

## TEXASCO<sup>.</sup>OPPOWER





# The Value of **MEMBERSHIP**

**Service is our mission.** South Plains Electric Cooperative was established to provide safe, reliable and affordable power. This has remained our mission since day one.

#### You are a member, not a customer.

Cooperatives are businesses owned by members. Members elect the co-op's board of directors and can run for seats on the board. Your votes and participation help shape the co-op's direction.

We are not for profit. Unlike investorowned utilities, which operate to make profits for stakeholders, South Plains Electric does not earn profits. Instead, revenue remaining after expenses is returned to members in the form of capital credits as co-op finances permit.

We are community-focused. South Plains Electric is committed to local community development programs and projects such as Habitat for Humanity, Relay for Life, Youth Tour and others.

#### We are guided by a set of principles.

All co-ops are guided by Seven Cooperative Principles: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

#### We are committed to innovation. South

Plains Electric is able to respond quickly to changing member needs. We are committed to experimenting and innovating in ways that benefit the communities and members we serve.



### 2018 Year 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 members and are proud to be powering Lubbock's growth with superior member service, all while charging the lowest rates in the area. You can read about our superior member service on page 12.

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 for 82 years.

We are returning \$4 million to members in September, bringing the total returned to over \$45.4 million. Members receiving \$10 or more will get a check in the mail, and for credits less than \$10, look for it 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.

South Plains Electric Cooperative was built by the rural communities needing electric service. Today, its members are a diverse group with 39% residential, 25% oil, 19% irrigation, 9% large power, 5% general services and 3% 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, through July 2019 billing, 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 10 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. We will be honoring Tommy Joines at this year's meeting. He is retiring from the board of directors after 39 years of service to the members. We have a little bit about his service below, and we'll have more details in our November issue, along with the report from all of our membership meetings. For the September meeting, 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 are 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 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!



DALE ANCELL General Manager

#### Joines retires after 39 years of board service

Tommy Joines is retiring from the South Plains Electric Cooperative Board of Directors after 39 years of service. Tommy and his wife, Beverly, served five years on the SPEC Member Services Committee before Tommy was elected to the board in 1980. He was elected as board vice president in 1982 and board president in 1985. Tommy has served on the Golden Spread Electric Cooperative Board of Directors since 1985.

More details of Tommy's service to the Cooperative membership will be in the November issue of Texas Co-op Power.





TOMMY JOINES President Retiring after 39 years of service to the membership

# FINANCIALS



#### **Consolidated Balance Sheet**

|  | December 31,          |                    |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|
|  | 2018                  | 2017               |
| ASSETS—What we own                     |                       |                    |
| Total cost of system                   | \$337,025,355         | \$324,012,224      |
| Estimated depreciation                 | (96, 492, 409)        | $(90,\!134,\!688)$ |
| Net value of system                    | \$240,532,946         | \$233,877,536      |
| Cash/temporary cash investments        | \$6,570,941           | \$6,519,797        |
| Investments                            | $109,\!105,\!270$     | $104,\!457,\!171$  |
| Accounts receivable                    | 16,141,081            | $14,\!342,\!800$   |
| Value of materials & supplies          | 16,771                | 30,745             |
| Advanced payments                      | 1,056,715             | 998,066            |
| TOTAL ASSETS                           | \$373,423,724         | \$360,226,115      |
| LIABILITIES—What we owe                |                       |                    |
| Long-term debt                         | \$169,311,760         | \$150,675,811      |
| Materials, taxes, insurance            | $21,\!608,\!155$      | 39,310,771         |
| Other liabilities & credits            | 12,929,428            | 16,605,094         |
| EQUITIES                               |                       |                    |
| Deposits & memberships                 | \$814,877             | \$782,470          |
| Total members' equity                  | 168,759,504           | 152,851,969        |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES &<br>MEMBERS' EQUITY | \$373,423,724         | \$260 226 115      |
| MEMDERS EQUILI                         | ф <b>913,443,1</b> 24 | \$360,226,115      |

#### **Consolidated Income Statement**

December 31.

|                                | December 51,                              |               |  |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------|--|
|                                | <u>2018</u>                               | <u>2017</u>   |  |
| REVENUES                       |   |               |  |
| Electric energy sold           | \$147,558,159                             | \$133,200,825 |  |
|                                | <u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u> |               |  |
| TOTAL ELECTRIC                 |   |               |  |
| REVENUE                        | \$147,558,159                             | \$133,200,825 |  |
|                                |   |               |  |
| EXPENSES                       |   |               |  |
| Electric power cost            | \$99,933,332                              | \$91,516,964  |  |
| Operating expenses and taxes   | $20,\!569,\!462$                          | 18,683,119    |  |
| Estimated system depreciation  | 10,804,174                                | 8,947,365     |  |
| Interest on long-term debt     | 6,982,430                                 | 6,370,198     |  |
|                                |   |               |  |
| TOTAL EXPENSES                 | \$138,289,398                             | \$125,517,646 |  |
|                                |   |               |  |
| <b>OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b> | 9,268,761                                 | 7,683,179     |  |
|                                |   |               |  |
| Non-operating income           | 9,249,353                                 | 789,710       |  |
| - 0                            |   |               |  |
| NET MARGINS                    | \$18,518,114                              | \$8,472,889   |  |
|                                |   |               |  |



#### Members' Average Cost Per kWh



#### Wholesale Power Cost Per kWh Used



#### **Number of Electric Meters Served**



#### Miles of Line



#### **New Services Constructed**



#### 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.



District 1 Tommy Joines President Cotton Center Term expires 2019



District 5 Bobby Richey Secretary-Treasurer Wolfforth Term expires 2021



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 2021



District 7 R.D. McCallister Vice President Acuff Term expires 2021



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 2021

#### **Joe McFerrin**

#### **District 1 Nominee | Cotton Center**

Education: Cotton Center High School graduate; Texas Tech University graduate Current Occupation: Has been in the farming business for 50 years Family: Joe has three children, Shelley, John David and Jeremy, and seven grandchildren. He is a member of the First Baptist Church in Cotton Center. Qualifications and Experience: Joe currently serves on the Hale County Stock Show Board and is on the board of trustees at Wayland Baptist University. He is also a member of the Cotton Center Lion's Club. Additionally, Joe is a former board member for Cotton Center ISD.

#### **Danny Stanton**

#### District 2 Nominee | Shallowater, Incumbent

Education: Shallowater High School graduate; South Plains College graduate with an associate's degree in agriculture and applied sciences

Current Occupation: Has been a farmer for 48 years

Family: His wife is Sherry, and they have three children, Hollie, Dan and Craig, and five grandchildren.

Qualifications and Experience: Danny has served on the South Plains Electric Cooperative Board for 30 years, is a Credentialed Cooperative Director as certified by NRECA and has successfully completed courses on Director Duties and Liabilities, Understanding Financial Planning and Understanding the Electric Business. He has also served on the Lubbock County Farm Bureau Board, the Shallowater Co-op Gin Board, the Citizens Co-op Gin Board and the PYCO Industries Advisory Board.

#### **Benny Nixon**

#### District 8 Nominee | Lubbock, Incumbent

Education: Cotton Center High School graduate; Texas Tech University graduate with a bachelor of business administration

Current Occupation: Owns Commercial Property Services and has been involved in commercial real estate for 43 years

Family: His wife is Vicki, and they have three children. The Nixons are members of the First Baptist Church in Lubbock.

Qualifications and Experience: Benny has served on the South Plains Electric Cooperative Board for 34 years and has successfully completed National Rural Electric Cooperative Association courses. In addition to his Co-op service, Benny is a member of the Red Raider Club and the Texas Tech Alumni Association. He is a past member of the Texas Tech Athletic Council, the Texas Tech University System Chancellor's Council and Southwest Lubbock Rotary. Benny is a graduate of Leadership Lubbock.

#### **Scott Martin**

#### District 10 Nominee | Spur, Incumbent

Education: Plano East Senior High School graduate; Texas Tech University graduate with a bachelor of science in agricultural and applied economics and general business administration

Current Occupation: Farm and ranch owner of 22 years, cattle and farm equipment inspector and appraiser, and co-owner of DC Auto

Family: His wife is Lisa, and they have one daughter, Tristen. The Martins are members of the Highway 70 Church of Christ in Spur.

Qualifications and Experience: Scott has served on the South Plains Electric

Cooperative Board for three years, is a Credentialed Cooperative Director as certified by NRECA and has his Board Leadership Certificate. He was a member of the Spur Volunteer Fire Department and is currently a member of the Dickens County Junior Livestock Show Committee, the Dickens County 4-H Horse Club Committee and the Texas Tech Alumni Association.



# **ABOUT CAPITAL CREDITS**



As a member of an electric cooperative, 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.

#### **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.

A cooperative must show a margin at the end of each year to prove to its lenders that 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!



#### **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           |
|------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1943-1980  | $$17,\!470,\!212$ | \$17,470,212    | \$0              |
| 1981       | $1,\!102,\!782$   | 827,102         | $275,\!680$      |
| 1982       | 218,729           | 86,044          | $132,\!685$      |
| 1983       | $1,\!403,\!483$   | 23,887          | $1,\!379,\!596$  |
| 1984       | $1,\!374,\!597$   | 19,096          | $1,\!355,\!501$  |
| 1985       | 350,876           | 4,076           | 346,800          |
| 1986       | $1,\!056,\!198$   | 4,789           | $1,\!051,\!409$  |
| 1987       | $1,\!505,\!790$   | 5,851           | $1,\!499,\!939$  |
| 1988       | $3,\!133,\!657$   | 208,820         | $2,\!924,\!837$  |
| 1989       | $2,\!528,\!682$   | 184,424         | $2,\!344,\!258$  |
| 1990       | 2,736,214         | 160,807         | $2,\!575,\!407$  |
| 1991       | 1,868,144         | 117,220         | $1,\!750,\!924$  |
| 1992       | $1,\!176,\!201$   | 1,259           | $1,\!174,\!942$  |
| 1993       | $2,\!464,\!490$   | 826,810         | 1,637,680        |
| 1994       | $3,\!685,\!766$   | 765,063         | $2,\!920,\!703$  |
| 1995       | $1,\!844,\!320$   | 581,659         | $1,\!262,\!661$  |
| 1996       | 2,029,555         | $547,\!424$     | $1,\!482,\!131$  |
| 1997       | $2,\!312,\!246$   | 513,361         | 1,798,885        |
| 1998       | $2,\!194,\!221$   | 518,204         | $1,\!676,\!017$  |
| 1999       | $738,\!480$       | 738,480         | 0                |
| 2000       | 1,166,968         | 573,677         | 593,291          |
| 2001       | 0                 | 0               | 0                |
| 2002       | $2,\!220,\!225$   | $1,\!203,\!341$ | 1,016,884        |
| 2003       | $4,\!342,\!985$   | 2,759,280       | $1,\!583,\!705$  |
| 2004       | 3,983,992         | 3,119,896       | 864,096          |
| 2005       | $7,\!828,\!773$   | $2,\!344,\!496$ | $5,\!484,\!277$  |
| 2006       | 6,005,292         | 462,376         | $5,\!542,\!916$  |
| 2007       | 8,012,443         | 559,258         | $7,\!453,\!185$  |
| 2008       | $11,\!591,\!238$  | 474,400         | $11,\!116,\!838$ |
| 2009       | $8,\!479,\!828$   | 318,932         | 8,160,896        |
| 2010       | 9,908,949         |                 | 9,908,949        |
| 2011       | $12,\!917,\!854$  | 843,004         | $12,\!074,\!850$ |
| 2012       | $13,\!140,\!294$  | 1,381           | 13,138,913       |
| 2013       | $14,\!348,\!708$  | 2,001,005       | $12,\!347,\!703$ |
| 2014       | 8,048,076         | 745             | 8,047,331        |
| 2015       | $5,\!646,\!578$   | 0               | $5,\!646,\!578$  |
| 2016       | 8,989,661         | 1,781,244       | 7,208,417        |
| 2017       | $13,\!155,\!788$  | $1,\!352,\!301$ | $11,\!803,\!487$ |
| 2018       | $18,\!152,\!439$  | 0               | $18,\!152,\!439$ |
| Other      | 6                 | 0               | 6                |
| SUBTOTAL   | \$209,134,740     | \$41,399,924    | \$167,734,816    |
| Other Comp | rehensive Incom   | e (Loss)        | \$666,270        |
|            |                   | ••••••          |                  |

Members' Equity in the Cooperative ...... \$168,759,504

# **OPERATION ROUND UP**



#### **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Operation Round Up has disbursed more than \$1 million to local organizations and individuals since its inception 26 years ago. More than \$69,000 was disbursed in 2018 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 up their monthly bill 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;
- make a life tragedy less traumatic.

Operation Round Up is about neighbors helping neighbors.

#### **Board of Trustees**

Lou Boyles-Bruster, White River Lake, Pres. Shea Adrian, Shallowater, VP Brenda Karr, Dickens, Treas. Patricia Reynolds, Lubbock, Sec. Cindy Buxkemper, Lubbock Melinda Chapman, Lorenzo Gary Koelder, Cotton Center Rita Tucker, Paducah Ginger Wetzel, Ransom Canyon

#### Financial Statement South Plains Electric Trust Year Ending 2018

| Beginning balance 1/1/18  | \$58,997.99 |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| 2018 member deposits      | \$28,624.04 |
| Employee & SPEC donations | \$42,687.91 |
| Interest income           | \$64.31     |
| Checks issued             | \$69,195.39 |
| Balance 12/31/18          | ¢¢1 170 0¢  |



Thank you, thank you, thank you. I'm so grateful for this scholarship.

#### Zachary Sims 2019–2020 Scholarship Recipient

#### Your Dollar at Work in 2018

How your dollar was earned





How your dollar was used



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

Special Report

### Membership's Validation of Co-op's Service Efforts

South Plains Electric Cooperative Sreceived its American Customer Satisfaction Index score of 92, on a scale of 0-100, for the member survey conducted in March 2019, and the results are impressive. The Co-op also earned an ACSI score of 92 on the 2017 member survey and is proud to know we are still delivering superior member service to a growing and changing member demographic. How we take care of our members every day is what sets us apart from other utilities.

South Plains Electric Cooperative scored 17 points higher than the Cooperative Utility score of 75, as well as 19 points higher than both Investor Own Utilities and Municipal Utilities of 73, per the 2019 ACSI Utility Sector Report.

Our score is also 18-points higher than the airline industry and 17-points higher than the fast-food industry, based on 2018-2019 ACSI reports.

The ACSI is the only national cross-industry measure of customer satisfaction in the United States. Each year, the ACSI uses data from interviews with roughly 300,000 customers as inputs to an econometric model for analyzing customer satisfaction with more than 400 companies in 46 industries and 10 economic sectors.

Touchstone Energy cooperatives have participated in the ACSI Monitor Program since 2011 and was the highest-rated cooperative energy utility group from 2014 to 2018, per the ACSI Utility Sector Reports showcasing our continued commitment to the cooperative difference in action.

Members are happy with their Cooperative's reliability and member service and believe the Cooperative is doing a great job overall. Membership identification is at an all-time high of 58%. A total of 91% say Co-op employees are knowledgeable and helpful.

Membership awareness marches upward the more years a person has been on Co-op lines. More than two-thirds (68%) of people who have been members for at least 11 years self identify as members. In 2017, it took 15 years before two-thirds of the members self-identified, which is a 27% improvement. Membership identification amongst those on the lines for seven years or less is at 51%, same as it was in 2017.

These numbers confirm the importance of educating consumers about the value of being a member. When members embrace their member identity and relationship to the Cooperative, it helps build trust, loyalty and support for the Co-op as it works to achieve strategic objectives.

South Plains Electric Cooperative members asked for more electronic communications in 2017, and we now have an e-newsletter that goes out twice a month. Members have been able to text in outages for several years, and we are expanding that platform to communicate with new members.

The 2019 survey continues to support the Cooperative using these communications tools. Interestingly, in today's tech-savvy society, members still want the Co-op to communicate with them via print with statement/bill stuffers and direct mail. We will keep our traditional communications methods, including the Texas Co-op Power magazine.

The one-size-fits-all method of communications is not today's reality. The Co-op must diversify its communications channels to meet our members in the space and time that best fits their schedules. E-newsletters, the SPEC App, Facebook and texting are new parts of our communications toolbox but won't replace having local offices in our communities and someone to answer calls 24/7.

Touchstone Energy cooperatives have been the gold standard, and we strive to be best in class when it comes to member satisfaction. We are pleased with our Cooperative's performance this year and are happy that our members feel the same.

Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperatives is a national network of electric cooperatives across 46 states that provides resources and leverages partnerships to help member cooperatives and their employees better engage and serve their members. By working together, Touchstone Energy cooperatives stand as a source of power and information to their 32 million member-owners every day.



#### "A Trip of a Lifetime"

igh school juniors and seniors competed in three local contests for a chance to win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., from June 12-21, 2019. The students interviewed with a panel of judges to convincingly explain why they should represent South Plains Electric Cooperative. The students were also asked questions on their cooperative knowledge. The four students representing South Plains Electric Cooperative joined about 150 other Texas youth before heading out to Washington. The Texas contingency was part of more than 1,600 young adults from across

the nation who participated in the annual Youth Tour.

The four students representing South Plains Electric Cooperative for 2019 are pictured (picture A) in Washington, D.C. They are, from left to right: Madison Franks, Idalou; Sawyer Jackson, Shallowater; Ansley Steed, Childress; Harley Brents, Aspermont.

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.





#### Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Southwest Received \$10,000 from SPEC and CoBank

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Southwest received a \$10,000 donation, just in time for their Dog Days of Summer campaign, from South Plains Electric Cooperative and CoBank.

Jax is a 5-year-old yellow labrador who came to RMHC of the Southwest through a special career changing program of Guide Dogs for the Blind. His breeding and training made him the perfect fit for the day-to-day work he does providing therapeutic comfort to patients, families and the public. At RMHC of the Southwest, Jax was given the title of Chief Cheer Officer because he has the ability to will patients through scary and difficult times. Jax participates in outreach, education and the tossing of a good tennis ball 25-35 hours per week. During Dog Days of Summer, Jax partners with other working dogs in communities to raise awareness and money for families served. The "Jax Pack" is a club anyone (or dog) can join that helps the RMHC of the Southwest mission to "Keep Families Close."

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 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."

Dina Jeffries, President and CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Southwest, said, "Each year, nearly 200,000 people in rural communities have been reached through the programs and services we provide. When a medical crisis happens, families from the rural areas are always so grateful to have a place to stay that leaves the light on and feels like a home away from home."

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 \$36 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."

#### Concern for Community

SPEC Director of Communications Lynn Simmons presents a check to Dina Jeffries, RMHC of the Southwest president and CEO, and Jax, RMHC of the Southwest Chief Cheer Officer, along with Dean Church of CoBank on May 22.



#### As a member of South Plains Electric Cooperative, Of get the credit!



Thanks for your membership! \$4 Million

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



#### **MEMBER REGISTRATION CARD**

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

#### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

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 10, 2019, 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 minutes of the 2018 annual meeting of the membership.
- Election of Directors for Districts 1, 2, 8 and 10.
- 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