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A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP

Cloudcroft, N.M. 575-682-2521

Alto, N.M. 575-336-4550

Carrizozo, N.M. 575-648-2352

February 2008

Scholarships Available!



Preparing for college? Put Otero County Electric Cooperative on your to-do-list. We offer scholarships for high school seniors and college students in our service area!

The Otero County Electric Education Foundation has a scholarship program available to active members and their immediate families who are receiving service from Otero County Electric. These scholarships are one year, \$1,000.00 scholarships and are paid \$500.00 per semester upon confirmation that the requirements of grade point and enrollment have been met. Funds for these scholarships are from unclaimed patronage capital checks and not from electric revenues.

Eligibility criteria:

- Available only to active members and immediate family re-

ceiving service from Otero County Electric.

- Applicant must maintain a 2.50 grade point average per semester on a 4.00 scale and be considered a full-time student.

Applicant must attend a recognized New Mexico institution of higher education.

Applications available at:

- Area high school counselors.
- All three Otero County Electric Cooperative offices.

For more details:

- Contact your high school counselors.
- Contact Glenda Daniels at Otero County Electric Cooperative. Call 505-682-2521

Applications Due:

- Monday, March 17, 2008

Winners announced:

- Awards will be announced within 60 days of the scholarship due date.

Mail Applications to:

Otero County Electric Education Foundation

Attn: Glenda Daniels

P.O. Box 227

Cloudcroft, New Mexico 88317

RMEL Foundation Scholarship

The RMEL Foundation is currently accepting applications for its 2008 education scholarships. The RMEL Foundation annually offers scholarship opportunities to deserving and qualified students for the purpose of encouraging young people to pursue careers in engineering or curriculum related to the electric industry.

The Foundation accepts scholarship applications from students seeking baccalaureate degrees and craft or certificate programs. All scholarship applicants must be a high school senior or college undergraduate enrolled in and pursuing an undergraduate or associated degree, or an electric utility position certificate at a college with the intent to enter the electric energy industry. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen.

Applicants must fill out a scholarship application, which can be downloaded from the RMEL Foundation web site at [Http://www.rmef.org/foundation/foundationsscholarships.cfm](http://www.rmef.org/foundation/foundationsscholarships.cfm). Also required in the application process is a short essay of goals and aspirations. All requirements and instructions are included on the application.

Be Careful When Using Standby Generators

If you use a standby generator during a power outage, Otero County Electric Cooperative reminds you that an improper generator hook-up can create serious problems in safety and service.

It is very important that your generator has the proper transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician and inspected by a State of New Mexico Electrical Inspector. This switching device is used to transfer the electric service

from the power line to the generator. The switch also separates the generator from the outside utility service. If the transfer switch is not used, back-feed from the generator voltage to power lines could endanger the lives of line crews working to restore your power.

Please contact Otero County Electric Cooperative at 575-682-2521 for information on safely installing and using standby generators.

2008

WE RESOLVE TO...

Provide you with the most reliable electric service possible.

Keep our rates as low as possible.

Provide friendly and efficient customer service at all times.

Never forget that you are a member-owner of this cooperative.

This resolution comes to you from the employees and directors of Otero County Electric Cooperative.

CFL Bulbs for sale at O.C.E.C.!

Otero County Electric will make available to their customers a 23 watt compact fluorescent (CFL) bulb which provides the same amount of light as a 100watt incandescent bulb light. These light bulbs will be available at the counters of our three OCEC offices. The reduced cost of these bulbs will be \$2.00 plus tax. Bulbs like the one on sale typically cost anywhere from \$4 to \$5 per bulb.

Frequently asked questions on CFL's

Why do compact fluorescent lights cost more than incandescent bulbs?

The price relates to the costs of developing the new compact fluorescent technology. Recently, the price of high-quality compact fluorescent lights has decreased. As the number of lights sold increases, the overall price of the lights will continue to decline.

Will compact fluorescent lights really help me save energy and money on my electric bill?

Yes. A 23-watt compact fluorescent light provides the same amount of light as a 100-watt incandescent bulb.

Let's just compare the costs of the bulbs first and let's assume that you will use the light for 10,000 hours. You will need only one compact fluorescent light bulb that costs an average of \$5, but you will need about 10 incandescent bulbs since incandescent bulbs only last about 700 to 1,000 hours each. The incandescent bulbs may only cost you about \$5, but the electricity to run it will cost about \$99 versus only \$23 to run a compact fluorescent light bulb.

Bulbs plus electricity cost about \$27 when using compact fluorescent lights and \$104 when you use standard incandescent bulbs. Using a compact fluorescent light could save you \$77 for the life of the bulb.

