



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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

January 2015

Vol. 6

No. 1



Tip of the Month

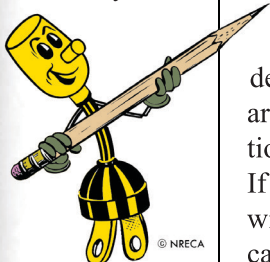
Energy Efficiency

They are out of sight, but do not forget about your air ducts. Taking care of them can save money and energy. Check ducts for air leaks. Take care of minor sealing jobs with heat-approved tape, especially in attics and in vented crawl spaces. Call the pros for major ductwork repairs.

Source:
U.S. Department
of Energy

Office Closed

LREC will be closed January 1, 2015 in observance of the new year.



CO-OPS: LOCAL BEFORE LOCAL WAS COOL

Whether you travel across the country or prefer to stay close to your hometown, one thing you may be noticing is the emphasis on “Buy Local” campaigns. This is based on one simple fact: It’s important to support businesses that support our community.

The Small Business Administration and the research firm Civic Economics estimate that dollars spent at a locally owned business stay in the community more than three times longer than money spent at “Big Box” stores, headquartered far away from your hometown. This means your community wealth is more likely to grow by shopping locally.

Consumer cooperatives, like LREC, have known this forever. We were formed in 1949 by people in this community to serve the people that work, worship and live in this community.

The fourth of our Seven Cooperative Principles is: Autonomy and Independence. And that is defined as follows: Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is



Lake Region Electric Cooperative's
Hulbert Main Office

done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintain the cooperative's autonomy.

This will allow us to continue to be the self-help organization envisioned by the founders of the modern cooperative movement.

In other words, for the co-op to stay a co-op it is vitally important we stay close to you, our members, to ensure we are continuing to respond to your needs. This could be through increasing energy-efficiency programs, offering renewable sources of energy and continuing our efforts to support other local businesses, schools and civic organizations.

You can be sure that LREC will not be moving our operations to Mexico or China, as so many other corporations do. We began right here in northeast Oklahoma, and we plan on being here for a very long time. You can take that to the bank, or better yet, the credit union – as all credit unions are financial cooperatives. As always, we welcome your participation and suggestions about how we can improve our locally owned and controlled services. Feel free to contact your local cooperative at **918-772-2526** or toll-free at **800-364-LREC**.



BE PREPARED!



At Lake Region Electric Cooperative, providing reliable, trouble free electric service is our top priority. Despite our best efforts, winter storms and the heavy winds, ice, and snow that usually accompany them are a major cause of power outages. We offer these special “*outage tips*” to help you prepare for and cope with any power outage this winter.

Stock Up.

Radio and Flashlights – Keep a “power outage safety kit” handy. This kit should include flashlights, a battery operated radio, and a supply of fresh batteries.

Water – If you have enough warning before a storm hits, and your water supply would be affected by an electrical outage, fill your washer and spare containers with water for cleaning and washing. When the storm is over you can use the water for laundry so it is not wasted. You might want to buy a few gallons of bottled water to have on hand at all times.

Food – If you know a storm is headed your way and may

threaten your electric service, turn your refrigerator to the coldest setting – but remember to turn it back after the storm has passed. Food in a freezer generally will keep up to 48 hours, if the freezer is full. Keep canned food, a non-electric can opener and other nonperishable items just in case.

We’re prepared, too.

Long before a storm hits, we are prepared by tracking the path of any severe weather condition predicted in our service area with the latest radar and internet monitoring equipment as well as having LREC emergency crews ready to respond.

Your call is important to us.

Call LREC at 918-772-2526 or 800-364-LREC to report any emergency such as downed lines, hanging or burning wires or if you have lost power.

We have an automated phone system to handle your calls and help us identify you. We also send out our own patrols to search because the damage to certain circuits may not be visible. Many of our lines are in areas not easily accessible, you may not see our men on the roads, but rest assured we are doing all we can to get your power back on as quickly and safely as possible. It takes time to assess damages throughout our system and then prioritize our restoration efforts.

Please be patient. When hundreds or thousands of people call us at once – especially in the first hours of a storm – phone “traffic jams” occur. We have installed a state-of-the-art IVR phone system that can handle hundreds of calls at once and feel that this will reduce or eliminate the number of busy signals.

If an ice storm, snow or any other major storm arrives in the winter, your house will stay warm longer if it is well insulated, has storm windows and is free of drafts. If it seems likely your house will be without heat for several days, keep all doors in your home closed to reduce the infiltration of cold air. If you are without power for an extended period of time and you are uncomfortable, consider temporarily relocating to where power is. This applies 2902 especially to the elderly and children.

Who Gets Power Back First?

After a major storm, we tackle outages in order of severity. Though frustrating, there is a method to our madness. First, we make every effort to make dangerous areas safe as possible – for example, by de-energizing downed wires.

We immediately begin receiving calls from our members. Each outage report is logged into our computer system and tracked. When this information is matched up with the information from our electrical grid monitoring system, we are then able to determine where the most severe damage has occurred and prioritize repairs.

We continue to assess damages and work with our members to identify the problem areas and prioritize the restoration efforts.

Before we can restore power to your home, we must first repair damaged substations, main electric lines and wires that feed power to your area.

Our crews and consumer's safety always comes first. Sometimes it is possible to bring on large numbers of those without power very quickly, which is our primary goal, then the crews go road-by-road and in some cases house-by-house to restore individual service. We keep working until every home and business has their electricity restored.

You can view LREC's outage management plan on our website at www.lrecok.coop/outage-reporting. You can also view live outages on our interactive outage web map on our website.

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour



Each year, Lake Region Electric Cooperative sends three high school juniors on an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. These students join 1,400 other juniors, also sent from electric cooperatives across the country to learn about our nation's government, our nation's history and their place in our nation's future.

LREC selects three students for this all-expense paid trip by visiting local schools and discussing the essay contest written on the topic provided by LREC. The essay must be submitted by the deadline to be eligible. Two winners from each school attend a luncheon at the LREC main office in Hulbert for a question and answer interview section of the contest, where the top three students win the trip of a life time in June.

Students may contact their high school guidance counselors or contact Glen Clark at LREC for more information about LREC's Youth Tour contest.

The 2015 Youth Tour will be held June 13 - 18, 2015.

For more information on the Youth Tour, you can visit the national website www.youthtour.coop or Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives website www.oaec.coop.



www.lrecok.net

Fastest Internet Speed in the State

Reliable HD Digital Television

Unlimited Long Distance Home Phone

How much can your Co-op Connections Card save you this cold and flu season?

Each year, hundreds of thousands of Americans catch the flu, and even more sniffle their way through colds. Before you stock up on medication to battle the seasonal illnesses, LREC and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives offer you a discount at the pharmacy.

Using your Co-op Connections Card - offered exclusively to co-op members - you could see major savings at 60,000 participating local and nationwide pharmacy chains, such as Walgreens, Walmart, and Reasors.

Simply present your card at a participating pharmacy with your prescription and receive a discount at the time of purchase. The card, however is not

insurance and cannot be used in conjunction with insurance. Some members have found the discount to be greater by using their Co-op Connections discount card rather than paying insurance co-pays. If a discount is offered for your medication, the pharmacy tech will be able to easily locate it using the numbers on the back of the Co-op Connections Card.

See below for a partial list of participating pharmacies in LREC's service area. For a complete listing visit **www.connections.coop** or call the number on the back of the card.



LREC is part of the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives brand, a nationwide alliance of more than 725 consumer-owned electric cooperatives dedicated to serving their members and communities with integrity, accountability and commitment to community.

Tahlequah

Cherokee Hills Pharmacy 918-456-2531
Wal-Mart Pharmacy 918-456-2437
TMC Pharmacy 918-456-8811
Reasors Pharmacy 918-456-6103
Tahlequah Drug Company 918-431-0555
Walgreens 918-458-4283
Cox Drug (Walgreens Pharmacy) 918-456-2233
W.W. Hastings Indian Hospital 918-458-3100

Hulbert

NEOHealth Hulbert Pharmacy 918-772-2727

Fort Gibson

Harps Pharmacy 918-478-3784
Valu-Med Pharmacy 918-478-3002

Wagoner

Med-X 918-485-4502
Wal-Mart Pharmacy 918-485-4581
Owl Drug Store Inc 918-485-2722
Rogers Drug Company 918-485-2317
Walgreens 918-485-6688

Board of Trustees

Gary CooperPres.
Bobby MayfieldVice Pres.
Jim LoftinSecr.-Treas.
Jack TeagueAsst Secr.-Treas.
Randall ShankleMember
Lynn LamonsMember
Scott ManesMember

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.