



▲ Several generations enjoy the warm summer evening.

Long lines moved quickly as members filled their plates with wonderful barbecue. ▼



▲ SWTEC employees receive awards for over 110 years of combined service.



◀ Registration included voting materials as well as the sought-after goodie bag.



A la busi

Retired director Dick Runge (left) is recognized for 27 years of service to SWTEC. ▶



SWTEC Holds 66th Annual Membership Meeting

Record-breaking temperatures and the severe Texas drought dominated the conversation among many Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative (SWTEC) members at their annual meeting on August 9. A crowd of over 950 enjoyed a barbecue meal with all the trimmings. State Rep. Harvey Hilderbran of the 53rd District shared some results of the recent legislative session, particularly noting changes in laws that were made years ago that have allowed prosecution of some local lawbreakers. Shortly after 8 p.m., President Steve Williams called the business meeting to order.

Jerry Johnson, board secretary, read the proof of notice and declared a quorum for the annual meeting. Johnson

reported that a total of 221 members had registered. Minutes from the 65th annual meeting were approved.

General Manager Buff Whitten reminded everyone that most of his comments were printed in the annual report in Texas Co-op Power. He noted that the cooperative would be borrowing money to pay down the co-op's line of credit. Funds will also be used to upgrade cooperative infrastructure as part of the long-term work plan. He reported that the rates and terms the cooperative received for the loans were very favorable. He stated that with current margins, there appears to be no need for any electric rate increases.

Williams stepped to the microphone with news about the good financial position SWTEC enjoys. He also

A large crowd listens intently as the business session commenced. ▼



Attorney Tom Gregg announces his retirement after 40 years serving as co-op counsel. ►



◀ Where's the ice cream? I wore my favorite dress.



Golden Spread Electric Cooperative President Mark Schwirtz informs members of several new power projects that are under way. ►



▲ OK, so not everyone had fun the whole time.

reminded the members about Southwest Texas Electric's position as part-owner in Golden Spread Electric Cooperative (GSEC). Williams then asked the President and General Manager of GSEC, Mark Schwirtz, to speak about power facilities that are currently being built and brought online to keep rates lower for all the member systems.

Schwirtz reported on a large wind farm under construction near Amarillo, quick-start generators near Abernathy, and a gas reserve field GSEC has purchased near San Angelo. The collection of these facilities should allow GSEC and SWTEC to hedge against future price spikes.

Williams then announced the retirement of two long-time cooperative personnel. Tom Gregg, cooperative attorney, is retiring at the end of the year after a 40-year tenure. Dick Runge, a board member of 27 years who also retired, was recognized with a plaque and an appreciation gift.

Williams then called on Director Eugene Vinson to present the service awards. Those receiving recognition were:

Dobs Lively, 35 years of service; Rojelio Adame, 30 years; Peggy Warriner, 15 years; Elaine Hinojosa and Michael Faull, 10 years; and Justin Moran and Shawn Edwards, 5 years.

Williams then turned the meeting over to Gregg for the election of directors. Gregg reminded the members of the process regarding the election of directors according to the bylaws. He read the nominating committee report, which included the names of Caroline Runge, Eugene Vinson, Jerry Johnson, Pat Jackson and John L. Henderson III. After no nominations were received from the floor, the members voted by private ballot. Jackson, of Christoval, and incumbents Vinson and Johnson were elected for three-year terms.

Member Services Advisor Eddie Albin took charge of the meeting for the drawing of door prizes and asked Laney Martin and Josalyn and Kourtney Whitten, granddaughters of Manager Buff Whitten, to draw the winners. A total of 53 prizes were given away. Williams closed the meeting as there were no calls for any new business.