist. 7  
Sec. - Treas.



**Pat Woods**  
Trustee Dist. 6



**Justin Barnes**  
Trustee Dist. 1



**Judy Smith**  
Trustee Dist. 5



**Jubal Pierce**  
Trustee Dist. 2

### POWER SOURCE

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## LEGISLATION *from* PAGE 2

time, they are written-off, but the debt is born by all the other members. If we can minimize this write-off, our membership as a whole benefits. The same is true for the cost of purchased power. If lower cost power is available in the market, our rates being cost based, remain more affordable and attractive.

Next year will be a 30-day session but we expect to see many of the same bills being introduced once again. This will give the writers of these bills time to examine why they were stalled, tabled or not passed and to modify them so that they stand a better chance next time. FEC will continue to advocate on behalf of our members and work hard to make sure any new bills that are introduced, heard in committees and that are made onto the floor, are not negatively affecting the Cooperative as a whole.

Unitl next time,

*Antonio Sanchez, Jr.*



**E**astern New Mexico's own, Chek Rippee and Allie Brooks will be sharing their musical talents with the members of Farmers' Electric at our 85th Annual Meeting of Members to be held in San Jon at the San Jon High School gym on Saturday, May 13.

You won't want to miss this meeting! Hot coffee and donuts will be available during registration from 9:30 am – 10:30 am with the Business Meeting starting promptly at 10:30 am. Lunch will be catered by Bigham's Smokehouse out of Lubbock, Texas featuring traditional southwestern BBQ and all the fixins! Door prizes for children and adults! Come spend your Saturday with us! There will be great music, great food, great prizes, and most of all, great people!

## FEC Board Appoints Jubal Pierce to Fill Vacancy

**D**uring a recent FEC Board Meeting, Jubal Pierce was appointed to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of longtime trustee, Ernest Riley. Pierce will serve as the District 2 trustee representing Melrose.



Jubal was raised in the Pleasant Hill area and attended Texico Schools. Following his graduation from Texico High School, Jubal attended New Mexico State University studying Agricultural Business and Agricultural Education. Upon returning home from college, he met and married Laney Lay of Melrose. Jubal and Laney had two sons, and built a home, one that they still reside in today. Both Pierce boys attended Melrose Schools and Jubal served on the school board during this time. Jubal is an active member of the First Baptist Church of Melrose. He enjoys the outdoors – hunting, fishing, and the rural lifestyle. Jubal continues to do what he loves, farming and ranching. He looks forward to serving the members of FEC.

## Federal Tax Credits for Homeowners

**G**o to [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) and find information on federal tax credits for energy efficient upgrades to your primary residence. There are too many to list them all but, here are some, just to name a few: Insulation, heat pump water heaters, exterior windows, air-source heat pumps, central A/C conditioners, electric panel upgrades to 200+ Amps, and exterior doors. Click on the calculator icon. Then click on “*Tax Credits for Homeowners*” on the left.



# PLAY IT SAFE:

## Do's and don'ts when using portable generators

Storm season is upon us, which means greater potential for power outages.

If you're planning to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, play it safe with these tips.

**DO:** Install backup carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimate 85 U.S. consumer die every year from CO poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.

**DO:** At all times, keep children and pets away from portable generators.

**DO:** Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows, and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.

**DO:** Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.

**DO:** Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays, or other damage before use.



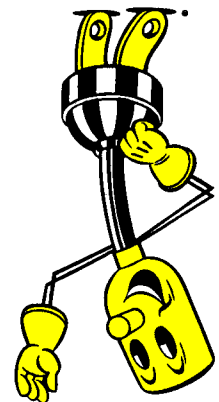
**DON'T:** Operate a generator inside your home or a fully or partially enclosed space. Generators produce high levels of CO, which can be deadly.

**DON'T:** Rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances.

**DON'T:** Overload generators. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.

**DON'T:** Connect generators directly to household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed by a professional, licensed electrician. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can back-feed along power lines and electrocute or seriously injure the lineworkers making repairs.

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OF NEW MEXICO**