

For the first time, the lights are on in Sillab, Guatemala.

Twenty volunteer linemen from Oklahoma and Colorado, including Mike Wolfe with SWRE, spent two weeks in Guatemala building powerlines and wiring 42 structures, including one elementary school and four churches. The project consisted of some 40-plus poles in approximately 6.5 miles of line and four transformers installed by the linemen. Each home received four lightbulbs, two light switches and two electrical outlets.

Now completed, the power lines will belong to a local utility, ADECORK (Asociación Para Desarrollo Comunitario Rax Kiche; translation: Association for Community Development Rax Kiche). ADECORK will carry the responsibility of generating and distributing electric power to Sillab. The utility operates a small hydro plant with a capacity of 75 kilowatts (kW).

The locals live in extreme poverty conditions without running water, plumbing and food refrigeration. The villagers depend on farming operations for economic sustainment; they produce corn, beans, cardamom seeds, and some vegetables.

Wolfe, from Vernon, Texas, served as a crew leader in Guatemala and says he was positively impacted by this mission and came home with a changed outlook on life.

“This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and it truly humbled me,” says Wolfe. “It was a privilege to use the linework trade to make a positive difference in the lives of the people of Sillab. Their simplicity, joy, and friendship were truly a gift.”

The staff and board of directors at SWRE supported Wolfe’s participation in the project.

“We are proud of Wolfe for selflessly giving of his time for an extended period of time to help our neighbors in Central America,” says Ken Simmons, SWRE’s general manager. “This is a powerful way to display one of the cooperatives’ core principles, ‘Concern for Community,’ at home and across the borders.”

Electric cooperatives have a long-standing tradition of bringing lights where there are none. More than eighty years ago, cooperatives brought power to rural America and its countryside; given its origins, electric co-ops are willing and well positioned to help other areas that do not have access to electric power.



CO-OP PRINCIPLE #6

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

CEO Message



Manager/CEO, Ken Simmons

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Rebecca Chambless, *Power Source* editor

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Bill Pay Options:

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THE SEASON OF THANKS & GIVING

“This is the time of year that we start looking back at all that we’ve accomplished and reflecting on what we’re thankful for. At the cooperative, we are certainly looking back at 2019 with thankful hearts.

SWRE has come a long way in the last year which means a lot of changes have come your way. Earlier this year we moved from three billing cycles to a single billing cycle. A few months ago you, the membership, voted unanimously in favor of the re-apportionment of district boundaries (see the new district map on the last page of this newsletter). Finally, this month, we just launched a new app and billing software. We can’t thank you enough for your patience during these big updates and for supporting the co-op’s growth and innovation!

Additionally, we are thankful for co-op employees and community volunteers that display an abundant “Concern for the Community” (Cooperative Principle #7). Globally, we are celebrating Mike Wolfe’s return from Guatemala where he led a crew that brought electricity to a small village; We are honored to have him represent SWRE abroad. Locally, the Operation Round Up Board recently awarded \$40,000 back to organizations in the SWRE territory from the generous donations of SWRE members.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family! May the feeling of giving and thankfulness follow you through the holiday season. //

Ken Simmons
 Manager/CEO



WIN THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!
 2020 YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Essay & App Deadline: Dec. 10, 2019

SWRE is now accepting applications from high school juniors for Youth Tour, a week-long all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. The cooperative sends two students from SWRE territory (one from Oklahoma and one from Texas) to the nation’s capital each year. Students will have the opportunity to tour historic sites and national landmarks, meet state congressional delegation, and more.

To apply, students must submit an application and essay on a topic chosen by the co-op. Finalists will be selected to present their essay as a speech in front of a panel of judges. For more information about the competition or Youth Tour experience, email marketing@swre.com.

NEW WAYS TO PAY YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

PAY FROM YOUR PHONE OR TABLET

SWRE just launched our new app, SmartHub, which means managing your account just got easier! Use the new SmartHub app to pay directly from your phone or tablet.

Download the app for iOS from the Apple App Store or for Android from the Google Play Store.

PAY FROM YOUR DESKTOP

Pay your bill on your desktop browser by visiting SWRE.com.

PAY BY PHONE 24/7: 1-833-890-9510

Call SWRE’s automated bill-pay line at any time of the day or night with your account number and card information.

SETTING UP YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT

All SWRE members will need to create a new online account even if you previously had an SWRE login. To pay online through the SmartHub app or web portal, use these quick steps:

- 1 Select “Southwest Rural Electric” as your service provider.
- 2 Register your account using a valid email address and follow the prompts to create a new password. Have your account number handy!
- 3 Set up autopay with a credit card or bank draft. To set up a bank draft, be prepared to provide the Routing Number and Account Number of your bank account.
- 4 Adjust your notifications.

Our staff is always here to help. If you have questions about setting up your SmartHub account or using the new app, give us a call or stop by the office.

It would make us very **appy** if you downloaded our new app, SmartHub.



OUT WITH THE OLD
 (SWRE MOBILE APP)



IN WITH THE NEW
 (SMARTHUB APP)

Trading Post

For Sale: Jack Russell puppies for \$300. First shots, wormed, vet checked, dew claws removed and tails docked. Please call (580) 301-0253. No text messages.

FREE classified non-commercial ad submissions are available for SWRE members only. Ads are also posted on SWRE.com.

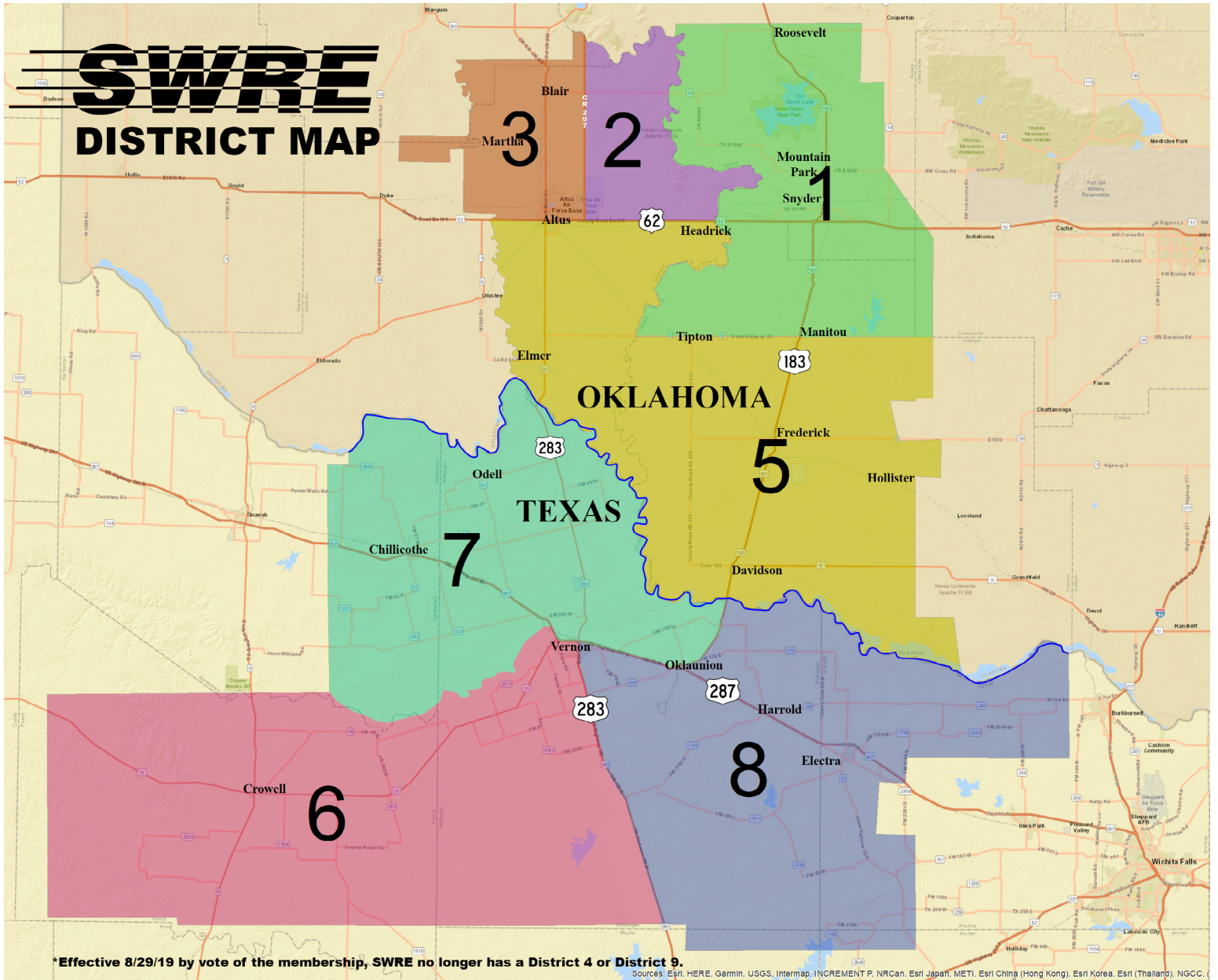
Send your ad to Rebecca Chambless, SWRE’s communication specialist!

MAIL: P.O. Box 310, Tipton, OK 73570
 E-MAIL: rchambless@swre.com
 PHONE: (580) 667-5281

Nov. Recipe

Look for this month’s recipe online at SWRE.com!

DISTRICT RE-APPORTIONMENT



At the annual meeting in August, SWRE members voted unanimously in favor of the by-law updates which changed SWRE territory from nine districts to seven districts. You might have a new district number! Check out this handy map to find where you fit. If you have any questions about the district changes, we encourage you to ask the board trustee for your district.



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