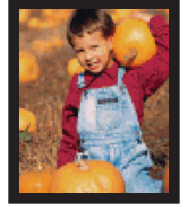




"Owned By Those We Serve"

## Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# UP DATE



September, 2003



### A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Daniel G. Laws

*"It's Annual Meeting time again. . ."*

It's Annual Meeting time again, and Rio Grande's staff has gone to great lengths to make the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting the best yet. More arts and crafts, more displays, more activities – more of everything that makes the RGEC Annual Meeting a one-of-a-kind event!

The Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, October 11, at the Pecos County Civic Center in historic Fort Stockton, Texas. The Fort Stockton area boasts a variety of attractions, including the Annie Riggs Museum. Fort Stockton, though proud of its historic roots, is a forward-looking community, currently working to foster economic development and support technology-based industries.

Like Fort Stockton, Rio Grande Electric Cooperative is proud of our heritage, but focused on the future. For years, we've been known as "the little co-op with the great big service territory." Now, RGEC is gaining a reputation as "the not-so-little co-op making great big advances." Both national and international industry publications are touting RGEC's innovative use of technology to better serve our members. News media such as Energy Prospects, Electricity.com, Canada NewsWire, Electric Energy On-Line, Centre d'Energetique (France) and Power Engineering have recently spotlighted RGEC for the use of satellite technology to remotely monitor substations.

The Annual Meeting is a great way to learn about the many other innovations RGEC is implementing, and to actively participate as an owner in the cooperative. Sometimes described as a cross between a family reunion and a business meeting, the Annual Meeting offers something for everyone. In addition to the business portion of the meeting and the announcement of director election results, there are attendance prizes, door prizes, free materials, great food and entertainment. The winner of the Grand Prize Drawing will take home a "Retired" RGEC Pickup Truck!

This year, we are pleased to offer a child identification program. Because we believe that the future lies in our children, we want to help keep them safe. We have also added new games, activities, and a new contest for school-aged children attending the Annual Meeting. Of course, the pumpkin decorating contest, and ATV and bucket truck rides are always a hit with the kids!

As you read through the remainder of our pages this month, you will see that we have an even greater variety of arts and crafts and informational displays than ever before. The Health Fair, courtesy of the Fort Stockton Emergency Medical Service, will provide a variety of screening services, and I encourage each of you to take advantage of this free service.

It is appropriate that our Annual Meeting is held each October, because October is National Cooperatives Month and RGEC's Annual Meetings epitomize the spirit of cooperation upon which cooperatives were founded. Annual Meetings are just another reason why Rio Grande Electric Cooperative is your **"Smart Choice"**.