



Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Update



JULY 2018



A Message From The CEO

By Roger Andrade

Commitment to Cooperation

As you read this article, the recent celebration of our nation's independence is a joyous memory by now. As we continue to enjoy the freedoms afforded to us by this great nation, it is important to thank those men and women in our armed forces that ensure we maintain those liberties. We owe perpetual gratitude to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice defending our nation. As a cooperative, we promote and advocate our liberty through our core values. One important aspect is democratic member control. We exist because of our membership and their needs for electricity through their democratic representation and control. In my humble opinion, the best way to honor our ancestors, armed forces, and our great nation is to celebrate our freedom in a way that promotes those freedoms. I encourage everyone to participate in your cooperative, whether it would be through voting, member advisory committees, nominating committee members, or as a board member. This year, we will have elections for five of the thirteen board of director seats. In order to become a director, a member must meet the qualifications as prescribed in the bylaws. To find out more on ways to engage and participate with your cooperative, please visit our website for more information. You can follow us on Facebook, as well, for Cooperative news, events, and outage information. Our social media presence has allowed us to instantaneously reach a significant part of our membership, while making us accountable on a public platform to promote member engagement. "Autonomy and independence" is one of the seven principles on which electric cooperatives were founded, and are considered pillars of the cooperative model. I am especially proud of the cooperative model, as it has demonstrated through history its resilience and ability to thrive in various political environments. It is at the core of cooperatives to work for their membership, and, therefore, our focus and dedication does not stray away from our primary goal; to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to our members.

"Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" are words that are not only part of the United States Declaration of Independence, but also a true testament of the nation's values. It is within those words and the characterization by our founders that the need for unifying principles were recognized early in this country's history. In order to achieve independence, our forefathers had to come together and cooperatively set out to achieve this goal. Independence is so powerful and important that our forefathers needed to convey that commitment to cooperation in the last sentence of the Declaration of Independence: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

Those words still to this date give me goosebumps. These words not only convey a message, but an ideal worth protecting. I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Independence Day and God bless America!

RGEC's offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4 for the Independence Day Holiday.