



# GM/CEO Report

Dan Laws

By this time, you are probably wondering when I am going to leave. I will admit this has been a long goodbye. I am getting close, however. April 27, 2018, will be my last day. Serving the members of Rio Grande has truly been a privilege. I think you will see that reflected in our key staff, as well in their reports that follow my comments. Each one of them is proud to work for RGEC, and to be of service to you.

Each project developed and each decision that is made, is done so with an eye to what is in the best interest of the membership. We exist for no other reason. You own this business and we work for you. Our board of directors represents you in all decisions, with their unique understanding of what works for their neighbors. The cooperative business model is one that works for everyone. I am proud to have worked in a business where the goal of my job is to save people money.

Our existing management team, with Roger Andrade's leadership as CEO and Theresa Quiroz' as COO, will continue this tradition of putting the membership's interests first. I am not one who believes mission statements are useful, but if anyone needs a mission statement, I would direct them to the decals on our trucks; "Owned By Those We Serve". It says to whom we owe our loyalty, what our responsibility is, and what the results of our efforts should accomplish. These are words we live.

As I move on to the next phase of my life, I would admonish all of our employees to never lose sight of what is important. Our focus must always be to bring value to the lives of our members. I hope you enjoy the reports that follow, and that you can catch a sense of our staff's pride, as they discuss their efforts on your behalf.

We exist with your permission, not in spite of it.

## *Moving Forward* *2017 Annual Report*

*"Moving Forward" was selected as the theme for the 2017 Annual Report, because it epitomizes the goals of the Co-op, as we selected new leadership, and made great strides in system growth and improvements.*

*American Industrialist and founder of Ford Motor Company Henry Ford (7/30/1863 - 4/7/1947) said, "If everyone is moving forward together, success takes care of itself." These words are as true today as they were in Ford's time.*