# 

Your South Plains Electric Cooperative First Responders



2017 Annual Report

# Respect the ZONE Get everyone HOME.

WORK

AHEAD

### Work zone safety is everyone's responsibility. Slow down and move over when passing a work zone.

# We've Got This 2017 In Review

#### If you don't read past the first paragraph of this report, we'll give you the takeaway right now.

Your electric cooperative is financially sound. We value our long-standing members and are proud to be powering Lubbock's growth with superior member service, all while charging the lowest rates in the area.

That's a good report. And here are our secrets. We are led by member-consumers like you who understand and listen to the community. We belong to the communities we serve so any profits are shared back with the members. This has been and continues to be the foundation of South Plains Electric Cooperative.

The title "We've Got This" reminds members to respect our linemen as first responders, especially during outages, because they are usually first on the scene. The Texas Move Over Act requires drivers who are approaching an emergency vehicle stopped on the roadway with emergency lights flashing to do one of two things: move out of the lane nearest to the emergency vehicle or slow down to 20 miles per hour below the posted speed limit. While lineworkers are not specifically included in this law, we ask everyone to apply the Move Over Act guidelines when approaching South Plains Electric's work zones. Read more about work zone safety on the inside back cover.

We decided to title our 2017 in review article the same way, "We've Got This," because we are confident about the business side of the Cooperative. Here are some examples.

We are returning \$4.125 million to members in September, bringing the total returned to over \$41 million. Members receiving \$10 or more will get a check in the mail, and for refunds less than \$10, look for the credit on your September bill. Read more about capital credits on pages 8 and 9.

Our service area to the south of Lubbock ends at the Lynn County line, and we are seeing development plans to fill all of the space. As Loop 88 is developed, it will bring more schools, homes and businesses out into what used to be cotton fields and countryside. We have accounted for this growth in our long-range work plans and will be ready to serve these new members. In four years, our total meters served grew by 11 percent and we grew by 3 percent since 2016. In 2013, we constructed 1,475 new services, and in 2017, we constructed 2,217—a 34 percent increase.

South Plains Electric Cooperative was built by the rural communities needing electric service. Today, its members are a diverse group with 40 percent residential, 27 percent oil, 14 percent irrigation, 10 percent large power, 6 percent general services and 3 percent gins and other. This diversity in load helps keep prices steady. In our early days, we worked together to build the electric cooperative. And to this day, we continue to work together for every member's benefit. We are still neighbors helping neighbors.

We entered the ERCOT market in 1999 when we merged with the electric cooperative in Spur. Brazos Electric Cooperative is our wholesale supplier for the ERCOT area and Golden Spread Electric Cooperative serves our members in the Southwest Power Pool. While the grids don't share power, we are able to share the benefits of being in both grids by averaging wholesale power costs to bring the lowest rates in the area to our members.

Both cooperative wholesale suppliers have built plants to serve our members but are also positioned to take advantage of low-cost power in the ERCOT market. On any given day, our power suppliers look at the available market, make comparisons to the costs to generate, and quickly decide which option is best for members.

We have four director positions on the ballot for this year. Please review our director list and the nominee information on pages 6 and 7. The election will take place at our Annual Meeting of the Membership on September 11 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. We'll start serving the meal at 5:30 p.m., and the business meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

We're going to repeat ourselves, even if you've made it this far in our article. We are owned by those we serve. Our employees serve with a members-first attitude and a heart for service. We are financially sound, even though we are investing millions in growing our system. We are returning \$4.125 million in capital credits to members. We support our communities through various donations. We work with other local electric cooperatives across the country to develop new technologies and infrastructure, learn from each other and keep the grid secure.

We call that a successful year!





TOMMY JOINES President DALE ANCELL General Manager

# South Plains Electric Cooperative and Subsidiaries CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET



|                                 | <u>2017</u>                          | <u>2016</u>         |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ASSETS—What we own              |                                      |                     |
| Total cost of system            | \$324,012,224                        | $$316,\!571,\!422$  |
| Estimated depreciation          | (90, 134, 688)                       | (88, 801, 281)      |
|                                 |                                      |                     |
| Net value of system             | \$233,877,536                        | \$227,770,141       |
|                                 |                                      |                     |
| Cash/temporary cash investments | \$6,519,797                          | $$12,\!405,\!413$   |
| Investments                     | $104,\!457,\!171$                    | $101,\!877,\!835$   |
| Accounts receivable             | $14,\!342,\!800$                     | $14,\!092,\!259$    |
| Value of materials & supplies   | 30,745                               | $22,\!187$          |
| Advanced payments               | 998,066                              | $1,\!132,\!929$     |
|                                 | <b>A</b> AAA <b>A</b> AA <b>1</b> 15 | <b>0055 000 504</b> |
| TOTAL ASSETS                    | \$360,226,115                        | \$357,300,764       |
|                                 |                                      |                     |
| LIABILITIES—What we owe         |                                      |                     |
| Long-term debt                  | \$150,675,811                        | \$148,379,170       |
| Materials, taxes, insurance     | 39,310,771                           | 40,295,868          |
| Other liabilities & credits     | $16,\!605,\!094$                     | $20,\!349,\!700$    |
|                                 |                                      |                     |
| EQUITIES                        |                                      |                     |
| Deposits & memberships          | \$782,470                            | \$810,662           |
| Total members' equity           | $152,\!851,\!969$                    | $147,\!465,\!364$   |
|                                 |                                      |                     |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES &             |                                      |                     |
| MEMBERS' EQUITY                 | \$360,226,115                        | \$357,300,764       |
|                                 |                                      |                     |

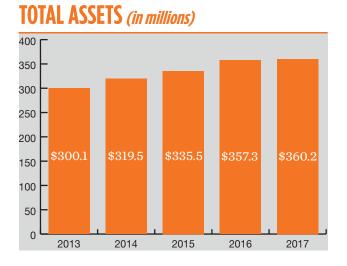
December 31,

December 31,

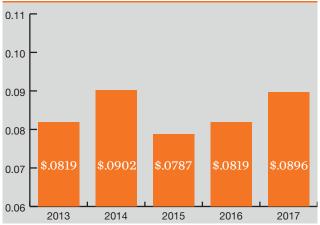
## South Plains Electric Cooperative and Subsidiaries CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT



|                                | <u>2017</u>   | <u>2016</u>   |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| REVENUES                       |               |               |
| Electric energy sold           | \$133,200,825 | \$125,839,030 |
|                                |               |               |
| TOTAL ELECTRIC                 |               |               |
| REVENUE                        | \$133,200,825 | \$125,839,030 |
|                                |               |               |
| EXPENSES                       |               |               |
| Electric power cost            | \$91,516,964  | \$88,994,926  |
| Operating expenses and taxes   | 18,683,119    | 18,755,014    |
| Estimated system depreciation  | 8,947,365     | 8,202,216     |
| Interest on long-term debt     | 6,370,198     | 5,977,522     |
|                                |               |               |
| TOTAL EXPENSES                 | \$125,517,646 | \$121,929,678 |
|                                |               |               |
| <b>OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b> | 7,683,179     | 3,909,352     |
|                                |               |               |
| Non-operating income           | 789,710       | 5,080,309     |
|                                |               |               |
| NET MARGINS                    | \$8,472,889   | \$8,989,661   |
|                                |               |               |



#### **MEMBERS' AVERAGE COST PER KWH**



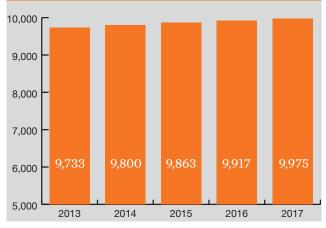
#### WHOLESALE POWER COST PER KWH SOLD



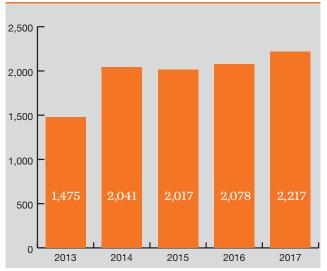
#### NUMBER OF ELECTRIC METERS SERVED



#### **MILES OF LINE**



#### **NEW SERVICES CONSTRUCTED**





#### District 1 TOMMY JOINES

President Cotton Center Term expires 2019



District 5 BOBBY RICHEY Secretary-Treasurer

Wolfforth Term expires 2018



District 9 GLENN JONES Spur Term expires 2020



District 2 DANNY STANTON

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Shallowater Term expires 2019



District 6 DAVID GOSSETT Slaton

Term expires 2020



District 10 SCOTT MARTIN Spur Term expires 2019



District 3 RYNN TRUETT Idalou Term expires 2018



District 7 R.D. McCALLISTER Vice President Acuff Term expires 2018



District 11 LARRY BROWNING Childress Term expires 2020



District 4 MARVIN SCHOEPF Lorenzo Term expires 2020



District 8 BENNY NIXON Lubbock Term expires 2019



District 12 KEN HARRIS Kirkland Term expires 2018

#### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS COMMITTED TO SERVING YOU

As the utility industry enters an era of change, when people have more choices for the way they receive electricity, it is critically important that we hear your voice and the voices of the most diverse group of members. Through active engagement and participation of the membership, the Co-op can ensure it is leading in a direction that the members will want to follow.

In addition to ensuring the Co-op serves in the best interests of its members, the board is committed to keeping our local communities vibrant. Being a Co-op board member requires a real commitment of time and effort, and an attitude of being a servant leader, meaning board members should want to engage and make a real contribution to the membership and community.

### BOARD NOMINEES FOR 2018 ELECTIONS Your vote. Your voice. Your cooperative.

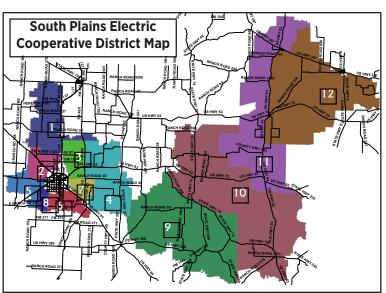
#### **RYNN TRUETT**

#### District 3 Nominee | Idalou, Incumbent

Education: Idalou High School graduate; Texas Tech University graduate with a B.S. in human sciences Current Occupation: Semi-retired after farming for 38 years. Family: His wife is Jane, and they have two sons and daughters-in-law. The Truetts are members of the Idalou First Baptist Church.

Qualifications and Experience: Rynn has served on the South Plains Electric Cooperative Board for three years

and is a Credentialed **Cooperative Director** as certified by NRECA. Additionally, Rynn has served on the **Cooperative Member** Services Board, the High Plains **Underground Water** District Board and the Idalou School Board. He has also served on committees for the High Plains Underground Water District, the F.S.A. County **Committee**, Lubbock **County Farm Bureau** and the Idalou Stock Show Committee.



### **R.D. McCALLISTER**

#### District 7 Nominee | Acuff, Incumbent

Education: Roosevelt High School graduate; attended Texas Tech University

Current Occupation: Retired after farming for 52 years and selling insurance for 32 years, though he still works part time for Germania Insurance.

Family: His wife is LaHonda, and they have three children and eight grandchildren. The McCallisters are members of Canyon United Methodist Church where he serves as

> chairman of finance. Qualifications and Experience: R.D. has served on the South Plains Electric **Cooperative Board** for 50 years. He has 48 years of service as either president or vice president of the board and is a Credentialed **Cooperative Director** as certified by NRECA. Additionally, R.D. served on the Acuff Co-op Gin Board and the Farmers Co-op **Compress Board.**

### **BOBBY RICHEY**

#### **District 5 Nominee | Wolfforth, Incumbent**

#### Education: Seminole High School graduate

Current Occupation: Has been farming in the Wolfforth area since 1960.

Family: His wife is Anne. The Richeys are members of the First United Methodist Church in Wolfforth.

Qualifications and Experience: Bobby has served on the South Plains Electric Cooperative Board for 37 years. He served as assistant secretary-treasurer for 28 years and as secretary-treasurer for six years. In addition to his Co-op service, Bobby served on the Frenship School Board for 13 years and was a member of the Lubbock Police Advisory Board. He was also an officer for the Young Farmers organization for two years.

### **KEN HARRIS**

#### District 12 Nominee | Kirkland, Incumbent

#### Education: Quanah High School graduate; attended West Texas State University

Current Occupation: Has been a self-employed farmer for 46 years.

Family: His wife is Brenda, and they have three children, Shane, Ronda and Lisa. His son Shane and grandson Kolten are involved in the farming operation. The Harrises are members of the First Baptist Church.

Qualifications and Experience: Ken has served on the South Plains Electric Cooperative Board for 25 years and is a past director and president of the former Gate City Electric Cooperative. Additionally, Ken is a former director and president for Childress County Farm Bureau and past trustee for Childress ISD. He is currently serving as a Childress Farmers Co-op Gin director and serves on the Cottle County Farm Service Agency committee.

### **ABOUT CAPITAL CREDITS**

s a member of an electric Accooperative, you receive not only a needed service but a benefit reserved for owners of a company-a return on your investment. This happens through "capital credits."

Capital credits come from the money left over after all expenses are paid in a given year. At the end of the year, that money is credited to each member's account according to the amount of electricity purchased. Assigning capital credits to members, instead of paying dividends to distant stockholders, is just part of the accountability your Cooperative offers you.

The credit remains on the utility's books for a time and is used as a sort of interest-free loan from the members, who benefit by not having to pay interest on money borrowed from an outside source. When the Cooperative's finances permit, that money is returned to members in the form of capital credits checks.

#### LOOKING OUT FOR YOU

Unlike many other businesses, cooperatives do not have shareholders who expect to make money from the operation of the company. Instead, consumers of a cooperative are member-owners of the company.

The primary objective of an investor-owned company is to make a profit. An electric cooperative is different. It is a not-for-profit business that exists solely to provide its members with electricity.

In a cooperative, net margins don't belong to the company; they belong to the individual members paying their monthly service bills. In effect, the members are the shareholders.

#### WHY NOT JUST BREAK EVEN?

Since the Cooperative assigns any leftover money back to the members, it seems like we should establish a budget to merely break even every

year. However, that isn't possible-or desirable. The business of building power lines is very expensive, and maintaining them is subject to outside forces such as weather. It is impossible to plan so precisely in advance that revenues and expenses come out exactly even at year end.

What's more, a cooperative must show a margin at the end of each year to prove to its lenders it is financially sound — and some margin must remain after expenses are paid so the business can continue to operate. Like other businesses, electric cooperatives must have money on hand to provide current operating funds and set up a reserve against emergencies.

Whatever monies that may be accumulated at year end always belong to the members. Being paid for patronizing your own company is just another way South Plains Electric Cooperative is looking out for you!

#### **HOW DO CAPITAL CREDITS WORK?**



excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members when the

1 much money you pay for it throughout the year. At the end of the year, SPEC completes financial matters .3 million and determines whether there are excess revenues, called margins. SPEC allocates the 2

during the year.

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#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CAPITAL CREDITS

Retiring capital credits is a allows cooperatives to give back margins. That process is just one part of the co-op difference, but oftentimes capital credits are misunderstood. To better educate our members about capital credits, we have listed some frequently asked questions and answers.

Q: What are capital credits? A: Capital credits are one of the many benefits of co-op membership. As a cost-of-service energy provider, South Plains Electric doesn't earn profits. Instead, co-ops use the term margins, which is revenue remaining at the end of the year after all bills are paid. Capital credits reflect each member's equity in, and contribution of capital to, the cooperative.

Q: What's the difference between allocation and retirement? A: An allocation is your share of the margins. We set this money aside to use as operating capital for improvements and maintenance; it also helps the co-op meet equity ratios with lenders. A retirement is the amount you receive in a check or as a credit on your bill. It is a percentage of your allocations accumulated over the years.

Q: What happens to the capital credits of a member who dies? A: It remains in place for the member's heirs. A representative of the estate must keep contact information current.

Q: Why does the cooperative need to accumulate equity?

A: Your equity in the co-op reduces the need for us to raise rates or borrow as much money to meet expenses. Every business must have equity to continue to survive.

Q: What happens to my capital credits if I move?

A: Your capital credits remain on our books until they are retired. That's why it's important to let us know of any address changes. **Q:** Are capital credits retired every year?

A: Each year, your board of directors decides whether to retire capital credits based on the Co-op's financial health. SPEC's ability to retire capital credits reflects the cooperative's strength and financial stability. Q: Where does the money come from? A: Co-ops set rates to generate enough money to pay operating costs, make payments on any loans and provide an emergency reserve. At the end of each year, we subtract operating expenses from the operating revenue collected during the year. The balance is called an operating margin.

| YEAR       | ASSIGNED               | REFUNDED        | BALANC           |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1943-1979  | \$16,393,371           | \$16,393,371    | \$0              |
| 1980       | 1,076,841              | 551,614         | $525,\!227$      |
| 1981       | $1,\!102,\!782$        | 0               | $1,\!102,\!782$  |
| 1982       | 218,729                | 86,140          | $132,\!589$      |
| 1983       | $1,\!403,\!483$        | 23,871          | $1,\!379,\!612$  |
| 1984       | $1,\!374,\!597$        | 19,025          | $1,\!355,\!572$  |
| 1985       | 350,876                | 4,077           | 346,799          |
| 1986       | 1,056,198              | 4,799           | $1,\!051,\!399$  |
| 1987       | $1,\!505,\!790$        | 5,899           | 1,499,891        |
| 1988       | $3,\!133,\!657$        | 208,826         | $2,\!924,\!831$  |
| 1989       | $2,\!528,\!682$        | 184,411         | $2,\!344,\!271$  |
| 1990       | 2,736,214              | 160,788         | $2,\!575,\!426$  |
| 1991       | 1,868,144              | 117,220         | 1,750,924        |
| 1992       | $1,\!176,\!201$        | 1,266           | $1,\!174,\!935$  |
| 1993       | $2,\!464,\!490$        | 826,855         | $1,\!637,\!635$  |
| 1994       | 3,685,766              | 765,002         | $2,\!920,\!764$  |
| 1995       | $1,\!844,\!320$        | 581,651         | $1,\!262,\!669$  |
| 1996       | 2,029,555              | 547,448         | $1,\!482,\!107$  |
| 1997       | $2,\!312,\!246$        | 513,353         | 1,798,893        |
| 1998       | $2,\!194,\!221$        | 518,165         | $1,\!676,\!056$  |
| 1999       | 738,480                | 738,480         | 0                |
| 2000       | 1,166,968              | 573,728         | <b>593,240</b>   |
| 2001       | 0                      | 0               | 0                |
| 2002       | $2,\!220,\!225$        | $1,\!203,\!343$ | 1,016,882        |
| 2003       | 4,342,985              | 2,759,253       | $1,\!583,\!732$  |
| 2004       | 3,983,992              | 3,119,827       | 864, 165         |
| 2005       | 7,828,773              | 924,334         | 6,904,439        |
| 2006       | 6,005,292              | 462,376         | $5,\!542,\!916$  |
| 2007       | 8,012,443              | 559,258         | $7,\!453,\!185$  |
| 2008       | $11,\!591,\!238$       | 474,403         | $11,\!116,\!835$ |
| 2009       | 8,479,828              | 318,917         | 8,160,911        |
| 2010       | 9,908,923              | 0               | 9,908,923        |
| 2011       | $12,\!917,\!854$       | 843,004         | $12,\!074,\!850$ |
| 2012       | $13,\!140,\!294$       | 1,354           | $13,\!138,\!940$ |
| 2013       | $14,\!348,\!708$       | 2,001,003       | $12,\!347,\!705$ |
| 2014       | 8,048,076              | 739             | 8,047,337        |
| 2015       | 5,646,578              | 0               | 5,646,578        |
| 2016       | 8,989,661              | 1,781,244       | 7,208,417        |
| 2017       | $13,\!155,\!788$       | 0               | $13,\!155,\!788$ |
| Other      | 195                    | 0               | 195              |
| SUBTOTAI   | \$190,982,464          | \$37,275,044    | \$153,707,420    |
| Other Comp | orehensive Loss<br>ies | •••••           | (\$848,000)      |

Members' Equity in the Cooperative ...... \$152,851,969

### **OPERATION ROUND UP** Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Operation Round Up has disbursed more than \$1 million to local organizations and individuals since its inception 24 years ago. More than \$93,000 was disbursed in 2017 alone.

#### WHAT IS OPERATION ROUND UP?

This innovative program is a community outreach project that helps local organizations and individuals who need a hand up, not a hand out.

The money in the fund comes from members of South Plains Electric Cooperative who round their monthly bill up to the nearest dollar. When enrolled, the billing program automatically rounds up your monthly bill and deposits the difference into the Operation Round Up account. The average annual contribution is only \$6 per meter (and it's tax deductible)!

Ten members, your neighbors, sit on the Operation Round Up board. They review applications and approve grants. They are also the eyes and ears in your community for potential projects. Your contribution can: send children to camp
buy food for families in need
help with medical emergencies
rebuild a family's life after a fire
award scholarships

 ${\tt \scriptsize o}$  make a life tragedy less traumatic

Operation Round Up is about neighbors helping neighbors.



#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Gary Koelder, Cotton Center, Pres. Lou Boyles-Bruster, White River Lake, VP Sondra Arnold, Lubbock, Treas. Melba Parchman, Ransom Canyon, Sec. Shea Adrian, Shallowater Jane Bednarz, Slaton Melinda Chapman, Lorenzo Judy Johnson, Childress Brenda Karr, Dickens Patricia Reynolds, Lubbock

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT SOUTH PLAINS ELECTRIC TRUST YEAR ENDING 2017

| Beginning balance 1/1/17    | \$76,866.29 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 2017 member deposits        | \$32,410.21 |
| Employee & SPEC donations 9 | \$42,693.83 |
| Interest income             | \$81.83     |
| Checks issued               | \$93,054.17 |
| Balance 12/31/17            | \$58,997.99 |

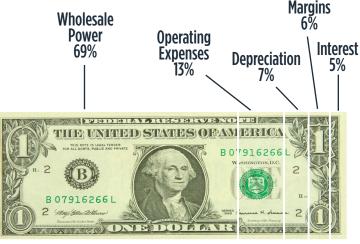
## OVER \$1 MILLION DISTRIBUTED LOCALLY



### YOUR DOLLAR AT WORK IN 2017

#### HE UNITED STATES OF A TERIC POLLO Large **Other** Power Irrigation 2% 10% 14% Gins Residential 0il 40% 27% 1% **General Services** 6%

How your dollar was earned



How your dollar was used

### THE POWER OF CHANGE IS IN YOUR HANDS.

Our members help us fulfill one of the cooperative principles emphasizing our commitment to the communities we serve—and we say thanks! Operation Round Up accomplishes this by giving annual scholarships and teacher mini-grants, donating to volunteer fire departments, helping house fire victims and much more.



Small coins making big change.

### YOUTH TOUR EXPERIENCE "A trip of a lifetime"



#### **SPEC WELL REPRESENTED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

With the help of Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Brazos Electric Power Cooperative and our Operation Round Up Employee Fund, South Plains Electric Cooperative sent seven students on a trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C., in June.

Students compete in local contests in November and December to earn a spot on the trip. If you are interested in attending next year, look for entry information in October at SPEC.coop and on Facebook. You can also call Youth Tour Program Director Becky Wilson at 806.775.7514 or email her at bwilson@SPEC.coop.

Hallie Richardson, Aspermont, picture B, was recognized as one of four Youth Tour Winners to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

It is a trip of a lifetime with all expenses paid!

The seven students representing South Plains Electric Cooperative for 2018 are pictured (picture A) in Washington, D.C. They are, from left to right: Zach Sims, Lubbock; Nick Garcia, Childress; Hannah Franklin, Lubbock; Mesa Ware, Crosbyton; Danni Uriegas, Spur; Hallie Richardson, Aspermont; and Isaiah Darter, Childress.

### HIGH POINT VILLAGE RECEIVED \$10,000 FROM SOUTH PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE AND COBANK

High Point Village received a \$10,000 donation from South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank.

High Point Village is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that exists to enrich the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their mission is to create a village where individuals with intellectual disabilities can live, learn, work, worship and achieve their full potential.

South Plains Electric Cooperative's goal is to provide affordable and reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost. SPEC abides by the Seven Cooperative Principles, and one principle is concern for the community. The Cooperative gives back to many charities and organizations in the local communities they serve. It's part of the cooperative difference.

CoBank is a cooperative bank serving vital industries throughout rural America. The bank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. As a cooperative, CoBank is also committed to supporting the communities it serves and regularly partners with its customers to invest in worthwhile charitable causes.

"South Plains Electric Cooperative was happy to partner with CoBank and, together, help make a difference in our members' lives," said General Manager Dale Ancell. "Our goal is to improve our members' quality of life, and that reaches beyond providing them electricity. We will do all we can to help our members."

Doug Spearman, executive director of High Point Village, said, "We are humbled and thankful to both South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank for this donation. Thank you for your generosity that will allow us to grow our programs and continue to provide enrichment, meaning, and purpose to the lives of people with special needs."

South Plains Electric Cooperative's donation was matched by CoBank through its Sharing Success program. Sharing Success was established in 2012 to celebrate the International Year of the Cooperative. Since the program's inception, CoBank and its customers have together provided more than \$30 million in support to charitable organizations across the nation. "Sharing Success has had a broader and deeper impact than we ever imagined," said Tom Halverson, CoBank's president and chief executive officer. "We are delighted with the growing participation in the program and are deeply grateful to customers like South Plains Electric Cooperative for their assistance in identifying worthy, charitable causes deserving of our support. We look forward to continuing to partner on important initiatives like this one and to sharing our success in the best cooperative tradition."

For more information about High Point Village, please visit highpointvillage.org or call 806.698.0015.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about how South Plains Electric Cooperative works in your community, visit SPEC.coop.

#### CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

SPEC General Manager Dale Ancell presents a check to Jaimie Havens, High Point Village program director along, with Director of Communications Lynn Simmons and Dean Church of CoBank on June 28.



# South Plains Electric Cooperative Members get all the credit.



Thanks for your membership!



in capital credits is being returned to members in September. Watch for your check or bill credit.

# Respect the ZONE. Get everyone HOME.

range cones, flashing lights and warning signs all indicate a work zone on the road ahead. Within these zones are men and women doing work like road construction, working on power lines, or trimming trees. Unfortunately, hundreds of these workers are injured every year from work and road hazards. The Texas Move Over Act requires drivers who are approaching an emergency vehicle stopped on the roadway with emergency lights flashing to do one of two things: move out of the lane nearest to the emergency vehicle or slow down to 20 miles per hour below the posted speed limit. While lineworkers are not specifically included in this law, we ask everyone to apply the Move Over Act guidelines when approaching South Plains Electric Cooperative work zones.

Distracted driving is another hazard our linemen face when working along roadsides. South Plains Electric Cooperative urges motorists to slow down and pay attention in work zones while driving.

"Keeping a safe distance between your car and the utility workers and equipment, driving the posted work zone speed limit, and using your four-way flashers when stopping or traveling slowly can help reduce accidents in work zones," says Allan Brown, director of risk management at South Plains Electric.

To help prevent fatalities and injuries, SPEC recommends the following guidelines while driving:

- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment and workers.
- Be patient. Traffic delays are sometimes unavoidable, so try to allow time for unexpected occurrences in your schedule.
- Obey all signs and road crew flag instructions.
- Merge early and be courteous to other drivers.
- Use your headlights at dusk and during inclement weather.
- Minimize distractions. Avoid activities such as operating a cell phone, radio or eating while driving.

Be aware of the legislation in your area. Many states have hefty fines or even jail time for violating traffic laws in work zones.

WORK

AHEAD

"Power poles and electrical equipment line our streets and highways, and narrow roadways often require crews to place their equipment in traffic lanes," Brown says. "Their work activities are often taken for granted but benefit us all, and like everyone, they deserve a safe workplace, especially when working to restore power during storms. Be alert to utility crews and other work zone workers for their safety as well as yours."

Don't make their jobs more dangerous. Drive safely.



#### **MEMBER REGISTRATION CARD**

for South Plains Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting of the Membership

#### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018**

Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

Buffet dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. • Business meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. • Door prizes at end of meeting

Cut here and bring the above Member Registration card to your annual meeting!

### **OFFICIAL MEETING NOTICE**

Dear Member,

You are invited to attend the annual meeting of the membership of South Plains Electric Cooperative, Inc., on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane, Lubbock, Texas. Action will be taken on the following matters:

- Approval of the minutes of the 2017 annual meeting of the membership.
- Election of Directors for Districts 3, 5, 7 and 12.
- All other business to come before the meeting.

River Smith's will be serving the meal from 5:30-6:30 p.m., with the business session starting at 6:30 p.m. All business should be completed by 8 p.m.

Very truly yours,

Bobly that

Bobby Richey, Secretary-Treasurer SPEC Board of Directors