

# DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

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## Ken Simmons selected to lead South Kentucky RECC

By Joy Bullock

South Kentucky RECC has a new leader at the helm. SKRECC's board of directors has named Kenneth E. "Ken" Simmons as the co-op's chief executive officer. Simmons began his duties in January.

Simmons, who is a 38-year veteran of the electric co-op industry, served as CEO at Southwest Rural Electric Cooperative, which serves southern Oklahoma and northern Texas, since 2016. Prior to that, he was the manager of system design for Carroll Electric Membership Cooperative in Carrollton, Georgia.

"The board is very excited about bringing someone with Ken's qualifications on as South Kentucky's new CEO," says South Kentucky Board Chairman Greg Redmon. "We believe he has the skills to continue offering the service and excellence our members expect and deserve.

"The board would also like to express its appreciation for Kevin Newton, SKRECC vice president of engineering and operations, who has served as interim CEO during this time of transition."

SKRECC's commitment to community involvement and economic development were just a few principles that

attracted Simmons to the position. He is excited to have the opportunity to build on the great foundation that the co-op has established.

"I was drawn to SKRECC in part by its mission and vision statements, which so closely mirror my own personal commitments and values," Simmons says. "The mission statement goes beyond the typical 'reliable, affordable and safe' and speaks to the heart of why cooperatives were created in the first place: 'to improve the quality of life in their communities.' SKRECC's vision statement is 'to become a cornerstone of ALL our communities' and 'to be the energy provider of choice.' So, our goal will be to continue this tradition of raising the bar to exceed our members' expectations."

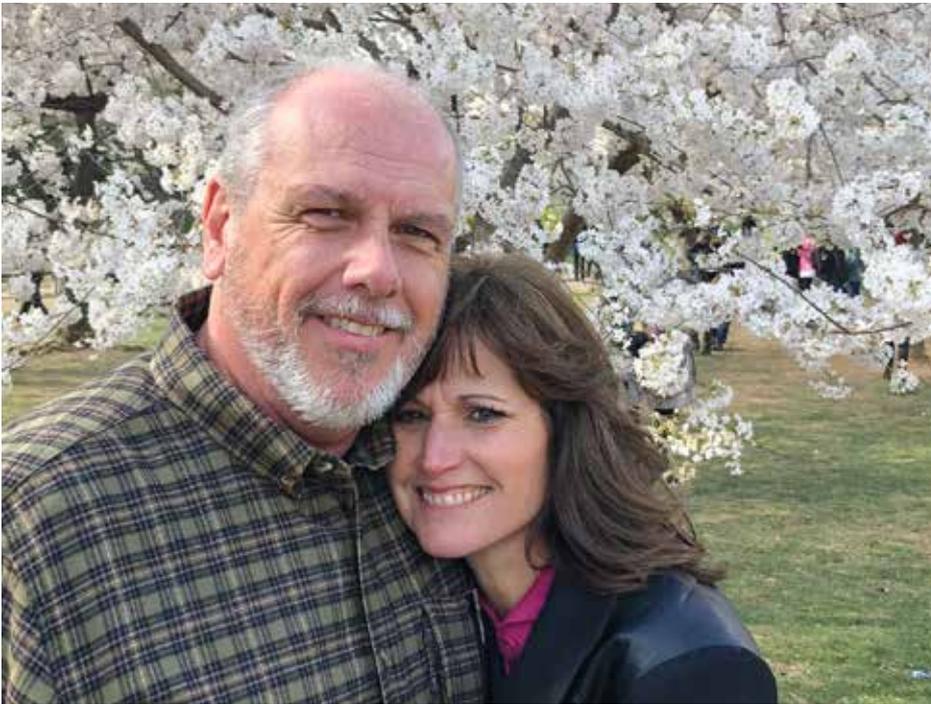
Simmons is a champion for community involvement and will encourage SKRECC employees to be active in volunteerism and civic service. He believes that service should not stop at the electric meter; rather, it should extend through and touch every corner of our communities.

Through the co-op's continued community engagement, he seeks to develop a sense of pride and connectedness between the co-op and the members it serves.



**Kenneth E. "Ken" Simmons, new CEO for South Kentucky RECC, began his duties in January.**

Simmons is no stranger to serving in many community arenas including not-for-profit organizations, charitable education foundations, chambers of commerce, development authorities and civic groups.



**Ken and Kim Simmons look forward to making the Lake Cumberland area their new home.**

In addition to encouraging community involvement, Simmons will be a strong advocate for safety at South Kentucky RECC.

“It must be our first priority, not

only for our employees but for the public as well. Safety must be paramount in our cooperative culture and an integral part of all we do. I’m dedicated to fostering a safe, high-

performance culture through caring, commitment and accountability.”

Simmons and his wife of 33 years, Kim, have three grown children: Chris, Jamie and Sean. The Simmonses have one granddaughter, Shay Marie.

Simmons has a passion for the outdoors, including hunting, fishing and shooting sports.

He and his wife look forward to becoming an integral part of the community and making the Lake Cumberland area their home.

Simmons adds that he looks forward to meeting South Kentucky RECC’s members at the annual meeting on June 11.

Simmons is South Kentucky RECC’s eighth general manager in the utility’s 81-year history. He is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He received his education from Louisiana State University, University of Georgia, Southern Polytechnic State University, Clapp Research Institute and the University of Wisconsin. **DSK**

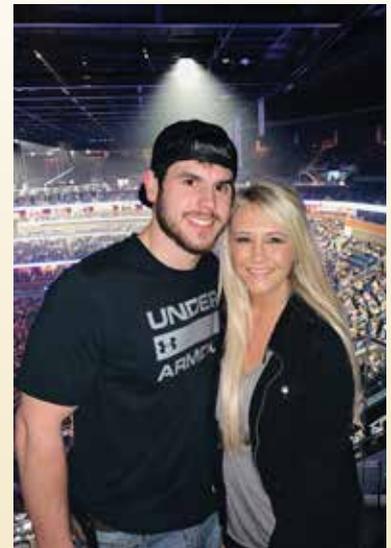
## Meet Ken’s family



**Ken’s daughter, Jamie, is senior recruiter at Georgia System Operations Corporation. Her husband, Chris, is a banking auditor for SunTrust Bank.**



**Ken’s son Chris is a police officer in Forest Park, Georgia. His wife, Tori, is a dental assistant. They have the Simmonses’ only grandchild, Shay Marie.**



**Ken’s son Sean is the service manager at Bellany-Strickland Chevrolet. Photos:**

# South Kentucky RECC returning \$1,604,397 to members

For the second year in a row, the board of directors of South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation has announced the mailing of \$1,604,397 in capital credit refunds.

The refunds from South Kentucky RECC total \$1.4 million for the years of 1986, 1987 and 1988. In addition, more than \$200,000 for the years of 1958–1967 is being returned to members from East Kentucky Power Cooperative, which generates the electricity and is owned by South Kentucky RECC and 15 other distribution cooperatives across the state.

These amounts will be combined into one check.

A member's share of this refund is based upon the amount of electricity used in the specified years in relation to the electric usage of all members at that time.

In the world of co-ops, when revenues are greater than expenses, the difference is called a margin, and shares are not paid to investing stockholders, as an investor-owned utility would do. They are shared among the member-owners of South Kentucky RECC—the people who get their electricity from the co-op.

South Kentucky RECC CEO Ken Simmons says this is just one of the many benefits of being a member-owner of an electric cooperative.

“It gives the board and myself great pleasure to be able to send these patronage capital checks to our membership. It affirms what our mission statement says—that we were ‘formed for people, not profit.’ We believe in this mission statement and strive to do the best that we can for our members.”

If you have any questions about your patronage capital refund, call your local South Kentucky RECC office or call (800) 264-5112.

## Get paid to be smart

Being smart has never been so simple. If you recently purchased a qualifying smart thermostat, you may be eligible for a \$100 credit from South Kentucky RECC.

As a local Touchstone Energy Cooperative, we are partners with several thermostat manufacturers, including Nest, Honeywell, ecobee and others. Once you've registered your qualifying smart thermostat online, you'll receive an e-mail from the manufacturer about enrolling in the SimpleSaver program.

If you meet the requirements and enroll in SimpleSaver, you are eligible for a \$100 rebate.\* Plus, there's a \$10 one-time enrollment incentive. Each year you continue in the program, you'll receive an additional \$20 bill credit after the summer season.

“Your participation is risk-free,” says Alan Coffey, energy services/member engagement manager of South Kentucky RECC. “It's a great way to reduce energy demand, but not your comfort.”

When you sign up for the program, your thermostat will be adjusted a

limited number of times throughout the summer.

Here's how it works:

- At the start of an adjustment period, your thermostat will be automatically adjusted up to four degrees above the current temperature.
- The adjustment will typically last no more than four hours on non-holiday weekdays and will occur between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Once the temperature adjustment is over, your thermostat will return to its normal set point and/or schedule. In some cases, your thermostat may be adjusted by up to three degrees prior to an adjustment event to pre-cool your home.

Those minor thermostat adjustments help us all work together to reduce energy use during peak demand times. And at any time during one of the events, you can opt out from your thermostat, mobile device or web app. For the majority of the devices, when you opt out of the pre-cool, you are also opting out of the temperature adjustment.



GOODLIZ

Sounds simple and smart, right? Find out if you're eligible by visiting [www.enrollmythermostat.com/simplesaver](http://www.enrollmythermostat.com/simplesaver). For questions about the program, email [simplesaver@energyhub.com](mailto:simplesaver@energyhub.com).

*\*Eligibility requires being a member of one of the 15 participating local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives who uses an eligible, fixed internet-connected thermostat for cooling. The \$100 credit is available for qualifying thermostats that were purchased on or after March 2, 2019. See website for complete details.*

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**To report an outage 24/7/365**, please call your local office, (800) 264-5112, or set up your account to be able to text outages. Please do not report outages via social media.

**Plug into South Kentucky RECC. Follow us on social media:**



# A hidden gem in the South Kentucky RECC area

Located in downtown Monticello, the Wayne County Museum is four floors of historical displays, a children's section, a stagecoach and even a cave—it truly is a hidden gem, and if you have never visited, history buff or not, it's something to see.

The Wayne County Museum is housed in the former Hotel Breeding, which opened in 1936, and according to museum committee chairman, South Kentucky RECC Service Technician David Piercy, the museum began operations here in 2003.

In addition to the museum, sitting behind the structure, is the Three R Schoolhouse, a one-room schoolhouse that was once part of the Wayne County School System.

The museum at 75 North Main Street, Monticello, is free of charge and open to the public 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET November 1 through March 31, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 1 through October 31. If you have a group that wants to tour, or if you have a question, please call (606) 340-2300 or email them at [museum123@windstream.net](mailto:museum123@windstream.net). For more information, go online to [www.waynecountymuseum.com](http://www.waynecountymuseum.com).



The museum's cave is located in the basement of the structure.



The Wayne County Museum has many different historical items including a replica of the old Burnside-Monticello Stagecoach. There is also an alcohol still, a military section and a farm-related section.

Photos: Joy Bullock

