

WRAPPING UP THE GIVING SEASON

MEMBERS GIVE \$51,930 TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED THROUGH OPERATION ROUND UP

Operation Round Up (ORU), Southwest Rural Electric's charitable foundation, recently awarded \$51,930 to 20 nonprofits and civic groups in the co-op's Texas and Oklahoma service area. Since the foundation began, ORU has awarded a total of \$165,980 in grants back to SWRE communities.

"Small change that changes lives," is the motto of the foundation which is powered by SWRE members who want to make a big impact in the lives of their neighbors. Each month, enrolled SWRE members "round up" their electric bills to the nearest whole dollar (an average of 50 cents per month). Members can increase their contribution by becoming a Round Up *PLUS* patron, many increasing their monthly donations from \$1 to \$10 a month.

The rounded-up change and *PLUS* contributions accumulate over the year and allow the ORU board of directors to distribute grants to organizations and individuals in need within SWRE's service territory. In addition to the annual grant program, ORU also makes emergency donations to SWRE members affected by natural disasters, like house fires, or other unforeseen circumstances throughout the year.

If you would like to enroll your account(s) into Operation Round Up or increase your contribution through Round Up *PLUS*, please contact SWRE at 1-800-256-7973.

CO-OP TO DISTRIBUTE OVER \$300K IN CAPITAL CREDITS

SWRE is a not-for-profit, member-owned entity that strives to perform all segments of operation at cost. As a result, any margins (profits) are returned to you, our members. Your share of these margins is called capital credits. Net margins are allocated to members in proportion to the member's cooperative purchases for a particular year. The Board of Trustees decides to retire capital credits based on the cooperative's financial condition. In the meantime, SWRE utilizes the money as working capital for operating and reinvesting in the cooperative until a determination is made.

SWRE is scheduled to retire capital credits soon for the remaining fiscal year of 1979 and the full fiscal year of 1980. The co-op will distribute \$301,232.90 back to members who purchased electricity from the co-op during those years. Capital credit checks will be issued by mail to the address on file. Members can call SWRE at 1-800-256-7973 to update their contact information. Information may be required for proving capital credit entitlement.

2021 ORU GRANT RECIPIENTS

First Presbyterian Church of Vernon (Cupboard by Grace Food Pantry)

First United Methodist Church of Vernon (Rainbow Room)

Northside ISD Theater and OAP Club

Vernon Meals on Wheels

Wilbarger County Child Welfare Board

Wilbarger Street Church of Christ Food Pantry & Clothing Closet

Altus Lions Club

Frederick Public Schools (Band)

Grace Child Development Center

Great Plains Literacy Council

Jackson County EMS

Navajo FFA Shooting Sports

Operation C.A.R.E. of Altus

Salvation Army of Altus

Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group Head Start

Tillman County Food Bank Foundation

Tillman County EMS District

Tipton Chamber of Commerce

Tipton Public Schools (5th Grade Science)

Tipton Public Schools (High School Yearbook)

CEO's Message



CEO, Jeff Simpson

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Southwest Rural Electric

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Rebecca Chambless, *Power Source* editor

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SWRE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Bill Pay Options:

SmartHub App

SWRE.com

1-833-890-9510 (*Automated Line*)

Outage Reports:

1-833-590-0353

SmartHub App

REPAYMENT PLAN FOR WINTER STORM URI

// The Polar Vortex, also known as Winter Storm Uri, in February 2021 was a winter storm unlike any other event we've experienced in SWRE territory. For 12 consecutive days, we saw below-freezing temperatures. The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) who manages the generation and transmission of electricity in Oklahoma and 13 other states in the Midwest, was unable to meet the demand for power during this time. A few of our members experienced brief rolling blackouts issued by the SPP in an effort to protect the transmission grid and generation facilities from catastrophic failure. During the Polar Vortex, the price of natural gas skyrocketed from \$2 to \$3/MMBtu to over \$1,200/MMBtu. SWRE members in Texas are included in the SPP service area; however, most of Texas is not and they experienced an even higher inflation on natural gas prices because of the actual failure of their grid system.

Over the years, the United States has been pushing for new electric generation to come from renewable energy sources (wind, solar, hydro, etc.) to reduce carbon emissions. This has led to a reduction in power generation from fossil fuels like coal and natural gas. Winter Storm Uri's below-freezing temperatures, cloudy days and icy conditions were not suitable for renewable energy generation. Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), our generation and transmission cooperative, was prepared for the storm with well-maintained and winterized coal and natural gas plants. However, conditions were not favorable causing natural gas compressors and pipelines to freeze up, which led to the dramatic price increases in fuel. Coal was the one generation source that operated

at 100% capacity for the duration of Winter Storm Uri.

The financial impact of Winter Storm Uri will be felt by SWRE members, but not to the extent that many of our neighbors receiving power from for-profit utility providers—this is the Cooperative Difference. Additional fuel cost will be passed from the SPP to WFEC, and then to our members. SWRE's portion of the additional fuel cost of Winter Storm Uri is \$2.8 million.

SWRE's management and board of directors have worked diligently to minimize the financial impact of this to our members. The additional fuel cost passed to our members will be based on kWh usage, resulting in an approximate \$3 to \$4 increase on monthly bills over the next five years (estimate based on the average 1,200 kWh/month household). Members will begin seeing this increase on the monthly bill you will receive in February 2022. The increase will be reflected on the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) section of the bill. It is important to keep in mind that the co-op is continuing to pay an inflated market cost for natural gas fuel which is also passed along to our members in the PCA. SWRE has not increased rates for our members.

We are fortunate in Oklahoma to have one of the cheapest rates for electricity in the nation. SWRE will continue to work on your behalf, providing you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. Please reach out to our member service team or me if you have any questions. //

Jeff Simpson
CEO

OPERATIONS MANAGER PREPARES FOR THE FUTURE

MIKE WOLFE GRADUATES FROM THE MANAGEMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Madison, WI, November 2021 -- SWRE's Operations Manager, Mike Wolfe, has completed an intensive program in electric utility management with the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He is one of only a few electric utility CEO's and management staff that graduated from the exclusive Management Internship Program in 2021.

The Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program (MIP) is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin. The program guides participants through all facets of the electric utility industry, including the many changes occurring around the nation.

MIP participants go through three 10-day sessions designed to challenge and educate in new, innovative management techniques. Participants leave with a better understanding of what consumers want and how to ensure they get it. By also covering the unique principles that govern the operations of electric cooperatives, the program helps the co-op analyze other business ventures it may want to enter as well as enhancing the core organization.

Only rural electric cooperative CEOs and top-level management participate in the program. This allows greater emphasis of study on management and leadership challenges and the aspects of consumer-ownership that cooperatives enjoy. Participants focus on member value as part of day-to-day decision making.



LINEMAN & BOARD ACHIEVEMENTS



Jimmy Westover (middle) completed his Journeyman Lineman Certification in 2021. Mike Wolfe (left), SWRE's Operations Manager, and Derec Janaway (right), OAEC's Director of Safety & Loss Control are pictured with him.

Westover just celebrated his five-year work anniversary at SWRE.



Carl Brockriede (left) was presented with a plaque by CEO Jeff Simpson (right) at the annual SWRE Christmas Party honoring his 40 years of service on the board of directors.



SWRE received recognition in November from "The OKLU Awards," the annual member relations, marketing & communications contest sponsored by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) and *Oklahoma Living* magazine.

Communication Specialist Rebecca Chambless received an Award of Excellence for Best Creative Communications Piece, Awards of Merit for Best Digital Communication and Best Use of Social Media, and an Honorable Mention for Best Marketing Campaign.

The annual OKLU Awards program recognizes the best communication and marketing efforts by Oklahoma's rural electric cooperatives. Electric cooperative communicators and marketing professionals submitted 135 entries in 2021.

Trading Post

For Sale: Doctor's Buggy in excellent condition. Fully refurbished upholstery, single horse shaft, rubber on wooden wheels. Buggy only (no harness or horse available). Located 8 miles northeast of Crowell, TX. Asking \$1,700 or best offer. Call (940) 655-3320 and leave a message.

For Sale: Used 20' long tinhorns in various sizes. Asking \$200 for 18", \$300 for 24", and \$400 for 36". If interested, call John at (940) 839-5466.

For Sale: Shop-made hunting dog trailer with three compartments that hold up to four dogs and hunting gear. Comes with a spare tire and large water container. Trailer is lightweight and pulls easily. Located in Vernon, TX. Asking \$750. Call or text (940) 357-1363 for more information or pictures.

FREE classified non-commercial ad submissions are available for SWRE members only. Submissions must include the account holder's name and account number to be eligible. Ads are also posted on SWRE.com.

Send your ad to the marketing department by mail, e-mail or phone!

MAIL: P.O. Box 310, Tipton, OK 73570

E-MAIL: marketing@swre.com

PHONE: 1-800-256-7973



TEXAS CAVIAR (COWBOY CAVIAR)

SERVING SIZE: 4 CUPS

INGREDIENTS:

- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 tablespoon lime zest
- 4 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- ¾ teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon honey
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 15 oz can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 15 oz can black eyed peas, drained and rinsed
- ½ cup whole corn kernels
- 3 scallions, chopped
- 1/3 cup red onion, diced
- 3 small bell peppers, chopped
- 1 small jalapeno pepper, seeded and chopped
- ½ cup cherry tomatoes, sliced thinly
- ½ ripe avocado, cubed
- ½ cup fresh cilantro, rinsed and chopped
- Tortilla chips (optional)
- Hot sauce (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

1. To make the dressing: Whisk together the oil, lime juice, ground cumin, smoked paprika, salt, honey and garlic. Set aside.
2. To make the dip: Combine all other ingredients except tortilla chips and hot sauce into a bowl.
3. Drizzle the dressing over the dip and mix gently.
4. Taste for seasoning and add if necessary.
5. Add a few dashes of hot sauce (optional) and serve with tortilla chips.

Source: You can find this recipe by Aysegul Sanford at <https://foolproofliving.com/texas-caviar/>.

SWRE

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