

SWRE POWER SOURCE

A Supplement to Oklahoma Living

WATCH THE CLOCK TO LOCK IN ENERGY SAVINGS

As temperatures rise and summer activities heat up, a reliable flow of electricity is essential to ensure SWRE members stay cool and connected.

July brings some of the most extreme summer temps, which means people will be spending more time indoors to avoid the heat, and air conditioners will be working overtime. This increased use of electricity will cause spikes in demand, also known as energy peaks. During peak times, SWRE must work closely with our wholesale power provider to ensure a balanced supply of electricity is always available to meet our member's energy needs.

The electric grid is essentially a giant network that connects power plants, utility poles and power lines to homes and businesses across the country, throughout our state and to our local communities. All parts of the network must work together to ensure the flow of electricity stays balanced 24/7.

When the demand for electricity is higher than usual, power providers must ramp up electricity production—whether from coal, natural gas, wind, solar or other energy sources—and utilities will pay more for electricity produced during the peak. These higher prices along with the general increase in electricity use are why you typically see higher

bills during the hottest months. In extreme cases, demand can overpower the available supply, causing electricity shortages. During these times, utilities are required to implement rolling power outages to reduce the demand for electricity and re-balance the grid.

When our area experiences extreme summer heat and higher demand for electricity, you can help by conserving energy. It's easy—just check the clock and avoid your energy-intensive activities and chores during peak hours. SWRE's peak hours during summer months are 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., excluding holidays and weekends.

When we all work together to reduce energy use during peak times, SWRE can lock in lower electricity rates so everyone in our cooperative saves. Conserving during peak times also eases pressure on the grid and helps balance the supply and demand of electricity.

There are many ways to lower your home energy use included in this issue. When we all work together to beat the summer peak, our entire membership benefits. Saving energy during peak times reduces your bills, keeps electric rates lower for all and relieves pressure on the grid.



BYLAW REVISION PROPOSAL - A LETTER FROM YOUR CEO -

By Jeff Simpson, Chief Executive Officer

Dear member,

The Southwest Rural Electric board of directors continuously seeks opportunities to better serve you, the member/owners.

Out of necessity during the COVID-19 pandemic, SWRE adjusted the format of Annual Meeting in 2021 from a traditional in-person event to a drive-thru. In 2022, we hosted our second drive-thru event and conducted a voluntary survey of all members who attended (the survey received 183 responses). Not only had member attendance increased, but 57.38% of the members who attended and participated in the survey indicated that they preferred the drive-thru meeting and virtual prize drawing format. In 2023, we hosted our third drive-thru event, shattering our previous attendance record of 405 registered members with 626 registered members. Overall, we've seen a 64% attendance increase since our last traditional in-person Annual Meeting in 2019. Time and time again, the membership continues to tell us that drive-thru is their preferred way to participate in Annual Meeting.

Since SWRE first turned the lights on in 1937, the co-op has hosted Annual Meeting in the month of August. In fact, this is written in the cooperative bylaws. For your consideration, we are proposing moving Annual Meeting to the month of October. The main motivation for this change is to continue providing outdoor drive-thru events for the membership, while protecting the health and safety of our employees. As you are well-aware, August is the hottest month of the year in southwest Oklahoma and north Texas. We are proposing to move Annual Meeting to October for a better chance at scheduling the event on a fair-weather day. October also happens to be National Co-op Month – a fitting time to celebrate our membership and the cooperative business model!

The second proposed change to the bylaws would move the trustee (board member) filing period from the month of August to the month of October. This is consistent with the timing of the trustee filing period now. No other changes are to be made to the trustee filing process.

The proposed changes are highlighted in red on the following pages for you to review before Annual Meeting this August. These changes, if approved by the membership, would go into effect in 2025. A complete copy of the bylaws is available online at SWRE.com/Bylaws or at SWRE headquarters in Tipton, Oklahoma.

A great deal of time, effort and thoughtful consideration has been given to these revisions. I encourage you to reach out to me or any board member with questions about these proposed revisions to the bylaws, as you, the member/owners, will be voting by ballot at the Annual Meeting on August 12, 2024, to approve these items. This right to vote and participate in the business of the cooperative is Co-op Principle #2: Democratic Member Control.

BYLAW REVISION PROPOSAL

The proposed changes have been highlighted in red below. A full copy of the bylaws is available at SWRE.com/Bylaws. Members present at the 2024 Annual Meeting will vote electronically to approve these revisions.

SECTION 1 OF ARTICLE III

I. The annual meeting of the members of the cooperative shall be held during the month of **August** **October** of each year. The date, time and place of the meeting shall be set by the board of trustees. The meeting shall be within the service area of the Cooperative. Date, time and place of the meeting shall be designated in the notice of meeting. The purpose of the meeting is for receiving the reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may legally come before the meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time and place shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the cooperative.

SECTION 3 OF ARTICLE IV

IV. Notice of Candidacy. Any member of a district desiring to be a candidate for election as Trustee from that district shall file during normal office hours with the Secretary of the Cooperative written notice, on a form provided by the Secretary, of their candidacy and intention to stand for election to the office of Trustee from their district. **The filing period shall be held on the last consecutive Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the Month of August October.** All candidates meeting the requirements of Section 4, Article IV shall be certified by the Secretary as candidates. Only persons filing written notice of their candidacy and intention to stand for election shall be eligible for election at said meeting. If no member files such written notice of candidacy and intention to stand for election with the Secretary within the time prescribed above, then the office shall be declared vacant by the Board of Trustees at their next regular meeting and said office shall be filled by vote of the Board at such meeting, without regard to any provisions herein regarding nominations and election of Trustees.



**SAVE THE DATE:
87TH ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2024**



Active members will receive a specially-marked envelope around the first of August that will include the official meeting notice, the proposed bylaw revisions, and the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes. Notices will be mailed to the address we have on file. We encourage you to review the proposed bylaw revisions and previous meeting minutes before attending the drive-thru event to expedite registration and voting.

TIPS TO BEAT THE SUMMER PEAK

When we all work together to lower energy use during peak hours, we can lock in lower electricity rates, so everyone saves. Here are a few simple ways to save during peak summer hours.

1 Raise the thermostat a few degrees.

If you have a smart or programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your cooling system syncs with the off-peak hours.

2 Use ceiling fans (in occupied rooms) to feel cooler.

Did you know ceiling fans can make you feel 4 degrees cooler? Operate ceiling or oscillating fans in occupied rooms to supplement your air conditioning. Be sure to raise the thermostat while fans are running for maximum energy savings. Remember, fans cool people (not homes), so turn them off when you leave the room.

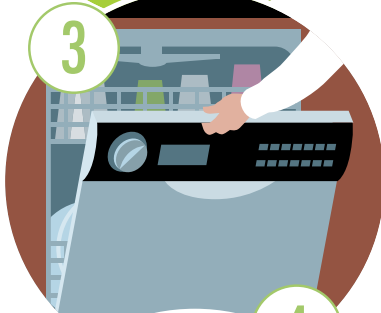
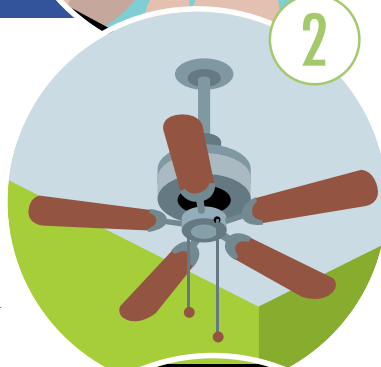
3 Avoid using major appliances.

Plan energy-intensive activities like laundry and running the dishwasher for off-peak hours. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way.

4 Close drapes and blinds to block heat from the sun.

5 Turn off and unplug non-essential electronics and lights.

Unplug electronics when they're not in use or use power strips to manage devices.



SUMMER PEAK HOURS
3 P.M. TO 7 P.M.



Southwest Rural Electric

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Don Ellis District 1

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Dan Elsener, Vice Pres... District 5

Ronnie Swan, Pres. District 6

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Bill Pay Options:

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

SmartHub App or SWRE.com

Outage Reports:

24/7 Hotline: 1-833-590-0353

SmartHub App

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