

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



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

THE AFTERMATH OF THE STORM

Restoring power, rebuilding lines, and serving our members

In late June and again over the Fourth of July holiday, early summer storms brought damaging winds, torrential rain, and a fireworks show of their own. As these powerful storms swept across northeastern Oklahoma, LREC employees did what they always do, they answered the call. Their mission was simple: to restore power safely and as quickly as possible for our members. The work, however, was anything but simple. The tasks were complex, challenging, and physically demanding. Crews faced long hours, difficult conditions, and Oklahoma heat. In some areas, the power lines were so twisted and tangled they looked as if the wind had picked them up, wadded them into a ball, and tossed them back down.

The first round of storms left nearly 3,000 members without electricity and caused widespread damage across the cooperative's service territory. As crews assessed the destruction, they found approximately 44 broken utility poles, countless lightning-related outages, and sections of damaged power line. Many of the hardest-hit areas were in muddy, difficult-to-reach terrain, requiring specialized equipment and long hours to rebuild portions of the electric grid. After nearly 24 hours of restoration efforts by Lake Region crews, contractor crews and mutual aid line workers from Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative joined the effort. Together, they worked long hours demonstrating the cooperative principle of Cooperation Among Cooperatives while restoring power to every affected member as safely and quickly as possible.

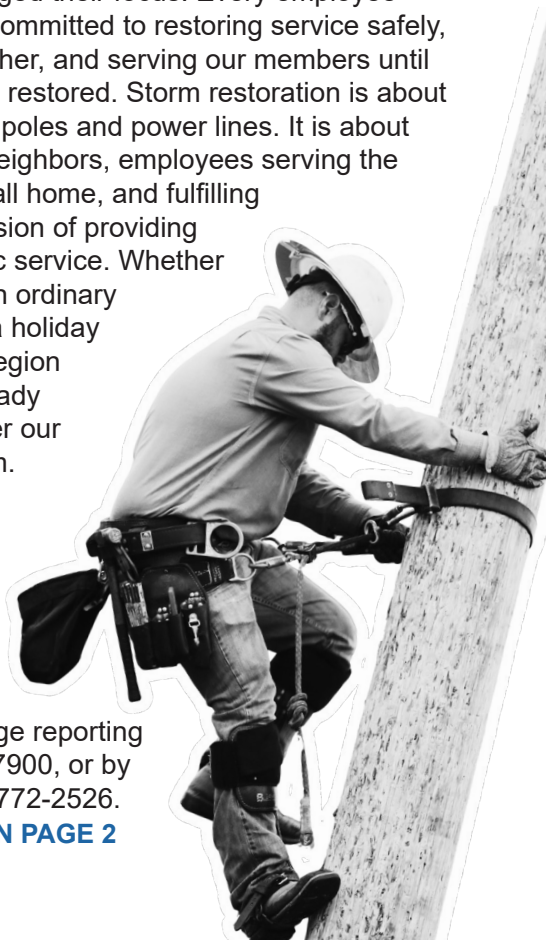
Just days later, another round of severe weather arrived on Independence Day. While many families were enjoying backyard cookouts and fireworks, Lake Region employees left their own holiday celebrations behind to respond. The storm left nearly

2,000 members without power, damaged six utility poles, and caused numerous lightning- and wind-related outages. Before the fireworks had even faded, crews were already patrolling power lines, replacing broken poles, repairing damaged equipment, and restoring service throughout the night. By Sunday morning, July 5, crews had made tremendous progress, reducing the number of outages to fewer than 100 members without power.

Throughout both storms, crews made great progress despite challenging conditions. Long hours, extreme heat, muddy terrain, and additional rounds of severe weather never changed their focus. Every employee involved remained committed to restoring service safely, supporting one another, and serving our members until the final outage was restored. Storm restoration is about more than repairing poles and power lines. It is about neighbors helping neighbors, employees serving the communities they call home, and fulfilling the cooperative mission of providing safe, reliable electric service. Whether the call comes on an ordinary weekday or during a holiday celebration, Lake Region employees stand ready to respond whenever our members need them.

After hours outages can be reported 24 hours a day, 365 days a year through your SmartHub account, by calling our automated outage reporting system at 918-414-7900, or by texting OUT to 918-772-2526.

STORM PHOTOS ON PAGE 2





FIBER REACHES 15,000 SUBSCRIBERS!

Lake Region Technology & Communications (LRTC) has reached another major milestone by surpassing 15,000 fiber internet subscribers across its service territory. This achievement reflects the growing demand for fast, reliable internet in rural Oklahoma and reinforces Lake Region Fiber's commitment to delivering world-class broadband service to homes, businesses, schools, and communities.

Since launching its fiber network, Lake Region Fiber has remained focused on providing reliable fiber internet backed by local customer service, with no residential contracts, no data caps, and the symmetrical upload and download speeds that fiber technology delivers.

LRTC has also completed construction throughout the town of Fort Gibson, and installation crews are connecting new customers every day. Residents and businesses now have access to fast, reliable fiber internet backed by local customer service, with no residential contracts or data caps. Now is the perfect time to make the switch!

To learn more about Lake Region Fiber's services or to check availability, visit LakeRegionFiber.com or call **918-772-2526**.

FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)

Aftermath of the Storm Continued...



Cooperation
Among
Cooperatives

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #6



LREC CONTRIBUTES \$1 MILLION TO LOCAL SCHOOLS THROUGH GROSS RECEIPTS TAX

Concern for Community

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #7

As summer comes to a close and a new school year begins, Lake Region Electric Cooperative is proud to continue investing in the success of local students and schools. LREC has long supported education throughout our service area, not only as a community partner but also through the taxes we pay each year. While electric cooperatives are not-for-profit businesses, LREC is not tax-exempt. Each year, we pay gross receipts tax to the Oklahoma Tax Commission, with approximately 95 percent of those funds distributed to local school districts based on the miles of electric line within each district.

In fiscal year 2025, LREC contributed **\$1,187,199** in gross receipts taxes, benefiting 33 school districts across our service area. Those dollars help provide valuable resources that support students, teachers, and classrooms throughout our communities. Electric cooperatives and their members play an important role in strengthening local education. By providing reliable electric service and making significant tax contributions, LREC is helping power brighter futures for the communities we proudly serve. **3324401**

School	Miles of Line	Amount
Wagoner	383.46	\$142,393.88
Tahlequah	362.68	\$134,677.19
Hulbert	273.49	\$101,588.19
Coweta	259.98	\$96,538.63
Keys	226.05	\$83,941.04
Porter	196.79	\$73,074.62
Locust Grove	161.32	\$59,904.31
Peggs	156.90	\$58,264.76
Grandview	139.90	\$51,952.12
Lowery	133.51	\$49,578.74
Fort Gibson	126.55	\$46,992.18
Norwood	98.41	\$36,541.94
Oaks Mission	88.30	\$32,788.91
Braggs	77.02	\$28,600.46
Briggs	76.51	\$28,411.92
Inola/Gregory	69.78	\$25,910.49
Shady Grove	69.84	\$25,934.97
Okay	66.70	\$24,769.82
Woodall	68.33	\$25,372.98
Kansas	50.06	\$18,587.99
Haskell	20.05	\$7,443.80
Broken Arrow	20.26	\$7,521.97
Catoosa	18.76	\$6,965.61
Chouteau/Mazie	17.18	\$6,378.17
Westville	14.42	\$5,355.12
Webber Falls	12.74	\$4,730.75
Muskogee	3.18	\$1,179.73
Wickliffe	1.61	\$599.56
Leach	1.26	\$469.44
Gore	0.95	\$356.24
Tenkiller	0.79	\$294.06
Jay	0.16	\$60.27
Moseley	0.14	\$51.02
33 Schools	3197	\$1,187,199.90



Left to right: Kristen Mallett, Communications Specialist and JuaNita Keener Member Services Specialist.

BACKPACKS & BRIGHT FUTURES

Powering Back-to-School Success

As another school year begins, Lake Region is proud to support students and schools across our communities. This year, we contributed to the back-to-school events in Fort Gibson, Hulbert, Tahlequah, and Wagoner to help purchase school supplies that will be distributed to local students. Our marketing team will also be attending events throughout the year, handing out free school supplies and supporting community activities. Stop by and see us at the Riders for Life Back to School Bash in Hulbert on August 4, 2026.

Local Teens Embark on Unforgettable Youth Tour Trip to Washington, D.C.

Education, Training and Information

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #5



Left to right: Cameron Atwell, Adriana Ledezma, and Levi Kirk in front of the Lincoln Memorial.



LREC Youth Tour students in front of the Iwo Jima Memorial.

Three area incoming seniors recently embarked on an unforgettable journey to Washington, D.C., as part of the Oklahoma Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This all-expenses-paid, seven-day experience gives outstanding students the opportunity to explore the nation's capital while learning about leadership, government, and the cooperative difference. This year, 70 students sponsored by Oklahoma's electric cooperatives traveled to Washington, D.C., to experience the country's history and government firsthand. Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour delegation included Cameron Atwell of Sequoyah High School, Levi Kirk of Hulbert High School, and Adriana Ledezma of Porter High School.

The students earned the trip after successfully completing an essay contest and interview process held in February. "Every year, this contest attracts some of the most inspired and determined students in our service territory," said Juanita Keener, Youth Programs Coordinator. "We always have outstanding young people compete for this opportunity, and I was honored to have these students represent Lake Region Electric Cooperative this year." During their week in Washington, students toured many of the nation's most historic landmarks and monuments while gaining a deeper understanding of American history and government. They spent a day on Capitol Hill meeting with Oklahoma congressional staff to learn how the legislative process works and how advocacy helps shape public policy. The group also received a private tour of the U.S. Capitol through the office of Senator Alan Armstrong.

The busy itinerary included visits to Arlington National Cemetery, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, numerous war memorials, Smithsonian Museum, Library of Congress, and many other historic sites. Students also joined more than 1,700 Youth Tour delegates from 44 states for Youth Day, where they built lifelong friendships and developed leadership skills they can bring back to their communities. Information about the 2027 Youth Tour contest will be available during the upcoming school year. Students interested in competing for next year's trip should contact Juanita Keener at jkeener@lrecok.coop or speak with their local school counselor for more information.

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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

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Tahlequah, OK.

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Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden within an article **in this insert 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.