



# Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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

September 2019

Vol. 10

No. 9

## 3 REASONS TO SAY BYE TO YOUR PAPER BILL

### Receive \$5 Bill Credit on your Next Bill

Go paperless during the month of September and LREC will credit your account. You have the options to go paperless on each service you receive a bill for: electric, water, or telecom (fiber).



### Stop Wasting Paper

Every month, LREC sends more than **25,100** paper statements (2 sheets each) to members. That is a lot of paper - **602,400** sheets a paper a year just in bills. That equates to lots of trees being cut down to send paper bills.

### Reduce Clutter

Every house has that one spot where mail, bills included, just stack up. Maybe that is the corner of your desk or right next to your phone on the kitchen counter. Either way, your bill doesn't have to be part of that clutter. Instead, get your monthly bill delivered straight to your email inbox.

## How to opt-out of your paper bill



**SmartHub App:** Log into the SmartHub app on your smartphone, click on **Settings**, then click **Go Paperless**. Click **Yes** to confirm.



**By Phone:** Give us a call at **918-772-2526** and let a customer service representative know you would no longer like to receive a paper bill.



**Email:** Send a "contact us" submission on our website **www.lrecok.coop** with notes informing us you would like to go paperless.

Remember, you will need a valid email address to go paperless, because we'll send your bill straight to your inbox each month.

# SAFE STREETS FOR STUDENTS

Since cell phones have become a backbone of everyday life, studies of distracted behavior have become more and more common. Distracted driving, like texting and emailing, is widely recognized as dangerous behavior, and now people are starting to understand that even distracted walking poses safety concerns. As our kids begin school this fall, consider sharing the following tips and incorporating new tools to help your child travel safely.



**Encourage hands-free devices.** Even when walking or traveling at slow speeds, people need to be aware of their surroundings. Hands-free devices, like Bluetooth headphones with microphone, allow your child to use their phone without taking out their phone.

**Install a distracted driving app.** There are many apps out there (like LifeSaver) that implement safety features when a car is in motion. Some apps allow you to lock the phone when traveling at certain speeds, create custom messages, use voice controls, send notifications to parents, and more. Explore the options and find one that has the features and tools that will work for you.

**Avoid the agony of notifications.** Ignoring the

ping of a new notification can feel like torture. Help your child avoid the temptation by encouraging them to turn off notifications when they are not in a safe place to respond. If you are worried about them not being reachable, adjust the settings on their phone so calls from starred contacts will ring through 4790200.

**Put it away.** Holding your phone in your hand quickly becomes a habit. Encourage your students to get used to putting it away, either in their pocket, bag, or backseat.

There is no quick fix to this issue. Frequent check-ins with your children, and yourself will be needed to avoid distractions and keep bad habits from taking hold.

## GET SMART before School Starts



Heading back to school can be hard on a family, from the student to the parents. Try these tips for a smoother transition.

▶ **Start the day right.** Being torn from a deep sleep by a blaring alarm clock is not the way most of us want to start the day. Fortunately, there is a kinder way to wake up. Students (and adults) can wake up peacefully with an alarm light that gradually brightens the room, simulating the dawn of a new day. Nature noises, or your child's favorite wake-up music, can also be programmed to ensure they get up on the right side of the bed.

▶ **Be organized from the start.**

Students taking notes is good, but often notes end up in multiple places including on scraps of paper, on their phones, and in their lockers. Not to worry. With products like Rocket book, written notes are saved to the cloud where they can be accessed, organized, edited, and enhanced! The days of searching for notes are over.

While many would prefer an endless summer, heading back to school doesn't have to be a struggle. This year, use technology (with a Lake Region fiber connection) to help you conquer the back-to-school blues.

## Where We Started

Lake Region hit the ground running in 2012, and since then it has been full steam ahead. All because of members like you. Why? Because your story of having to accept unreliable, expensive, and slow internet speeds were all too familiar.

It was the same story our forefathers heard 80 years ago when this area was being denied reliable and affordable electricity. Just like then, you, the members banded together looking for a solution, and Lake Region Technology & Communications subsidiary was born. We launched it to the members in a pilot project with the promise of bringing real high-speed internet to our members.

## Where We Are Now

Fast forward seven years, and we have passed more than 13,000 homes and businesses with our fiber network, which means 65% of you now have access to the fastest internet speeds in the area, 500Mbps download and upload. More than 4,000 members have taken service and are hooked to our 100% fiber network. They are enjoying an enviable experience—streaming Spotify, Netflix, Hulu, Sling, sending emails, and uploading their latest vacation pictures all without buffering. We continue to grow, adding around 30- 40 new customers each week.

## Where We Are Headed

As 2019 wraps up, we hope to surpass 5,000 fiber customers, which will put us in an even stronger position to pursue new zones in our Phase II planning. The construction of our fiber-optic network throughout LREC's territory is a multi-year project. The LREC's full fiber project will be completed in three phases. Stay tuned to our website, newsletter, and social media accounts for projected time-line and launch of Phase II. **Our engineering and construction team is working as quickly as possible to have a time-line and details for Phase II.**

## 4000th Connection



Hayden Sharp, LREC member and Luis Flores fiber installation tech.

On August 2, 2019 we celebrated our 4,000th customer installation - Congratulations Hayden Sharp - Sleepy Hollow Zone. Thank you to everyone who has supported and continues to back our project to take our communities forward by supporting our fiber optic network.

**ARE YOU SIGNED UP  
FOR THE BEST INTERNET  
AROUND?**

**ORDER SERVICE OR PREREGISTER**

- ▶ Visit [register.lrecok.net](http://register.lrecok.net)
- ▶ Call 918.772.2526
- ▶ Stop by your local Lake Region office

# Operation Round-Up Grants \$17,850 to local organizations and families



When 14,000 Lake Region members come together and round up their bill each month, it can help local organizations and people who have fallen on hard times.

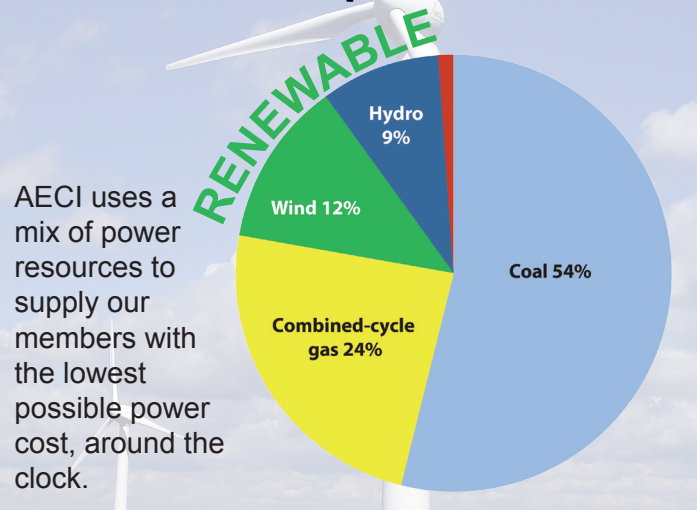
Those funds are put into a charitable account, Operation Round-up each month. The pennies, nickels, and dimes deposited in that account are pooled together to help our local communities. Health and rescue organizations, food banks, educational projects, youth programs, and individuals and families in need are just a few of the people and places that receive support through LREC's Operation Round-Up.

LREC has established an independent Operation Round-Up Charitable Trust that oversees the funds and grant donations. This nine-member board is made up of local volunteers from across the service territory. They meet quarterly to review applications and grant donations. Every penny contributed to Operation Round-Up is distributed within the service territory. Your donations stay local!

- Keys Elementary School 5th and 6th Grade was awarded \$1,000 for a Scholastic Story Works Magazine subscription.
- Wagoner Blue Star Mothers was awarded \$1,500 for expenses for deployed military care packages.

- Blue Star Mothers of America was awarded \$1,500 expenses for deployed military care packages.
- Oaks Volunteer Fire Department was awarded \$4,500 for dry-suits for fireman.
- Peggs Public School was awarded \$9,350 for new playground equipment destroyed by a tornado.
- Applications and deadlines are available online at <https://www.lrecok.coop/operation-round-up>

## Generation Report June 2019



### Your Board of Trustees

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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](http://www.lrecok.coop)  
[www.lrecok.net](http://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.

