



## Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# UP DATE



August, 2007



### A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Dan Laws

## *Your Voice In The Cooperative*

A wise old fellow I knew once said, "If you don't vote - then you're not entitled to gripe about the way the government's run." My friend meant that as a citizen, you have both a right and a responsibility to vote for the candidate whom you feel best represents your ideals and vision of the country, and if you don't vote, then you are basically giving up your say-so in who is selected to make the important decisions.

Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc. will soon be holding its Director Election. The same principles apply to the Director Election - vote for the candidates whom you feel best represent your ideals and visions for the Cooperative. It is both your right and your responsibility as a member and owner of the Co-op to cast your vote and cast it wisely.

Your elected representatives, the Board of Directors, have an enormous amount of responsibility, yet they willingly bear the burden of responsibility. They must attend training sessions, which require that they leave their businesses, spouses and families, for a time. They must travel to attend monthly meetings of the Board and occasionally, conferences and other special events, which they do to serve you - the members they represent. They must be objective in all matters of Cooperative policy, procedures, and decisions. Board members must be accessible and able to speak for the members they represent. They must act in the best interest of the majority, and at times, make tough decisions. These decisions may not be popular with all the membership - but a good board member accepts that "you can't please all of the people all of the time".

I assure you that your voice does matter. Unlike my wise old friend's analogy, even if you don't vote, you still have the right to express your concerns about the Cooperative. However, why would the owner of a company willingly give up his or her voice in how that company is run? You, as a member of the Cooperative, are not just a consumer. You are an owner and a stakeholder in this cooperative. You have the right to decide how it is run and what direction it will take in the future. You have probably noticed that the Rio Grande logo contains the phrase, "Owned By Those We Serve". It's not just a slogan to us. It's the way we do business and we never forget that we work for you - that's **"Your Home Team Advantage."**

**Director Election results will be announced at the 62nd Annual Meeting,  
Saturday, October 13, at the International Center for Trade, in Eagle Pass, Texas.**

*See page 21, for the Official Notice of Annual Meeting, and overview of activities.*