

# THE CIRCUIT!

October 2018

A publication for our Members  
in Atoka•Bryan•Choctaw  
Coal•Johnston Counties



## SEC Lineman Returns from Guatemala

Back in April of 2018, the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) selected a group of eight volunteer linemen to electrify remote communities in the northwestern part of Guatemala. We are so proud as a Cooperative to have our very own Michael Green joined on the team! The group of linemen left out in mid September and returned back the first week in October.

This effort was a joint project between Oklahoma's electric cooperatives and Colorado's electric cooperatives. The electrification project was coordinated through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) philanthropic arm, NRECA International Foundation.

"Bringing electricity to areas that have none takes us back to our roots of rural electrification," says Chris Meyers, OAEC general manager. "Electric cooperatives are well-suited to help decrease the number of those living without electricity worldwide."

The volunteers built power lines in the village of Pie del Cerro and in the neighboring village of Tierra Blanca Salinas. Both communities are tucked away near a rainforest in the region of Ixcán, close to the border of Mexico. Collectively, the communities have approximately 100 households, five churches, two elementary schools and two health centers – all who were without access to reliable and affordable electricity.

The locals live in humble means without running water, food, refrigeration, or the ability to use electronic appliances for house chores or to aid in their economic growth. The villagers depend on farming operations for economic sustainment; they produce corn, beans, cardamom seeds, cocoa and some vegetables.

## Energy Trails 2018 Guatemala Volunteers



**Team Leader**  
**DEREC JANAWAY**  
Oklahoma Electric



**DAKOTA GILBERT**  
Northfork Electric



**JAMES WILLCOX**  
Indian Electric



**MIKE GREEN**  
Southeastern Electric



**MIKE WOLFE**  
Southwest Rural Electric



**SCOTTY BRANHAM**  
CKenergy Electric



**CURTIS CHLOUBER**  
Cimarron Electric



**BRAD SCOTT**  
Oklahoma Electric



**MICHAEL MUSIL**  
Central Electric  
1st Alternate



**CHANCE TURPIN**  
Western Farmers Electric  
2nd Alternate



**DUSTY MCNATT**  
CKenergy Electric  
3rd Alternate

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## Co-op Joins PBS's BizKid\$

SEC has partnered with Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) and PBS to promote the PBS Kids Go! show, BizKid\$ to school educators in our service area!

The show focuses around financial education on a kid's level. It has won two Daytime Emmy Awards and features topics such as "Financial Freedom", "Can Money Buy Happiness?", and much more!

Kevin Rothrock, SEC's Public Relations Specialist will pair with two educators, one from Durant and the other from Caney. Together, they will work on creating a product that follows the Cooperative structure. In late October, these classes will go to a contest with other schools around Oklahoma to compete. The winners and runner-up teams will be treated to a celebration party and presented with trophies. The winning teacher gets a \$500 gift card to be used in his or her classroom, a congratulatory plaque and classroom banner. Not to mention the bragging rights that come with the territory!

Keep an eye out in The Circuit! for more information as this project progresses and be sure to check out the show BizKid\$ on PBS!\*\*\*



October  
is  
*National*  
*Co-op*  
*Month!*



**SAFE,  
RELIABLE,  
AFFORDABLE  
ENERGY.**

**THEN. NOW.  
ALWAYS.**

**We are proud to  
power your life.**



## Guatemala

A local utility, Empresa Municipal Rural de Electricidad (EMRE), based in Playa Grande, Ixcán, will maintain the power lines now that they are built. The project consisted of 130 poles and two transformers on 4.34 miles of primary line and 3.86 miles of secondary line. Most of the terrain was flat, but about one mile of line was built in dense rainforest surroundings. The homes received at least two lightbulbs and two electrical outlets.

Green said before his departure, "God has blessed me with a skill-set to work on a project that will change the lives of so many people. I really hope it is something my four kids will be proud of me for and carry on with them so that they aspire to one day be a part of something for the greater good. I would also like to thank my beautiful, loving wife, Brandy Green. Thank you for all of your support and love."



SEC's General Manager, James Fox, said, "It is very exciting to be a part of a cooperative effort to bring electricity to a village in Guatemala. The opportunity to "turn the lights on" for the families in this remote village takes us back to the origins of electric cooperatives. The fact that Lineman Michael "Mikey" Green is going to this remote village where he will work and live in primitive conditions away from his home and family is a testament of his desire to improve the world in which we live. My hats off to Mike. Myself, all of us at SEC and the Board of Directors are beyond proud of him."

Oklahoma's electric cooperatives established The Oklahoma Energy Trails Foundation, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, to support this cause along with holding several fund-raisers to raise money for the trip. To learn more please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/energytrails!>

**\*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.\***

*The Circuit! is composed monthly by*



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## Be A Part of Co-ops Vote!

Our co-op's number one priority is providing our consumer-members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. But doing this job requires a lot more than stringing and maintaining power lines throughout our service territory. It requires political engagement. That may seem far removed from our core mission, but it's absolutely essential to serving you, our consumer-members.

*That's why we're participating in a national program of America's electric cooperatives called Co-ops Vote.*

**Co-ops Vote** encourages all co-op members to participate in national, state and local elections while educating political candidates and elected officials about the important role played by electric cooperatives in their communities.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization representing the nation's electric co-ops, launched **Co-ops Vote** in 2016. **Co-ops Vote** started as a national non-partisan get-out-the-vote initiative that helped drive rural voter turnout in the 2016 presidential election.



Through this program, electric co-ops realized they had a unique advantage: As co-ops, the civic virtue of voting is in our DNA. We show concern for community—one of the seven cooperative principles—through participation in our democracy.

Co-ops have another advantage. Elected officials and decision-makers across the political spectrum trust us because of the work the electric cooperative family has put into political engagement. When we all get involved, we can make things happen politically and in our local communities.

Our participation in **Co-ops Vote** helps to ensure that rural issues remain part of the national discussion—and are supported by our elected officials. But **Co-ops Vote** isn't just for co-ops. It's for co-op members just like you.

You can participate by registering to vote and committing to cast your ballot on November 6. If you're interested in getting more involved, just give us a call or visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop) or visit our website at [www.se-coop.com](http://www.se-coop.com) and click on the easy access link to learn more about the upcoming elections and access online tools that can help you participate. We look forward to seeing you at the polls on Election Day!

**CO-OPS VOTE**

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

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