



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

**Although it's been said many times, many ways, Merry Christmas to you—"The Christmas Song"**

### Sierra Electric Welcomes New General Manager

The Sierra Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees announced that they have hired Sierra County local Denise Barrera for the position of General Manager effective December 1, 2017. The Board of Trustees recognized Barrera's ability to quickly understand concepts, identify and solve problems, implement operational efficiency and build a productive team of employees.

Barrera started her career in the rural electric cooperative industry at Sierra Electric Cooperative (SEC) in 1979 as Office Manager. In 1987, she left SEC and spent the following twenty-seven years employed at Cooperative Services Incorporated (CSI) and Columbus Electric Cooperative in Deming, NM. Throughout those years, she gained the experience necessary to achieve leadership positions at both employers. Barrera held positions such as Manager of Customer Support, Finance Manager, IT Manager, Mapping Manager and Assistant General Manager.



Denise Barrera, General Manager

Barrera currently resides in Elephant Butte, however has ties with communities throughout the SEC territory. She started her elementary education in Truth or Consequences before moving to South America and Maryland as a youth. The time she spent in South America led to her fluency in the Spanish language. Barrera returned to Truth or Consequences to finish out her high school education.

Barrera has always been very active in the Sierra County community; she has served on numerous committees and boards, including the T or C Municipal School Board, Sierra County Fair Board, the Arrey PTO and she helped found a 4-H program in Arrey. In the cooperative industry, Barrera also served on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Capital Credit Task Force.

Barrera has one son and a daughter-in-law and they have given her three grandsons. When she is not busy devoting her time to her grandchildren, she is an avid golfer and enjoys knitting and crocheting.

Much like her early life in Sierra County, Barrera's career has come to a full circle, bringing her back to where she started – Sierra Electric Cooperative. She is looking forward to working with the Board, Staff, Employees and Members of the Cooperative to continue its mission of providing high quality, reliable electric service and related products to our members at competitive prices.



*Holiday Wishes to You and Yours  
from Sierra Electric Cooperative*

**Office Closed: Monday, December 25th, for Christmas Day  
Monday, January 1st, for New Year's Day**

## Change in Newsletter Circulation

Effective immediately, our members who are billed on the last business day of the month and the first business day of the month will now be the first to receive the newsletter for the actual month they receive their bill statement via US Mail. For example, if you are a member whose bill statement is dated November 30, 2017 or December 1, 2017, then you are receiving this December newsletter instead of the November newsletter. If you are a member affected by this change and would like a copy of the November newsletter, you may pick one up at our office, call the office and request one be mailed to you or visit our website, [www.sierraelectric.org](http://www.sierraelectric.org), and click on the **About Us>SEC Newsletters** menu. We hope that this change will allow our communications to be received by all our members in a more timely manner.

## FREE Washington D.C. Trips for Local Contest Winners

An all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. in June 2018 will be awarded to two young people from this area if they are selected as winners of an essay contest held by Sierra Electric Cooperative. Sophomore, Junior and Senior level students ages 16-19 who are dependents of a Sierra Electric Cooperative member(s) are eligible to apply for the contest. Entrants will be required to complete the application and answer two cooperative related essay questions on the application. Entrant's responses will be judged on the basis of the students' knowledge of the subject, originality, composition, neatness and grammar of the essay. The essay contest begins November 1, 2017.

The deadline for submitting contest applications and essay responses will be January 17, 2018. Applications and resource materials that may be helpful to contestants will be made available at Hot Springs High School, Manzano Christian School and at the Sierra Electric office in Elephant Butte.

Don't miss your chance for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! For more information, call 575-744-5231.

## New Mexico Recipe for the Holidays

Posole (from [visitalbuquerque.org](http://visitalbuquerque.org))  
(poh-SO-lee)



### Ingredients:

1 pound of posole corn or hominy	1 medium to large onion chopped
2 cloves garlic minced	10 cups water
1/4 teaspoon oregano	1 pound pork loin, bite-sized
2 cups red or green chile	1 teaspoon salt



### Directions:

Rinse posole corn until water runs clear; drain. Place posole corn, pork and 10 cups water in large stewing pot. Bring to a boil on high heat. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 3 hours. Add remaining ingredients and additional water if needed and continue to simmer for another 2 hours or until posole corn kernels open and are soft but not falling apart. Makes 8-12 cups

Recipe courtesy of Marie Coleman, Casa de Ruiz - Church Street Cafe [www.churchstreetcafe.com](http://www.churchstreetcafe.com)

