



"Owned By Those We Serve"

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS • 1938-2018

# POWER

## Source

March 2018 Vol. 22 No. 3

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## Nominating Committee Reports for the 2018 Annual Meeting

District No. 1, (Clovis), District No. 4, (Santa Rosa), and District No. 6, (Broadview/Grady) Nominating Committee meetings were held during the month of March, 2018.

**District No. 1** Committee, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, met at Farmers' Electric Cooperative's Clovis office on March 6, 2018. Following deliberations, **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 Farmers' Electric Cooperative's office in Santa Rosa on March 9, 2018. Following deliberations, **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 Farmers' Electric Cooperative's office in Clovis on March 7, 2018. Following deliberations, **John (Pat) Woods** was nominated by the committee to represent District No. 6.

## Is Your Electrician a Professional?

*Even the handiest of handymen leave electrical work to licensed, professional electricians*



Electricity can be dangerous in a home that's improperly wired, has overloaded circuits or has exposed or defective wiring, receptacles, or switches.

Even if the job seems simple, it's better to call an experienced electrician to do it. Most electricians have hours of on-the-job training under the supervision of a more experienced electrician and have passed an exam.

So, don't leave your electrician work to your handyman, your brother-in-law Bubba, or yourself. The money you spend hiring a professional will more than pay off in peace of mind and a safe home.



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 nomi-

nations 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 13, 2018**. If you have any questions, or wish to have more information regarding the proceedings, please call Lance Adkins at the Cooperative's Clovis office at 800-445-8541 or 575-762-4466 or by email at [lance@fecnm.org](mailto:lance@fecnm.org).

Manager's Message...



**Lance Adkins, GM**

## Be Prepared for Wildfire

**I**t feels like Spring, with warm daytime temperatures and wind. Of particular concern, our area is very dry, with no measurable precipitation since September across much of the Farmers' Electric (FEC) service area. Wildfire conditions are extreme and officials expect a difficult fire season.

Rainfall this past summer provided relief from the drought conditions our area has experienced over the past few years. Nature knows just how to utilize the scant rainfall during the growing season and produced a generous supply of grass and weeds, which are now

dry, increasing the danger of wildfire. Over the past few weeks unseasonably warm temperatures, low humidity, and strong winds have been a factor in several grass fires in our region. Another factor has been human activity, creating the initial "spark" and quickly growing out of control.

Fortunately, area firefighters were able to contain the fires and minimize the loss of property, though FEC has had to replace a number of poles lost to fire. Wildfire was a part of life in our area even before the first homesteads and towns were established. Each year wild fire impacts many folks in our area; often we hear of considerable property loss, and tragically, lives have been lost in recent years. Wildfire is difficult to contain, pushed along by strong winds, moving along a wide front. One large fire a few years back was measured at 20 miles in width, moving across the prairie almost as fast as the wind was blowing.

According to fire officials, one key to protecting property is to keep the area around our home and property mowed and cleared of brush and weeds. When looking for the cause of a fire, officials note that in most cases, fires are caused by people, carelessly disposing of fireplace ashes, burning weeds or trash, welding/cutting metal or even the barbeque grill. Several fires were attributed to hot exhaust from a car or truck driving through tall grass and weeds

Fire can also start by downed power-lines and other damage caused as high wind events blow through the area. One recent fire damaged several power poles causing one to fall. When we received the initial call of a downed pole from firefighters we were also aware that we had not received any outage reports; the line was down and still energized.

It is much easier for firefighters to protect homes and property if homeowners have taken ample precautions well before a fire begins by limiting fuel sources like brush and tall grass around the home and outbuildings. Area fire departments are on high alert and have several suggestions folks can take to reduce fire hazards around the home and property:



- Board of Trustees:**  
**Mike West**  
*President*  
**George Dodge**  
*Vice President*  
**Donnie Bidegain**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*  
**Paul Quintana**  
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**Pat Woods**  
*Trustee*  
**Billy Tate**  
*Trustee*  
**Ernest Riley**  
*Trustee*  
**General Manager:**  
**Lance R. Adkins**

### POWER SOURCE

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### To Report An Outage

We are on-call 24 hours each day, 365 days each year, to serve **your** electric power needs.

- Clovis**  
 762-4466  
**Fort Sumner**  
 355-2291  
**Santa Rosa**  
 472-3971  
**Toll Free**  
 1-800-445-8541

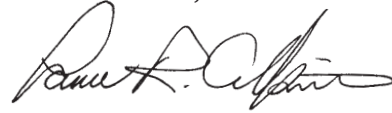
**WILDFIRE** from PAGE 2

- Be sure you are fully prepared before burning brush, garden debris, or grass. If state, county, or community has issued a burn-ban; please obey it. To control your fire you will need a source of water and hand tools for making firebreaks and throwing dirt. If the wind is blowing, don't start a fire!
- If your fire escapes or you see a wild fire, report it to your local fire department immediately; time is very important.
- Never store flammable material like firewood or lumber under or near your home. Keep it at least 100 feet away from the house.
- Be sure firefighters can identify the entrance to your property. Mark the drive with sturdy, easy-to-read signs with your name and address.
- Inspect outside electrical wiring. Old service

wires that run to out-buildings can be a fire hazard. The old weather-proof covering on the wire may be worn away by trees or fall off over time, exposing the energized conductor. If exposed wires touch each other or a well-grounded object, they will spark. If the sparks fall on dry wood, brush or grass, a fire may result. If you suspect that your wiring is in poor condition have it inspected and repaired by a qualified, licensed electrician.

- Remember, overhead High-Voltage power-lines are NOT insulated. If you notice a broken pole, cross-arm or wire, notify Farmers' Electric at once. A downed power-line is a fire hazard and a safety hazard.

Until next time,



**W**e look forward to visiting with you on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at the Cooperative's 80th Annual Meeting of Members. the meeting will be held in Grady, New Mexico, at the Grady High School gym. Door prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served following the business 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* cooperative.

- Registration: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m.
- Reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees
- Election of Trustees from Districts 1, 4, and 6
- Bob Farmer and the Farmers' Almanac
- Door Prizes for adults and children



*Lunch will be served following the business meeting (approximately 11:30 a.m.)*

**Are You Ready for 'Bobservations?'**



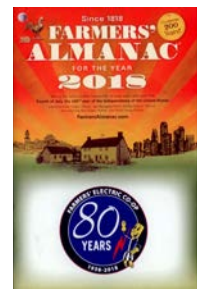
*"Vegetarian is an old Indian word that means: bad hunter."*

*"Always borrow from a pessimist, they never expect to be paid back."*

*"The length of a minute depends on which side of the bathroom door you are standing on."*

**T**hese are "Bobservations." You can expect plenty of these, as well as a lot of family-friendly humor when Bob Farmer headlines this year's FEC Annual Meeting. Bob will bring his unique style of down-home storytelling to Grady to help us celebrate 80 years!

Don't miss your chance to see one of the most sought-after humorist and motivational speakers around. Bob uses the popular Farmers' Almanac as part of his side-splitting presentation. Rich in American heritage and steeped with tradition, the Farmers' Almanac is one of the oldest, most respected publications in the nation. In conjunction with Bob's appearance, members who attend the Annual Meeting will receive a complimentary copy of the 2018 collectible edition of the Farmers' Almanac in their goody bags.



This year's Annual Meeting promises to be a treat for young and old alike! So make plans now to attend, and get ready for some "Bobservations."

# 10 Spring Energy Savings Ideas from the Energy Guys!

1. **Air Dry:** Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.

2. **Turn it off:** Use timers and motion detectors to turn off lights and be sure to unplug TV entertainment systems when traveling (use power surge protection strips for easy on/off switching) and don't leave your computer and monitor on needlessly.

3. **Don't get burned with hot water:** Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees and add a water heater blanket. Water heaters are the second highest source of energy consumption in the home.

4. **Fill it up please:** Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes. Also, wash your clothes in cold water as today's laundry detergent is formulated to be used with in cold water.

5. **Keep 'em clean:** Check furnace, heat pump, and A/C filters once a month and replace them regularly. A dirty air filter can increase your energy costs and over time can cause problems with your equipment.

6. **Get a check-up:** Have a licensed professional heating and air conditioning technician do a thorough check up on your heating and air conditioning system at least once a year. These check-ups can identify a problem early and save you a lot of heart ache and discomfort.

7. **Stop the breeze:** Caulk and weather-strip around drafty doors and windows. Like we've always said, "when in doubt, caulk." We suggest using clear silicone caulk.

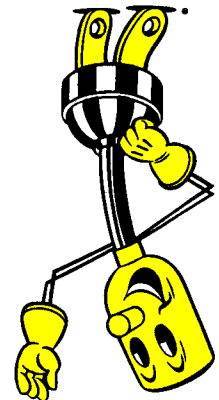
8. **Take a walk:** Circle your home with an easy-to-use spray foam insulation and look for openings and gaps around pipes, chimneys, lights, windows, basement brick, and cement work. Additionally, inside your home you will want to look under kitchen sinks and bathroom sinks to make sure those areas where the pipes enter from the floor or wall are sealed.

9. **Stay bright:** As "old-school" incandescent and even newer CFL bulbs burn out, replace them with new, light emitting diode bulbs (LEDs) and save about \$90 a year compared to incandescent bulbs. You pay more upfront, but shop around, prices are dropping. They use considerably less energy, last up to 20 years, and you can find in a variety of different shades of white light. Make sure and check the energy use label (aka: nutritional facts) for expected length of life and color in degrees Kelvin.

10. **Be a star:** Look for products and appliances that have earned the ENERGY STAR label. They meet strict new energy efficiency criteria that will reduce your utility bills. ENERGY STAR clothes washers, for example, use approximately 40% less water and 25% less electricity for washing than standard models.



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