



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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

February 2013

Vol. 4

No. 2



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Your heat pump can use 10 percent to 25 percent more energy if it's not properly maintained, which includes regularly checking and replacing the air filter when it's dirty to keep parts from working too hard or even becoming damaged. Keep brush and plants tidy around the outdoor unit, and dust the return registers inside.

Source: U.S.
Department of Energy

View Lake Region
Electric Cooperative's
bylaws online at:
www.lrecok.coop



Member Satisfaction Survey

*Members' opinions help
better the cooperative.*

During the next few months, Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) will be participating in a Touchstone Energy telephone survey that is conducted to measure the quality of service provided to you our member. This survey will ask several questions about your energy usage and your satisfaction with the cooperative. It should take approximately 15 minutes to answer all questions.

TSE Services, a professional call center conducting the survey will identify themselves as calling on behalf of Lake Region Electric Cooperative. They will be conducting calls Monday-Friday from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



The purpose of the survey is to receive input from members to guide the board and management in their decision-making. Members will be asked questions on a wide variety of topics. The survey results will be presented to the board this spring.

LREC extends a big **"THANK YOU"** to all of our members who will take the time to participate in the telephone survey. We truly appreciate your interest in helping us meet your needs.

LREC Accepting Board Member Nominations

■ *What you need to know before running for the LREC Board of Trustees*

Lake Region Electric Cooperative members will be asked to vote for three trustees at the cooperative's annual meeting of the membership, Saturday, April 27, 2013 at the Hulbert Public Schools in Hulbert, Oklahoma.

Any member in good standing may submit nominations by petition on forms provided by the cooperative. These forms will be available at the Hulbert office between February 26, 2013 and March 22, 2013. Each nominating petition must include 15 or more member signatures.

Certain minimal qualifications are required by basic law and the cooperative's bylaws for one to be eligible for election or appointed to and to serve on the cooperative's board.

It is the ultimate legal responsibility of the board to ensure that these requirements are met and complied with. If the board should determine that an incumbent, nominee, or potential appointee lacks or has lost any of the necessary legal qualifications, it is the duty of the board to remove such incumbent or to declare such nominee or potential appointee ineligible for election, whichever may be the case.

By adopting, publishing and appropriately disseminating this policy and the attached related affirmation form, it is the board's respectful hope that trustee incumbents, nominees, or potential appointees will not only be fully apprised of these requirements, but mindful of their importance in deciding whether to continue or commence service on the board.

LREC eligibility qualifications continued on page 3

LREC Pole Inspections Underway

RAM Utilities are conducting Lake Region Electric Cooperative's annual pole inspections this year.

Each crew will be wearing clothing that will identify them as being employed by RAM Utilities. The trucks they will be driving will also be marked with LREC magnet logos on the doors. The crews will use ATV's to move from one pole to the next. They will look for pole decay, damage, woodpecker holes, loose and/or missing hardware that is in need of attention. If the pole is found to be in need of replacement, they will mark the pole so that it is easily identified.

Some of the communities and major roads they will be working on or near are as follows: Indian Road, Tenkiller

Harbor, Cherokee Landing, Qualls, Hwy 62 (near Mid-Way store) and east towards Tenkiller Lake, Stone Chapel, Keys, Carters Landing, Big Hollow, and Pettit Bay.

If you have any questions regarding our pole inspections program, please call our office at 918-772-2526 or toll-free at 800-364-LREC.



Photos by: Larry Mattes

2013 Right-of-Way Clearing has Started

In the interest of protecting our members from electrical hazards and providing reliable electrical service, we will be clearing right-of-way along our electric lines.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative has contracted with Northeast Rural Services (NRS) and Asplundh to assist in the 2013 tree trimming plan, which will include trimming several miles of electric line.

During the next few months, NRS will be working in the Hulbert, Lost City, and Clear Creek area. Asplundh will be working in the Norwood, Ft. Gibson Dam, and Ft. Gibson area. LREC's in house right-of-way crews will be cutting and clearing service orders and new services.

Keeping 191201 the right-of-way clear around electrical lines helps prevent outages and blinks (*a minor disruption in service lasting only a*

few seconds) by eliminating the possibility of vegetation or tree limbs coming in contact with our electric lines. Not only do downed lines cause outages, they can also result in severe injury or death when lines are still energized. Stay away from downed lines and call the cooperative immediately.

The right-of-way clearing will include cutting, mowing, and spraying 15 feet from a single phase line and 20 feet from a three phase line. You can help us provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity by planting trees and vegetation that are clear of our lines.

If you have any questions concerning right-of-way issues, please contact James Cook, Right-of-Way Coordinator at 918-772-2526 or toll-free at 800-364-LREC.

Photo by: Larry Mattes



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. And 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 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.

Preparing for Power Outages from Winter Storms



Winter can be a beautiful time of the year with white snow and sparkling ice, but that same winter weather can also wreak havoc on your electric cooperative. It can cause roads to be treacherous, schools to be closed, and sometimes your power to go out. Making plans now for a potential power outage can make riding out a prolonged power outage safer and more comfortable.

A good way to help keep your family safe and comfortable during a winter storm is to put an emergency kit together. Lake Region Electric Cooperative offers the following list of items to help you prepare your kit:

- ◆ Water – stock up on bottled water for consumption.
- ◆ Food – have at least enough for 3 to 7 days that includes non-perishable packaged or canned foods, juices, foods for infants or the elderly, and snack foods.
- ◆ Utensils, include a non-electric can opener, cooking tools, paper plates, and plastic utensils.
- ◆ Blankets, pillows, and warm clothing items.
- ◆ First aid kit, medicine, and prescription drugs.
- ◆ Toiletries, hygiene items, moist towelettes.
- ◆ Flashlight and batteries, be sure to include extra batteries.
- ◆ Radio and clock – use battery-operated radios and clocks; also consider purchasing a weather radio.

- ◆ Telephone – keep cell phone chargers (wall, car, and/or solar) on hand. If you have a landline, a traditional (not cordless) may work with no electricity.
- ◆ Emergency numbers – keep a list of emergency telephone numbers, including the local utility company.
- ◆ Cash and credit cards.
- ◆ Important documents.
- ◆ Tools – keep a set in your kit; can include duct tape, screw drivers, pliers, wrench, work gloves, safety goggles.
- ◆ Toys, books, and games.
- ◆ Pet care items.
- ◆ Supplies for any alternate heating methods your home may have, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove.

For more information on how to prepare for a winter storm and how to keep your family safe during and after a winter storm, visit ***SafeElectricity.org***.

Source: *SafeElectricity.org*

Board of Trustees

Gary CooperPres.
 Bobby MayfieldVice Pres.
 Jim LoftinSecr.-Treas.
 Jack TeagueAsst Secr.-Treas.
 Randall Shankle Member
 Lynn Lamons Member
 Scott Manes Member

Staff

Hamid VahdatipourCEO
 Ben McCollumDir. of Finance
 Martin WallsDir. of Operations
 Stanley YoungDir. of Marketing
 Larry MattesEditor
 Tina Glory-JordanAttorney

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone

800-364-LREC or
 918-772-2526

Website:

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.