

# Co-op CORNER



*Your monthly report from Your Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc.*

*Some jobs require many types of our equipment and can involve several members of our excellent line crew.*

## Socorro Electric Tells City: No Dice!

*Socorro Electric Cooperative's message to City Hall was loud and clear: "SEC is not for sale!"*

The response comes after the City of Socorro sent an "Open Letter to Co-op Members" and SEC's Board that outlined its intention to acquire the member-owned cooperative so it could build its own municipal system. A system which may, or may not, serve households and businesses outside the city, according to the letter.

This is the latest chapter in the long-running saga between the city and the 77-year-old cooperative, which was formed by area residents or "members" in the 1940s to bring electricity for the first time to rural communities that had been ignored by bigger profit-driven power providers.

SEC has a broad reach, serving both Socorro and more rural households and businesses, some 13,000 meters and 3,300 miles of power lines in parts of seven New Mexico counties.

The City of Socorro wants SEC to step aside and has been using its power to apply pressure. The city questions SEC's financial acumen in its open letter as it seeks a takeover, contending it could run a more cost-effective and potentially forward-looking system for city customers. It cited its feasibility studies as support. SEC, meanwhile, notes its history of holding rates steady and managing a sprawling system for the benefit of all, while being directly accountable to those it serves as a cooperative.

The city's open letter, which cites the expiration of SEC's right to occupy city-owned streets and right-of-ways in 2024, says "it is prepared to purchase SEC's system within the city and assume the obligation to serve SEC's customers in the city." The letter continues, "if needed, the city would entertain serving surroundings areas," leaving who, ultimately, would be served an open question.

Earlier this month, Socorro Mayor Ravi Bhasker told the Albuquerque Journal: "We gave the co-op the right to operate in our city and to deliver electricity, and it's our right to just take it back."

The SEC Board's terse response to the open letter signed by the mayor, says the "Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. or any part of it, is not for sale."

Go to our website at [www.socorroelectric.com](http://www.socorroelectric.com) to see a copy of SEC's response letter to the City of Socorro or scan the QR code to the left.





## Spotlight on TEAM SEC - Meet our Staff, Your Neighbor

Valentina Vargas, Member Services Representative, came to SEC in August 2021 after many years working in our local medical facilities. Valentina was born and raised in Socorro, however she attended and graduated from Magdalena High School.

After high school, Valentina obtained her "Medical Assistant" and "Phlebotomist" certificates providing her with a career in the medical services field for over 17 years.

When she decided she needed a career change, she applied to SEC and in her words, she is "still providing similar 'customer service' skills as before", although we don't ask her to use a needle!

She enjoys the steady work week at SEC and being able to spend more time with her 2 daughters and their activities. In the medical field, she had to work many holidays, weekends, and nights which took her away from many of girls' sporting events.

Valentina really relishes the time spent with her very athletic daughters and is proud of the "softball mom" moniker. We are proud to have Valentina as a part of our SEC family!



**Valentina Vargas**  
*Member Services Representative*

### CONTACT US

#### WEBSITE

[www.socorroelectric.com](http://www.socorroelectric.com)

#### PHONE

800-351-7575 or 575-835-0560

#### PAYING YOUR BILL

You can make your payment over the phone by check or major credit card, 24 hrs. a day, 7 days a week with our IVR phone system at no charge.

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### REPORTING AN OUTAGE

Before reporting a power outage, please check the circuit breakers in your house first. If you still do not have power after checking your breakers, please call **(575) 835-0560, (800) 351-7575 or 855-881-8159.**

If you get a busy signal, it is an indication that someone else is experiencing an outage as well; however please continue to call, this will help us pinpoint the problem.

#### MEMBER SERVICE/BILLING

Marilyn Madrid - Member Service Supervisor  
575-835-0560, Ext 1504

#### ACCOUNTING

Jimmy Capps, CFO  
575-835-0560, Ext 1503

#### LINE EXTENSIONS

575-835-0560

#### MARKETING & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jimmy Capps - Director of Communications & Public Affairs - 575-838-9724  
[jcapps@socorroelectric.com](mailto:jcapps@socorroelectric.com)

### March 2022 Board Report - the Board ....

- received an update on the ongoing Broadband Feasibility Study.
- approved the 2021 Form 990-PF IRS return for the Foundation.
- discussed the process for appointing a District 5 Trustee.
- set the next Board Meeting for April 23, 2022 to follow the Annual Member Meeting.

### Tri-State G&T Contributes To Local Family

SEC Trustee, Leroy Anaya, is shown presenting Justin & Kiara Houston of San Antonio, with a \$500 check from Tri-State G&T Association.

Mr. Anaya, who serves as SEC's representative on the Tri-State Board of Directors, secured the donation to assist the Houston family with the continuing medical expenses for the Houston's infant son, Cash, who needs a kidney transplant.

We appreciate the efforts by Tri-State, in donating to the special needs of our Members.



**Left to right: Justin Houston, Kiara Houston, Leroy Anaya, SEC.**