

SIERRA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



MEMBER NEWSLETTER

August 2016

75 Years of Providing High Quality, Reliable Electric Service to Members in Sierra County, and areas of Luna, Socorro, and Catron Counties

“You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there.”

~George Burns

Dealing with Mother Nature

Even if you have not lived in Sierra County very long, you are very likely to have asked the question to friends, family and strangers – “Did you get any rain?”

In New Mexico, Monsoon Season is the period lasting from June 15th through September 30th each year, as designated by the National Weather Service. It is characterized by increased chances for flash flooding, thunderstorms with dangerous lightning and downburst winds. And, it is the prime-time for New Mexico to see most of its rainfall. In Sierra County, rainfall averages during Monsoon Season can be over ten times as much as drier months. Even though we welcome the subsequent green grass after the rainy season has passed, we must also be forced to deal with the downside of Mother Nature's extra attention to us during the summer months.

Recently, Sierra Electric was greatly impacted by the effects of monsoon season with several damaging storm-related events, including three power poles that broke due to high winds west of Cuchillo, another pole that was struck by lightning and three “floaters”, which are wires that become detached from the pole from either a broken insulator or cross-arm usually due to lightning strikes or wind. A 21,000 amperes lightning strike (enough energy to electrify all of Sierra County 3.5 times over!) was correlated with the July 27th outage that briefly affected Elephant Butte and caused an extended outage in Cuchillo, Winston, Chloride, Poverty Creek and Beaverhead.

Similarly, the Public Service Company of New Mexico recently reported that a lightning strike on August 7th at one of their substations was the cause of their worst outage in 15 years, affecting 81 substations throughout the PNM system and 128,647 customers from Los Lunas to Santa Fe.

Sierra Electric is committed to providing high quality, reliable electric service. Not only are we owned by the consumers we serve, but many of our employees are members too. We know the importance of getting the lights back on quickly, but safely, so that your lives, and our lives, can get back to the important stuff.

Youth Tour Delegates Describe Youth Tour Experience as “Indescribably Amazing!”

2016 Sierra Electric Youth Tour Delegates Sarah Faulkner and Logan Cummins met with the Cooperative's Board of Trustees on Friday, July 15th, to speak to them about their experiences during the Youth Tour Government-in-Action trip to Washington, D.C. in June. During the week-long, all-expense paid event sponsored by Sierra Electric Cooperative and the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Sarah and Logan were able to visit the Smithsonian, meet with Congressional leaders, and participate in the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Both Sarah and Logan agreed the experience was “nothing less than spectacular” and “indescribably amazing”! Sierra Electric is proud to have had the two teens represent them on a national level.



Sarah & Logan in front of the White House

WINTER MORATORIUM PROTECTION

Winter Shut-Off Protection Notice

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2016. To avoid potential disconnection of services, please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 1-800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2016 through March 15, 2017 if you qualify for LIHEAP and you remain current on any payments that you owe under a payment plan, or you have no past due amounts as of November 15, 2016. For more information call the Human Services Department at 1-800-283-4465.

Nota de La Protección de Desconexión del Invierno

El 15 de Noviembre del 2016 empezara la protección de desconexión del invierno. Para prevenir una posible desconexión de servicios, por favor de contactar al Departamento de Servicios Humanos para información sobre elegibilidad para el programa de bajos recursos de energía, (LIHEAP) al 1-800-283-4465. Su servicios no serán desconectado durante el 15 de noviembre 2016 hasta el 15 de Marzo del 2017 si usted califica para el programa de bajos recursos de energía, (LIHEAP) y si usted continua al corriente en los pagos que usted deba bajo un plan de pago, o hasta el 15 de Noviembre del 2016 y no tenga ningún pago atrasado. Para información en español llame al Departamento de Servicios umanos, 1-800-283-4465.

Sierra Electric Has Allocated 2015 Capital Credits to its Members in the Amount of \$ 591,591.33

For the year 2015, \$591,591.33 in Cooperative margins were allocated to the members. The allocation is based on the proportion of kilowatt-hours each member used during the year.



Because Sierra Electric is a cooperative, owned by its members, it doesn't technically earn profits. Instead, if revenues exceed the cost of doing business (i.e. expenses), the co-op has earned "margins." Each year that margins are earned, the Cooperative's members are allocated a portion of the margins, which are in proportion to the amount of electricity each member purchased during that year. These portions are called capital credits.

Allocated capital credits are the amounts assigned to each member who was billed for service during a year in which margins were earned. While the credits are assigned to members, they are retained by the Cooperative for a period of time and are used as capital, which reduces our need to borrow money. Allocated capital credits reflect your ownership in Sierra Electric. When capital credits are eventually retired, Sierra Electric will then issue refunds.

The refund or "**retirement**" of capital credits is not automatic. The Cooperative's Board of Trustees must specifically authorize the retirement of capital credits after considering the financial impact on the Cooperative.

SEC Office Closed Monday, September 5th, for Labor Day

On June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act declaring the first Monday in September each year a legal holiday dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. The Sierra Electric office will be closed September 5th to celebrate this holiday.

As of 2015, there were 859, 242 civilians employed in New Mexico (*source: New Mexico Dept. of Workforce Solutions*). This Labor Day, take a moment to thank yourself and your hard-working friends and family, for both your and their contributions to the American Workforce!



SEC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.
YOUR TOUCHSTONE ENERGY@COOPERATIVE

