# STAYING CONNECTED

**April 2019** Volume X Issue IV

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CEO'S

**MFSSAGE** 

# The 2019 Legislative Session Update

I would like to thank Semator Carlos Cisneros and Representative Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales for their leadership in this legislative session by introducing and supporting legislation on behalf of KCEC. The legislative session was a bustling sixty-day session. A record number of bills and memorials were introduced. Because of the large volumne of the bills introduced, KCEC did not have sufficient time to get through all committees so that KCEC could decrease low income member rates and control transmission costs. Although Kit Carson Electric Cooperative is well-positioned to meet all the new renewable energy targets targets.

Here are some highlights related to renewable energy and cooperatives:

Energy Transition Act (SB489): is a bold law that takes a predominantly coal-fired state down a clean energy path. It establishes renewable energy resource requirements known as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS). The

new standards are:

\* 20 percent by 2020

\* 50 percent by 2040 for large utilities, and

\* 80 percent by 2050 for co-ops.

It also introduces a 100 percent carbon-free goal for utilities by 2045 and for the co-ops by 2050.

SB489 closes the San Juan coal plant, and legislation creates a safety net for coal workers and the impacted community and requiring 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045 – making New Mexico one of the first states to do so. This is important legislation that sets a new national benchmark. Utilities are going to have to start ramping up their percentages of renewables. The NM Public Regulation Commission will ultimately need to evaluate and determine a path forward for implementation of the RPS and zero carbon goal.

Electric Vehicles (SB 280) earmarks \$1 million for New Mexico government electric vehicle purchases from 2019 through 2023 and \$1.5 million for electric vehicle charging infrastructure at state owned facilities in Santa Fe and Santa Fe county. HB 548 provides \$50K to NM DOT to pilot a fast charging system at a state operated rest area, and HM 77 moves NM DOT to actively participate in the western road usage charge consortium and pilot planning project which will propose legislation to implement a mileage-based user fee system in New Mexico. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (HB521), clears the way for companies to install EV-charging stations and requires investor-owned utilities to develop transportation electrification plans. This will increase access to EV charging infrastructure in the state, a critical step in accelerating adoption of electric vehicles. vehicles.

Energy Efficiency Act (HB291, SB136) removes disincentives for utilities to invest in energy efficiency and is the cheapest and most effective way to reduce our climate impact. It requires utilities to carry out programs that benefit rate payers; i.e., home energy audits, etc.

Below are two key bills that failed:

Solar Tax Credits (SB518). It's been a priority for years to reinstate state tax credits for those who install solar at their residences or businesses, and this year this bill sailed through committees only to stall out on the last day on the House

CEO's Message continued...

Community Solar (HB210) would have made solar accessible and affordable to more New Mexicans by clearing the way for local entities to build and sell power from community solar gardens. It would have allowed people who rent a home to buy into solar power through solar gardens. This bill died, howerver, it will be a top priority in the next session.

KCEC will continue to advocate for the benefit of all our members.

Luis A. Reyes, Jr. CEO, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative

## Internet

**Spring** is here and the thaw has begun! No better time to sign up and schedule your fiber optic installation. We offer the best service at the most affordable prices possible. To sign up for service, please visit our website:

and click on Kit Carson Internet, Plans and Pricing and Sign Up! We are anxious to serve you at the speed of light!!

www.kitcarson.com

#### Residential Pricing

40 Mbps - \$46.95 / Month 60 Mbps - \$56.95 / Month 110 Mbps - \$106.95 / Month

### **Residential Telephone Pricing**

Residential Line - \$38.87 / Month Second Line - \$10.00 / Month \$10.00 Discount when bundled with internet service \*All prices + taxes & fees

### **Business Pricing**

40 Mbps - \$79.95 / Month 60 Mbps - \$99.95 / Month 110 Mbps - \$139.95 / Month 110+ Mbps – Upon Request

### **Business Telephone Pricing**

Business Line - \$51.06 / Month Second Line - \$10.00 / Month \*All prices + taxes & fees

To schedule your installation, please call: 575.758.4838

# **Propane**

#### PROPANE FUN FACT

At one and a half times the weight of air, propane will settle in low areas. In a liquid form, propane is half the weight of water.

### **PROPANE CYLINDER SAFETY**

- \* Never use outdoor propane appliances indoors or in enclosed areas. This can result in carbon monoxide poisoning or death.
- \* Never store or place propane cylinders indoors or in an enclosed area such as a basement, garage, shed, or tent.
- \* Always use or store cylinders outdoors in an upright (vertical) position.
- \* Never smoke when handling a propane cylinder.

**CURRENT PRICING** \*\*subject to change\*\*

**RESIDENTIAL PRICE** - \$2.40 a gallon **BOTTLE DOCK PRICE** - \$2.40 a gallon

FIRST FILL (NEW CUSTOMERS) - \$1.89 a gallon

#### TANK LEASE PRICE

\$7.00 + TAX PER MONTH OR \$77.00 + TAX PER YEAR

Our online system is currently going through an upgrade. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this billing conversion.

### Solar

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative is thrilled to share the new software developed by Guzman Energy so that members can see real-time solar energy production throughout the service area.

See the live display on the television in the lobby at KCEC's main office.



# **Board of Trustees**

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Next meeting is
April 26th at 9:00 am

# **Honoring Employees**



This issue of our Newsletter spotlights the Warehouse function and the team of Paul Martinez and Kenny Varos. They are responsible for the thousands of warehouse items that are involved in delivering service to our members.

Paul has spent most of his 34 years with Kit Carson working as a warehouseman (with a stint as a Collector) and Kenny joined Kit Carson in a warehouse position and, 17 years later, continues in that function. They are collectively responsible for approximately \$6M in inventory. Over the years Paul and Kenny have developed their own database for the hundreds of specific warehouse items needed to build, install or complete the components that our line crews and internet installers are responsible for. These components are the finished products for Kit Carson Electric; e.g. transformers and installed poles.

The warehouse is inventoried annually in December. Fortunately, these days most warehoused items are bar-coded making for a much easier and more accurate physical inventory.

Other duties involve working with vendors to achieve the best pricing for our member and with customers who wish to purchase used items like poles and reels and spools (good for rabbit hutches, doghouses and creative 'furniture').

Thank you, Paul and Kenny, for being one of those critical support teams that makes it possible for KCEC to fulfill its mission to our members!

MAIN OFFICE (575) 758-2258 or 1-800-688-6780

CUSTOMER SERVICE: (575) 751-9064 or 1-800-944-8159

CUSTOMER SERVICE FAX: (575) 758-4611

CUSTOMER SERVICE EMAIL: csr@kitcarson.com

ADMINISTRATION FAX: (575) 758-4890

AUTOMATED SYSTEM: (575) 751-8132

POWER OUTAGE/SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS: (575) 758-6100

EMERGENCY LINE-LOCATES: 1-800-321-2537

QUESTA OFFICE: (575) 586-2113 Open 8:00 - 4:30 on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except holidays).

KIT CARSON INTERNET: (575) 758-4838 or 1-800-758-4820

KIT CARSON PROPANE: (575) 758-7757

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATORY COMMISSION (PERA Building): 1-800-947-4722