

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

enchantment

**JEMEZ MOUNTAINS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

AUGUST 2023



A Winning Combination

Two ATVs, two 75" TVs and a retired JMEC Chevy Malibu. These and more prizes plus food, fun and music await members who attend and register at JMEC's Sunday, August 20, 2023, Annual Meeting of Members. [Page 5](#)



**Jemez Mountains Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Board of Trustees

President, Dennis Trujillo
District 1 - Jemez Springs, Jemez Pueblo, Zia Pueblo, Surrounding areas

Vice President, Manuel Bustos
District 5 - La Mesilla, San Pedro & north up to Alcalde

Secretary, John Ramon Vigil
District 4 - Santa Clara Pueblo north to Medanales including Lyden & La Canova west of the Rio Grande River

Treasurer, Dolores G. McCoy
District 2 - Cuba, surrounding areas in Sandoval, McKinley & San Juan Counties

Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Stanley Crawford, District 5 - Velarde, Dixon & other areas located in Rio Arriba County east of the Rio Grande River

Dennis Gallegos, District 3 - Abiquiu & the Cañones, Coyote, Gallina, Llaves & Lindrih areas

Lucas Cordova, Jr., District 4 - Chili, Chamita & other areas from Santa Clara Pueblo north to Medanales including Lyden & La Canova west of the Rio Grande River

Elias Coriz, District 5 - Chimayo & all other areas in Rio Arriba County east of the Rio Grande River

Marcelina Martinez, District 6 - Santa Cruz & surrounding areas located in Santa Fe County

Bruce Duran, District 6 - Nambe, Pojoaque, surrounding areas located in Santa Fe County

Marissa Maestas-Muller, Trustee-At-Large - represents the entire cooperative area at large

2023 JMEC Annual Meeting – Mark Your Calendars, We Need You There!

You really turned out for Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, Inc., at the 2022 Annual Meeting. We needed you there – especially to support crucial updates that had to be made to three of our bylaws. You came, you supported us, the bylaw updates passed. Not to mention the great food, fun and amazing prizes – all of it was awesome. *We are going to try to top that for 2023!*

Check out all the great 2023 Annual Meeting details on the inside pages of this magazine!

- Live music!
- Drawings for two ATVs!
- Drawing for a retired JMEC 2010 Chevrolet Malibu 4-door sedan!
- Drawings for two 75" flatscreen TVs!
- Super giveaways in swag bags for every member who registers!
- Door prizes, bounce houses, face painting, pole climbing demonstrations and more!

AND, we will have the **next set of bylaws in urgent need of updating**. To do that, we need to meet our new quorum for voting and to do that, we need YOU! **Please come. Por favor, venga!**

JMEC ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, August 20, 2023

2023 Annual Meeting of the Members of
Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, Inc.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023

La Luz Campground, 101 Maestas Road,
Jemez Springs, New Mexico, 87025

- 9:00 a.m. Registration begins.
- 11:00 a.m. Lunch is served.
- 12:00 p.m. Registration concludes.
- 1:00 p.m. Annual Meeting begins.

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2023 JMEC Annual Meeting – Featured Music, Food and Fun - Fantastico!



Fan favorites **Severo y Grupo Fuego** will be the featured live music entertainment for JMEC's Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 20. Severo brings cumbia flavor with

a touch of the tropical rhythm to the Latin music genre and Fuego plays all styles of Latin music as well as Top 40, Country, Oldies and rock-n-roll. They joined to form Severo y Grupo Fuego, a band that the Albuquerque Journal said, **"... will have everyone up and dancing."**



BOUNCE HOUSE!

Who doesn't love a bounce house like this one that JMEC had at a previous annual meeting? JMEC kids will love it – they'll get a lot of good exercise and make new friends at the same time!

FACE PAINTING

The young, and young-at-heart, will put their best faces forward when they get the best of Cassandra Purdy's face painting talent! Be sure to include this in your JMEC Annual Meeting festivities.



POLE CLIMBING DEMONSTRATION



The JMEC linemen can make it look easy but, climbing a pole while wearing all the necessary gear and doing so with any amount of skill and grace takes practice, lots and lots of practice! They will just be having fun when they do it at the JMEC 2023 Annual Meeting but, imagine having to do it in an ice storm, in the dark, working urgently, and safely, to fix what's broken and restore power. ***Right, that's why the professionals do it and we just get to imagine it!***

Story continues on page 28.

Employee in the Spotlight: Michelle Vigil



Potential. Michelle Vigil had it in abundance. You see, she had been happy in her previous position, serving as a branch manager for a loan and tax company for more than 15 years. Then that company decided to close all its offices in the state.

“I had to find something else and I thought I would consider accounting,” Vigil said. “I didn’t have any experience in accounting, but the interview went very well. Geraldine (Romero, JMEC accounting manager) told me if I was willing to learn, she was willing to teach me.”

She was willing! Vigil admits it was a little intimidating when she started. It helped that she had years of experience managing an office that did loan approvals and tax preparation – work that requires attention to detail. Also, she took well to the training and now, while still in the learning process, she helps the team –Erlinda Baca, Sandra Herrera, Deborah Madrid, Cherry Morfin and supervisor Geraldine Romero – with whatever they need while taking daily responsibility for journal entries and making sure the cashier balances.

Comments in her nomination for this recognition included, “Michelle is always willing to help out.” “Michelle shows interest in wanting to learn as much as possible and is a team player with a positive attitude.” Of the many special projects with which she has been tasked, “She never complains and goes above and beyond to get the projects done.”

Those projects fit well with one of the things she likes most about working for JMEC. “I am learning something new every day,” she said. “When something new is first shown to me I think, oh how I am going to do this. But then I do it and see it was not so bad!”

Vigil said she is amazed at all that is done at the cooperative to bring power to members. “There is so much more that goes into bringing power to members than you would ever guess,” she said. “I have barely begun to appreciate it all and I have been working here a year this month.”

Vigil is from Chimayo and lives in Española with her husband Lawrence, and their sons Nicholas 22, Eric 20, and Kevin 18. She says when she is not working, she likes to take long drives admiring all the beautiful scenery, going to the movie theater and doing yard work. And, on the rare occasions when they all can be in the same place at one time, she enjoys getting together with her family – not easy when all are busy heading in different directions!



Left to Right: Michelle and family - Nick, Kevin, Lawrence and Eric.

In Our Community: Food Security is Neighbor to Neighbor



Twelve years ago when she was head of her homes association, Linda Flatt started a food drive to benefit The Food Depot (TFD). In 2020, the food drive became a fund drive and today the fully volunteer organization she established – Neighbor to Neighbor – has grown to host the largest annual fund drive benefiting this northern New Mexico food bank.

JMEC and the national electric cooperative bank, Co-Bank, partnered in donating to the fall 2022 Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive and were among 155 organizations that came together to raise more than \$294,000 that will help meet the needs of the Northern New Mexico’s food insecure.

“People are so generous, and they give with their hearts,” Flatt said in an interview The Santa Fe New Mexican posted to Facebook. “They know there are so many families and individuals in need.”

The need is great. Hunger affects one of every six people in New Mexico including, increasingly, seniors and children. TFD serves nine northern New Mexico counties, which include several serviced by JMEC. According to The Food Depot, there are more than 40,000 people who experience food insecurity in the counties the food bank serves.

Want to help? It’s easy to join in the Neighbor to Neighbor effort!

In Susan Quintana’s case, her neighborhood is her block. A schoolteacher for 30 years, Quintana volunteered with Neighbor to Neighbor after retirement. “I invited people to a little lunch at my house, talked about the need to address hunger among children, families and seniors and told my guests how they could help,” she said. “That one lunch led to eight more neighborhoods registering with Neighbor to Neighbor to support the fund raising.”

In 2022, Mary Ferguson took on the role as the overall organizer for the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive. She said more than 155 neighborhoods, businesses, community groups, schools and senior living communities collected 1,100 donations last year. The 2023 fund drive kicked off June 1 and its goal is \$300,000.

Donations can be made online on The Food Depot’s Neighbor to Neighbor page <https://thefooddepot.org/n2n>, just click on the DONATE button. All donations are confidential. You also can donate through your group (book club, neighborhood, school, etc) if it has registered on The Food Depot website. The top fundraising groups will receive special recognition in local media and be invited to a celebration in October.



“New Mexico has a population of 2.2 million and more than 500,000 of our Northern New Mexico neighbors experience hunger,” said Ferguson. “A dollar works hard at The Food Bank as \$1 = four meals. A \$5 donation is incredibly important, so we try to make donating as easy as possible. It is needed now more than ever.”

2023 JMEC Annual Meeting - Prizes, Prizes, Prizes!

Story continued from page 5.

2023 POLARIS SPORTSMAN 579 ATVS - TWO OF THEM!



Imagine yourself working and/or playing astride one of the two amazing 2023 Polaris Sportsman 579 ATVs JMEC members will have a chance to win at the 2023 Annual Meeting!

Come and register at the JMEC 2023 Annual Meeting and you could be taking home one of these bad boys!

2010 RETIRED JMEC CHEVROLET MALIBU

Well maintained by JMEC mechanics, this four-door cream puff could be yours – just come, register for the Annual Meeting and see if your name is called!



BIG FLAT-SCREEN TVS!

Do you know how big 75 inches is? More than 6 feet! Come and register at the JMEC 2023 Annual Meeting and you could add a smooth six and one-quarter feet of colorful TV entertainment to your viewing spot of choice!

JMEC's James Smith Receives the Long Rope Safety Attitude Program Award



In its 17th year, the Long Rope Safety Attitude Program award was given to JMEC's James Smith, who is in his 38th year as a lineman (pictured left,

with Travis Sullivan, Southwestern Electric Cooperative GM). Presented at New Mexico Rural Electric Self-Insurer's Fund Annual Meeting in June, the award recognizes a person at the state level who is a leader in safety and walks-the-walk.

"(James') outlook on safety is exceptional," said remarks in the materials nominating Smith for the award. "He understands that safety is our number one priority. He follows safety rules to a tee and never takes short cuts. His safety culture never alters, whether he is performing an everyday task or working a major outage."

The safety program was initiated in 2006 by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) and was presented to all cooperatives in New Mexico and Oklahoma. It is co-sponsored by the New Mexico Rural Electric Self-Insurer's Fund.

The safety program's award sets a high bar for nominees' behavior and attitude. Standards include:

- Safety is part of the job, a priority.
- Never takes shortcuts.
- Is a good listener.
- Leads by example.
- Is a good teacher.
- Is open to change.
- Is not affected by peer pressure.
- Always looks for safer ways to do things.

"Our cooperative is impressed with how deep he and his crew work the job briefing which is three pages long and intense," the nomination remarks continued. "(James) has a positive influence on and is highly respected by other linemen and apprentices. He takes pride in accomplishing tasks in a professional and safe manner and has a fantastic attitude overall." **Congratulations James!**

Annual Meeting: We Need Your Support to Update These By-laws!

The Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, Inc., board of trustees will propose eight by-laws to be considered by member vote at the Sunday, August 20, 2023, annual meeting. We need a quorum for this to be possible so please come, register and vote in support of these updates!

While you will have the full detail of the proposed amendments to each by-law, we present here only their plain-language explanation:

1. Proposed Amendment to JMEC Bylaw ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP SECTION 2. Membership Certificates

This bylaw amendment eliminates the \$5.00 membership fee. It provides that taking electricity or other services from the Cooperative makes the individual, joint users or other entities members of the Cooperative.

2. Proposed Amendment to JMEC Bylaw ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP SECTION 3. Joint Membership

This bylaw amendment expands the definition of joint membership to two member/owners rather than just a husband and wife.

3. Proposed Amendment to ARTICLE III MEETINGS OF MEMBERS, SECTION 1. Annual Meeting

This bylaw amendment allows the Co-op Annual Meeting of Members to be held on Saturdays or Sundays, not just Sundays.

4. Proposed 2023 Bylaw Amendment, Redefine the Trustee-at-Large Position. New bylaw language at ARTICLE IV SECTION 11.

This bylaw amendment eliminates the current Trustee-at-Large position in 2025 that is currently elected by the members of the Co-op's Board of Trustees every two years. Beginning in 2025, the position becomes an at-large Trustee position elected by and from the Co-op's members in District 6.

5. Proposed Amendment to ARTICLE IV TRUSTEES SECTION 1. General Powers adding a new section 2.

This bylaw amendment requires the Co-op's Board of Trustees to adopt a Code of Conduct with the minimum requirements set out in the amendment.

6. Proposed Amendment to ARTICLE IV TRUSTEES SECTION 4 Nomination and Election of Trustees (a).

This bylaw amendment expands the notice period of Co-op Board of Trustees elections so that members are notified sooner regarding Co-op Board of Trustees elections. Further, this bylaw provision makes it clearer regarding what must be included in the notice.

7. Proposed Amendment to ARTICLE VI OFFICERS SECTION 1. Number

This bylaw amendment adds the Secretary/Treasurer Board officer position to the Co-op's bylaws.

8. Proposed Amendment to ARTICLE IV TRUSTEES, WITH NEW LANGUAGE ADDED TO THE END OF SECTION 2. (c)

This bylaw amendment adds term limits to those elected or appointed to the Co-op's Board of Trustees on or after July 1, 2023.



Left to Right: Justin Jaramillo, general office assistant; Zachary Trujillo, member service clerk; David Viera, member service collector; and Estevan Lucero, billing clerk; pose with some of the new transformers that will be installed as part of the four-year infrastructure improvement program.