

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

## SEC Continues Efforts to Protect the Cooperative Membership

Recently, SEC has found itself spending more time, and Members' money, guarding against the legal filings of others who seem determined to undermine our 75-year-old cooperative. On December 3, 2018, in an attempt to provide sufficient revenue to mitigate the increase in fixed costs over the previous seven years and to provide a financially strong cooperative for our Members for the future, SEC filed for its first rate increase since March 2011.



While the expert PRC staff unanimously supported our modest increase request of 5.08%, the Hearing Examiner (H.E.) not only recommended that our request be denied, she took it upon herself to redesign our rates! While SEC expected the rate filing to be thoroughly reviewed by the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC), the level of oversight delivered by PRC in its Final Order, by completely accepting the Recommended Decision (R.D.) by the H.E., was unanticipated. The Final Order frustrates the efforts of SEC's Trustees to meet their fiduciary obligations in maintaining the financial health and integrity of SEC, as the R.D. by the H.E. intrudes upon the exclusive authority of the Member elected Trustees.

Yielding to the requests by the City of Socorro and New Mexico Tech, the H.E. determined that the larger customers of SEC should receive a \$200,000 annual decrease in rates, by shifting this \$200,000 to all Residential Members of SEC (those living inside and outside the city limits) as an annual increase.

The SEC Trustees believe the Final Order was contrary to law and that the PRC exceeded its jurisdiction. Therefore, the Trustees exercised their legal options and appealed the Final Order from the PRC, to the New Mexico Supreme Court. In our filing, we requested that the rates recommended by the H.E. not be implemented until the Supreme Court rules on the matter. As of this publication, we have no anticipated timeline for completion of the case.



Anxious to receive the decrease from the H.E. recommended rates, and not satisfied to allow the legal options for SEC to run their due course, on April 3, 2020, the City of Socorro and New Mexico Tech requested the PRC compel SEC to begin charging the H.E. designed rates. SEC intends to comply with this Final Order while our appeal is pending before the New Mexico Supreme Court; the ordered rates will impact our Members in June.

We do not feel the City of Socorro, New Mexico Tech or any other intervenor will suffer substantial harm if the Supreme Court agrees with our appeal, as this will simply maintain the status quo for all Members, with no change to their current rates. Implementation of the Final Order will require changes to SEC's current 2011 rate structure and impose additional administrative expenses to be shared by all SEC Members, all of which will have to be reversed if the Supreme Court finds in favor of SEC. SEC should not have to incur these administrative burdens and expenses while waiting for the Supreme Court to rule on our appeal. SEC feels this appeal is simply a Member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative defending itself legally.

*Your*  
**SOCORRO ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

## Long Serving SEC Employee Retires

Ricky Williams, SEC Line Superintendent, will be retiring in June after 26 years of dedicated service. Ricky's career started in Quemado where he was hired as an Apprentice Lineman in 1994. In four short years, Ricky completed his apprenticeship and became a Journeyman Lineman. He was soon promoted to Area Line Foreman for the western portion of SEC's service area and in 2018 Ricky was promoted to oversee all SEC Line Crews as the Line Superintendent.

Ricky has served SEC, and his community, well all these years. He served as a coach for both Little League baseball and Youth Basketball in Quemado, and he spent 15 years on the Catron County Fair Board.

Ricky's wife Missy, is also retiring after 22 years with the Quemado Schools. In addition to her teaching duties, Missy served as a basketball and track coach and as a 4-H Leader in the community.

We at Your SEC want to wish Ricky and Missy the best for the years to come. We appreciate the dedication of this fine couple both to Your SEC and to the community of Quemado, serving as great employees, great neighbors and great friends!



**Ricky Williams**  
*Line Superintendent*

### 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  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### REPORTING AN OUTAGE

Before reporting a power outage, please check the circuit breakers in your house first. 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; however please continue to call, this will help us pinpoint the problem.

#### MEMBER SERVICE/BILLING

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

#### ACCOUNTING

Rauni Montoya - Accounting Supervisor  
575-835-0560 Ext 2502

#### LINE EXTENSIONS

Bill Harris - Staking Technician  
575-835-0560 Ext 2503

#### MARKETING & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jimmy Capps - Director of Communications & Public Affairs - 575-838-9724  
[jcapps@socorroelectric.com](mailto:jcapps@socorroelectric.com)

### April 2020 Board Report - the Board met via teleconference....

- approved the 2019 financial audit that had zero findings.
- approved the 2019 IRS Form 990 PF for the SEC Foundation.
- set the next Board Meeting for May 27, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

### SEC Foundation Announces 2020 Scholarship Recipients

While the 2020 Graduating Seniors certainly didn't finish their High School careers as expected, they will still graduate and many will move on to higher education. The SEC Foundation is proud to assist them with this journey and pleased to announce 10 new scholarship recipients. This brings the total number of recipients of our \$8,000 scholarships to 30 students from our area high schools.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!

#### *Belen High School*

*William Chavez  
Makayla Martinez*



*Magdalena  
High School*  
*Lazarus Sanchez  
Desirae Zamora*



#### *Socorro High School*

*Kaylene Baca  
Michael Fan  
Elysia Gutierrez  
Takayla Montoya  
Hannah Rosner*



*Alamo Navajo  
Community School*  
*Summer Secatero*