

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

August 2015

Vol. 6

No. 8



Energy Efficiency  
*Tip of the Month*

Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material – not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

Source: energy.gov

## Electric Cooperative Youth Tour 2015

### Investing Today in the Leaders of Tomorrow

Three local students were among more than 1,500 high school students visiting Washington, D.C. in June for the 2015 Washington Youth Tour. This trip was sponsored by Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) along with hundreds of other electric cooperatives across Oklahoma and the country. Paulina Ledezma of Porter, daughter of Fidel and Isidra Ledezma; Tanner Ratliff of Hulbert, son of John and Diana Ryals; and Maggie Lee of Hulbert, daughter of Ricky Lee., joined 69 other Oklahoma students for this great educational event.

***“LREC is proud to offer these extraordinary students the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., all expenses paid,” said Glen Clark, LREC Youth Tour Coordinator.***

“The Youth Tour provides a great way for our future leaders to learn about government and electric cooperatives. By investing in these students, we believe we are investing in the future of our com-



Left to right: Paulina Ledezma, Tanner Ratliff, and Maggie Lee

munities,” added Clark.

LREC has sponsored the Washington Youth Tour for more than 51 years. The trip is designed to educate students about our Nation’s Capital, the sacrifices made for our freedom and the value of the cooperative way of business. The students return home with a greater appreciation of our nation’s leaders, a respect for the beauty of Washington, D.C., and friendships that will last a lifetime.

“Some highlights of my trip were meeting new friends and interacting with Representatives, Senator Lankford, and congress members,” said Maggie.

Applications for the 2016 Youth Tour will 566205 be available in January 2016, at the LREC office, or by calling (918) 772-2526.



Senator James Lankford speaking to Youth Tour



# Director of Operations Retires After 39 Years

*A longtime employee says goodbye to the co-op.*

Director of Operations, Martin Walls, has retired from his corner office.

Martin worked for LREC for 39 years. He started working at LREC during his high school years for Grace Hudlin, the third co-op manager after LREC was formed. Martin worked as a linemen from 1976 to 2003, then moved to Supervisor of Engineering from 2003-2009, from there he moved to Director of Operations from 2009-2015.

“I considered him my right hand man,” said Hamid Vahdatipour, CEO. “It was hard to see him go, but I know he will enjoy his retirement.”

Martin was an employee who had many years with the co-op. With many years came many memories and changes as the co-op grew.

“I remember when the co-op only had 1 digger and 1 basket truck, to now having 49 different co-op vehicles. The co-op has grown and evolved, from paper maps to computers, and all the services LREC now provides to our members, such as fiber-to-the-home for some, and water service to others,” said Martin.

Martin plans to join his wife Karen, who has recently retired as well. They plan on spending more time with family, and he can foresee some camping and fishing in the future.



“I will miss all the people I have worked with over the years, which are like my second family. The company has been so very good to me and my family, and I wish the co-op well. I enjoyed working for a company that took care of the people who took care of the company.”



*I am a member*

“My electric co-op **listens** to my questions. They are not just a part of a big company. They actually **care** about what I think.”

- Golda and son Jeff, LREC Members.

Discover the **value** of your co-op membership.



[www.membersfirst.coop](http://www.membersfirst.coop)

# Let there be Light

The city of Hulbert recently added more street lights along highway 51 on the east side of town. LREC was happy to help with this project. LREC helped by installing the poles and lights. These lights will make the city of Hulbert safer for vehicle traffic and pedestrians during the evenings. These new lights also add aesthetic appeal to the community of Hulbert. Hulbert plans on adding more Christmas lights and other pole decorations on these poles during the holidays.



Brent Estes, Working Foreman & Matt Boland, Apprentice Lineman

“We look forward to this year’s Christmas parade and having more lights downtown Hulbert,” stated Ricky Lee, City of Hulbert employee.

## High Temperatures Result in High Electric Bills

As temperatures continue to rise throughout our service area, we are facing another summer of high demand for electricity. As a result, we want our members to understand that they will likely see an increase in their electric bills as a result of the extreme heat. Temperatures in excess of 95 degrees are possible this month.

Increased electricity usage is a direct result of the extreme temperatures and high humidity levels, which forces air conditioners to work harder in residences and businesses. Air conditioning can actually represent up to 50% members’ summer electric bills.

We would also like to remind any vacationing members and absentee owners that their bills are not excluded from hot weather usage increases, since air conditioning units and water heaters will continue to operate during their absence. To help with high costs while away from your home, we highly recommend a thermostat setting of 85° in a home that is vacant for several days or longer.

- To help avoid high bills this summer, here are some energy – and money – saving tips to consider this summer:
- Set thermostats at 78° – every degree below this setting could add up to eight percent to your cooling cost.
- Use ceiling fans or portable fans to increase your comfort level with the higher thermostat setting.
- Make sure your air return filters are clean.
- Check your air duct system for any gaps or leaks. If any are



found, these should be repaired by a qualified heating and air conditioning contractor.

- Check around doors and windows, caulking and using weather-strips wherever possible.
- Keep sunlight from heating the inside of your home by closing drapes or blinds.
- Avoid indoor activities that add heat to your home – cook outdoors or use the microwave and do laundry early morning or late at night.

As always, we are committed to being here to help you, our members, save energy and money. Call us at 918-772-2526 if you have any questions on saving energy and lowering your electric bill.

# Gross Receipts Tax Provides Much Needed Money for Rural Schools

*When it comes to supporting local schools, electric cooperatives earn an A+. Every year, Oklahoma co-ops pay millions in tax revenues to rural schools via the electric cooperative gross receipts tax.*

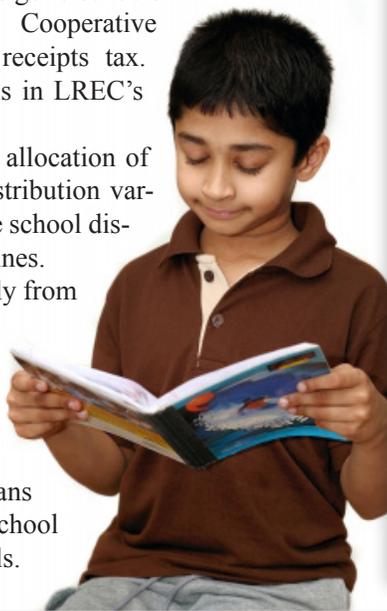
Electric co-ops pay **gross receipts tax** to the Oklahoma Tax Commission. The Tax Commission then distributes **95 percent** of these funds to schools based on the number of miles of cooperative lines in each school district.

It is worth noting that investor-owned utilities pay advalorem taxes, but only 50 to 60 percent of these funds go to schools.

In 2014, Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) paid \$724,447.81 in gross receipts tax. These funds benefited 34 local schools in LREC's service territory.

The chart (*on the right*) shows the allocation of school funds in LREC's area. Tax distribution varies from school to school because some school districts have more miles of cooperative lines.

Because rural schools benefit directly from these taxes, LREC and other Oklahoma electric cooperatives firmly support this program. Over the years, various proposals to change the tax structure would have diverted funds away from rural schools. These plans were met with opposition from rural school leaders and electric cooperative officials.



| School District | Miles of Line | Taxes paid in 2014 |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Braggs          | 74.97         | \$17,818.15        |
| Briggs          | 74.52         | \$17,713.10        |
| Broken Arrow    | 19.29         | \$4,586.23         |
| Catoosa         | 18.37         | \$4,367.38         |
| Chouteau/Mazie  | 16.56         | \$3,938.10         |
| Coweta          | 235.27        | \$55,918.62        |
| Fort Gibson     | 114.41        | \$27,191.90        |
| Gore            | 0.90          | \$214.95           |
| Grandview       | 133.38        | \$31,702.41        |
| Haskell         | 19.82         | \$4,711.90         |
| Hulbert         | 258.86        | \$61,524.50        |
| Inola/Gregory   | 68.58         | \$16,301.60        |
| Kansas          | 49.49         | \$11,762.39        |
| Keys            | 216.80        | \$51,528.64        |
| Leach           | 1.26          | \$300.46           |
| Locust Grove    | 155.68        | \$37,000.58        |
| Lowery          | 127.72        | \$30,355.85        |
| Moseley         | 0.13          | \$32.66            |
| Muskogee        | 2.93          | \$697.82           |
| Norwood         | 94.66         | \$22,498.19        |
| Oaks Mission    | 83.52         | \$19,851.73        |
| Okay            | 66.1567       | \$15,723.47        |
| Peggs           | 149.66        | \$35,572.04        |
| Porter          | 182.02        | \$43,262.52        |
| Shady Grove     | 68.56         | \$16,296.80        |
| Skelly          | 8.44          | \$2,008.24         |
| Spavinaw        | 0.16          | \$38.57            |
| Tahlequah       | 346.15        | \$82,269.75        |
| Tenkiller       | 0.58          | \$139.87           |
| Wagoner         | 376.72        | \$89,537.42        |
| Webber Falls    | 12.47         | \$2,964.84         |
| Westville       | 6.06          | \$1,442.04         |
| Wickliffe       | 1.61          | \$383.74           |
| Woodall         | 62.23         | \$14,791.35        |

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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)

## 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 or mail during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

For more information, call **800-364-LREC** or **918-772-2526**

**Cooperative bylaws** are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.