



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members.

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Powering Future Generations

2019 Youth Tour Delegates

Three local high-school students represented LREC. These students joined 1,600 high school students who recently visited Washington, D.C. for the 2019 Washington Youth Tour.

This life-changing trip, sponsored by LREC, known as Youth Tour, is an all-expense-paid, seven-day trip to the nation's capital. This trip inspires local, talented, hard-working students. LREC was honored to send Hadley Keith of Okay High School, daughter of Tillie Keith; Claire Levesque of Wagoner High School daughter of Gina Levesque; and Calvin White, home school student, son of Karen and Johnny White.

LREC has sponsored the Washington Youth Tour for more than 55 years. The trip is designed to educate students about our Nation's Capital, the sacrifice's made for our freedom and the value of the cooperatives way of business. The students return home with a greater appreciation of our nation's leaders, respect for the beauty of Washington, D.C., and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Details about the annual contest for 2020 Youth Tour will be available January 2020 online, or by calling Juanita Keener at **918-772-2526**.



Photo courtesy of OALEC

Left to right: Hadley Keith, Claire Levesque, and Calvin White.



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Gross Receipts Tax Helps Schools

Some people believe that since Lake Region Electric Cooperative is a non-profit organization we aren't required to pay taxes. While LREC doesn't pay income taxes on electric sales, we do pay what is called a gross receipt tax. Electric co-ops pay gross receipts tax to the Oklahoma Tax Commission every year. The Tax Commission then distributes 95 percent of these funds to schools based on the number of miles of cooperative electric lines in each school district.

In 2018, Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) paid **\$844,359** in gross receipts tax. These funds benefited 35 local schools in LREC's service territory.

The chart (on the right) shows the allocation of school funds in LREC's area. Tax distribution varies from school to school because some school districts have more miles of Lake Region electric lines.

Because rural schools benefit directly from these taxes, LREC and other Oklahoma electric cooperatives firmly support this program. Over the years, various proposals to change the tax structure would have diverted funds away from rural schools. Electric cooperatives and rural school leaders opposed these plans. "This tax benefits our local school children,

helping to provide funding for schools in need," Glen Clark, Director of Marketing.



School	Miles of Line	Amount
Wagoner	379.86	\$103,861.79
Tahlequah	350.65	\$95,875.89
Hulbert	261.96	\$71,626.72
Coweta	239.49	\$65,481.00
Keys	219.06	\$59,897.13
Porter	187.95	\$51,391.03
Locust Grove	157.86	\$43,163.52
Peggs	151.46	\$41,411.74
Grandview	134.91	\$36,886.70
Lowery	129.84	\$35,501.82
Fort Gibson	116.55	\$31,868.41
Norwood	95.76	\$26,182.55
Oaks Mission	84.64	\$23,142.49
Braggs	75.65	\$20,686.39
Briggs	74.63	\$20,407.75
Inola/Gregory	69.17	\$18,913.56
Shady Grove	69.09	\$18,890.56
Okay	66.19	\$18,097.44
Woodall	64.31	\$17,583.60
Kansas	49.72	\$13,595.17
Haskell	19.82	\$5,420.59
Broken Arrow	19.29	\$5,276.01
Catoosa	18.42	\$5,036.96
Chouteau/Mazie	17.05	\$4,662.49
Westville	14.51	\$3,969.21
Webber Falls	12.42	\$3,398.05
Muskogee	2.93	\$802.78
Wickliffe	1.61	\$441.46
Leach	1.26	\$345.65
Gore	0.88	\$243.04
Tenkiller	0.79	\$216.52
Jay	0.16	\$44.38
Moseley	0.13	\$37.57
33 Schools	3088.18	\$844,359.97



PHONE SERVICE

Residential phone service (landline phone, not cellular) is here and starts at just \$39.95/mo. Get unlimited local and long distance calling, plus advanced features. Pair with high-speed internet and you'll have the perfect package. Make the call today, **918-772-2526** to add phone service.

Understanding the Seven Cooperative Principles

Cooperatives are independent, private, and not-for-profit organizations owned by you, the members we serve. Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values. These principles are a vital reason why Lake Region Electric Cooperative operates differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of our members first. Principles 1 - 3 were published in the July issue.

4 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Co-ops are voluntary organizations open to all people able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

5 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Co-ops are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives (board of trustees) are accountable to the membership. Members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

6 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

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STAY AWAY, STAY SAFE

Around Power Lines



Photo by: Larry Matias

LOW VOLTAGE SAFETY DEMO: Glen Clark, Director of Marketing, conducts a safety demonstration for Grandview summer school.

There is a reason LREC's power lines are built high above the ground or buried deep below. The electricity these lines carry can be deadly.

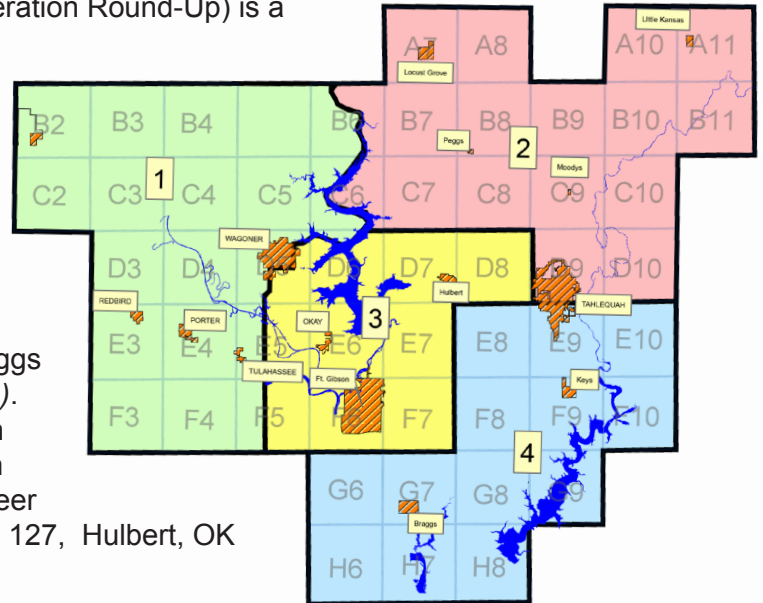
Glen Clark went over several safety scenarios with a tabletop display from climbing trees near power lines, roof antennas, construction equipment, downed power lines, a vehicle accident with power lines, and digging dangers. Clark went over how electric is always looking for a path to the ground as well as safety equipment linemen use, that is non-conductive, such as rubber gloves, sleeves, and hard hats.

Grandview Students and teachers learned a lot of power line safety they can pass along to parents and friends. LREC has an ongoing effort to educate our community about electricity. We offer safety demonstrations for law enforcement, emergency responders, school functions, and local businesses throughout our seven-county service territory. Safety demos can be scheduled by contacting the co-op at **918-772-2526** or on-line at www.lrecok.coop/safety.

Report all power lines issues directly to LREC by calling **918-772-2526**. Calls will be answered around the clock, by our 24-hour dispatch.

Serve as an Operation Round Up Trustee

Lake Region Electric Cooperative Foundation (Operation Round-Up) is a charitable organization administered by a nine-member board of directors made up of LREC member volunteers. The Operation Round-Up board is responsible for the disbursement of funds for charitable purposes in the service area of Lake Region Electric Cooperative, Inc. The LREC Board is seeking a qualified applicant to fill a district two director vacancy. To qualify, a candidate must be a member of the cooperative and live in Operation Round-Up district 2, which includes Locust Grove, Peggs Moodys, Lowery, and Briggs, among others (See map). Operation Round-Up board meets quarterly on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM at LREC office in Hulbert. If you are interested in serving on this volunteer board, please send a resume to Freda Purtle P O Box 127, Hulbert, OK 74441 or contact our office at **918-772-2526**.



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7 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control 244903 by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

See all seven cooperative principles online at www.lrecok.coop/cooperative-principles

Manage Your Energy Use with SmartHub

These days we have apps to track our steps, monitor our bank accounts, check in on our homes, and even locate our parked cars when we can't seem to find them at the grocery store. There appears to be an app for almost anything, INCLUDING managing your Lake Region energy.

You have access to your electric account 24/7 through our online, SmartHub app. This handy app lets you pay your bill, report outages, and also provides almost real-time info about your energy use.

Visit our website: www.lrecok.coop/smarthub

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone

800-364-LREC or
 918-772-2526

Website:

www.lrecok.coop
www.lrecok.net

Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &
 Tahlequah, OK.

Main Office Address

P.O. Box 127
 Hulbert, OK 74441

Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in this issue of the *Powerline Press*. If you find your number, Lake Region Electric will credit your next bill. To claim your credit, notify LREC's Hulbert office by phone during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.

