



Member Newsletter

April 2020

Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc.

“Owned by Those We Serve”

General Manager

Denise Barrera

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Office Hours

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees

President

John Bokich, District 2

Vice President

Thomas Stroup, District 2

Secretary

Charles McMath, District 2

Treasurer

George Biel, District 3

Trustee

Dennis Franklin, District 1

Trustee

Tami Garrett, District 3

Trustee

Judy Smith, District 1

Trustee

Darryl Sullivan, District 3

Trustee

Oscar Lee Wood, District 2

The Board of Trustees meets the third Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the Cooperative boardroom.

A Message to our Members about Coronavirus/COVID-19

Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc. is monitoring the situation of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 virus cases in New Mexico and the United States. We are committed to keeping the public and our employees safe in the workplace while providing quality customer service. We recognize that we provide an essential service to the community and must respond and prepare to keep our workplace and operations safe.

For your safety and ours, we are limiting office visits. The doors are locked, but our office is staffed and can assist our members over the phone and internet. If you find it absolutely necessary to make an office visit, please call us at 575-744-5231 to discuss the possibility of an appointment. We are happy to help our members via e-mail at sierra@secpower.com - you may also submit an online inquiry using the “Contact Us” form on our website, www.sierraelectric.org.

We strongly encourage our members to utilize our online payment options, like [SmartHub](#) and [Pay Now](#) available on our website. We provide a secure drop box in our parking lot for payments and you can call for a phone payment. For our cash customers, we have envelopes and pens available. If you do not know your account number, leave your name and phone number on the envelope and place it in the drop box.

We are practicing good hygiene like regularly washing hands or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs and sneezes and routinely cleaning and sanitizing shared spaces in our office.

We appreciate the support of our members and welcome your calls and e-mails. We will continue to keep our members updated via our website, signs at the office and our newsletter and enchantment magazine.

The cooperative will continue to abide by our By-laws, local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations. We make every effort to do this while serving the needs of our members. We want our members to know that we have resources available to them to be informed on how they can make better decisions in their energy usage, to lower electric bills, and if they are experiencing financial difficulty, to contact our office by phone or e-mail to discuss options available to them. If you are in need of any of this information, we will make it available to you at no cost. Feel free to contact us with any of your questions or concerns and please do your best to keep yourself and your family and friends safe and healthy.

NOTICE –ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS CANCELLED

Pursuant to the New Mexico Department of Health’s “Public Health Emergency Order to Limit Mass Gatherings Due to COVID-19”, based on the Governor of the State of New Mexico’s Public Health Emergency declaration in Executive Order 2020-004, the Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting of the Members scheduled for April 4, 2020 has been cancelled, until such a time as a meeting will be allowed by law and in accordance with the Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc. By-laws.

Patronage Capital Credits General Retirement

The Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees determined in the February 2020 regular board meeting to retire 75% of the balance of the year 2000 capital credit allocation to the members. The total general retirement amount was \$196,173.84. Checks will be mailed to qualified members on March 16, 2020.

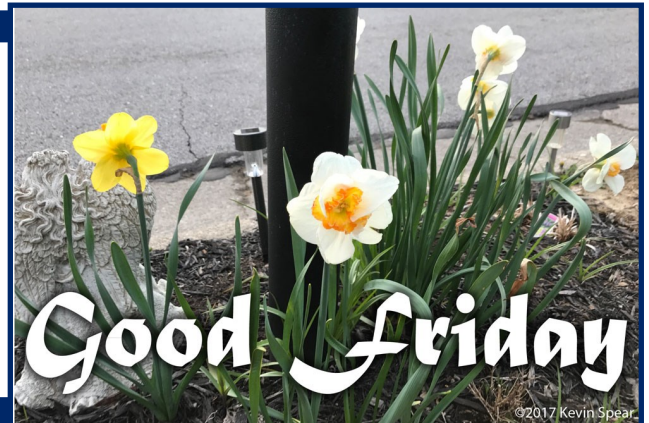
Because Sierra Electric is a cooperative, owned by its members, it doesn't technically earn profits. Instead, if revenues exceed the cost of doing business (i.e. expenses), the co-op has earned "margins." Each year that margins are earned, the Cooperative's members are allocated a portion of the margins, 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.

Census 2020—Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc. was listed as a computer lab for completing the census online; however, due to our doors being locked and office visits limited, we will not offer this service at this time. Thank you.

***Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc.
business office will be closed
April 10, 2020 for Good Friday.
We wish all our members hope and
peace during this time.***



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Electricity.org**

