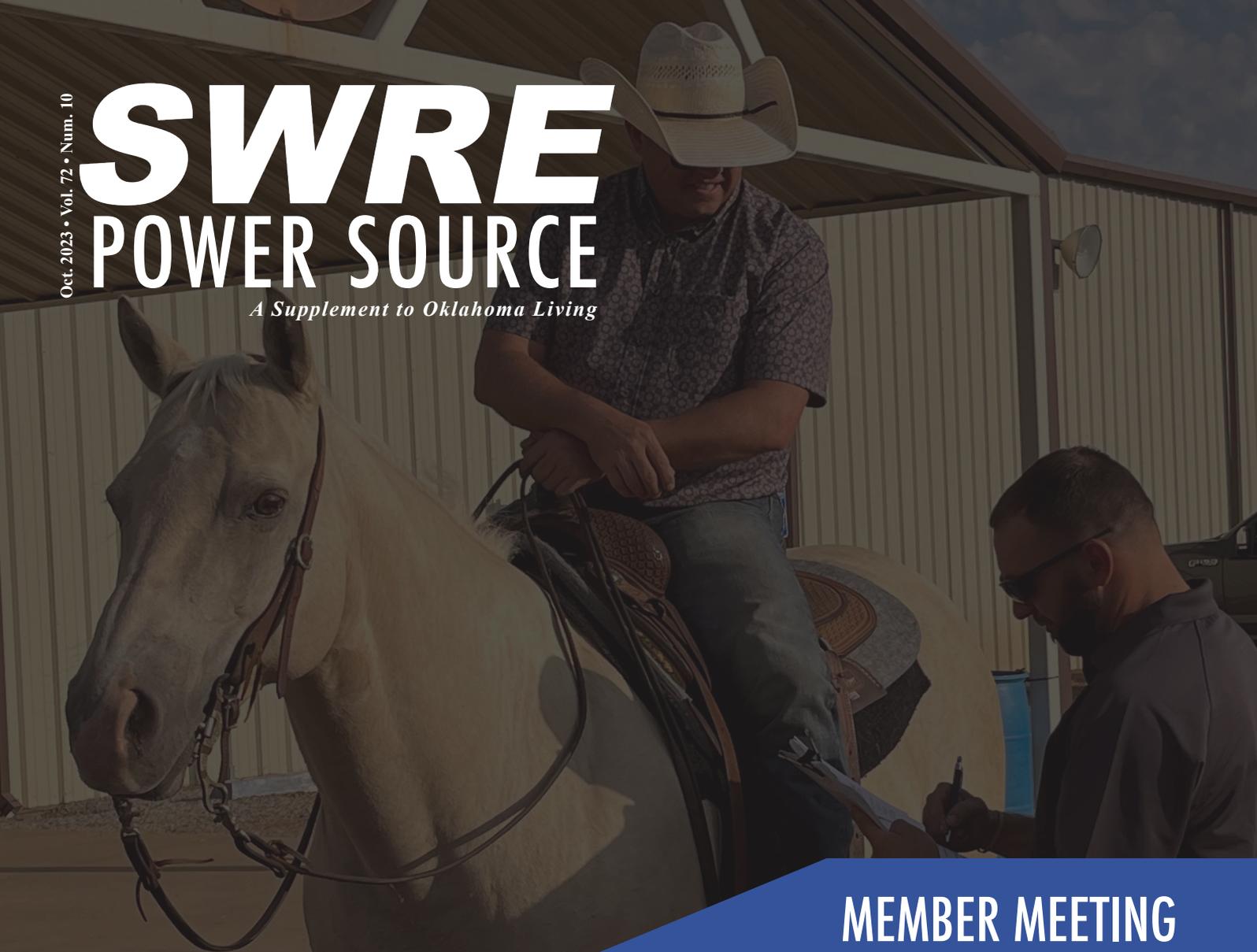


SWRE POWER SOURCE

A Supplement to Oklahoma Living



MEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

86TH ANNUAL MEETING SHATTERS PREVIOUS RECORD

Arriving from all over Southwest Rural Electric Association's Oklahoma and Texas service areas, 626 members attended the co-op's 86th annual meeting August 21. The double drive-thru event was hosted simultaneously in Altus, Oklahoma, and Vernon, Texas, and broke the previous attendance record of 405 set in 2022.

Far surpassing the 191 members needed to meet quorum, members who attended the meeting voted to approve the 2021 and 2022 annual meeting minutes as written.

Registered members received a door prize bag full of SWRE goodies, a \$25 energy credit at registration and entry into a prize drawing. The drawing was held August 23 via livestream on Facebook, where co-op employees drew membership tickets for 21 \$50 district energy credits, 21 prizes donated by co-op vendors and two grand prizes. More than \$18,000 in prizes were delivered to lucky members whose tickets were drawn.

Matt Coppock of Elmer, Oklahoma, won the grand prize, an EGO Power Plus zero-turn lawn mower, and Leslie McDonald of Altus, Oklahoma, won a 65-inch Vizio 4K smart TV.



Jeff Simpson, CEO

// In today's world, most of us don't leave the front door unlocked. We protect our homes, loved ones and valuables from intruders with locks, alarms and other security measures. Cybersecurity is no different. It's the practice of protecting other valuables such as your identity, banking and health records and other sensitive information from digital attacks and theft.

In addition to pumpkin-spice lattes, crisper air and Halloween festivities, October is the time of year we recognize Cybersecurity Awareness Month. While taking necessary steps to protect our personal information is a year-round practice, at Southwest Rural Electric, we use this time to share helpful cybersecurity reminders across our team of employees.

Given our increased reliance on internet-connected devices and gadgets, this month, I'd like to share a few cybersecurity tips and let you know how SWRE is working to boost our own cybersecurity efforts.

According to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA), an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security that is responsible for strengthening cybersecurity and infrastructure protection, and our co-op IT specialist, these are the four best ways to keep you and your family safe online.

Implement multi-factor authentication (also known as two-step verification) on your accounts. The additional layer of protection makes it much harder for criminals to access your information. Even if a hacker obtains your password, they may be unable to access your accounts if multi-step verification is enabled.

Update your software. This is one of the easiest ways to protect your personal data. When downloading a software update, make sure it's coming straight from the company that created it. Beware of fake pop-ups that request urgent downloads or ask you to call a phone number. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.

Think before you click. Most successful cyber attacks start with a phishing email. Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. Avoid emails (or texts) that look too good to be true, oddly urgent, poorly crafted or include unusual requests. Be aware of malicious sites that request payments via gift cards.

Create strong passwords, using long, unique and complex words or phrases. We recommend a password at least 15 characters long. Consider using a password manager to save time, work across all devices, protect your identity and notify you of potential phishing websites. Avoid using the same password for multiple websites.

FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD

Just as you would talk with your children about safety in the physical world, discuss ways to stay safe online. Help them understand the public nature of the internet. Young people need to know early on that what is shared online stays online and is difficult (if not impossible) to take back. Just as you would guard your money or valuables, children need to learn to guard their personal information, especially on social networks. As a parent or guardian, help your children learn about and use the privacy and security settings on social networks and gaming sites.

KEEPING THE ELECTRIC GRID AND YOUR DATA SECURE

We're doing our share on the cyber front. Part of offering excellent service is keeping that service secure and reliable. For SWRE, reliability means repairing wear-and-tear, upgrading our equipment to withstand storms and severe weather and using technology and best practices to keep our system secure from cybersecurity issues. We also work together with co-ops across the country to develop new technologies and infrastructure, learn from each other and keep the grid's network secure.

While we can't stop a storm or predict every disruption, as a co-op, we do everything we can to keep the lights on and our members protected. Because if we all do our part, our interconnected world will be safer and more secure for everyone. //

ANNUAL MEETING PHOTOS

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION



#1 Feature Photo: Chris Schreiner, apprentice lineman, registers members in Vernon from the convenience and comfort of their vehicles, even if the vehicle whinnies.



#2 Special Guest: The Altus location was visited by Oklahoma Representative Gerrid Kendrix (middle), pictured with SWRE Board Member Dan Lambert (left) and Operation Round Up Board Member Mike Geiger (right).



#3A & #3B Co-op Ad Queens: Ida Fay Winters, a repeat Altus meeting attendee, posed to recreate a picture taken in 2022 that was featured in advertising for this year's meeting. This time, she brought some new guests!



#4 Winner, Winner: CEO Jeff Simpson (left) and Manager of Member Services Barry Holt (middle) presented Matt Coppock of Elmer (right) with the electric zero-turn lawn mower.



#5 Winning In 4K: CEO Jeff Simpson (far left) and Manager of Member Services Barry Holt (far right) presented the Leslie McDonald family of Altus with the 65" Vizio TV donated by Texas Electric Cooperatives.



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2023 ANNUAL MEETING PRIZE WINNERS

\$50 District Energy Credits

Bill Hutto
Jane Ellis
Gary Thomas
Mike Deweese
Mark Medford
Wayne Cain
Gary Johnson
Sam Graves
Christopher Cross
Kent Walker
Tommy Burks
Ganado Inc.
Carolee Brubaker
Paul Stolle
Robert Thompson
David Wilson
Tim Bria
Cody Crownover
Justin Butler
Timothy Clouse
Betty Weiser

Drill
(donated by WFEC)
Tommy Milner

\$100 Visa Gift Cards (donated by TEC)

Jennie Buchanan
Bill Humphrey
Jeff Mark Staggs
Lori O. Adams
Martha Lane
Alvin Staggs
Heath Begeman
Ricky Simmons
Scott Calvin
Justin Miller

Carry-On Suitcase
(donated by Macco Promotions)
TJ Beach Farms

\$100 Walmart Gift Cards (donated by CoBank)

Jane Beach
Michael Woodard
Paula Clarkson
Trent Decker
Mitchell Martinez

Blanket & Cutting Board
(donated by Solis Design Co.)
Elda Petty

\$100 Walmart Gift Card
(donated by CESI)
Pat Matus

Swag Bag
(donated by Pioneer)
WH Hicks Jr

\$150 Gift Certificate to Blair Tire & Feed
(donated by Blair Tire & Feed)
K Lehman Farms

Carhartt Utility Bag
(donated by Emerald Transformer)
Lyle Abernathy

65" Vizio TV
(donated by TEC)
Leslie McDonald

Ego Power+ Electric Zero Turn Mower
Matt Coppock

Southwest Rural Electric

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SmartHub App

SWRE is an equal opportunity provider and employer. SWRE *Power Source* is published monthly for distribution to members of SWRE and is produced by Rebecca Chambless.

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.



**WE'RE
PROUD TO
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