



Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Update



OCTOBER 2018



A Message From The COO

By Theresa Quiroz

Celebrating National Cooperative Month: The Fundamentals of the Electric Cooperative Promise

A cooperative incorporated on July 27, 1945, pursuant to Chapter 161 of the Texas Utilities Code, Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc. (RGEC) became a not-for-profit consumer-owned electric utility, with lines first energized in 1948, to improve the quality of life in the most rural parts of Texas. Rio Grande Electric now celebrates its 73rd Annual Membership Meeting and there could not be a better time for us to come together to celebrate the past, the present, and the future of RGEC.

As we think about the Cooperative's history and its purpose, we often ask ourselves, "Does the electric cooperative model still make sense all these years after the first rural cooperatives were created?" Studies show that consumers want to do business with companies that share their values, making today's environment ideal for cooperatives and their commitment to the communities in which their members live and work. In the tradition of RGEC's early Co-op members, we believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others. We believe member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives can thrive in today's utility marketplace, if they have a clear sense of cooperative purpose. At RGEC, our purpose to "serve the members" drives all that we do.

From operating by the cooperative principles to allocating capital credits, we strive to meet the needs of our members. The annual meeting serves as an opportunity to revitalize the spirit of the cooperative purpose amongst the members and employees. In fact, it is also a great opportunity to build employee camaraderie. Employees who feel connected to coworkers are happier, more productive, and easier to retain. At a time when tension between investor-owned utilities and cooperatives and the disparity between rural and urban continues to be the theme today, we must be stronger in the future to protect the electric cooperative program and the members we serve. Member involvement in your cooperative is critical and we invite you to be a part of the movement.

Bringing together good neighbors and good friends to rededicate ourselves to the fundamentals of the electric cooperative promise is sure to be an enlightening experience and one that emPowers the future of RGEC.

Rio Grande Electric Cooperative's 73rd Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 13
Pecos Co. Civic Center
1674 Airport Drive
Ft. Stockton, TX

emPOWER
Summit 2018

Attendance Prizes
Door Prizes -- Catered Lunch
Grand Prize - 2006 F150 4x4
SuperCab Pickup