

EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Echoes of the Empire

JULY 2020



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2020 EEA ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

BY JOSH DELLINGER GENERAL MANAGER



JOSH DELLINGER

As many of you are aware, Empire Electric Association postponed its 2020 annual member meeting due to COVID-19 concerns. It is rescheduled for Thursday, October 8, at EEA's Calvin Denton Room, which is located in our main office at 801 N. Broadway, Cortez. Registration will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. This will be a business meeting only. Members who attend will get a \$10 credit on their electric bill. We are hopeful that we will be able to meet in person in October; however, the EEA Board of Directors may decide to change the format of the meeting if there are ongoing concerns about public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are two board seats up for election this year: District 4 (Bill Mollenkopf, incumbent) and District 7 (John Porter, incumbent). The winning candidates will serve four-year terms. In order to serve on EEA's seven-member board of directors, our bylaws require the following qualifications. The director shall:

- Be a member of the cooperative for at least one year immediately prior to becoming a director.
- Be a bona fide resident of the district represented for at least 120 days prior to becoming a director, which means that the person must be a permanent occupant receiving electric service from the cooperative at his or her primary residential abode.
- Be a citizen of the United States of America and a registered voter in the person's director district.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Not be an employee of the cooperative.
- Complete campaign contributions

report in accordance with Policy 31 – Campaign Contributions Reporting.

DISTRICTS 4 AND 7 ARE GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

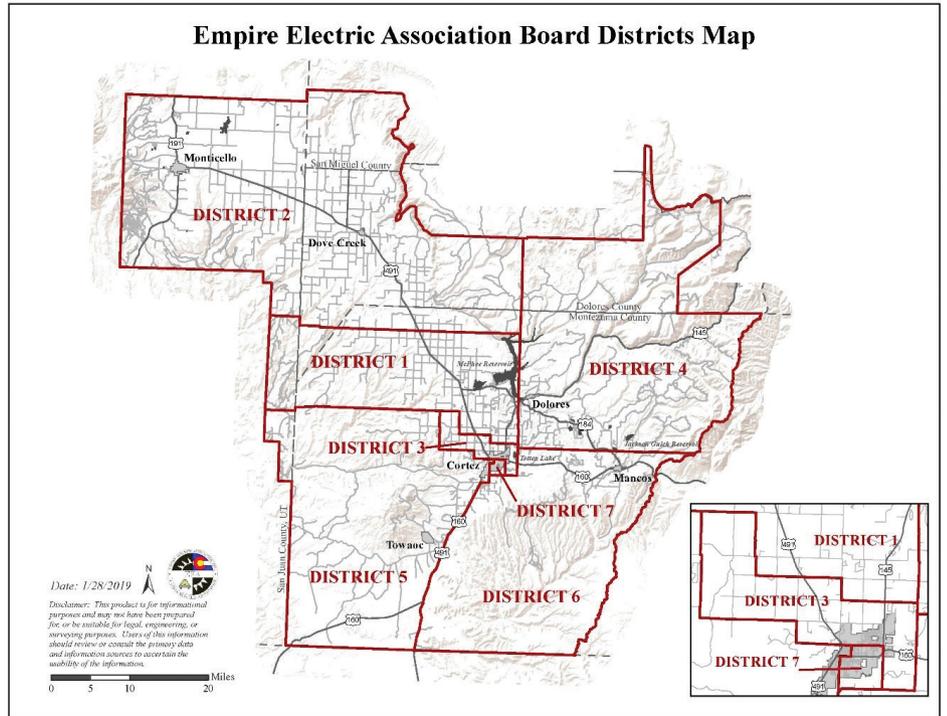
District 4: Generally, the northeastern portion of the service area including the town of Dolores. The eastern boundary is the eastern boundary of the service area. The northern boundary is the northern boundary of the service area. The western boundary is generally the mid-section lines beginning at T40N R15W S05 and continuing south (coincident with Road 28) until the mid-point of T36N R15W S17. From there the district boundary generally follows section mid-lines east (coincident with Road L) to the point of beginning.

District 7: Generally, this is the eastern and southern portions of the city of Cortez and the Montezuma County area south of Cortez and north of County Road H. The eastern boundary begins at the intersection of County Road 27 and County Road H and runs north along section lines (generally coincident with County Road 27) until it reaches Empire St. The boundary then travels west along Empire St. to its intersection with Washington St., then south along Washington St. to Main St./Highway 160, and then west along Main St./Highway 160 to its intersection with S. Maple St. The boundary then travels south along S. Maple St., continues along S. Oak St., and then continues along Road 25 to the intersection with Road H. The boundary then follows Road H east to the point of beginning.

Candidates may be nominated by petition only and such petitions must include the signatures of at least 15 members

of the cooperative whose bona fide residences are within the candidate's district. Qualifying candidates may pick up a nominating petition from our main office during normal business hours. Petitions will be available beginning on July 10, 2020, and must be submitted to EEA by August 24, 2020. The secretary will post a list of qualifying nominees in our main office at the end of the workday on August 25, 2020.

Each member of the cooperative is entitled to one vote on all issues properly brought before the membership, including the election of directors. Members may vote either in person at the annual meeting or through mail-in ballots provided by the cooperative. Mail-in ballots will be mailed to members on or before September 23, 2020. In order to be counted, mail-in ballots shall be received by EEA no later than 5 p.m. on October 2, 2020. All members are



strongly encouraged to vote.

If you have additional questions about this year's election, annual meeting or

any other cooperative business, please visit our website at www.eea.coop or give us a call at 970-565-4444.



We now have a payment kiosk located inside the first door in our front entrance.



Cash and Credit/Debit cards are accepted.

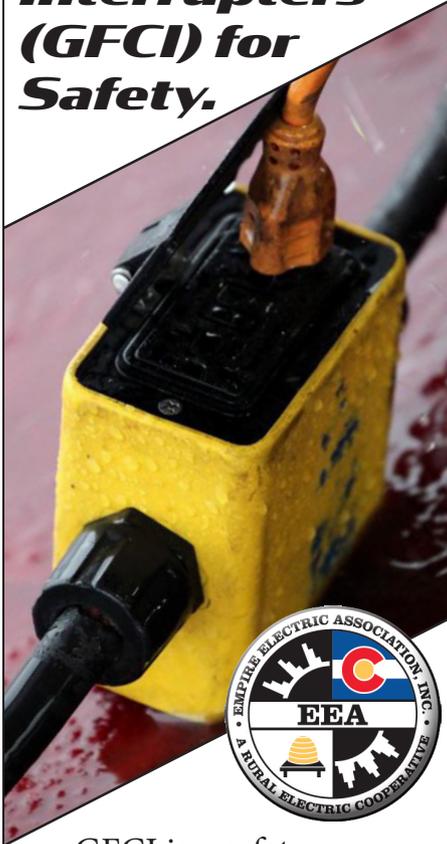
Please have your account number handy or call 970-565-4444 to request it.



July 2020
Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

If you're spending more time at home, try an online energy audit to assess its overall efficiency. Visit www.energystar.gov, then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started.

Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) for Safety.



GFCI is a safety device that helps prevent electrocutions, electric shocks, and burns from occurring around the home, workplace, or construction site. Use a plug-in portable GFCI cord with a manual reset button to safely power your electrical power tools. These portable cords plug directly into a wall outlet and have a short cord with one or more receptacles at the end that your devices plug into and help keep you safe.



WHEN TO CALL IT

Between 2006 and 2018, **396 people** were struck and killed by lightning in the U.S.

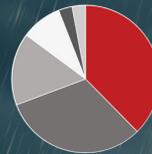
62%

Two-thirds of the fatalities happened during outdoor leisure activities.



Outdoor sports accounted for 13% of lightning-related deaths.

TOP SPORTS-RELATED LIGHTNING FATALITIES



- 1) Soccer 38%
- 2) Golf 31%
- 3) Running 16%
- 4) Baseball 9%
- 5) Football 3%
- 6) Disc Golf 3%



70% of the fatalities occurred in **June, July, or August.**

Have a **GAME PLAN** to stay safe when severe weather **STRIKES.**

1. Check weather forecasts in advance.
2. At first signs of stormy weather, **seek shelter** in a **hard-top car** or **four-sided** building.
3. **Do not** seek shelter under a pavilion or tree.
4. **Do not** sit on or lean against **metal** (e.g. bleachers, fencing).
5. Before resuming activities, **WAIT at least 30 MINUTES** after the last rumble of thunder.

Safe
Electricity.org

Source: National Lightning Safety Council

My Co-op Employees

System Engineer **Clint Rapier** was promoted to engineering manager. Clint had been EEA's system engineer since 2015 and worked diligently to keep our system reliable as well as meet the future needs of our members. His previous work experience as an electrical engineer and photovoltaic system designer has aided EEA in keeping up with the rapid adoption of distributed renewable generation in our service territory. He has also been instrumental in completing the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe solar generation system and the progress made on the Totten Lake solar generation system. As the new engineering manager Clint will continue to supervise the engineering department as well as work on special projects. **Congratulations Clint!**



Clint Rapier

Photo Contest Winner



Colorado Columbine
by Chalana Marie Wilson

My Co-op Calendar

July 1 –

2021 Photo Contest Deadline. Submit your photos at eea.coop.

July 3 –

Office closed for Independence Day Holiday

July 4 –

Independence Day

July 10 –

EEA's board meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at its headquarters in Cortez. The agenda is posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at eea.coop. Members are reminded that public comment is heard at the beginning of the meeting. Meeting restrictions due to health concerns may require the meeting to be held remotely.

Add renewable energy to your EEA account for pocket change.

Empire Electric's Green Power Program is offered to our members at only 9¢ per 100 kWh block. You can sign up to go 100% percent green from renewable sources.

- The average member uses 665 kWhs per month.
- This only costs an additional .63¢ per month.

Please contact us to sign up 970-565-4444.