



**Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

# UPDATE



September 2020



## A Message From The COO Theresa Quiroz

### *Celebrating 75 Years*

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced Cooperatives all around the state of Texas to find new ways of conducting business and Rio Grande Electric Cooperative is up to the challenge. The Co-op has had to embrace today's modern technology to continue our mission of serving. A prime example is the upcoming launch of the Co-op's first-ever virtual annual meeting. Members are invited to pre-register for the live-event taking place on Saturday, October 10, 2020, at 10 a.m. Although we prefer to meet in person, our focus remains on the safety and health of Rio Grande Electric, its members and employees. Annual meeting is always a special time for employees and members to come together to celebrate the successes of the Cooperative. We will definitely miss seeing everyone in person, but as you will see in the next few pages, we still have plans to conduct some business, celebrate and award prizes to entice your participation. The director election is another significant detail of the annual meeting. Your official ballots are scheduled to mail September 8, 2020, along with an email link to the electronic ballot. Make sure to return them to Survey and Ballot Systems by 10 A.M. October 7, in order for your vote to count. All efforts to move from in-person to virtual participation are to allow Co-op members, from across the largest service territory in the contiguous United States, to connect safely with Rio Grande's leaders for updates on the state of the Co-op.

While on the topic of safety, the extreme heat wave Co-op Country experienced in August set new records for high temperatures and for high power usage. Of course, there's never a good time for power outages, but it seemed that our outages happened just at the worst possible times. The Fort Stockton and Desert Haven areas seemed to be the hardest hit.

In the Fort Stockton Operations Area, a few major outages occurred recently at the Pat Lee Substation, causing the entire area served by this substation to be affected. These outages involved replacing blown fuses and critical metering equipment. As luck, or the lack thereof, would have it, responding crews were at the opposite end of the operations service area at the time the outage occurred. When events like this take place, RGEC has to coordinate with transmission providers and operators to receive clearance in order to conduct repairs, and then again to re-energize. Nonetheless, Rio Grande Electric is extremely grateful for the understanding and flexibility of the membership during these challenging times and we look forward to hosting a commemorative annual meeting that delivers convenience and so much more in celebration of 75 years of cooperation!

**RGEC Director Election Sept. 8 - Oct. 7**