

# Powerline Press

## NEWSLETTER

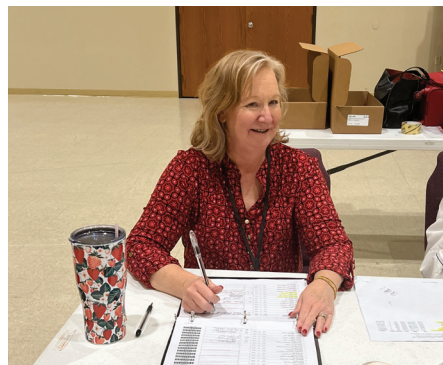


A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members. **December 2024**

## LREC Employees Power Local Elections as Poll Workers



Electric cooperatives are democratically run organizations, where members exercise their right to vote on board trustees and influence co-op decisions. This governance model strengthens the cooperative spirit, instilling a deep understanding of the importance of elections at both the local and national levels. At Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC), this commitment to democratic values extends beyond the co-op's internal operations. This year, that commitment took on new significance when LREC was approached by Cherokee County Election Board Secretary Tiffany Rozell at a local Kiwanis Club meeting. Rozell highlighted a need for additional poll workers to support the upcoming elections.



Angela Polk



Janet Farmer



JuaNita Keener



Josh Buechele

In response, LREC stepped up to assist, with 15 employees volunteering to undergo training as official poll workers. This effort exemplifies how electric cooperatives like LREC actively contribute to the democratic process, helping ensure local elections run smoothly and efficiently. By supplying trained employees to help administer elections, LREC employees strengthen their ties to the community they serve, affirming that cooperatives play a vital role beyond simply providing electric and internet service.

Cherokee County Election Board Secretary Tiffany Rozell expressed gratitude for LREC's proactive support: "We are always looking for new poll workers, and it was a blessing when LREC came forward with employees eager to serve. Training them on-site in Hulbert allowed us to prepare several new poll workers efficiently, and now we have a reliable group we can count on when needed."

# It Pays to Be a LREC Member

*Capital credits are a valuable benefit for members of electric cooperatives*



You are a member, not a customer, of LREC and an owner of the cooperative. LREC is a not-for-profit corporation owned by the members it serves.

We do not earn excess profits for investors and shareholders. Our rates are set at a level to recoup the costs of operating the cooperative, pay debt obligations, and reinvest in the distribution systems. Operating margins are created when our revenues exceed all of our operating expenses during the year.

LREC will retire \$1.2 million in capital credits this December. LREC's Board of Trustees approved the retirement in October after evaluating the co-op's financial condition.

"Capital credits are a unique advantage for co-op members, both past and present. It's our duty to operate LREC in a way that upholds our cooperative principles," said CEO Hamid Vahdatipour. "I'm pleased to announce that members who purchased electricity in 1994 and 2023 will see a capital credit refund on their December bills." 4945700

The Board of Trustees voted for 100% of the margins from 1994 to be refunded and 10.5% of the margins from 2023 to be refunded. The amount you receive is based on how much electricity you purchased during the years listed. In other words, some of the money you paid to the cooperative for electric service during the year listed is allocated back to you as capital credits. The amount of capital put in by each member varies; therefore, the amount of capital allocated back to each member varies.

Current cooperative members receiving a capital credit can expect to see their credit applied to their LREC bill this month and checks to arrive for members who have moved off our lines if the amount exceeds \$5. LREC also reminds members who move outside of the co-op's service territory to provide updated forwarding addresses to ensure they receive future capital credit retirements.

## HOLIDAY *Office Closures*

### *Christmas*

Closed (noon) Tuesday December 24  
Closed (all day) Wednesday, December 25

### *New Year's*

Closed Wednesday, January 1

*Even with our offices closed, crews are ready in the event of an outage. If you need to report an outage, please call or text OUT to 918-772-2526 or use our Smarthub App.*

## Poll Workers *Continued from page 1*

This collaboration between LREC and the Cherokee and Wagoner County Election Board underscores the value of local partnerships. By stepping into the role of poll workers, LREC employees reflect the cooperative's broader mission: empowering the community and fostering a spirit of civic engagement. Their service not only assists election operations but also reinforces the co-op's core mission to support the communities they serve. LREC is grateful to its employees for volunteering.



# Cyber Safety

## BE AWARE: Don't fall victim to cyber scams CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Tis the season for snuggling up with your laptop and a cup of cocoa to release your inner self online for the purpose of picking out toys and treats for your loved ones. But wait! There may be a cyber criminal waiting to steal your personal information. Follow these tips to stay safe and keep this the most wonderful time of the year.



- 1 Update Your Device and Software.** Ensure your computer, smartphone, and browser are up-to-date with the latest security patches and updates.
- 2 Use Secure Websites.** Stick to reputable online retailers with secure websites. Look for "https://" and a padlock icon in the address bar.
- 3 Create Unique Strong Passwords.** Consider using a reputable password manager to help you generate and store passwords
- 4 Use Credit Cards.** Credit cards often offer better fraud protection, than debit cards. Be sure to review your statements regularly!
- 5 Read Return Policies and Keep Records.** Familiarize yourself with the store's return and refund policies before making a purchase. Save email confirmations, receipts, and order details for your purchases, which may be needed for return.

## Lighting your Way through the Holidays

Energy-efficient holiday lighting can save you time and money - so you have more to spend with and on others!

### Deck the Halls with LEDs

Swap out those incandescent bulbs you inherited from Uncle Joe for LED lights, and you'll not only enjoy vibrant, long-lasting colors, but you'll also save money on your electricity bill. LED Christmas lights use 88% less energy than incandescent Christmas lights.

### Time Out for Convenience

Automate your lighting by making use of timers or smart plugs. Set a timer so they shine bright during the evening hours and automatically turn off when everyone's tucked in bed. This saves energy and convenience, allowing you to enjoy the festive glow without flipping switches.

### Harness the Winter Sun

Solar-powered string lights and decorations are an easy way to, set it and forget it. These lights soak up the sun's energy during the day and provide a beautiful glow in the evening.

## CONCERN *for* COMMUNITY

### Hulbert Homecoming Parade

Our CEO, Hamid Vahdatipour, along with several other LREC employees, were honored to participate in the Hulbert homecoming parade. Thank you to the Hulbert Rider fans and everyone who joined the homecoming celebration. We're proud to stand by our local community and share in these events with our members. LREC is local, and we take pride in being involved in all the local communities we serve.



## Porter Students Shine at Co-opreneur Day

The Co-opreneur Day competition was amazing and a great learning experience for several local students! 7th and 8th grade students from Porter Public School designed a cooperative business to solve a community need, then developed a business plan to present to a panel of judges in Oklahoma City.

These types of student events originate from one of our seven cooperative principles: Education, Training, and Information. LREC works to inform the general public, particularly young people, about the nature and benefits of cooperation and cooperatives. Local teachers who attended this event were also able to receive Professional Development focusing on STEM, economics, energy, and entrepreneurship....what an incredible day! If your 7th or 8th grade school would be interested in attending Co-opreneur Day next year, please contact Juanita Keener at **918-772-6940**.



#### Your Board of Trustees

Scott Manes.....President  
Lynn Lamons.....Vice-President  
Randall Shankle.....Secretary-Treasurer  
Jack Teague.....Asst. Secretary-Treasurer  
James Walls ..... Trustee  
Gary Cooper ..... Trustee  
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Tina Glory-Jordan .....Attorney

#### Staff

Hamid Vahdatipour.....CEO  
Leisa Walker.....Sr Director of Accounting  
Logan Pleasant.....Director of Operations  
Jarrod Welch.....Director of Fiber & IT  
Glen Clark .....Director of Marketing

#### 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.lakeregionfiber.com](http://www.lakeregionfiber.com)

#### 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.