A Message From The COO

Theresa Quiroz

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

I cannot believe it’s already July! Record heat is definitely upon us and still many continue to deal with the concerns for health and justice in our world today. Admittedly, the process of change we must endure to deal with these issues seems daunting, but I am an optimist, and I choose to respect our new way of life and help build resilience. Ironically, I am writing this message to you on Flag Day. It is Sunday, and we are freely allowed to trust in the principles for which we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. I am convinced that there will never be a better time for America to face such challenges.

By the time you read this, we will have just celebrated our nation’s independence and I am pretty sure it was a little different this year; but even so, we participate by remembering the struggles of the American people. We participate by continuing to honor and celebrate that Star-Spangled Banner, as it waves in the sky because of those brave men and women who served in sacrifice long ago and because of those who continue to serve to protect our liberties and our way of life today. We participate by exercising our freedoms, while not infringing on those of others. We are a proud nation built to be resilient against all evil threats. I hope your Fourth of July celebration was a happy, healthy, and memorable one.

Likewise, with the echo of pomp and circumstance playing at modified graduation ceremonies streamed live across the Nation, graduates, family, and friends have celebrated these milestone achievements differently this year; and even so, we remain hopeful in their future endeavors and their passion to be the change needed in this world. Congratulations, Class of 2020!

Many of you have seen the heat advisories and conservation alerts we have shared on social media, which stem from the high temperatures and high power demand experienced this past month across Co-op Country. Texas set a new peak power record of 67,839 megawatts on June 8, 2020, and I am afraid there is more threat projected. With Time of Use (TOU) rates in effect through the summer months, you have the opportunity to help by voluntarily reducing your energy usage during peak periods. If you have not already signed up to receive free power usage alerts, you can still subscribe online through your SmartHub account. These alerts will help you continue to monitor your energy usage and help prevent possible rolling blackouts this summer. Please practice heat safety, wherever you are... job sites, indoors, vehicles, or outdoors. Find shade, stay hydrated; check up on each other, especially the elderly, and look around inside before you lock your car.

For many reasons, I, honestly, have a hard time understanding the magnitude of concern for justice in the world today - not to dismiss it; but mostly because I live and breathe the Cooperative, where we operate by a set of principles and values to help reduce conflict, build community cohesion, build skills, expertise, and develop potential - in effect, Rio Grande Electric has helped build resilient communities now for seventy-five years. The co-op business model is effective. So again, celebrate this liberty and participate in remembering the struggles of rural America. Participate in your democratic member control by serving as member advisors, directors; or by voting in this year’s director election. Literally, stay connected with us...from home, on social media, and SmartHub. Congratulations to RGEC and its members for seventy-five years of service!