

COLUMBUS[®] CURRENTS

FACTS ABOUT FEBRUARY

According to the Georgian calendar, February is the second month of the year, and also the shortest month. February has 28 days until Julius Caesar gave it 29, and 30 days every four years. According to tradition, Augustus, the Roman emperor, took one day off to add one day to August, the month named after him. We now have February with 28 days, and 29 on leap years.

The second day of February is often referred to as **GROUND HOG'S DAY**. The old stories told are that the ground hog comes out of its burrow on February 2, to look for its shadow. If there is sunshine and he sees his shadow, then he goes back to sleep and there will be more winter time. If he doesn't, then the spring time will begin.

VALENTINE'S DAY is celebrated on February 14 in most western countries. Children give valentines and have a party in school. Young and old exchange cards with loved ones. This custom is hundreds of years old, valentine greetings having been found that date back into the 1400's

Fletcher retires after 24 years as CEC Manager



Edward Elbrock, Board President left, Mike Fletcher, right

The Board of Trustees expressed their appreciation to Mike Fletcher for 24 years of outstanding and dedicated service at a luncheon held at 2011 year's end.

In the late 1980's CEC had failed to meet the financial ratios required by its mortgage with the Rural Utility Service. With the retirement of the Manager at the time, the Cooperative requested assistance from the then power supplier, Plains Electric Generation & Transmission Association.

It was mutually agreed that Plains would provide management service to the Cooperative. On September 7, 1987 Mike began his work on a contract basis and within a year's time the Cooperative was on its way

to becoming financially stable.

The Board offered Mike the Managers job and on August 1, 1988 he officially left Plains and began his new career with CEC.

According to Mike there have been many challenges over his tenure with the company probably not unlike those faced by all small Electric Cooperatives.

With a consumer density of 2.5 consumers per mile of electric line, a premium had to be placed on managing our financial resources. He credits two milestones that helped the Cooperative during its troubled times, the Phelps Dodge Smelter and offering irrigators a new interruptible rate that provided the rate signal that brought them back to electricity from other fuel sources.

When asked what he will miss the most he replied "people, those that I've worked with and those that I've worked for, our members".

Members will probably be happy to know that he says "I plan to continue to write. I'm not sure the forum or avenue, maybe a blog."

Congratulations on your retirement Mr. Fletcher. You will be missed.

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

The following passage regarding the nominations of Trustee is from page 6 of the By-Laws of Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc. ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4, Nominations.

(a) NOMINATIONS BY PETITION

Any fifteen (15) or more members, in any one district, acting together may make nominations by petition for trustee of their district, and such petition shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Cooperative twenty-five (25) days prior to the annual meeting of the members. Upon receipt of such nominating petition from any district, the Secretary shall immediately post said petition at the office of the cooperative, and such nomination shall be announced at the annual meeting prior to election of trustees.

(b) NOMINATIONS MADE FROM THE FLOOR.

Additional nominations for trustee for a particular district or for trustee-at-large may be made from the floor at the meeting of the members by any member from the same district. Each member shall be entitled to nominate one candidate from his district.

(c) NOMINATING FOR TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE.

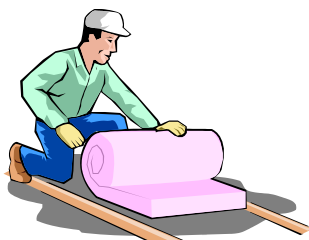
When the trustee-at-large is to be elected, nominations may be made by members of any district in the same manner set forth in sub paragraphs (a) and (b) above.

(d) NOTICE FOR NOMINATIONS

The names of the nominees for trustees so made by petition shall be set forth in the notice of the annual or special meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, and the Secretary shall at such meeting list all nominations made by petition and from the floor.

If you have questions about your Voting District, the nominating process, or would like a copy of the By-laws, please contact the Co-op. **The Annual Meeting of the Members will be held on March 24, 2012 in Animas.**

Tip of the Month



Adding insulation to your home? An R-value indicates insulation's resistance to heat flow—a higher R-value means more effective insulation. Every type of insulation has a unique R-value depending on material, thickness, and density.

Your ideal R-value depends on whether your home is new or existing, your heating fuel, and where you live. Learn more at www.energysavers.gov.

Emergency Response Number
1-800-228-0579

Toll - free Office Number
1-800-950-COOP (2667)