



Jemez Mountains Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# La Luz

JMEC Newsletter November 2021

## JMEC Completes its Office Move

The JMEC team rolled up their sleeves and, starting at the end of the day on Wednesday, October 13, began the work of moving our operations to the cooperative's new location in Espanola. The move required our communications system to be down throughout the co-op so we made sure to have notice of an alternate hotline number to call in case of an outage. We were delighted (and relieved!) that our IT pros were able to have all communications back up before the weekend. While the business was closed to members during the move, our crews were working as usual to maintain members' electrical service.

The new building replaces a facility built in 1961. An analysis determined that extensive renovations would be required for the 50-year-old structure to become ADA compliant, address HVAC and septic failures, remediate lead and asbestos contamination and meet use requirements. The new facility was budgeted and paid for out of the reserve cash the cooperative had at the time the project was conceived. It is debt free, and its development has had zero impact on our members' cost of service.

It was fun to welcome Emery Maestas who happened

to be the first JMEC member to walk in the door of the new facility when we opened on Monday, Oct. 18. To celebrate, Emery was offered \$25 toward his energy bill. We look forward to getting settled and serving all our members for another 50 years from this new office.



*Karen Wisdom, left, JMEC senior manager of contract administration and compliance, welcomed member Emery Maestas who was the first person to come through the doors of the new office when it opened Monday, October 18, 2021.*



## JMEC Employee of the Month, Leonard Bustos

Not everyone is cut out for Leonard Bustos' job. Work day and night. Often through storms – rain, wind, even snow at times. And by the way, the work is often on high-voltage, energized power lines. And he has done it for 20 years!

Bustos started in Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative's four-year apprenticeship program and currently serves as Journeyman Lineman. He also is a member of the IBEW Local 611.

"Being a lineman, there will always be challenges to meet and decisions to make as we are often on the front lines of maintaining our members' safe, reliable electricity," Bustos said. He knows the needs of the department and is always ready to be called out to address power outages in a prompt, safe manner. We appreciate his good attitude and the pride he has taken in his work all these years.

Bustos has two beautiful daughters and, when away from the job, likes to tool around the New Mexico and Colorado mountains in his truck.

[www.jemezcoop.org](http://www.jemezcoop.org)



**JMEC Supports IAFF #4339 T-Shirt Sale to Benefit Breast Cancer Patients**

October marked National Breast Cancer Awareness Month across the United States. The month is dedicated to raising awareness about the impact of breast cancer and the need for education, screening and support for both men and women affected by the disease. Jemez Mountains Electric Co-op was

proud to support Espanola Firefighters Union–IAFF #4339 through their t-shirt sale, proceeds from which benefit local cancer patients fighting breast cancer. Designed by local artist Toby Morfin, the t-shirts were also locally produced, by business owner Mel Martinez of Ink Monster.

**Tis the Season for Steffes Room Heaters**

For many years now, Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative has worked with members using Steffes Heating Systems' Room Heater that stores lower cost, off-peak electricity as heat in its specially designed ceramic bricks and uses a built-in room thermostat and fan to deliver the stored heat when needed. If you would like more information about the Steffes Room Heater, contact Tony Martinez, JMEC's marketing and communications coordinator at 505-367-1164.



**Happy Thanksgiving!**

This holiday is a favorite for many who are so fortunate as to have family and friends and the time to get together, share a hearty meal and enjoy each other's company. At JMEC, we are filled with gratitude – for our employees who give their all in service to our members and each other, for our board of trustees who invest so much of their time to guide us with their governance and policy making and for our members who inspire the hard work we do every day as a non-profit, cost-of-service organization to maintain our 4,000 miles of line and bring electrical service to every doorstep.

***From all of us at Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, to you – Happy Thanksgiving!***



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