

# COLUMBUS<sup>®</sup> CURRENTS

## Power in Your Hands

*By Anne Prince*

Recently, one of our newer employees asked me what makes electric co-ops different than other types of utilities. This month, I thought I'd tell you of few of the things I told her.

Because we're a co-op, we operate a little differently than other utilities. Columbus Electric Cooperative's decisions are made locally, by directors who also live right here in our community. Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here – to pay for the electricity used, or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn't line the pockets of shareholders five states away. We're a co-op, and we exist to provide a service to you, our local members.

You may notice that throughout the year, we schedule opportunities for you to attend co-op events, like our annual meeting so we can hear from you. Members can also contact us anytime through our website and calling or stopping by our office.

Our success lies in your satisfaction, which is why we offer these opportunities to engage and listen to what you have to say.

Because you're part of an electric cooperative, you can count on our team to maintain local jobs, at-cost electricity and first-class service, no matter what the economy—and supply chain issues—throw at us.

Columbus Electric Cooperative is striving to keep our costs as low as possible so we can keep more money in your pocket.

We want to help you maximize the value you can get from our services and offerings. For example, we can help you save on energy bills through our rebate and water heater programs.

If you want to receive important information from Columbus Electric Cooperative, such as power restoration updates and planned power outages. You can stay in the know through our monthly newsletter and enchantment magazine, following us on Facebook and Twitter and visiting our website.

Please know that you—the members of Columbus Electric Cooperative—are at the heart of everything we do. Co-ops adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service.

We exist to serve you and provide the quality, reliable, friendly service you expect and deserve. While we've grown over the years, we're still driven by the same guiding principles to serve our community. We hope to see or hear from you soon. This co-op was created for you, the members. The power is in your hands.

*September 2023   [www.columbusco-op.org](http://www.columbusco-op.org)   Vol. 35. No. 9*

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative



## Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$20 billion to members since 1988 – \$1.4 billion in 2021 alone. Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation



## Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees, at their regular meeting in August, reviewed and approved the operational and financial reports for the month of July. Trustees also discussed the capital items budget as well as financing options for the next four-year work plan. The work plan helps us create a timeline for future construction and maintenance activities to maximize their effectiveness.



Help us help you!

Members don't forget to keep your account current. Please notify us of any address, phone, or email changes. This helps us provide you the best service.

Members can update their information through SmartHub, in person at our Deming office, noted on your payment stub, visiting our website [columbusco-op.org](http://columbusco-op.org), or by calling 1-800-950-2667.



(Pictured above: L-Apprentice Lineman Frankie Gonzales and R-Apprentice Lineman Porter Howard)

### Supporting our community

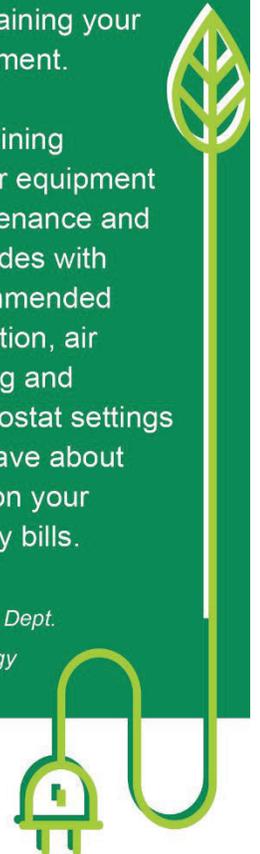
Columbus Electric Cooperative is a proud sponsor of the Tournament of Ducks Parade in Deming, NM. Every year in August our employees volunteer and coordinate a float for entry! This year's theme was Disco

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Emergency Response Number  
1-800-228-0579

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

[www.columbusco-op.org](http://www.columbusco-op.org)