



Your monthly report from Your Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Jason Otero and Mike Reiff are shown here changing a bad crossarm on a 14,400 volt circuit. Changing this crossarm "hot", or still energized, prevented an outage for over 1,900 Members. Notice the cover-up materials used to protect these linemen.

SEC's 76th Annual Meeting of Members to be a "First"!

The 2021 Annual Meeting of Members for SEC will celebrate 76 years of operation and service to its Members, albeit with an added twist. This will be the first Annual Meeting to be held "virtually" which means "to be carried out by means of a computer". None of the usual handshakes, hugs, or slaps on the back for our dear friends and neighbors will happen this year. You'll need to be in front of a computer, cell phone or other mobile device to attend, participate, ask questions, or offer comments this year.

As always, the order of business will be in accordance with SEC Bylaws; including reports from the Board President, the Treasurer's report on the financial condition of SEC, a report from the Credentials and Elections Committee, as well as the submission of comments by the Members. We hope this electronic meeting will feel almost as familiar as our historical in-person meetings.

The Credentials and Elections Committee, made up of SEC Members, met on February 10, 2021. This committee declared no election was necessary with only the incumbent Trustees from District 3 submitting their "Declaration of Candidacy" during the filing period which started on the first of January and concluded on February 1, 2021. Therefore, as there was no opposition to these two SEC Members, Dr. Donald Wolberg and Leroy Anaya will be seated for a new three-year term on the Board at the conclusion of the annual meeting.

Be sure to turn to the inside of your April edition of the *enchantment* magazine as it will contain the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting and the Order of Business for this year's meeting. Keep watch for a postcard coming soon that will serve as the Official Notice of the 2021 Meeting of Members. This notice will provide instructions for our Members to join the meeting using their computers, cell phones, mobile devices or a land line telephone. At a minimum, Members will be able to call in on their land line telephones and listen to the proceedings - no video device needed.

The meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, 2021. We will conduct the meeting using the Zoom meeting application and will live-stream the meeting on YouTube. Members will be able to submit real-time questions throughout the meeting, using the "Chat" feature in Zoom. The meeting will also be simultaneously broadcast on YouTube which is primarily for viewing.

We do ask for your assistance in making this meeting productive by muting yourself on your electronic device and by submitting all questions or comments in written format in the Zoom meeting application.

We certainly missed not being able to have a grand celebration for our 75th anniversary last year, but we are encouraged this new format will still provide engagement from, and for, our Members.

Your
**SOCORRO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Spotlight on Team SEC - Your Board Trustee, Your Neighbor

Trustee Michael Hawkes is the newest face of the SEC Board, elected at the April 2019 Annual Meeting to represent District 4, which encompasses the southeastern portion of SEC's service area.

Michael reflects that he has been a civil servant since 1979, serving 24 years with the NM State Police and 12 years as the Executive Director of the Alamo Navajo School Board. He currently serves as the Socorro County Manager, a position he started in July 2019. This lifetime of public service and the desire to represent his neighbors prompted him to run for SEC's Board.

As with his past endeavors, his purpose for serving is to make a difference at SEC by promoting more Member engagement and encouraging more transparency in the unique business model that electric cooperatives follow.

Michael notes that SEC's rates for power are competitive in NM, the reliability for this power is good, and he feels the line crews are very responsive during outages. His goal is to implement new technologies to reinforce our reliability, improve service to the Member/Owners, and support the local communities in their need for broadband.



Michael Hawkes
District 4 Trustee

CONTACT US

WEBSITE

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

575-835-0560

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

February 2021 Board Report - the Board met virtually...

- approved a virtual meeting format for the 2021 Annual Member Meeting
- received a report that the Magdalena 69kV transmission line rebuild project will begin this summer and take 12-18 months for completion.
- received a report from the February 10th Credentials and Elections Committee meeting. The Committee reported there would be no election at the upcoming 2021 Annual Member Meeting as there are no contested positions for the Board.
- set the next Board Meeting for March 24, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Communications from SEC - Pick your source

In our continuing effort to keep our Members as informed as possible, SEC maintains an assortment of sources to engage messaging with our Members:

1. **The *enchantment* magazine** - this monthly magazine, distributed to all SEC Members, has been published for over 60 years as the voice of rural electric cooperatives in New Mexico. As the NMPRC has approved the *enchantment* to serve as the official notice to Members of proposed rate filings, SEC also uses the *enchantment* for other important notices such as "Instructions for Member Declarations of Candidacy for the Board" and "Annual Member Meetings".
2. **website** - <https://www.socorroelectric.com/> - our website provides the most comprehensive source for information about SEC. It includes: access to all Board Meeting videos, agendas, and minutes; a listing of our rates; a "Contact Us" form that will send us an email; onscreen webforms to allow Members to update their account information or to request repairs to their Area Lights; menu options for Members to pay their bills or report an outage, etc.
3. **Customer Service Portal** - <https://billing.socorroelectric.com/oscp/> this application allows our Members to manage their account from their computer or mobile device. Members can make payments, view bills, set up credit card or checking account Auto-Pay options, and set up to receive email or text alerts and reminders.
4. **Co-op Corner newsletter** - this monthly newsletter was started in 2016 in an effort to keep our Members better informed and engaged. It is included with the monthly billing statements and offers photographs and other graphics to enhance the messaging.
5. **Social Media: Facebook & Twitter** - these interactive computer based applications allow for communications and the sharing of ideas, on a real-time basis between SEC and our Members.