

SWRE POWER SOURCE

A Supplement to Oklahoma Living



ANNUAL MEETING VOTE BRINGS BYLAW CHANGES

Southwest Rural Electric hosted a double drive-thru event in Altus, OK and Vernon, TX on August 12, 2024 for the co-op's 87th Annual Meeting. A quorum was met and exceeded with 559 total registered memberships.

Members in attendance approved the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes as written by majority vote. Members also approved the bylaw revisions as written by majority vote. The updated bylaws allow SWRE to host Annual Meeting in the month of October and will move the trustee filing period to the last consecutive Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the month of October (effective in 2025). An updated version of the bylaws is available online at [SWRE.com/Bylaws](https://www.swre.com/bylaws).

Registered memberships received \$25 Energy Credits and branded door prize bags for attending the meeting, along with one entry into the prize drawing. The virtual prize drawing was held "live" on SWRE's Facebook page on August 14. Registered membership tickets were drawn to win a combined total of \$1,650 in Energy Credits, tools and gift cards donated by co-op vendors, and the grand-prize Traeger grill. Congratulations to Jerry McKinley of Frederick on winning the grill!

SWRE looks forward to seeing members gather again for Annual Meeting in October 2025. In the meantime, members are encouraged to stop by the Tipton office or call the co-op to make changes to their account or to simply just say "hello." SWRE is your local electric cooperative, and we are proud to power you.

CO-OPS POWER COMMUNITIES WITH PURPOSE

Jeff Simpson, Chief Executive Officer

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

SWRE is deeply committed to our consumer-members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

This month, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For SWRE, our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including SWRE, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

1. **Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
2. **Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.
3. **Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At SWRE, this happens through paying your energy bills.
4. **Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
5. **Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.
6. **Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.
7. **Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people—the local communities we're proud to serve.

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS CAN APPLY FOR YOUTH TOUR

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?

Apply by December 1 at
[SWRE.com/YouthTour!](https://www.swre.com/YouthTour)



October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

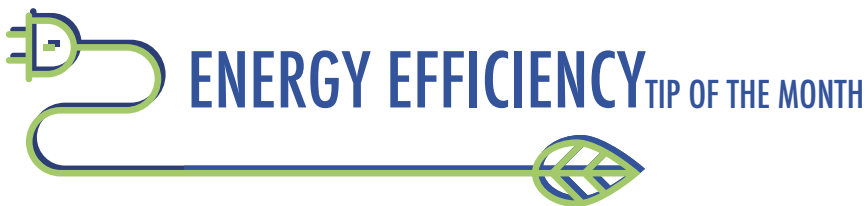
Let's work together to build a safer digital world. Whether at home, work or school, we can increase our online safety with the following tips.

- 🔒 Recognize and report phishing attempts.
- 🔒 Use strong, unique passwords.
- 🔒 Enable multi-factor authentication.
- 🔒 Update software regularly.



STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Southwest Rural Electric Association, Inc., is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the US Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the US Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities. The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is **Jeff Simpson, Chief Executive Officer**. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW Rm 5135 STOP 1510, Washington D.C. 20250-1535; or call (202) 720-9540 or Fax (202) 720-1725. Or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410; or call (866) 632-9992 to request a form. Fax the form to (202) 690-7442. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency improvements to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save money on energy efficiency improvements and upgrades. Homeowners can save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%.

A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you completed an upgrade this year or you are considering one, visit [EnergyStar.gov/Federal-Tax-Credits](https://www.energystar.gov/Federal-Tax-Credits) to learn if you qualify for a tax credit.

Source: [energystar.gov](https://www.energystar.gov)

Southwest Rural Electric

P.O. Box 310 • 700 N. Broadway

Tipton, OK 73570-0310

Headquarters: 1-800-256-7973

Board of Directors

Don Ellis District 1
Dan Lambert District 2
Don Proctor, Sec. District 3
Dan Elsener, Vice Pres... District 5
Ronnie Swan, Pres. District 6
Dan White District 7
Carl Brockriede District 8

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

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.



WE'RE
PROUD TO
POWER YOU.