



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CEO and General Manager
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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 & Lindrieth 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

Annual Meeting Recap

Nearly 700 members attended the Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative 73rd Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 28, 2022, at the La Luz Campground. Those attending enjoyed time with friends, spoke with or maybe met for the first time their board trustee(s) and learned about the business and many initiatives of the cooperative from JMEC Board of Trustees President Dennis Trujillo and CEO and General Manager Michael Hastings.

Safety demonstrations, family fun and games, along with terrific giveaways including the grand prize of a 2022 CF Moto Side by Side — congrats Mr. Jimmy Vigil from Chimayo! — were all added to the long tradition of commemorating the meaning of community through membership of an electric cooperative and knowing that we are there for each other when it matters.

It wasn't perfect and for that we apologize! John Ramon Vigil, board secretary and representative of District 4 at one point said that he has been going to the annual meeting picnic for years and had never seen so many people in attendance! We shouted from the rooftops for you to come and, you did! It turned out that while we planned for many we still could be overwhelmed. We know people were frustrated with lines for registration and especially our lunch. We have learned from this and will work toward a better experience in the future. We will be ready for you and your family next year and can't wait to show you what we can do!



Success!



The long, hot summer of Special District Meetings came to an end on Sunday, August 28, 2022, just an hour before the start of JMEC's 73rd Annual Meeting of members. The huge effort was a success, with five of the six districts reaching quorum and members voting in support of making the changes to the three bylaws most in need of updating.

Trustees went door-to-door; JMEC staff worked extra hours before, during and after the meetings; and it was all worth it as, in the end, members came out in droves. **We are grateful to everyone for demonstrating that membership in the electric cooperative is meaningful and that when we come together as a community we can get hard things done. Thank You!**



Jeffie Lee Wisdom, second from right above.

JMEC History — A Family Story

Jeffie Lee Wisdom may have grown up on a ranch in Medina County, Texas, but JMEC was his life.

“It was always all about the membership, serving our members, providing reliable electricity, keeping families safe and warm,” said Karen Wisdom, his daughter, and JMEC’s senior manager of contract administration and compliance. “That was his mission.”

He started in 1950 as a contracting engineer with Continental Engineering out of Lubbock, taking a Greyhound bus to Española to consult on the buildout of the line and its maintenance. He became staff engineer in 1960, moving his family to Española and, at times, served as an interim or assistant general manager when needed. He retired as JMEC’s director of engineering and operations.

He had a photographic memory which came in handy many times during outages when linemen could not find their source. Back in the day, before mobile phones and computers, Karen remembers taking outage calls at their home when she was as young as 10 years old.

“The men relied on his knowledge of the system,” she said. “One snowy night in Jemez Springs, it was brutally cold and the linemen could not find the source of an outage. It upset them to leave people out of power. My dad, a night owl, was listening to the chatter on the two-way radio and asked them to explain the trouble. He told them, ‘Let me think a minute.’ And when he came back on the two-way, he told them to go up behind the Girls Scout Camp, they’ll find that the OCR is open. They went where he told them, saw the OCR was open, fixed it and restored power.”

It was his life’s work, the co-op, Karen added. As JMEC’s membership grew over the years, he loved seeing more lights blink as he drove between Española, Cuba and Jemez Springs. He loved the real sacrifice those first members made during the Depression years to pay the \$5 membership fee – the same fee charged today.

The cooperative was family. It still is.

CO-OP MONTH — How it Started, How it’s Going

In 1935, Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt was outraged at what he had to pay for his electric usage while on holiday at a rural resort. At least the resort had electricity.

At that time, nine out of 10 rural homes were without electric service. For those in Northern New Mexico the number was 10 out of 10. Although 99 percent of the country’s rural homes now have power, there is still the one percent that do not, including many in the western part of our service area. The main reason Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, Inc., can provide you power today is because of the REA.

The Rural Electrification Act, passed in 1936, set the stage for nonprofit organizations – electric cooperatives – to be given preference for loans to bring electric power to these sparsely settled, high construction cost areas. The first loan, for nearly \$1 million, enabled the purchase of the Inland Utility Company in Española. JMEC, with the help of more REA (now called the Rural Utility Service, or RUS) loans, built on that original infrastructure expanding to the 4,000 miles of line we currently operate.

Established with the civic-minded initiative of the original board of trustees, the members of our three districts and the dream that started in two households – that of J. Antonio Montoya in San Ysidro and Fred J. Abouseman in Jemez Springs – JMEC is now New Mexico’s largest electric cooperative with more than 31,000 meters serving five counties: McKinley, Rio Arriba, San Juan, Sandoval and Santa Fe.

