



Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Update



May 2009



A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Dan Laws

*“We have an election process
that allows wide open access . . .”*

Director elections are upon us, and this year, five seats will be up for election. We have an election process that allows wide open access to members and one of which we are very proud. There is no excuse for someone who wants to run for the board of directors to not get their name on the ballot. If a nominating committee doesn't nominate you, then all you have to do is get fifteen members from your director district to sign a petition and you are on the ballot. You must also meet the qualifications to serve on the board. It is then your responsibility to get members to vote for you.

Alright, that covers the easy part! Once a member is elected to the board, that's when the “real work” begins. Depending on where you live and where the board meeting is held, you will spend most or all of two days traveling to and attending the monthly board meeting. As a prelude to the monthly meeting, you will receive a board package that must be reviewed in preparation for the meeting. At the board meeting, directors receive a read file containing the most current information available regarding issues slated for consideration that must be reviewed the evening before board meeting. A director serving on the Rio Grande board can expect to spend five hours a week, on average, dealing with Cooperative business.

But, that's still not the hard part! The hard part is the decision making. It is not uncommon for board members to have to make decisions involving very large sums of money, on a monthly basis. Securing loan funds, drawing down loan funds, determining how to repay loan funds, and entering into large projects with high costs (while hoping the gain as a result justifies the risk), are just some of the decisions that must be made. Now we are starting to scratch the surface of what I call “the hard stuff”. Oh, but that's not all! Board members must be responsive to members who bring concerns and complaints directly to them. And sometimes, they have to articulate policy and why the policy is what it is. As you can imagine, these are not always pleasant tasks.

You can and should be very thankful that you have a board of directors who cares about their responsibility and conducts themselves in an open and transparent way. I can tell you first hand that you are well served by those you have elected. Here at Rio Grande, we have term limits. Once a director has been elected to serve three consecutive three-year terms, he or she must step down for at least one three-year term. As a result, we have regular turn over, which results in fresh perspectives and new ideas.

At the end of the day, what you want, and more importantly, what you need, from the board of directors are honesty, integrity, morality mixed with fairness, due care and justice. I give you my personal assurance — that is exactly what you have. It's been a long time since I have used the expression, but that is “Your Home Team Advantage”.

Are You Considering Seeking A Seat On The RGEC Board?

Is your account structured so you are eligible to be a director? Are directors compensated? Read more about the director election process in the following pages.