

Simmons named as SWRE CEO

Kenneth E. Simmons has been named as the new CEO of Southwest Rural Electric Cooperative. He replaces longtime CEO Mike Hagy who will retire in early January.

Simmons is a 35-year veteran of the electric co-op industry. He comes to SWRE from Carroll Electric Membership Cooperative in Carrollton, Georgia, where he served as Manager of System Design.

Prior to joining Carroll EMC in 2011, Simmons was president/CEO of Utility Design Services, Inc., a utility consulting firm in Atlanta, Georgia. In that capacity Simmons worked with dozens of electric distribution cooperatives of all sizes across the Southern United States.

Simmons and his wife Kim are both natives of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The couple has three grown children. Son Christopher is a police officer in Forest Park, Georgia; daughter Jamie works as an account manager for a firm in Atlanta; and son Sean is an auto service advisor in McDonough, Georgia.

They are grandparents of one – Christopher’s daughter Shay Marie who was born in July 2016.

In Georgia the Simmons are members of Legacy Baptist Church, Dallas, Georgia. Ken has served as a deacon and Sunday school director.

Simmons’ community involvement is extensive.

He has served on the executive boards of the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce and the Paulding Education Board Foundation. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Dallas where he was named a Paul Harris Fellow.

He has interest in hunting and fishing, and has been a member and volunteer in many wildlife conservation organizations, including Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, National Wild Turkey Federation, Coastal Conservation Association and Trout Unlimited.

Simmons attended Louisiana State University and has also earned professional creden-



Ken Simmons

tials from the University of Georgia, Southern Polytechnic State University, Clapp Research Institute, and the University of Wisconsin.

Speaking of his new position, Simmons said, “My wife Kim and I are humbled and feel very privileged by this opportunity. We are truly excited about the prospects and look forward to making the Texoma area and SWRE our new home.”

Holiday Closings

SWRE offices will be Closed

Friday, December 23, 2016
Monday, December 26, 2016

New Years

Monday, January 2, 2017

As always, 24-hour emergency service will be available on those days by calling 1-800-256-7973.

“LIKE” SWRE on Facebook

When you are looking for current information from SWRE, one source is the co-op’s Facebook page.

Facebook members can find SWRE at “Southwest Rural Electric” and are encouraged to “Like” the site to receive regular postings from the co-op.

Facebook users can check the page for posts about SWRE proj-

ects, energy tips, photos, Oklahoma and Texas statewide association projects, and useful links.

In cases of major or extended power outages, SWRE will post information at the SWRE Facebook site.

Another great source for SWRE information is the co-op’s web page at www.swre.com.

SWRE CEO Report



by Mike R. Hagy
Chief Executive Officer

CEO Mike Hagy will retire from SWRE effective January 3, 2017

What I will miss... and what I won't

As I compose my final **SWRE News** article prior to retirement, bittersweet emotions come to mind.

My ten-plus years as a director and 11 years as the CEO/general manager evoke some memorable moments. In reality some of those times were better memories than others. As I look back, there are things that I will not miss and there are other things that I definitely will miss!

I won't miss ice storms.

The Christmas Eve storm of 2009 was the year that all of our employees missed Christmas and most of the week after. That same winter on January 28, 2010, we were hit again and lost approximately 3,500 poles, mostly in the northern area of our service area.

Last year at Thanksgiving 2015 we lost about 700 poles to ice, which was followed on December 26-28 by what was possibly our worst ice storm ever. During that storm the damage increased day by day over our entire service area. Western Farmers could not provide transmission power to any sub-stations and SWRE again had lost approximately 3,000 poles.

I won't miss the tornados, windstorms, and lightning storms.

We experienced four major tornados in two years, several windstorms with hurricane force winds, and so many severe lightning storms that I have lost count. Also, you can throw in some wild fires during our severe drought and major flooding during our last two springs.

I also won't miss the anxiety of watching the radar and outage maps as severe weather approaches. During my heart attack episode and hospital stay, my wife actually hid my phone and iPad so that I couldn't look at storms and outage maps.

I won't miss the monthly road trips to Austin, Abilene, Oklahoma City, Anadarko and various other cities around the US. It's important that the CEO attend all those meetings to represent SWRE's interests, but the travel is often time-consuming and difficult.

Those are all things that I will not miss in retirement.

What WILL I miss?

I will miss the great SWRE employees, both active and retired, who I have had the great fortune to work with over the years.

I will miss the relationship with SWRE's directors that I have en-

joyed as both a fellow director and manager.

I will miss my extended cooperative family made up of the personnel from co-ops throughout Texas and Oklahoma. I will also miss the people and support from both Texas and Oklahoma statewide organizations – the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives and Texas Electric Cooperatives.

I will miss the challenges associated with a small cooperative competing in a large market in a new era of power.

And... I will miss the members of SWRE. There have been times of criticism and times of praise, but our members are consistently the best members a cooperative could hope for.

As I look back, there are still many things to accomplish and there will always be new challenges.

It is my hope that in some small way I have helped to move our cooperative along the road of progress while seizing the opportunity to share the vision of safety, service, and satisfaction – one member at a time!

Thank you and may God bless you!

Mike R. Hagy

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!
from
Southwest Rural Electric Assn.



Patterson joins SWRE office staff

Brad Patterson recently joined Southwest Rural Electric as work order clerk. His job responsibilities include work order accounting and processing.

Brad is an Altus native. He holds a degree in Biology from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and taught high school science for five years at Frederick and Putnam City. He worked most recently as drilling fluids engineer for Haliburton.

Brad lives in Tipton with his wife Jaclyn. They are parents of two daughters and one son.



Brad Patterson

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1-800-256-7973

Payments can be made at SWRE, 700 North Broadway, Tipton, OK 73570.

Online Payments can be made at www.swre.com.
OR use the SWRE app.

Payments may also be made at the following area banking institutions:

Oklahoma

Altus – Frazer Bank, National Bank of Commerce
Blair – Peoples State Bank
Snyder – All American Bank
Frederick – BancFirst, Frazer Bank

Texas

Chillicothe – American National Bank
Crowell – State Bank
Electra – Waggoner National Bank
Vernon – Herring Bank, Waggoner Bank, Bank of the West

NOTE: When paying at a bank site, allow 7-10 days prior to the bill due date.

SWRE to pay patronage capital

The SWRE Board of Trustees has approved \$250,000 in patronage capital payments to members of the co-op.

The payments are based on energy purchased during parts of 1976 and 2015 and will be paid according to kilowatt hours of electricity used during parts of those specific years.

SWRE is a cooperative, so each member-owner has a share in money that is left over after all operating costs are paid. This money is called margin.

A member's share of the margin is called capital credit or patronage capital,

and is determined by how much electricity was purchased. The more purchased, the bigger the share.

The members are allocated their share of margins each year. That share is paid when SWRE is financially able.

The patronage capital checks will be mailed in December.

The combination method of paying from multiple years means that most SWRE members will receive a check in December. No check will be issued for any amount less than \$5.

What's Cookin' in the SWRE Kitchen

Pecan Squares

Crust

- 1-1/4 lb. unsalted butter, room temp.
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3 extra-large eggs
- 3/4 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 4-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Topping

- 1 lb. unsalted butter
- 1 cup good honey
- 3 cups light brown sugar, packed
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon grated orange zest
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 2 lbs. pecans, coarsely chopped

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. For the crust, beat the butter and sugar with an electric mixer until light, approximately 3 minutes.
3. Add the eggs and vanilla. Mix well.
4. Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt. Mix the dry ingredients into the batter with the mixer on low speed until just combined.



5. Press the dough evenly into an ungreased 18 x 12 x 1-inch baking sheet, making an edge around the outside. It will be very sticky. Sprinkle the dough lightly with flour. Bake for 15 minutes until the crust is set but not browned. Allow to cool.
6. For the topping, combine the butter, honey, brown sugar, and zests in a large saucepan. Cook over low heat until the butter is melted, using a wooden spoon to stir.
7. Raise the heat and boil for 3 minutes.
8. Remove from the heat. Stir in the heavy cream and pecans. Pour over the crust, trying not to get the filling between the crust and the pan.
9. Bake for 25-30 minutes, until the filling is set. Remove from oven and allow to cool.
10. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate until cold. Cut into bars and serve.

SWRE News

Mike R. Hagy, Chief Exec. Officer
Joe Wynn, **SWRE News** editor

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SWRE Trading Post

Ads are online for 45 days & updated daily at www.swre.com

For Sale: Four Goodyear Eagle tires, size P275-55R20. Also, one all-terrain Liberator tire, LT246-75R16. Vernon. Call 940-552-0747 or 940-838-8608

For Sale: Commercial building in Tipton on four corner lots with a 20'x48' warehouse. For more information, call 580-667-5466 or 580-305-0904

For Sale: 1989 350 motor home; Food trailer w/ a corn roaster; Also, 1998 3/4-ton 2500 Chevrolet Silverado. Call 580-318-3799

For Sale: Full size Sealy Posturepedic dual pillow-top mattress and box spring set. Great condition. No stains. No sag. Will deliver a reasonable distance. \$200. Call or text 580-480-2478

For Sale: Horse hay for sale. Premium Midland 99 Bermuda, fertilized for each cutting and sticker/weed free. Large round bales (5'x6'), \$65; Small squares (35"x40"), \$5.50 each (Discount for 100+). Near Friendship. Call 580-471-7284

For Sale: Antique tiger oak bedroom set, excellent condition. Full sleigh bed with nice mattress, large night stand with three drawers and cupboard, and large dresser w/ wood-framed oval beveled and movable mirror attached. Sacrifice at \$1,399. Also, beautiful antique oak full size bed frame (headboard and footboard), \$80. Call 580-471-7284

For Sale: LG brand washer and dryer. Front load washer. Excellent condition. Less than six years old. Used only in a household of two people. Works great. Nothing wrong with either. Asking \$800 for the set. Call 940-886-6529 if interested.

For Sale: 1/2 inch to 3 1/2-inch ratchet knock out set for \$500. Text or call Julian, Altus, at 580-230-9748

For Sale: Mirrors. One large and two small. Large is 36" x 44" for \$50. Small are 18.5" x 36" for \$25 each. Text or call Linda in Altus at 580-649-7309

For Sale: 1984 Terry travel trailer w/ equalizer hitch. 24-ft. Sleeps 6. Good condition. Kept inside barn. \$2,800. Blair. Call 580-481-0127

For Sale: Entertainment center. Maple woodgrain. 48" height x 16" depth x 50" width. TV opening 28.5" wide x 26" high. Three shelves. Two are enclosed in glass doors. \$50. Call 580-481-0127

For Sale: Rainbow vacuum cleaner model R2800C with attachments. Works great. \$40. Call 580-481-0127

For Sale: Almost new Kenmore gas stove. White. Convection oven, self clean, delay start, timer, warmer and hold. Top of the line. In perfect condition. Paid \$700. Will sell for \$350. Altus. Call 580-482-7208

NOTE: To be included in the print issue of SWRE News, ads should be received by the 10th of the previous month.

FREE classified non-commercial ads available for SWRE members only
MAIL ADS TO JOE WYNN AT P.O. BOX 310 TIPTON, OK 73570. E-MAIL THEM TO JOE@SWRE.COM, OR CALL 1-800-256-7973.