

COLUMBUS CURRENTS



Salvador "Sonny" Parra

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Sonny Parra, who faithfully served Columbus Electric and its members for over 40 years.

He began his career right out of high school as an apprentice lineman and with hard work and dedication earned the title of Operations Manager. His commitment to excellence had been an integral part of our success.

He led his line crew with care and compassion, passing on his knowledge of the industry to many. He was always very helpful to our members, no matter the time of day.

His strong work ethic and desire to be of service to others has touched us all. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

*Every person leaves a stamp in
this world in their own way
Similarly, you too have left an
impression that will stay.*

*Integrity and hard work are the
ideals you promoted
Determination and honesty
Your work has always reflected.*

*A plethora of values
You're giving us as you leave
Your absence in this office
We will heavily bereave*

farewell

He will be missed.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

It Pays to be a Co-op Member

The Board of Trustees at their January board meeting approved the retirement of capital credits.

Electric cooperatives aren't like other utilities—you, as a consumer and a member own a portion of the business. And one benefit of that membership involves the allocation of excess revenue, called margins, in the form of capital credits.

Operation at cost is part of the cooperative difference. Electric co-ops operate at cost—collecting enough revenue to run the business but without the need to raise rates to generate profits for distant shareholders. When Columbus Electric has money left over, it's allocated back to you and other members as capital credits. When the co-op's financial position permits, the co-op retires, or pays, the capital credits to members. This year the Cooperative will retire the capital credits earned by members during the years 1991 and 1992. Allocating and retiring excess revenue to members helps distinguish cooperatives from other types of electric utilities. The Cooperative anticipates mailing out capital credit checks the first part of March.

Capital credits are so-called because members provide necessary capital to the cooperative for it to maintain and operate the electric distribution system. These monies decrease the need to raise rates or borrow money necessary to pay for infrastructure. After a number of years, as financial conditions permit, we retire a set amount of capital credits.

These margins are the only real source of equity for electric cooperatives, so it is essential for a co-op to maintain the right balance between retiring capital credits to its members and retaining sufficient equity on our balance sheet. We are committed to strike that balance in an effort to provide you rate stability. This is just one more way that we looking out for you!

PAYMENT ARRANGMENTS/PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

Columbus Electric Cooperative urges members directly affected by the public health crisis to contact us to let us know about your individual situation. Member Service Representatives are ready to work with members on a case-by-case basis to find a payment solution. Member Representatives are available Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at 575-546-8838 or 1-800-950-2667. A list of organizations that may be able to assist with past due balances are listed below.

- First United Methodist Church TLC - 544-2400
- Human Service Department (HSD) LIHEAP Office – 575-546-0467 or 800-283-4465
- Helping Hands - 546-2558
- Community Action Agency – 575-527-8799 or 800-657-8967
- Tierra Del Sol –575-541-0477
- Southeastern Arizona Community Action Program – 520-384-3120



Emergency Response Number
1-800-228-0579

Toll - free Office Number
1-800-950-COOP (2667)