



Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# Update



NOVEMBER 2018



## Message From The CEO By Roger Andrade



### Being Thankful

As I sit here and write this article, the thought of our 73rd Annual Meeting of the membership is but a fond memory by now. As the CEO of Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, I am constantly reminded of how lucky we are to be where we are and to be part of this organization. I had the opportunity to visit with some of the members that attended this year's annual meeting and I can honestly say we have some of the best members any cooperative can have. All greeted me cheerfully; we were able to converse, albeit short, but definitely in good spirits. It was at that time, that I was humbled by their comments, as well as them letting me know that they follow the Cooperative's news not only

through social media, but also through the monthly articles we put out for their reading enjoyment.

This month is very fitting to the general state of mind I currently find myself in. For it is in this month, that we have a special holiday that reminds us to look back and assess all the things for which we can and should be thankful. In my case, I am extremely thankful for my family; without the support and belief of my beautiful wife and son, I would not be where I am today. I am also thankful for the staff that I have the honor to lead at Rio Grande Electric. These men and women are exceptional and care much for our members. I hope you were all able to discern that from the way they tended to you during the annual meeting. We also had staff that stayed behind to ensure we had the day-to-day business covered, while we held our annual meeting. Every single employee of the Cooperative plays a very important role in the success we have day in and day out, bringing safe, reliable power to our members. I encourage you to thank those employees when you interact with them. They truly care about you and want to provide you with the best service. It is also fitting to thank our attorneys, partners, vendors and consultants, as they not only contributed to the success of the annual meeting by donating great door prizes, they also provide very valuable services when our expertise or resources become limited in certain areas. Having access to those individuals and the rapport we have been able to foster, makes a world of difference and gives our staff and management the confidence to tackle any major task.

I am also very thankful for the recent successes we have had in defending our service territory. For those of you who did not have a chance to attend the meeting, I updated our members on the status of a PUC docket where the integrity of our service territory was in jeopardy. We are very close to the finish line on this one, and it is looking very favorable for the Cooperative. Protecting our service territory is crucial to the continued success of the Cooperative, as well as the overall benefit of the membership. If we lose the ability to serve load that is in our service territory, our members will continue to bear the entire costs of such a vast system. Therefore, it is important that when new load develops, RGEC is able to serve that load and help pay into the infrastructure the membership has borne since the Cooperative's inception.

Finally, I would also like to thank the men and women of our armed forces that protect our liberties from those that threaten our democracy. As a partner with both Army and Air Force through the privatization contracts, we are honored to serve those who protect our freedom to the best of our capacity, which is to deliver their power for the continuation of their mission and well-being. Thank you again for those that made it out to the annual meeting, and those that could not, I would encourage you to attend next year's meeting, which will be held in Eagle Pass, TX. Happy Thanksgiving and God bless!

*Happy Thanksgiving!*