



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## CEO and General Manager

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## Office Hours

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (M-F)

## 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 & Lindrieth areas

**Lucus 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

## What to expect in *enchantment*



It is nearly Spring! Sometimes March surprises us with its fast-changing weather patterns and we all have to adjust quickly. One thing we are adjusting to is the new schedule in working with *enchantment* magazine. As I write this, it is still January. We submit our stories a full month or more before the magazine distributes rather than the week or two when we produced *La Luz*.

We are thrilled to be a member of the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association (we refer to it as the statewide association) and delighted to have our news as the centerpiece of the beautiful *enchantment* magazine. It does, however, put some limits on the kind of news or stories that we can share here.

For example, we will ask you to look for anything time sensitive on our website, in news stories or ads, during one of my KDCE “Coffee Break” interviews, in our social profile posts, bill inserts or other mailings. This includes any kind of initiative like a proposed rate change or an audit. News can develop and mileposts come and go, making anything we might report here on these kind of topics out of date or just plain wrong.

We do expect to use this space to bring you more inside the cooperative, showing you the work of our dedicated team, updating you on rebates and perks, giving safety tips and more. Every JMEC Board Trustee, every employee is committed to doing well for our members and we are excited to tell you of the progress we are making. We know there is much to do. We are getting at it all as quickly as possible. Here, in these pages, you will see how we’re doing.

## JMEC’s First EV Charging Station

Bode’s Mercantile and General Store in Abiquiú is the location for JMEC’s first electric vehicle charging station. The ChargePoint Level 3DC charging station is capable of fast charging electric vehicles and with the right attachments can also be compatible with Tesla models.

In September 2020, the cooperative’s Board of Trustees approved two level two and one level three charging station so it could make this service available to members. Level 3 chargers, also called DCFC or fast-charging stations, are much more powerful than level one and two stations, meaning an EV will charge much more quickly with them. However, not all vehicles are compatible with DCFC stations.

**PPC Solar based in Taos was selected for the installation following an RFP process in early 2021. The EV charging station installation opens in the first quarter of 2022.**

**The first JMEC EV charging station is a fast-charging model from PPC Solar.**



## JMEC, NTUA Join Forces to Connect Navajo Homes to Power

Funding from the 2020 CARES Act to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority accelerated connecting more than 50 Navajo households (both last winter and now this winter)—some who have gone without permanent power for generations—in a partnership between NTUA and JMEC.

**“As you can imagine, our linemen are treated like rock stars by the families we get to connect to the grid,”** said Carmen Campbell, JMEC’s Cuba District Manager and Tribal Liaison. **“It is a thrill for JMEC workers and the families alike when we connect these households to power, giving them access to basic modern conveniences most of us take for granted. There is always a joyful celebration.”**

JMEC serves eight Navajo Nation chapters of Counselor, Huerfano, Nageezi, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado and Torreon within the Nation’s 27,000-square-mile territory. About 1,770 are currently on the cooperative’s grid. Campbell said that the granting of easements/rights-of-way is complicated. These issues can take years to resolve

and funding is always a challenge.

“During the height of the pandemic crisis, NTUA General Manager Walter Haase reached out to work with cooperatives like JMEC as the tribally owned enterprise had better access to funding (CARES Act),” Campbell said. “We already are working hand-in-hand with them on ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to reach the 200-plus Navajo families still without power. We share a single goal—get the lights on for everyone as soon as possible!”



**Tall pole, Darren, JMEC journeyman lineman; shorter pole, Jacob, JMEC journeyman apprentice; bring power to this Navajo Nation home.**

## Switch to LEDs and Save

Using energy-efficient lighting, as with LED lighting, lets you light your home using the same amount of light for less money. The U.S. Department of Energy research states that lighting accounts for around 15 percent of an average home’s electricity use. Switching from incandescent light bulbs to LEDs is an effective way to cut your energy bills—saving about \$225 per year in energy costs, according to the Dept. of Energy.

LEDs, using about 90 percent less energy and lasting

as much as 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs, are available in lighting replacements for 40W, 60W, 75W, and 100W traditional incandescent bulbs, reflector bulbs used in recessed fixtures, and track lights, task lighting, undercabinet lighting and outdoor area lights.

**While LEDs are more expensive than traditional incandescent bulbs, they still save money because they last a long time and have very low energy use.**



## Jemez Employee of the Month, Jessica Espiricueta

Jessica Espiricueta has served as a billing clerk in the billing department for about two years and her supervisor, Clara Martinez, JMEC’s member service supervisor, says, “She is just awesome. Jessica is very outgoing and is someone you can depend on to step up to the plate.”

In addition to good math skills and working closely with the meter readers to verify readings—making sure members are correctly billed—Espiricueta says an ability to multi-task and a heart for customer service are essential to the work. “I get to speak with members every day who call in for information or with questions,” she said. “Members are our priority. We value their opinion and want to make sure we address their concerns.”



Martinez said Espiricueta has great attention for detail and is thorough. “If a member calls with a question, Jessica investigates until she gets the answer,” Martinez added. Espiricueta said she is often surprised how many different things come up each day but that the team makes sure they finish the day’s work so the next day starts with a clean slate.

**Away from work, Espiricueta enjoys spending time with her boys, Miguel, 14, and Daniel, 8, her boyfriend and other friends, going to the mountains, hunting, fishing or camping.**