



*Your monthly report from Your Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc.*

*Socorro Electric Cooperative board members at the 78th annual meeting on April 1.*

## Thank You for Attending our 78th Annual Meeting!

At each annual meeting, Socorro Electric Cooperative gives our members the opportunity to come together and vote for board trustees, ask questions and learn what our cooperative is doing. On April 1, we held our 78th annual meeting at Macey Center.

SEC General Manager Joseph Herrera says electricity is what makes rural living possible. With a service territory that spans more than 11,000 square miles, Herrera says, "We provide that quality of life with electricity. Now we're going to try to replicate that with broadband."

The New Mexico governor's office selected SEC for a matching grant of more than \$7 million to deliver high-speed internet to the village of Magdalena by the end of 2024. The technology will help automate the SEC system, allowing employees to respond to outages quicker.

"Hats off to the board for pushing that initiative," Herrera says.

The cooperative continues to pro-

mote net metering for members who have renewable energy generation.

This year, 1,247 members voted, surpassing the quorum of 259 (3% of 8,624 members). Of those votes, 1,117 were mailed in, and 130 people registered at the meeting. Members elected two new trustees. Judy Holcomb was elected in District 2 with 620 votes. Michael Kenneth Bowden was elected in District 3 with 642 votes.

Holcomb is an attorney who served as the Seventh Judicial District's domestic violence special commissioner for 16 years. She worked on utility rate regulation and project management with AT&T, Ford Motor Co. and Boeing. Holcomb looks forward to focusing on employee safety, alternative energy and community engagement.

Bowden earned a degree in electrical engineering from New Mexico State University and has been a Socorro resident for more than 20 years. While he served in the U.S. Air Force, Bowden maintained power generation and lighting for the KC-135 Stratotanker. Bowden wants to focus on future electricity demand needs, as well as clean energy.



*Socorro Electric General Manager Joseph Herrera spins the tumbler for door prize tickets during the 78th annual meeting on April 1.*

The board of trustees elected Leroy Anaya (District 3) as chairman and Ron Burnet (District 5) as vice-chairman. The board also elected Don Wolberg (District 3) secretary/treasurer.

Thank you to all who attended the annual meeting and voted. We are grateful to serve you another year!



# Tree Trimming in SEC Rights-of-Way

At your Socorro Electric Cooperative Inc., we love trees, but our power lines do not. To keep safe, reliable power flowing to your home or business, SEC follows a written vegetation management plan as required by Rural Utilities Service.

To help us maintain the vegetation around our power lines, SEC has contracted with Windy Tree, Inc., who will trim trees from mid-April through mid-June in the service areas identified by the maps to the right. Be on the lookout for Windy Tree's trucks with the logo seen below and signs identifying them as a contractor for SEC.

Trees planted near or under power lines create safety hazards not only for our crews but also for the members who live near those trees. Trees that make contact with the power lines can become conductive and shock children or adults playing in or near the trees. These trees can also cause major outages.

## CONTACT US

### WEBSITE

[www.socorroelectric.com](http://www.socorroelectric.com)

### PHONE

800-351-7575 or 575-835-0560

### PAYING YOUR BILL

You can make your payment over the phone by check or major credit card, 24 hrs. a day, 7 days a week with our IVR phone system at no charge.

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### REPORTING AN OUTAGE

Before reporting a power outage, please check the circuit breakers in your house. If you still do not have power after checking your breakers, please call **575-835-0560, 800-351-7575 or 855-881-8159.**

If you get a busy signal, it is an indication that someone else is experiencing an outage as well. Please continue to call to help us pinpoint the problem.

### MEMBER SERVICE/BILLING

Marilyn Madrid, Member Service Supervisor  
575-835-0560, Ext. 1504

### ACCOUNTING

Jimmy Capps, CFO  
575-835-0560, Ext. 1503

### LINE EXTENSIONS

Todd Unruh, 575-838-9738

### MARKETING & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

575-835-0560, Ext. 1503

SEC crews perform routine tree trimming and clearing activities to maintain clear rights-of-way. When a tree grows into, or is planted within, the rights-of-way, SEC must trim or remove the tree to reduce hazards. This means we have to cut beautiful trees, and that breaks our hearts.

SEC members can request to receive some of the bark chips created during the trimming. For information, call 575-838-9733. If convenient, Windy Tree may be able to drop off 6 yards of tree chips. This is a sizable amount of bark chips, and you will be responsible for them.

Together, we can reduce our maintenance expenses and increase safety for everyone by managing tree growth within the power line rights-of-way.

