



"Owned By Those We Serve"

Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

UP DATE



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A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Daniel G. Laws

Celebrating The Spirit of Cooperation

It is only fitting that the 57th Annual RGEC Meeting will be held in Carrizo Springs, Saturday, October 12. There is a strong, pioneering spirit that runs as deep in the community today as when it was founded around 1865, by those first brave families from Atascosa County and Goliad.

The Dimmit County Chamber of Commerce website describes the early history of the area — "The Carrizo Springs settlement was still quite small in 1880, when Dimmit County was organized. Nevertheless, as the largest and oldest community in the county, it was designated the county seat. In 1880 Levi English donated a parcel of land for a town site, including land designated for schools, churches, and a courthouse. The town began to grow, and the residents constructed their homes of solid, lasting materials. In 1881 a local group of Masons helped to build the first schoolhouse in Carrizo Springs, and two years later construction began on a courthouse. A newspaper, the Carrizo Springs *Javelin*, began operations in 1884. By 1885 Carrizo Springs had two churches, at least one grocery, a livery stable, a harness and boot shop, and a population of 900. By 1892 the town also had two druggists, a steam gristmill and gin, and a nursery."

Though the early residents of the area faced many obstacles in building their community, they stuck

together and worked toward common goals; building a community of which they could be proud. Cooperation is what made their community possible.

Cooperation is what makes many things possible. It is that spirit of cooperation we celebrate, as we observe October as National Cooperatives Month. Cooperation is one of the seven founding principles upon which cooperative businesses were founded, and it is as important in today's world as it was to the early pioneers.

Cooperatives include credit unions, agricultural producers, housing cooperatives, health care providers, and electric cooperatives, to name but a few. Democratically controlled, member owned, and dedicated to providing needed goods and services to those not seen as "profitable" by investor-owned businesses, cooperatives continue the pioneering spirit.

Please join us for Rio Grande ECI's 57th Annual Meeting in Carrizo Springs, Saturday, October 12, as we review the past year, and look ahead to the future. Annual Meetings are another reason Rio Grande Electric Co-op is

"Your Home Team Advantage!"