



# Powerline Press

## NEWSLETTER

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

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Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Did you know a computer can draw as much electricity as a new refrigerator? Turn it off when not in use or switch on its energy-saving mode. Also, cell phone and mp3 player chargers as well as plasma TVs and entertainment centers pull power even when they are off. Unplug these and other appliances to save on your electric bill.

Source: Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

### **Offices Closed**

LREC will be closed December 24th & 25th in observance of Christmas.



## Capital Credit Retirement this Month

Lake Region Electric Cooperative's (LREC) Board of Trustees has authorized a distribution of \$1,067,583 in capital credits to past and present members of 1982 and 2011.

Members can look for the capital credit retirement on their December bill. If the amount is below \$75.00 it will show as a credit and if the amount is higher than \$75.00 members will receive a check.

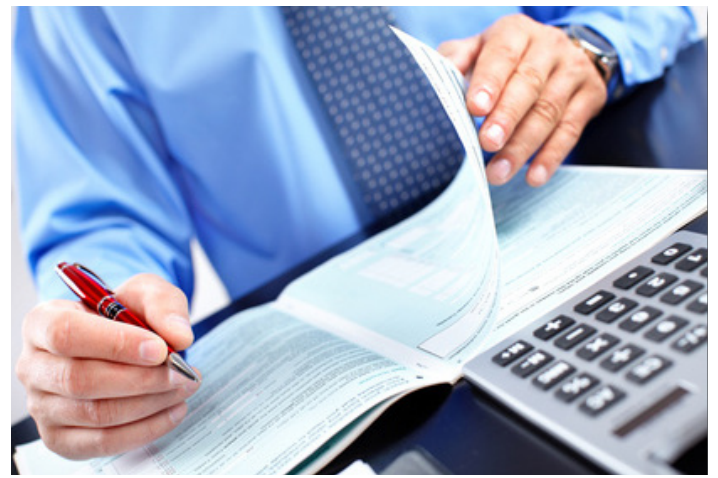
When LREC closes its books at the end of each year, hopefully the cooperative has money left over when all the bills have been paid

and all the expenses have been taken into consideration. In the cooperative business, this is called a margin. An investor-owned utility would call that a profit and this is where the big difference is between a cooperative and an investor-owned utility.

Being part of a cooperative, you, the members are the owners.

Therefore, the margins are returned to you and are paid back to you, the members, in the form of a capital credit retirement.

The board will determine when capital credits are to be retired based on the financial conditions of the cooperative.



istockphoto

The electric utility business requires large amounts of capital to operate and provide services. Electric cooperatives typically reinvest capital credits in the business operations. If a cooperative pays too many capital credits too quickly, then day-to-day cooperative working capital is depleted, and the extra cost of borrowing new money would be passed on to the members.

If you move from the area, the capital credits will remain in your name. Whenever capital credits are retired for a given year, they are paid to everyone who paid an electric bill that year regardless of whether they remained a member or moved.

If you do move, it is important to keep LREC informed of your current address so you will receive your capital credit check when they are retired.

If you have any questions about capital credits, you may call our office at 918-772-2526 or toll-free at 800-364-LREC.



# Operation Round-Up Update

Through the Operation Round-Up program, members voluntarily “round-up” their electric bills to the nearest dollar each month. Each participant donates an average of \$6 a year, all of which goes directly toward meeting local needs.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative members who participate in the Operation Round-Up program help make these grants possible. This program is making a significant impact on our local communities.

The Operation Round-Up Foundation Board met during their regular business meeting, held on October 24, 2012, to review and approve nine grants. During the meeting, grants were awarded to:

- ☐ Four different individuals were awarded \$2,500 each to help with medical expenses.
- ☐ New Home Cemetery in Peggs, Oklahoma was awarded \$5,500 for a Veterans’ Memorial.
- ☐ Wagoner Area Neighbors was awarded \$5,000 for purchasing Thanksgiving turkeys.
- ☐ Porter Lions Club was awarded \$5,000 to help with the purchase and installation of playground equipment.
- ☐ Reaching Our Hulbert Community (ROHC) was awarded \$1,500 for their

Christmas Angel Tree Program.

- ☐ Oklahoma Department of Human Services was awarded \$3,000 to purchase Christmas gifts for foster children.
- ☐ OSU Extension of Wagoner County was awarded \$1,500 for a Youth Leadership class trip to Oklahoma City and educational material for community engagement exercises.

Electric cooperatives were founded on the principle of concern for community. The Operation Round-Up Board meets quarterly to review requests. The next Operation Round-Up meeting will be held January 30, 2013. For more information about Operation Round-Up visit our website [www.lrecok.coop](http://www.lrecok.coop) or call 918-772-2526.

## Keep Outdoor Electrical Devices Clear of Snow

The outdoor units that run your air conditioning system or heat pump need plenty of breathing room.

So if yours are covered with leftover leaves from autumn, piles of snow or debris that blew around during a heavy winter rainfall, pull on your boots and go outdoors to clean them off.

When snow or debris accumulates on your outdoor appliances, they might not operate properly. For the air to circulate well through the appliances, outdoor air needs a clear pathway in and out.

Look around your yard for electric and gas devices, like meters, valves, and piping. Regularly clear leaves, ice, and snow away from them so they are easy to see. Someone in your family, or even a cooperative employee, who cannot see an obstructed device could accidentally strike it, which could interrupt your service.

Use a broom, not a shovel, to clear snow and ice from any machine to avoid damaging it.



Likewise, keep outdoor vents for water heaters, gas fireplaces, and clothes dryers clear all year round. Look inside the vent for bird’s nests and critters as well as for leaves, lint, and anything else that could interrupt the fresh air supply or block the exhaust path.



# Coming Soon: SmartHub

■ *Apps for phones and tablets to help manage your account and usage*

Cell phones and mobile technology are becoming more integrated into our work and personal lives every day. You can read the news, check social media sites, send and receive e-mails, surf the Internet, and so much more. Technology is advancing every day, and Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) is stepping up and providing different outlets to manage your energy consumption and pay your electric bill.

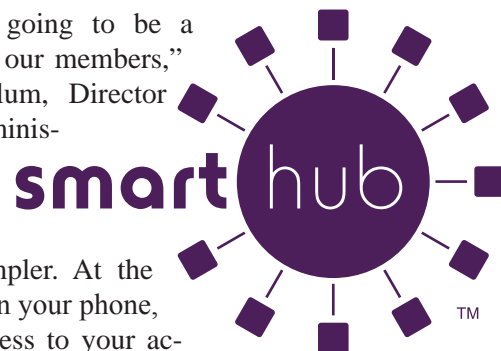
LREC is anticipating the launch of SmartHub in January 2013. SmartHub will be available in both mobile apps and a web version to give you secure access to maintain your account information, view your bills, see payment history, make payments on one or more accounts, set up recurring payments and report outages or check on the status of your service. They also allow you to monitor and manage your electricity usage by using bar graphics and usage markers.

The web version allows you to register your accounts to receive notifications for account milestones, such as an approaching or a missed due date. It also allows you to set usage markers to monitor the changes in electricity usage based on events. The web has a profile page available for you to maintain your personal information, password, security pass phrase and stored payment methods.

These mobile apps can be downloaded and installed on your compatible mobile phone or tablet device. The Web version is internet accessible 4357600 from any web-enabled device.



“SmartHub is going to be a great resource for our members,” said Ben McCullum, Director of Finance & Administration. “Paying your bill or reporting an outage will be much simpler. At the touch of a finger on your phone, you will have access to your account information and much more.”



To get the app for your phone or tablet, simply look for SmartHub in the Apple Store or in the Android Market. Search: SmartHub, if duplicates appear the correct App is provided by our partner, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). This app is free to download and install.

All critical information is encrypted in every transaction and no personal information is stored on your mobile device. Mobile devices do offer you the ability to store your login information.

For questions on SmartHub, please contact Lake Region Electric Cooperative at 918-772-2526 or toll-free at 800-364-LREC.

## Stay in Touch Over the Holidays

*Satellite Broadband Internet provides online connection*

Don't let the long distance keep you from sharing holiday moments with friends and family living far away. Lake Region Electric Cooperative offers Exede Satellite Broadband Internet service which will help you share photos, chat with relatives, and even shop online for holiday gifts.

With three different packages that each come with our fastest speed for a great experience. Choose your service based upon how much you use the Internet, not how fast you want to go.

Service starting at \$58.94 per month with two year contract. Equipment warranty included. Call today for more information 918-772-2526 or visit us online [www.lrecok.coop](http://www.lrecok.coop).



# Calling All Youth Tour Alumni!

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) has participated in the Youth Tour program since 1964. LREC has sent 108 high school juniors on the Rural Electric Youth Tour, a week-long all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. This year's trip will be the 50th anniversary of the event. The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC), in conjunction with the participating electric cooperatives across the state, is coordinating a 50 Year Reunion Celebration of the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour program on July 20, 2013 in Oklahoma City. OAEC coordinates the Youth Tour trip each year and is planning the 50 year reunion. The date has tentatively been set for July 20, 2013.

All former Youth Tour alumni are invited to the reunion in Oklahoma City. The exact location is yet to be determined but updates will be published in the Powerline Press newsletter as soon as plans are confirmed. There is no charge for former Youth Tour participants to attend the reunion and only a small fee for their guests.

If you need further information or would like to share the contact information of a former participant, please call 918-772-2526 or e-mail [glenc@lrecok.coop](mailto:glenc@lrecok.coop).



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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.