



Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# Up Date

September, 2008



## A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Dan Laws

*“Well, it’s Annual Meeting time again!”*

Well, it’s Annual Meeting time again! I have heard it referred to as the Annual Party, the Annual Time Waster, the Annual Money Waster and the list goes on. It is unfortunate that there are always those who will try to sully something that is good, and even more importantly, necessary. That’s right, you read correctly—the Annual Meeting is necessary. In fact, it is required by Texas Law.

The law does not, of course, spell out how much money should be spent on the meeting, what the agenda should be, or who should speak. The law does make clear that the purpose of the meeting is for the board of directors and management to be accountable for the business, and inform the membership about critical issues that affect their business. If there were no other reason to have the meeting, the law is reason enough.

In truth, there are many other good reasons to have the annual meeting. It is a great opportunity for the employees to show the members what has been done on their behalf during the last year. It is a chance for friends to meet friends, it allows members to better understand the business, and there is even entertainment for the children, as well as the adults.

Needless to say, there is always a great meal served. Attendance prizes will be provided to each membership present, and each membership will have the chance to win a door prize valued at \$100. As if that wasn’t enough, one lucky member will win a new (to them) “Retired” Co-op van . The Annual Meeting sounds exciting, doesn’t it? You can be a part of it all! You can join your neighbors on October 11, 2008, in Fort Stockton and enjoy the festivities.

Even if you can’t attend the Annual Meeting for some reason, you can still participate in the business by voting the ballot that will soon be coming to your home. Voting by mail is our way of making it easy for you to participate in the selection of directors to manage a business that partially belongs to you and is so vital to your lifestyle. Please take the time to look at the materials that accompany your ballot and vote for the director of your choice in each race.

Sadly enough, fewer than 16 % of the membership returned a ballot last year. While that percentage is high among the electric cooperatives of the nation, it is far lower than it should be, given the ease of participation. I don’t mean to lecture you, but member participation has been the backbone of this cooperative’s past and is absolutely necessary for a strong future.

The Annual Meeting is, in my mind, more like a family reunion. We are folks who live in the border country, scratching out a living, raising families, and building for the future. Rio Grande is a network of some 9,000 miles of line that connect us all together, and a common thread, if you will, that connects us to the rest of the world. I’d love to see you at the Annual Meeting. Please make plans to attend.

***Watch for Ballot, Candidate Profiles, and Annual Meeting  
Reservation Card coming to you by mail soon!***