



Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Farmers' Electric Board of Trustees Appoints Nominating Committees

The Board of Trustees in the January 25, 2022 meeting appointed the 2022 Trustee Candidate Nominating Committees as follows:

District No. 2 (Melrose), will meet at Melrose Tire & Restaurant, Melrose, NM, on February 21, 2022, beginning at 11:00 a.m..

Committee Members:

Danny Tivis
Barry Green
Sherman Martin

District No. 7 (San Jon/Logan), will meet at Del's Restaurant, Tucumcari, NM, on February 25, 2022, beginning at 11:30 a.m..

Committee Members:

Garrett Baker
Dallas Dowell
Dale Mitchell

The Cooperative's Bylaws state, "A nominating committee consisting of three members from each district from which a trustee is to be elected shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees not less than 60 days (March 15, 2022) or more than 120 days (January 14, 2022) before the Annual Meeting. Each committee shall meet no less than 45 days (March 30, 2022) before the annual meeting and select one nominee for trustee from their district. The nomination shall be posted at the principal office of the Cooperative immediately following the committee meeting."

In order to be eligible to become or remain a trustee, a person must:

- (a) Be a member of the Cooperative.
- (b) Be a bona fide resident of his trustee district and a permanent occupant receiving electrical service from the Cooperative at his primary residential abode.
- (c) Not be in any way employed by a major supplier of electric energy or merchandise to the Cooperative.
- (d) Not be employed by or have a close relative employed by the Cooperative in any position.

These Positions Are For Three-Year Terms

Furthermore, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Cooperative, any qualified member of the Cooperative residing in Districts 2 or 7 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 22, 2022. If you have any questions, call Lance R. Adkins at 1-800-445-8541 or 762-4466 in Clovis.

**My
Co-op**

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

as approved by the governor (Governor's Call) and legislation that was passed in the previous session and vetoed by the governor.

Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC) 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.

In New Mexico, all bills follow the same path through the legislature and can be introduced in either the house or senate. Once introduced, the bill is assigned a number, read twice publicly, printed, and referred to the proper committee. Each bill is reviewed by one or more committees in each house where the committee can approve the bill, amend it, forward it to the next committee with no recommendation, or kill the bill by tabling it. Committee hearings are open to the public and folks are encouraged to participate in the legislative process.

Once a bill passes all committee hearings, it will be considered by the full house where it was introduced and scheduled for a final vote. If it passes, the bill moves to the other house and repeats the entire process and if approved in the same form, the bill goes to the governor to be signed or vetoed. If each house passes a different version of the bill, they form a conference committee to work on a compromise. If the committee agrees on a compromise, the bill goes back to the house and senate for a final vote.

Bills that pass both houses are formally prepared by the house where they originated, signed by the speaker of the house and the president pro tempore of the senate and forwarded to the governor. The governor can sign the bill, making it law; or veto the bill, or portions of it, if the bill contains an appropriation or financial commitment by the state. If the governor does not sign or veto the bill within three days and the legislature is still in session, the bill automatically

See **LEGISLATURE** on **PAGE 3**

30 Day Session - 55th Legislature

January 18th, beginning at noon, marked the opening day of the second session of the 55th New Mexico Legislature. 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. Being a thirty-day session, legislation moves very quickly, with bills generally limited to fiscal matters, items



Board of Trustees:
Mike West
President
George Dodge
Vice President
Donnie Bidegain
Secretary-Treasurer
Justin Barnes
Trustee
Judy Smith
Trustee
Ernest Riley
Trustee
Pat Woods
Trustee

General Manager:
Lance R. Adkins

POWER SOURCE

is published monthly by Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. Questions or article ideas should be directed to :

Thom J. Moore,

POWER SOURCE

P. O. Box 550

Clovis, New Mexico

88102-0550

Phone (575) 762-4466 or

1-800-445-8541

thom@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

(575) 762-4466

Fort Sumner

(575) 355-2291

Santa Rosa

(575) 472-3971

Toll Free

(800) 445-8541

LEGISLATURE *from PAGE 2*

becomes law. If the legislature has adjourned, the governor has twenty days to sign the bill and unsigned bills are automatically vetoed after the appropriate amount of time has passed. However, the legislature can pass a bill over the governor's veto with a two-thirds vote in each house.

Signed bills typically become law 90 days after the legislature adjourns. If the legislature specifies an emergency, the bill becomes effective when the governor signs it or a later date as specified in the bill.

One member of FEC Board of Trustees serves in the legislature, Senator Pat Woods of Grady/Broadview. I appreciate the commitment and determination of all those representing the citizens in the legislative process. Over time rural areas of our state have seen a decrease in legislative representation as redistricting moves "seats" to urban areas like Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Las Cruces.

Folks who desire to follow the legislative process can watch committee and floor sessions live, track and read bills, follow committee activities and keep abreast of the daily calendar at the legislature's web site: www.nmlegis.gov.

Until next month,


Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2021. 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, 2021 through March 15, 2022, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

Protección contra la interrupción de servicio de invierno comienza el 15 de Noviembre del 2021. Para evitar la posibilidad de desconexión. Favor de ponerse en contacto con el Departamento de Servicios Humanos para informarse acerca de los requisitos de elegibilidad para el Programa de Asistencia Energética de Bajos Ingresos (LIHEAP) al 1-800-283-4465. Su servicio no será desconectado 15 de Noviembre del 2021 a 15 de Marzo del 2022 si califica para el Programa de Asistencia Energética de Bajos Ingresos y no tiene saldo atrasado ni a fallado con su acuerdo de pagos fijos.

Faulty Electrical Controls Should Be Investigated

Do you have a wall switch that fails to control the overhead light or an outlet that doesn't deliver power to an appliance?

Don't just bypass or ignore the problem. There's a reason the switch or outlet isn't working.

The problem could be something minor, or it could be the symptom of something more serious. Why not go ahead and have a qualified electrician check it out and fix the problem? Simply ignoring the problem is not worth the risk.

**GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS**

- Never try and connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system yourself. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your home and/or equipment.
- **Stationary Generator:**
- An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits isolated from Farmers' Electric, should be installed by a licensed professional electrician.
- **Portable Generator:** Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
- Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area "outside" of the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated can be deadly.
- Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.
- Make sure the generator is full of fuel before starting. Start the generator first before connecting appliance load.



Colder Winter Temps Lead to Higher Usage – Higher Bills

With the recent drop in temperatures over the last couple of weeks, some members, especially those that heat with electricity will see their February bills higher than their January bills; and if the normal cold trends continue, we won't see much relief until April.

Higher winter heating bills have several contributing factors; First: As soon as the sun goes down, temperatures on the High Plains plummet, even if the high during the day was relatively mild. Couple that with high north winds and the short winter days – heating systems are going to operate harder and longer all causing more electricity consumption as the winter cold digs in.

It is “usage” that has increased. No one has been arbitrarily charged extra. This is a trend that all of the regions of eastern New Mexico and west Texas have experienced. Whether investor-owned, municipal, or cooperative, electric utilities all have consumers wondering why their bills are higher.

All FEC members are encouraged to look closely at their bill particularly the graph on usage located in the left bottom third of your bill (13 months of usage history). This graph serves as a reminder of how your bill trends over the year. (Invoice billing with multiple accounts will not have this history).

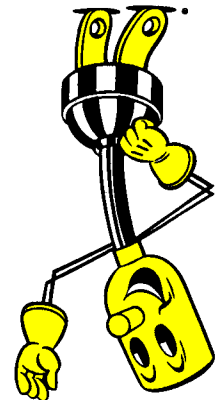
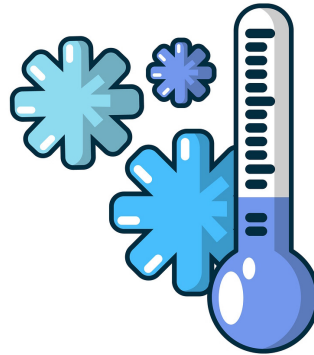
Keeping a home warm and comfortable during cold winter days and nights often results in the use of additional heating methods such as heat lamps, space heaters, resistance backup heat and other high-usage devices. While these options may be effective during short-term cold spells, they should be limited for long periods of time as they directly impact your overall usage.

We know this can be frustrating and we want to work with our members as much as we can. If you are lower income and/or elderly, you may qualify for help with your winter utilities through LIHEAP and the Department of Human Services. Go to www.hsd.state.nm.us click the “Looking for Assistance” tab, after that,

click on the “Income Support tab, then on the “Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)” tab, then simply follow the instructions.

There is also help through the State strictly for renters. The ERAP program is rental assistance, heating assistance (firewood, propane, gas, electric) and the overall electric bill assistance. To see if you may qualify, go to www.renthelpnm.org.

To further help combat rising electric usage, FEC offers a pamphlet entitled, “Saving Energy in the Home.” Call us today at (800) 445-8541 and we can put one in the mail to you.



PERMITTED
CLOVIS, NM
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
STANDARD
PRESORTED

Clovis, New Mexico 88102-0550
3701 Thornton St., P.O. Box 550

**OF NEW MEXICO
FARMERS' ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**