

FEC POWER

Source

Vol. 23 No. 07

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



FEC Youth Tour Delegation Returns from D.C.

The Government In Action Youth Tour (Youth Tour) program is a great program that unites young adults from every corner of our state then allows them to connect with others from across the United States. This year my husband Mitch and I had the opportunity to go as chaperones. As chaper-



ones, it was one of the most enjoyable trips we have ever taken.

On day one we arrived in Santa Fe to meet and greet each delegate and their family from the surrounding cooperatives in New Mexico. After meeting each delegate, we headed out for a walking tour of Santa Fe and on to our state Capitol Building for a guided tour. Youth Tour delegates got to meet with Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales and ask him questions and present him with a Youth Tour shirt and pin. After touring the San Miguel Church, the oldest church structure in the United States, we walked to the Loretto Chapel, built in 1873. This is the third year the delegates have been able to tour Santa Fe before heading to Washington D.C.

Allowing our delegates to get a feel for local government was a great way to start the first day of this trip. After wrapping up our tour of Santa Fe we all boarded the Railrunner to head to Albuquerque to

continue the next leg of our trip to Washington. With approximately 35 of New Mexico's best and brightest young people, we boarded our plane and headed for a 7 day trip to Washington, D.C.

Upon arriving at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, we were greeted by our guide Bill, who has escorted the New Mexico group for the last three years. From that moment on, our group was introduced to Washington in a way we will never forget. Bill is not only a Veteran, but has lived in the area all of his life and knows a great deal about history that isn't necessarily in a history book. Somehow it just isn't the same reading about something in a book or actually seeing or hearing about it firsthand. We



Story by Michelle Hammonds, FEC



spent the next few days learning about America's history and visiting many memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, and laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. After this ceremony we could see how it changed the view each one of the kids had towards those serving our country; I don't think one of our

See YOUTH TOUR on PAGE 4

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

New Rate Design to Protect Members

Over the past few months, Farmers' Electric has been working to develop rate changes necessary to address revenues lost from members who choose to install Distributed Generation (DG), including solar panels and small wind machines. In some examples, members are able to completely offset their monthly energy purchases from the Cooperative, providing minimal financial support for the ongoing construction, operation and maintenance of the Cooperative's electric system. Across the Cooperative's service

area, the cost of maintaining and replacing aging infrastructure is an ever-increasing expense.

It is important that the Cooperative move forward with rate changes now, while the number of members impacted are relatively small. As the Cooperative considered various rate options, the Board of Trustees wanted to explore rate design that would allow members to continue to reduce their monthly electric bill through net metering and avoid wholesale power generation and transmission costs. Just as important, the Board wanted a rate design to protect other members from shouldering a disproportionate share of the cost to construct, operate, and maintain the Cooperative's electric system.

For Farmers' Electric, the cost to serve a member can be separated into two distinct categories:

1. Wholesale Power expense, including power plants, fuel to generate electricity, and bulk transmission system; and
2. Farmers' Electric system expense, including construction, operation, and maintenance of the Cooperative's electric system.

When a member installs DG Farmers' Electric does experience a reduction in wholesale power expense; however, DG does not reduce any of the costs to operate the Farmers' Electric system. Farmers' has identified that the "average" cost to serve a residential member is \$57.36 per month. For members with DG the Cooperative spends an additional \$8.49 each month to read and calculate the bi-directional meter data for net-metering, for a total base cost of \$65.85 per month for the average residential member with DG. Farmers' current base Customer Charge for residential members is \$17.50 per month. Historically, the Cooperative has relied on revenues from kilowatt-hour sales to recover the difference between the base cost to serve each member and the base Customer Charge.

Farmers' proposed rate change would increase the Customer Charge for all residential members to \$20.00 per month. For members with DG, Farmers' proposes an additional monthly service charge of \$8.49, to recover the extra cost involved in reading and calculating the bi-directional meter data for net-metering, a total of \$28.49 per month.

See **RATE CHANGES FOR DG** on **PAGE 3**

Board of Trustees:
Mike West
President
George Dodge
Vice President
Donnie Bidegain
Secretary-Treasurer
Justin Barnes
Trustee
Paul Quintana
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 (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

RATE CHANGES FOR DG from PAGE 2

In addition, each DG account will be charged \$5.72 per kW per month of installed DG system capacity. As an example, the monthly base charges would be calculated as:

<u>DG System Size</u>	<u>Customer Charge</u>	<u>Facility Charge</u>	<u>Total Base Charge</u>
3kW DG	\$28.49	\$17.16	\$45.65
6kW DG	\$28.49	\$34.32	\$62.81
10kW DG	\$28.49	\$57.20	\$85.69

The DG Facilities Charge varies with the size of the DG system installed and is designed to mirror the portion of the Cooperative’s electric system the member is relying on at times when the DG system is not providing sufficient energy such as night, weather conditions, etc. Any kilowatt-hours consumed in the month will continue to be billed under the residential rate schedule, including any discounts for electric water heating and space heating.

Farmers’ Electric recognizes that some members have already made significant investment in DG; therefore, for a period of five years from the date the Board of Trustees approved the change, May 24, 2019, the Cooperative will “grandfather” members who currently have DG and not impose the DG Facilities Charge of \$5.72 per kW of installed DG capacity per month. Members with DG would be charged the Customer Charge of \$20.00. plus \$8.49 for meter reading and billing for net-metering, a total of \$28.49 per month plus a charge for any energy used in the month.

Changes in rates to accommodate DG are also proposed for the Irrigation, Small Commercial, Power Service and Industrial rate classes.

If you have any questions regarding this proposed rate changes, please feel free to contact myself or Thom Moore, Director of Member Services, (800) 445-8541.

Until next month,



Summer Sizzler!

Charbroil Patio Bistro Electric Infrared Grill

Save \$50!

\$179

***While supplies last**



SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

- *Make sure that any lighting equipment in your pool is up to code and regularly examined by a professional. To change or repair a light, ensure the electricity to the pool is first turned off at the circuit breaker.*
- *If you are in the water and feel electric current, which can cause a tingling sensation, shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. **Do not use a metal ladder to exit the pool.***
- *Remember, water and electricity are a dangerous mix, even outside the pool. **Never touch any electrical appliances or outlets when you are wet or standing in water.***



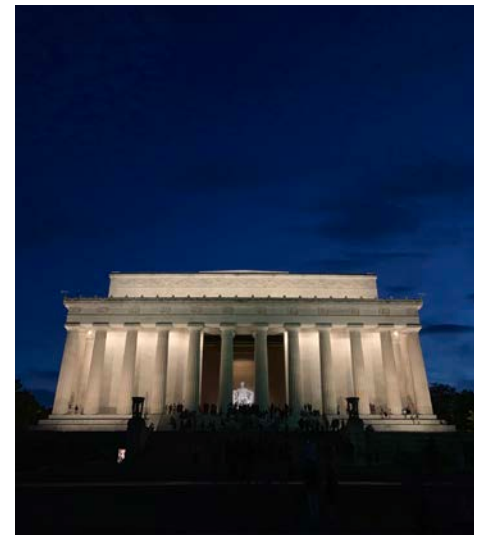
YOUTH TOUR *from* **PAGE 1**

delegates let a soldier, or veteran pass by without shaking their hand and offering them a heartfelt “thank you” for their service. At one of our destinations, when we exited our tour bus, there was a United States Navy Rear Admiral, in uniform, standing as if he was waiting to catch a ride. Everyone in our group shook his hand, thanked him for his service and asked if he would join us for a group picture. Needless to say, he felt the appreciation that he so deserved.

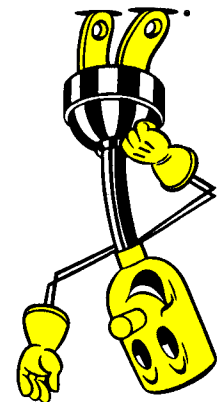
Jantzen Paris, representing Logan High School, said his favorite memory of Youth Tour was, “visiting the World War II memorial and the Lincoln memorial.” He also enjoyed the “musical moments” on the bus rides and making friends he will, “remember for a lifetime.” Kannon Brooks, representing Clovis High School said, “my favorite part was definitely the group of people with me from all over the state. Just seeing the differences and similarities between all of us was amazing as well as the life-long friendships.” Kannon added, “Something that made this trip so special was that we all got to experience Washington, D.C. for the first time together in a meaningful and impactful way.”

Another highlight of the trip was getting to go to Capitol Hill and meeting with all our congressmen! They all took time to meet with our group and gave the group the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the concerns with our “Future Leaders” of our Cooperatives and our country!

Pictures do not do justice to all the awesome sights we saw while in Washington! I agree that this is a spectacular trip, so I encourage any Junior to apply in the fall of their Junior year for this once in a lifetime trip. It will be the highlight of your summer. Watch this publication for more information on the tour or ask your guidance counselor for more details. You can go to our website www.fecnm.org for more information, forms are available starting in October.



“Owned By Those We Serve”



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CLOVIS, NM
PERMIT NO. 64

FARMERS' ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
OF NEW MEXICO
3701 Thornton St., P.O. Box 550
Clovis, New Mexico 88102-0550