

# SIERRA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

MEMBER NEWSLETTER January, 2012

**“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving.” - Albert Einstein**



A new year has appeared – again prompting the age old question “where does the time go?” Actually, Albert Einstein tried to answer that very question with the idea that all time exists all the time – time is like a river...the past still exists behind a curve, and the future also exists up around the bend...and we should be able to access them simultaneously. This type of thinking stretches my cranial capabilities as I seem very occupied just trying to handle the present! We must however learn from the past and plan for the future.

Back behind that curve (last year), we accomplished some major goals. The Frontier Substation was completed, energized, and is providing Spaceport America with electrical power. Our building addition/renovation is finished, our computer network has been upgraded and most of our internal shifting to efficiently utilize our space is complete. Our short (4 year) and long (12 year) term work plans were put in place and will serve as our road map for the future.

Up around the bend, system projects include converting some of our lower voltage lines to higher voltage and the upgrading of some lines with larger conductor (wire) to provide us with greater capacity, improved voltage and increased reliability. We also plan to rebuild our switchyard near the dam and continue the ever present maintenance of our system structures and equipment. Also, in the works for this year is a major software upgrade of our Billing and Accounting systems to help serve our members more efficiently. Our goal for each of these projects is to continue providing the highest quality service to you at the lowest cost possible.

For those of you who have not heard, 2012 has been recognized as the “International Year of Co-operatives” by the United Nations. From the UN’s website “***this is an acknowledgement by the international community that co-operatives drive the economy, respond to social change, are resilient to the global economic crisis and are serious, successful businesses creating jobs in all sectors.***” What a great organization of which to be a member!

## \*\*\* News \*\*\*

**Pole Inspections** - Just so you know....If you live in the areas of Cuchillo, Monticello, Winston, Poverty Creek, or Chloride, be aware that SEC's pole inspection contractors are working. They do have identifying SEC hats and placards on their vehicles, and will be using four wheelers to get to most poles. We inspect at least 10% of our poles every year as part of our annual maintenance program. If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office - 744-5231.

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE !

[www.sierraelectric.org](http://www.sierraelectric.org)

Same address, with more information and more interactive features.....



## \*\*\* Reminders \*\*\*

**Red Flag Rule** - Effective January 1st of last year, security measures to ensure proper verification of accounts became a FTC requirement. Members now need to provide an account password when calling to inquire about their account. This will assist us in complying with the Federal Trade Commission Rule 16 CFR Part 681.2, and will help us take reasonable steps to prevent "Identity Theft" of your account information. If you haven't already provided this information to us, please contact our office and request a form, or you can print one out from our website (under the SEC News tab).

**Scholarships** - The Sierra Electric Cooperative Education Foundation has a scholarship program available to active members and their immediate family members. These are one (1) year scholarships, and the recipient must maintain a minimum of 2.50 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Please contact your High School Counselor or Ofelia Melendez at our office - 744-5231.