

Three co-op trustee positions on the line

By John Larson - El Defensor Chieftain Staff Writer April 11, 2019

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All members of Socorro Electric Cooperative – that is, everyone who gets an electric bill – are encouraged to attend its 74th annual meeting this Saturday, April 13, at Macey Center on the New Mexico Tech campus.

Registration is from 1-3 p.m. The business meeting, which will include the election of board trustees starts at 3 p.m.

The 2019 Election will be for Trustees from District I, District IV and District V. Those seats are currently held by Mary Baca, Dave Wade and Anne Dorough, respectively.

Anyone residing in one of those districts can become a candidate for that district's position.

The general areas for each of these districts are as follow:

District I - the northern portion of our service area from Escondida to Veguita. The current trustee for District I is Mary Baca. Running against Baca will be former trustee Paul Bustamante and Ward McCartney.

District IV - the southeastern portion of our service area from Luis Lopez south and east along Highway 380. The current trustee for District IV is Dave Wade. Wade is being challenged by Michael Hawkes and Tony Jaramillo Jr.

District V - the far western portion of our service area that includes areas surrounding Datil, Pie Town, Quemado, and Fence Lake. The current trustee for District V is Anne Dorough. Dorough is running unopposed.

All members will be able to vote on each race, regardless of district.

“This members meeting is for the members to hear reports on the status of their electric cooperative and give them the opportunity to ask questions of leadership,” General Manager Joseph Herrera says. “Most importantly it allows the members exercise their democratic right to select two trustees to be seated immediately following the annual meeting.”

He said it was crucial to have a registered quorum of members by the start of the 3 p.m. meeting, “otherwise the mail-in and polling ballots do not count, as per state statute of the rural electric cooperative act.”

Three percent of the membership is necessary for a quorum, which means approximately 300 need to be registered.

Socorro Electric serves customers living in Catron, Cibola, Sierra, Socorro, and Valencia counties. The company owns 3,287 miles of distribution line. It has invested \$79 million to serve its members.