

SWRE POWER SOURCE

A Supplement to Oklahoma Living



FIVE WAYS TO SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME THIS WINTER

As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.

- 1. *Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly.*** If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.
- 2. *Inspect electrical cords.*** We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip. Speaking of power strips...
- 3. *Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips.*** When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.
- 4. *Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency.*** There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.
- 5. *Practice safety in the kitchen.*** As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

Southwest Rural Electric wants you and your family to stay safe during the winter season. Visit the resources tab on our website for additional safety tips.



Jeff Simpson, CEO

WE'RE THANKFUL FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP

// Author William Arthur Ward once said, 'Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.'

In the spirit of those wise words, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your membership in our cooperative. Because of your connection to Southwest Rural Electric, we're able to make our community a better place.

During this season of giving thanks, I think it's important to let you and other members of SWRE know the impact you have on our co-op and the greater community, likely in ways you may not even realize.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is Concern for Community. While our priority is always to deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy, we take pride in our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

SWRE's charitable foundation, Operation Round Up, is purposeful in partnering with local charitable organizations to help those in need.

SWRE works closely with local schools and youth programs to provide safety demonstrations. We also participate in the annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersive experience of democracy in action. The trip is inspirational for many students, and we are humbled and honored to be a part of their leadership development.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you. You empower the

co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems, or provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve operations and thereby better serve the membership at large.

Because we're locally governed by members of our community, we have a firsthand perspective on community priorities, better enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as equipment and technology upgrades.

We're thankful that our board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment of time results in better informed advisers who serve the co-op's interests in a way that our members expect and deserve.

On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness toward our lineworkers and other employees when they're working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when we're trying to restore power during challenging situations.

SWRE was originally established 86 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The co-op is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place.

We can't do it without you, and for that we're thankful for your membership. //



WIN A TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.

This could be *YOU*



SWRE.COM/YOUTHTOUR
APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 1

open to high school juniors

Are you a high school junior attending school in SWRE’s service area? Would you like to travel to Washington, D.C., and visit historic landmarks— all without spending a dime of your own money?

Perhaps you’d like to meet elected officials, or maybe you’re looking for an inspirational experience in the company of other teens. If that sounds like you, then the Government-in-Action Youth Tour is your tour. Apply by December 1!

For more information, visit [SWRE.com/YouthTour](https://www.swre.com/youthtour).

SWRE’s 2023 Youth Tour Delegates



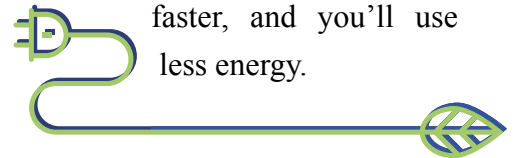
Caleb Rutledge
Northside High School



Maddy Petty
Frederick High School

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we’ll be using more energy in the kitchen! When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy. When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you’ll use less energy.



Source: Dept. of Energy



DISTRICT MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

SWRE meetings for District 2, 5 and 8 took place in September. Due to a lack of quorum and no opposition filings, current trustees will retain their positions as per SWRE Bylaws.

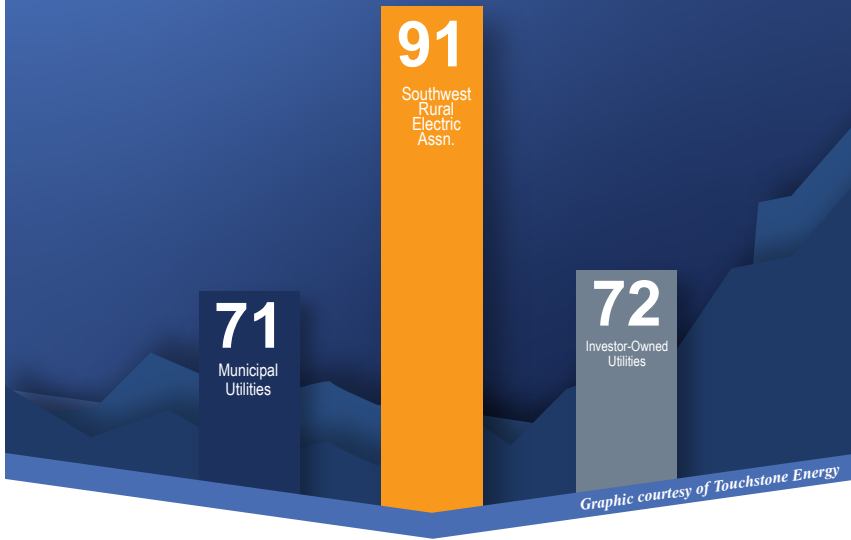
District 2 – Dan Lambert

District 5 – Dan Elsener

District 8 – Carl Brockriede



Congratulations to Southwest Rural Electric Assn. on their high member satisfaction score!



MEMBER SURVEY SAYS...

Southwest Rural Electric completed its periodic member-wide customer satisfaction survey, where over 280 members were asked to participate. The member responses were sent to the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®), a company that measures customer satisfaction across multiple industries throughout the entire United States. For 2023, SWRE received an ACSI score of “91” out of a maximum score of “100”.¹ SWRE’s score is higher than all publicly measured investor-owned utility scores/municipal utility scores and places SWRE 19 points higher than the average investor-owned utility score of 72, as well as 20 points higher than the municipal utilities score of 71, per the industry ratings in the 2023 ACSI Utility Sector Report. For more information, please visit www.theacsi.org.

¹ Results based on data provided by Southwest Rural Electric Association, Inc., collected between September 5-26, 2023. ACSI did not regulate the survey administration or sample size. ACSI is a registered trademark of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

Trading Post

For Sale: Certified seed wheat; AP Roadrunner, OK Corral (awnless), Showdown, SY Rugged, and Uncharted in bulk. OK Seed License 08005320. Call (580) 465-0564 or (314) 406-0650.

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Bill Pay Options:

24/7 Bill Pay: 1-833-890-9510

SmartHub App or SWRE.com

Outage Reports:

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SmartHub App

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**WE'RE
 PROUD TO
 POWER YOU.**