

COLUMBUS' CURRENTS

CEC Awards 20 Scholarships

Among electric cooperatives there is a time honored tradition of giving. From the dawn of the electric cooperative movement it was all about neighbors helping neighbors.



In keeping with this tradition, the Board of Trustees at their April meeting awarded 20 five hundred dollar scholarships to the following recipients: Holly Freeman; Esmeralda Bajo; Dallas Pompeo; Samantha Romero; Gabriel Martinez; Brannick Sweetser; Guadalupe Rubio; Mikenzie T Choate; Alejandra Ruiz; Geraldo Zizumbo; Cipriano Cardoza; Edgar Hernandez; Marissa Hillebert; Jesus Josue Garcia; Braiden Owen Washburn; Kaleigh Best; Shannon Choate; Joel Mendoza; Zachary Winkler; Logan Klump. Two scholarships were funded by our power supplier Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association and one scholarship was provided courtesy of our associate membership with Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Scholarship applicants must be either an active member or of the immediate family of an active member.

Academic accomplishments, character and need are the determining factors guiding high school counselors in selecting the individuals receiving these grants.

Scholarships are funded through escheat monies. These are unclaimed capital credits or deposits that prior to the establishment of the fund were turned over to the respective states.

To assist in funding this important program, several years ago we introduced "**OPERATION ROUND UP**". Members participating in this program have their electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar each month and those monies are deposited into the Scholarship Fund. For example, this month a member's electric bill is \$81.75. The bill would be rounded up to \$82.00 and the extra \$.25 would be deposited in the fund. Participants could expect to contribute about \$6 per year. So far approximately 10% of all accounts have signed up. Call the Co-op office to join in this effort.

We realize that the health of the cooperative is inextricably tied to the well-being of the community. So grows the community, so grows the cooperative.

Annual Meeting Report

With a quorum present the 70th Annual Member Meeting of the Cooperative was called to order. Members were presented reports on the economic and operating condition of their Cooperative. Members asked questions, then elected representatives, placing into action the most basic of our founding principles, democratic control.



Edward Elbrock, Board President

Edward Elbrock, Board President in his report stated “our first priority as directors is to protect the welfare of the Cooperative and its’ members. In addition to protecting the assets of members, the board is responsible for helping the business grow in a fiscally responsible manner.”

Bill Miller, Board Secretary-Treasurer having reviewed the financial report for the period ending December 2015, concluded by stating, “The Cooperative continues to be financially sound.”

Chris Martinez, Executive Vice-President/General Manager discussed the rate stability members have experienced over the years stating, “The average residential consumer’s bill has increased by just 8% over the past 25 years.” He reviewed what caused the two major outages that occurred in 2015. He then provided the membership an overview of operation and maintenance programs designed to improve service reliability.

Re-elected to serve as members of the board were; Nancy Clopton, District II; Jay Peterson, District III; and Bill Miller, Jr., Trustee-at -Large.

Members unanimously voted to hold the 2017 Annual Meeting in Animas.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the members that took time out of their busy schedules to attend this important meeting, and to the Cotton City 4-H group for once again preparing an excellent meal!

Winner, Annual Meeting Joke Contest

A hobo comes up to the front door of a neat looking farmhouse and raps gently on the door. When the farm owner answers, the hobo ask him, “Please sir, could you give me something to eat? I haven’t had a good meal in several days.”

The owner says, “I have made a fortune in my lifetime by supplying goods for people. I’ve never given anything away for nothing. However, if you go around the back, you will see a gallon of paint and a clean paint brush. If you will paint my porch, I will give you a good meal.”

So the hobo goes around the back and a while later he knocks on the door. The owner says, “Finished already? Good. Come in. Sit down. The cook will bring your meal right in.”

The hobo says, “Thank you very much sir. But there’s something I think you should know. It’s not a Porsche you got there. It’s a BMW.”

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: energy.gov

Emergency Response Number
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