

## Week #10- State of the Co-op Address

Dear Co-op Members,

As we enter our final week of lobby closures at Rio Grande Electric, we feel we are fully prepared to welcome members back. Social distancing signage is in place, hand sanitizing stations are ready for use, and employees are gearing up to see members.

With that said, I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day holiday, and took a moment to remember all the men and women who have served this country, and laid down their lives on our behalf.

RGEC line crews had a busy weekend, as the majority of Co-op country was pounded by severe storms. Crews in our Alpine, Brackettville, Carrizo Springs, and Fort Stockton Operations Areas were out in the worst of conditions, repairing damages left by back-to-back storms. Damaging winds, hail, flash flooding, and cloud-to-ground lightning wreaked havoc on RGEC's system. The storms caused damage to our providers' transmission lines, substation outages, broken poles, and downed lines, and left hundreds of members without power. I would like to personally thank everyone for their patience and understanding, as our linemen worked diligently to make the necessary repairs.

As we continue to work through the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations to all of our 2020 graduates. For many, graduation is something that has been anticipated since elementary school – walking with your peers, stepping on the stage to receive your diploma, and celebrating with family and friends. During this time you are probably filled with mixed emotions – excitement, stress, uncertainty – and there have been numerous unanticipated changes that have completely disrupted what we know as “normal”. I encourage you to make the best of the situation and create new memories with family and friends, to cherish the rest of your life. Although your graduation ceremony may not be what you had envisioned, know that we are here for you and could not be more proud. *CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!*

We look forward to reopening our lobbies June 1. Remember that all members and guests are asked to wear a mask/facial covering upon entering the building, and follow the posted social distancing guidelines. The Co-op is proud to have remained COVID free throughout the last 10 weeks, and we continue to do so by sticking to a strict social distancing policy. SmartHub, Secure Pay, and email are still available for those who wish to continue to conduct Co-op business remotely. Members can stay up-to-date with RGEC COVID-19 news by visiting [www.riogrande.coop/COVID](http://www.riogrande.coop/COVID), and continuing to check our social media pages – Facebook ([www.facebook.com/rgec.coop](http://www.facebook.com/rgec.coop)), Instagram (@riograndecoop), and Twitter (@riograndecoop).

I would like to thank all of our members for your continued patience and understanding as we worked through this difficult time, and we can't wait to see you all again!

Sincerely,

Theresa Quiroz, COO