

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



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

LREC Draws Record Crowd at Annual Meeting 1,924 Members Registered

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) proudly hosted its 2026 Annual Meeting in a convenient drive-through format at its Hulbert headquarters, welcoming a record-breaking 1,924 members under sunny skies and ideal weather conditions. The turnout marked the largest attendance in LREC's history, highlighting the continued engagement of its member-owners and the convenience of the drive-through format.

The meeting featured the cooperative's annual trustee election, with four candidates vying for two at-large board positions. After votes were tallied, Alan Vann received 1,020 votes, and Lynn Lamons earned 966 votes, securing their spots on the board. Dianna Mayfield received 931 votes, and Stanley Young received 411 votes. LREC board members are elected at large, with the top two candidates by vote total filling the open positions.

In addition to the trustee election, members from across LREC's seven-county service area, including Cherokee, Wagoner, Muskogee, and surrounding communities who attended, received a \$30 bill credit and enjoyed the chance to win \$3,500 in cash prizes.

"Our Annual Meeting is an important opportunity to connect with our members and celebrate the cooperative business model and principle of democratic member control," said Glen Clark, CEO. "LREC makes a difference because we are different. We are member-owned and locally operated, and our members have a direct voice through board elections."

As a nonprofit rural electric cooperative, LREC serves more than 26,700 meters across seven counties in northeast Oklahoma. The cooperative remains committed to delivering reliable electric service while staying true to its values of accountability and transparency, providing members with safe, reliable, and competitive services for today and tomorrow. **793300**

Any member who did not make our meeting and would like to view our 2025 Annual Report financials can do so by visiting our website at www.lrecok.coop/annual-reports.

Annual Meeting Continued on Page 2 ▶



Pictured: Reanna Hill assisting a member with registering to vote at this years annual meeting.

2026 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- **1,924** registered members were in attendance.
- **Alan Vann** was elected to serve a three-year term on the board, while **Lynn Lamons** was re-elected to continue his service with a new three-year term.
- At the LREC business meeting, FY2025 financial results were shared. Energy sales were up 0.42% compared to 2024 but fell 4.54% short of projections. Including non-operating revenues, LREC closed out fiscal year 2025 with an operating loss of (\$116,389).

Annual Meeting Prize Winners

If you did not attend this year's Annual Meeting, you missed a great chance to win **CASH!** Every year, Lake Region randomly chooses prize winners after the Annual Meeting. Be sure to attend LREC's Annual Meeting every April to get your chance to be the next big cash winner. Prize winners do not need to be present to win; they must be registered members at the Annual Meeting to be entered in the prize drawing. Thank you to everyone who attended this year, and we look forward to hosting next year!



\$1,000 Jenessa Schmitt of Peggs



\$500 Porter Neel of Hulbert



\$250 Christena Phillips of Porter

Thank You to Our Members for Attending This Year's Annual Meeting



Get to Know Your Newly Elected Trustee: Alan Vann

Alan Vann of Cherokee County has been a member of Lake Region Electric Cooperative for eight years and was recently elected to the LREC Board of Trustees. A longtime resident, he attended Norwood and Fort Gibson schools. He is a proud father of two and grandfather of six.

Alan brings nearly 40 years of experience with Cherokee County, including serving as Road Foreman and Deputy County Commissioner. His background includes heavy equipment operation, road and bridge construction, and infrastructure planning, as well as contributing to county decisions while serving on the Commissioners' Board in his commissioner's absence.



HAPPY RETIREMENT

Celebrating 40 Years of Service



Left to Right: Jerry Latty, Director of Operations and Steve Hammer

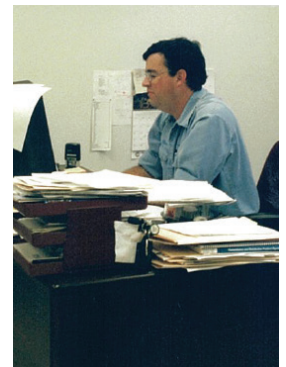
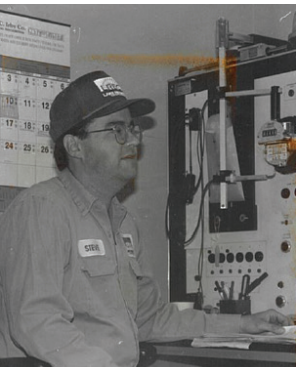
After over four decades of dedicated service, Lake Region Electric Cooperative bids farewell and happy trails to Steve Hammer as he retires from his role as Senior Meter Technician and Supervisor. Fittingly, Steve timed his retirement to align with May the 4th, a date he said he would never forget. Steve's journey with LREC began in September 1985 as a part-time employee, transitioning to full-time on May 1, 1986. Newly married at the time, he was looking for stability and an opportunity to build a strong foundation for his family. What he found at LREC was not just a job but a lifelong career rooted in service, growth, and community.

Throughout his tenure, Steve wore many hats, especially in the early days when the cooperative operated with a smaller team. His work spanned multiple departments, including the warehouse, mapping, work order processing, and metering. In 1991, then-Director of Operations Tony Hallum recognized Steve's strengths and asked him to move into metering full-time. It was a role he would continue in for the remainder of his career, ultimately serving as Senior Meter Technician and Supervisor. Reflecting on his time at LREC, Steve shared that what he enjoyed most was being part of something bigger, helping ensure the lights stayed on for the cooperative's member-owners and stepping in wherever needed to get the job done.

Over the years, Steve witnessed significant growth and transformation within the cooperative. From working under longtime manager Mrs. Grace Hudlin to the evolution of technology, including automated meter reading and remote connect and disconnect capabilities, he has been part of some of LREC's most important milestones. While the advancements have been meaningful, it is the people who have made the greatest impact. Steve noted that he has worked alongside many great individuals throughout his career, and those relationships are what he will miss most.

As he steps into retirement, Steve is looking forward to a well-earned season of freedom and adventure. Alongside his supportive wife, he plans to spend more time outdoors enjoying camping, bicycling, birding, jeeping, and traveling, especially along Route 66. He is also excited to make more memories with his two grandchildren and may even pick up a new hobby like learning the banjo or fiddle or writing a few more songs. One project he is especially looking forward to is restoring his 1960 Ford Falcon two-door, with hopes of getting it up and running again.

Before fully settling into retirement, Steve joked that he has a to-do list to catch up on, one that may take some time. Reflecting on his journey, Steve shared his gratitude, saying he feels truly blessed for the life and career he has had. LREC extends its sincere appreciation to Steve for his years of service, dedication, and the lasting impact he has made on the cooperative.



Hamid Vahdatipour Inducted into OAEC Hall of Fame

Lake Region Electric Cooperative is proud to celebrate former General Manager/CEO Hamid Vahdatipour on his recent induction into the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives Hall of Fame. This prestigious honor recognizes individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to the electric cooperative program and the communities it serves.

Under his leadership, Lake Region became the first cooperative in Oklahoma to deploy fiber-to-the-home technology, expanding access to reliable, high-speed internet in rural areas that had long been underserved. His forward-thinking vision helped position the cooperative as a leader in both electric and broadband services.



Hamid’s commitment to community extended beyond electricity and internet access. Recognizing a critical need, he led efforts to take over a local water company near Lake Tenkiller, ensuring residents had access to safe, reliable water. His actions reflected a deep understanding of the cooperative mission and a genuine desire to enhance quality of life for the people of rural Oklahoma. Congratulations to Hamid on this well-deserved recognition and his induction into the OAEC Hall of Fame.

HULBERT HIGH FRESHMEN EXPLORE LREC CAREERS



Lake Region Electric Cooperative welcomed 45 freshmen from Hulbert High School to our Hulbert headquarters for a hands-on career exploration

experience. As part of their ICAP curriculum, students took part in a Co-op 101 presentation, toured our facilities, and watched an outdoor pole-top demonstration to learn more about the day-to-day work of our electric and fiber crews.

LREC extends its appreciation to Hulbert High School counselor Marcella Hofsculte for coordinating the visit and helping connect students with local career opportunities. Investing in youth remains a priority for Lake Region, and partnerships like this reflect **Cooperative Principles #5, Education, Training and Information, and #7, Concern for Community** as we work to build a stronger future right here at home.

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
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Telephone

800-364-LREC or 918-772-2526

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www.lakeregionfiber.com

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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.