



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## CEO and General Manager

Michael W. Hastings

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## In Appreciation: Embracing Challenges, Serving Our Membership

In March 2021, Michael Hastings accepted the role and responsibilities as CEO and general manager of Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, Inc. Your elected board of trustees have watched and worked with Michael during this time and want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for his hard work, dedication and for all he has accomplished and facilitated in service to our members, in just a little more than a year.

Committed to and passionate about the cooperative way, Michael's years of experience, professionalism and steady hand have been evident as he's led staff in resolution of the cooperative's operational and maintenance backlogs, pandemic-related revenue losses, millions of dollars of Medio Fire-related infrastructure losses as well as the newer, pressing issues. These issues include the need for a rate change, an inquiry into bringing broadband access to our members, completing agreements with our neighboring pueblos, initiating a forensic audit and pursuing a partial buy-out of our Tri-State G&T wholesale power contract agreement to allow JMEC to increase its renewable solar offerings to members.

Where others see challenges, Michael sees opportunities. He brings a thoughtful, strategic, get-it-done approach to tasks, as is reflected in the exhaustive State of the Cooperative assessment he and his staff completed and presented to the trustees within the first six months. Addressing everything from safety to HR to power supply, the report laid out a detailed roadmap of what needs to be done to better serve our members. We are working that plan now.

Michael also has championed improving member communications with more outreach in person, on the radio and in our newspapers as well staff training and development, encouraging employees to take part in community service initiatives and developing JMEC's working relationships with our local governmental and tribal leaders. He is building what will be one of the strongest professional teams to serve its members in the electric cooperative community.

How does Michael know how to do this work so well? He has served in a general manager role for electric cooperatives in Illinois and Virginia. An attorney, he served as general counsel for the Association of Illinois Cooperatives and counsel for the Kansas Department of Revenue. He's a founding board member of the National Renewables Cooperative Organization, a nationwide cooperative established to provide renewable energy generation projects for all the cooperatives throughout the U.S. He has a law degree, an MBA and a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Every member of your board of trustees is energized by the direction our cooperative is headed and confident in Michael's ability to lead the organization to its desirable future. We are pleased to take a moment here to recognize his good work and thank him for all that has been accomplished and is yet to come for the good of our members.

Sincerely, Board of Trustees, Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## 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

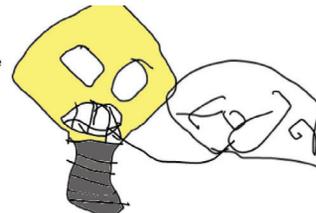
## Thank You Coronado High School

Recently JMEC invited students in area schools' art departments to submit artwork that represents the electric cooperative's vision statement which includes, "... to be the best electric cooperative in New Mexico based on price, member service and reliability..."

**Thanks to Erik Rothrock, art teacher at Coronado High School in Gallina, NM, for submitting his students' entries. We are pleased to award \$100 gift card to the school for their participation. Thank you!**



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## Jemez Employee of the Month, Erlinda Baca



This is Erlinda Baca's 23rd year (wow!) with JMEC and she's spent 22 of them blazing through her fast-paced days in our Accounting Department. "The minute I walk in the door, the action is non-stop," she said.

Erlinda says she enjoys continually

learning about the many different aspects of JMEC. She handles a wide variety of daily accounting functions as well as helps out with any other departmental needs. Erlinda is renowned, however, for making sure employee

time sheets are timely and accurate as such is critical to making payroll.

**"It is a lot of work, but our team has never failed to deliver payroll on time," she said. "Of course, it is critical to employees, yet we work just as hard to pay our vendors on a timely matter. I love the fact that I work here close to the valley with our local people. Our relationships are like family. It is an honor and pleasure to be employed by JMEC."**

Reliable and professional, Erlinda's years of experience and expertise with accounting fundamentals unique to an electric cooperative are an advantage to the organization and the members we serve. Away from work, she supports her 13-year-old son, Santiago, as he pursues his education and every sport offered at Mesa Vista Schools in Ojo Caliente. "I like to support all our local schools and help out in any way I can," she added. She also enjoys spending time outdoors and quality time with family and friends.

