



# POWER

*Source*

December 2018 Vol. 22 No. 12

## *Christmas Traditions*



Christmastime is full of family traditions. All families have some little something they look forward to around the holidays. Maybe it's something they've done all their lives, year after year. Maybe it's something young parents did when they were children and they want to revive that tradition in their own family unit. Maybe old traditions have run their course and there's a desire to start a new one.

Given this, I thought it would be appropriate to ask the employees at FEC about some of their Christmas traditions and see what fun and unique things they may do at home during this most special time of year. Below are some that I found most interesting. You might even want to start one or more of these with your family!

1. Go out to eat for breakfast on Christmas Eve morning with your family. Either pick your favorite breakfast restaurant to go to or cook up your kids' favorite breakfast!
2. Give each child and spouse a pair of pajamas to open up on Christmas Eve. These will be great for Christmas morning pictures.
3. Let each child select a new ornament for the tree. Write your child's name and date on the ornament box or the ornament itself. It's neat to see each year how the ornaments change as they grow up and their interests change. When it is time for them to move and start their own family, they will have a good start on ornaments for their family tree!
4. Make cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve with your children and your spouse. This will be something that your kids will look forward to every year and remember all their lives.
5. Pile everyone into one car, go get big milkshakes, and drive around town and look at Christmas lights.
6. After all the presents are opened on Christmas morning, go out and shoot clay pigeons.
7. Watch Christmas movies together on the nights leading up to Christmas. Here are a few must-sees: Christmas Vacation, Polar Express, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, A Charlie Brown Christmas, Miracle on 34th Street, A Christmas Story, The Nativity Story, Elf, White Christmas, Home Alone, Die Hard, The Santa Clause, A Christmas Carol (Jim Carey), and of course, It's a Wonderful Life.
8. Give each child and spouse an ornament to open on Christmas Eve. Each ornament should represent something that happened during the year or a place the person traveled to.



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

sacrificial giving of their time and resources, to serve others all year long.

Over the past few months we have been preparing for state legislative activities.

January 15th, beginning at noon, marks the opening day of the first session of the 54th New Mexico Legislature. Folks may recall that in New Mexico each Legislature is divided into two legislative sessions, convening in regular sessions on the third Tuesday in January each year. Each Legislature will meet for sixty days in odd-numbered years and thirty days in even-numbered years. Those with a keen eye towards state politics are anxious to see how things develop in the first legislative session under Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and a host of new legislators.

Farmers' Electric effectively participates in the legislative process individually and through our state association of electric cooperatives, the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NMRECA). On behalf of cooperative members across the state NMRECA tracks legislation that has potential to impact the cost members pay for electricity through additional taxation and regulation.

We are aware of draft legislation and ideas being circulated among various legislative interim committees that will consider renewable energy, including an increase in the amount of renewable energy each utility must provide to consumers. Currently, Investor-owned utilities, like Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) and Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) were required to include a minimum of five percent renewable energy in their portfolio beginning January 2006, increasing in set increments to twenty percent by January 2020. Electric Cooperatives, including Farmers' Electric (FEC), were required to include five percent renewable energy by January 2015, increasing annually to ten percent by January 2020. Utilities were able to provide more than the mandates and were able to suspend purchases if the cost of renewable energy would increase the cost to consumers above a set threshold.

Under proposed legislation, Cooperatives' renewable energy standard would increase to twenty-five percent by 2025, with additional increases required until reach-

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## 54th Legislature

**I**t is hard to believe, Christmas is here, seems like only yesterday the grands were getting ready for Halloween. Then came November 6, election day, some celebrated the election of those they were supporting and most celebrated because the political advertising on television, radio, and print would end. In a blink of the eye we will wonder where Christmas went, all those days shopping, decorating, and preparing, then it's gone, or so it seems. I am thankful for all those folks who spread the message of Christmas,



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# Merry Christmas!

On behalf of the Board of  
Trustees and the entire  
staff of Farmers'  
Electric Cooperative, "Merry  
Christmas and the happiest  
of New Years!"

*Farmers' Electric offices will be closed  
December 24th, December 25th,  
and January 1st  
in observance of the holidays.*

## LEGISLATURE from PAGE 2

ing eighty percent by 2045. In addition, the reasonable cost threshold is revised to only consider the cost of additional resources, not the total cost to consumers.

It is interesting to note that most Cooperatives are currently well above the amount of renewable energy currently required. In fact, FEC's portfolio contained approximately thirty percent renewable energy in 2018, roughly two percent hydroelectric and twenty-eight percent wind and solar, without increasing the overall cost of electricity to the membership. Our message to legislators, **"remove the mandates and allow Cooperatives to develop renewable energy resources that are cost competitive for our members. Cooperatives have proven that renewable energy can be supplied without sacrificing cost and reliability."**

Folks who desire to follow the legislative process can track and read bills, follow committee activities and keep abreast of the daily calendar at the legislature's web site, [www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov).

Until next month,



## TRADITIONS from PAGE 1

9. Have a cookie swap party. This is a great way to fellowship with friends while enjoying numerous varieties of cookies.

10. Don't wrap Santa gifts. To separate them from from other gifts, just spread them around the tree with the appropriate name on them.

12. Read the Christmas story and narrate the story with the nativity scene people. Example: Each figurine is passed around with everyone selecting a piece until all are gone. The Christmas story is read and when your character is named, you place it where it belongs (my personal favorite).

Traditions are great around Christmastime because they bond the family unit, they give everyone something special to look forward to, and they invite a shared past that children can pass on to future generations. Here's to a very merry and tradition-filled Christmas!

### 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 fallado con su acuerdo de pagos fijos.

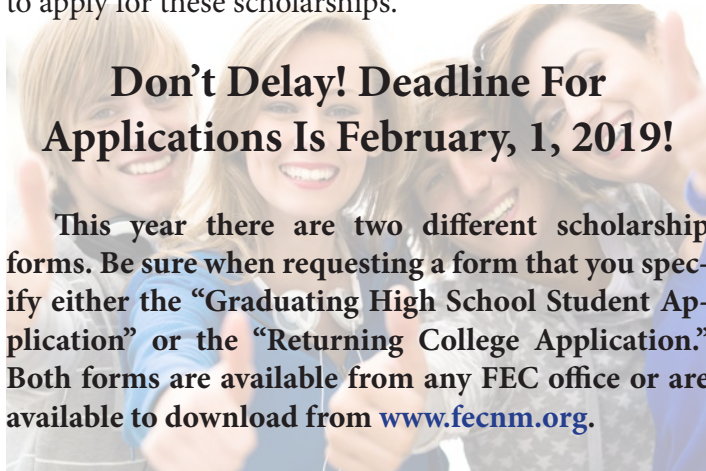
## Energy Insight

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!



### 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.



### 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.*

*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.*

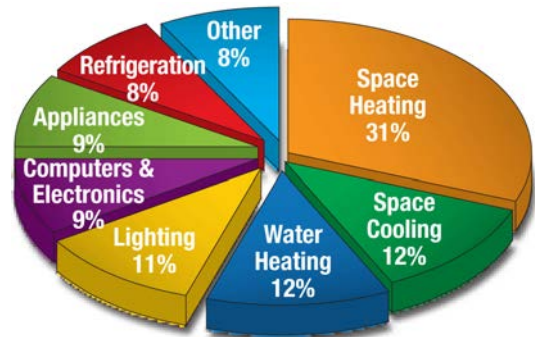
## Youth Tour 2019



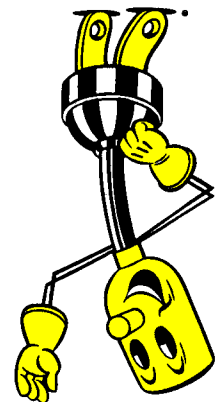
In 2019, FEC will again sponsor two area high school Juniors (summer after Junior year) on the week-long, Government in Action Youth Tour in Washington, D. C. Please call 800-445-8541 for more details on this exciting opportunity! We promise this will be a trip of a lifetime!

**Deadline for completed forms is January 15, 2019**

**On average, this is where your energy dollars are spent?**



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