



## A Message From The CEO By Roger Andrade

**“Transparency will yield the enlightening experience our membership deserves.”**

We are celebrating the Cooperative’s 73rd Anniversary and with it, the celebration of RGEC’s 73rd Annual Meeting of the membership, which is scheduled to take place Saturday, October 13, 2018, at the Pecos County Civic Center located at 1674 Airport Drive in Fort Stockton, TX.

Every year, it is our intent to engage the membership and update on general matters of their cooperative. Through our communications department, we try to bring focus to these topics by incorporating a theme to our meeting. This year’s theme is “Enlightening!” Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word as providing or tending to provide knowledge, understanding or insight. We find this very appropriate, as it is our goal to communicate knowledge or insight in matters of the Cooperative to the members.

On a personal note, it was extremely valuable to have been able to assume the leadership of the Cooperative through the thorough planning of the prior CEO and the board of directors. The access to the institutional knowledge through the process was invaluable and enlightening. I am committed to the notion that transparency will yield the enlightening experience our membership deserves. As the Chief Executive Officer of the Cooperative, I want to promote the engagement and participation of the membership in the matters of the Cooperative. This magazine article and the information shared monthly regarding the Co-op in the Ranch & Rural Magazine, provide a forum to interact with our membership beyond the bills and inserts. For example, this month’s edition will provide a summary of our financial position for prior years and current year-to-date. Every month, we attempt to provide our members with relevant information involving Rio Grande Electric and /or industry related topics of consideration.

We also are actively utilizing social media to interact with our membership and provide as close to real-time information as practically possible. Although, at times, may seem counterintuitive to advertise when we are experiencing issues on our system. We believe that an informed membership far outweighs the drawbacks of recognizing the issues we experience on our grid from time to time. A recent event that comes to mind, is an outage experienced at our Rosita Creek Substation. We experienced a fault, which damaged a transformer bushing caused by a snake making contact with the power transformer. This resulted in an outage that affected several members out of one of our most urbanized areas. We had completed a substation upgrade at that site not long ago, at which the intended goal was to mitigate critter-related outages, by installing a mesh fence around the perimeter and snake-guards around the electrical devices. After the incident occurred, it was clear that we had not anticipated the birds that hunt snakes drop them from above and into our equipment. We have now initiated insulating equipment as much as possible, and will soon schedule a planned power outage to cover areas not accessible while energized.

I share all this just to say, we are not perfect. We will miss things from time to time, but our level of commitment is without question. We will cure any areas we may have overlooked, and our line crews will work day and night to bring the lights back on for you! You can rest assured that we will not falter in our commitment to you! Hope to see you all at our upcoming Annual Meeting and hope you have a blessed start of a new school year!