

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members. **February 2026**



COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #2

Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Each member has equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 25!

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) is a member-owned rural electric cooperative. It belongs to you and your fellow members. LREC's success depends on the guidance of its board of trustees, comprised of seven democratically elected individuals from the membership.

Each April, LREC holds its Annual Meeting of member-owners. It is an opportunity for members to gather together and vote on their co-op representation. LREC is accepting nominations from eligible candidates who are interested in running and serving on the cooperative's board of trustees. We have **two board seats** whose terms will expire this year and will be up for election. The co-op membership will vote to select the two positions to serve a three-year term at this year's Annual Meeting on **April 25, 2026**. The Annual Meeting will look similar to the past several years, with several drive-thru lanes for quick and easy **voting at the Hulbert office**. We will publish more details on the LREC Annual Meeting as these become available.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS?

Must live within service territory for over a year and be a member in good standing. Complete outline in Article IV, Section 3 can be found on page 2 of the newsletter.

HOW DO I RUN FOR THE BOARD?

If you're interested in serving on LREC's Board of Trustees, get started by picking up a petition at our **Hulbert office located at 516 S Lake Region Road**. Once your membership is confirmed, you will get a member signature form and must collect at least 15 member signatures.

WHEN CAN I PICK UP A PETITION?

Petition can be picked up **February 24**. Petition and signatures must be turned in no later than **March 20**.

WHEN ARE THE ELECTIONS?

LREC's board election will conclude with the Annual Meeting on Saturday, **April 25, 2026**. Members will vote in person at the Annual Meeting drive-thru.

ELECTION TIMELINE

February 24

March 20

April 1

In-person Voting

April 25



Petition Pick Up



Petition Deadline



Nominations Published



Election

LREC Bylaws and Eligibility Qualifications to Run for the Board

Policy Content

I. General Legal Requirements

Basic law provides that a person to be eligible for election or appointment to, and to serve on, the cooperative's board shall, among other things:

- A. Be obedient to the cooperative by adhering to all applicable requirements of law, the cooperative's articles and bylaws, and the cooperative's duly made decisions;
- B. Be loyal to the cooperative, acting at all times in good faith for its best interests;
- C. Be unaffected by any continuing and substantial personal interest that is in conflict with the best interests of the cooperative;
- D. Be possessed of the minimal knowledge and skills necessary to manage the affairs of the cooperative;
- E. Be willing to devote such time and effort to his or her duties as a trustee as may be necessary to manage the cooperative's business and affairs.

II. Bylaw Requirements

Article IV, Section 3 of the cooperative's bylaws provides that a person, to be eligible to serve on the cooperative's Board, shall meet certain qualification requirements.

III. Procedures for Policy Implementation

This Policy shall be implemented as follows:

- A. It shall be timely explained each year in the cooperative's newsletter.
- B. Immediately after receipt of any nomination by petition, the cooperative shall furnish the nominee with a copy of the policy to ensure that he or she is qualified in accordance with it.

- C. The board, in filling any vacancies occurring on the board, shall ensure that an appointee is first fully apprised of this policy and is qualified in accordance with it.
- D. In any event, all individuals actually nominated or being considered for appointment as directors shall, prior to election or appointment, be requested to read this policy and, to then execute the affirmation form. If a potential appointee or nominee refuses to execute the affirmation form or qualifies his execution in any manner that the board considers being inimical to the best interests of the cooperative, the appointment shall be withheld or, as to the nominee, the board may inform the members of such fact prior to the election or disqualify the nominee, whichever it determines to do with the facts and circumstances existing.
- E. In any event, the board shall not allow voting on any nominee, or it shall refuse to seat any nominee elected, as the case may be, who is determined by it to be ineligible under this policy; and it shall remove from office any incumbent who is determined by it to have lost or never had eligibility under this policy.
- F. Timely every year prior to the annual meeting of the cooperative, each incumbent whose office is not up for election at the forthcoming annual member meeting shall be requested to review this policy and to execute or re-execute, as the case may be, the affirmation form.

Responsibility

The board shall be responsible for the enforcement of this policy.

Eligibility Qualifications (Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3)

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the cooperative who:

- (A) has not continuously been, for at least one (1) year prior to his nomination, or who ceases after his or her election to be, a member in good standing of the cooperative, receiving service there at his primary residential abode; or
- (B) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy, or supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative, or
- (C) has been employed by the cooperative within a five-year period from the date of employment termination, or
- (D) is a close relative of an employee or trustee of the cooperative, or
- (E) is the incumbent of or candidate for an elected public office in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of \$100 is paid.

"Close relative" means a person who by blood or in law, including step, half, foster, and adoptive kin, is either spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew, or niece of the principal. Close relative shall also include more distant relatives who are members of the same household of an existing employee or trustee. The term "spouse" shall also mean persons who are living together in a conjugal relationship, even though not legally married.



Protecting Our Members. Powering the Future.

As data centers, artificial intelligence (AI) facilities, and other large energy users look to locate in the Midwest and Oklahoma, electric cooperatives are taking steps to plan ahead while keeping current members protected. Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC), along with our power supplier Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI), our transmission partner KAMO, and the other 28 Oklahoma electric cooperatives, are being proactive. Together, they are working to ensure that any new large power demands can be served reliably and fairly without increasing risk or costs for existing LREC members.

How the Large Load Program Protects Members

To address this growth, Associated Electric Cooperative has launched a new Large Load Program. This program is designed to protect co-op members while allowing responsible economic development. Large power users can place significant strain on the electric system if not planned for properly. Under the new program:

- ⚡ Any large-load members must pay the full cost of power line upgrades needed to serve their facility.
- ⚡ Large-load members are required to make upfront financial payments to protect the cooperative's financial stability.
- ⚡ New loads must agree to rates that reflect their true cost to serve, ensuring existing members are not subsidizing new development.
- ⚡ No added financial risk or unexpected costs are passed on to our current co-op members.
- ⚡ This approach ensures fairness, keeps system investments sustainable, and protects the entire membership from absorbing the cost of new construction.

Planning for the Future Responsibly

Neither Lake Region Electric Cooperative nor Associated Electric Cooperative are currently serving any large data centers. **2969704** However, planning for future growth is part of our responsibility. Associated Electric Cooperative is currently building two simple-cycle natural gas power plants, one in Ripley, Oklahoma, and one in Missouri. These facilities are being built solely to serve existing co-op member load and expected growth, strengthen the electric system, and improve reliability, especially during extreme winter weather.

Our Commitment to You

DIRECTORS RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Lake Region Electric Cooperative is proud to recognize two members of its Board of Trustees for reaching significant milestones in continuing education through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). At the December 2025 Directors Association Meeting hosted by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC), Trustee Dianna Mayfield earned her Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), and Secretary-Treasurer Randall Shankle received his Director Gold Credential, the highest level of director education offered by NRECA.

"These achievements reflect a strong commitment to learning and leadership," said Stacy Howeth, Director of Member Services at OAEC. "Their dedication helps ensure Lake Region is guided by informed, forward-thinking leaders."

NRECA's Director Education program is designed to energize, educate, and equip cooperative trustees through a structured, three-part curriculum that supports both new and experienced directors. The program builds knowledge, strengthens leadership skills, and prepares directors to navigate the evolving challenges of the energy industry.

The Board Leadership Certificate focuses on advanced topics such as risk management, rate-making, and emerging industry issues. The Director Gold Credential represents a long-term commitment to excellence and requires completion of the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) program,



Pictured left to right: Glen Clark, CEO/General Manager; Dianna Mayfield, LREC Trustee; and Randall Shankle, Secretary-Treasurer.



the BLC, and additional advanced coursework. Congratulations to Trustee Mayfield and Secretary-Treasurer Shankle on these outstanding accomplishments. Thank you for your continued dedication to serving our members.



Scholarship for High School Seniors

LREC offers **two \$2,500** scholarships to high school seniors living or attending school within LREC's service territory. Visit www.lrecok.coop/youth-programs for more information!

Your Board of Trustees

Scott Manes.....President
Lynn Lamons.....Vice-President
Randall Shankle.....Secretary-Treasurer
Jack Teague.....Asst. Secretary-Treasurer
James Walls Trustee
Gary CooperTrustee
Dianna Mayfield.....Trustee
Tina Glory-JordanAttorney

Staff

Glen ClarkCEO/ General Manager
Leisa Walker.....Director of Finance & Admin
Jerry Latty.....Director of Operations
Jarrod Welch.....Director of Fiber & IT
Larry MattesDirector of Marketing

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Telephone
800-364-LREC or 918-772-2526
Website:
www.lrecok.coop
www.lakeregionfiber.com

Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &
Tahlequah, OK.

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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 or at lrecok.coop.