



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Appliances account for about 13 percent of your home's energy use. If they have energy-saving settings, use them! If they are nearing 20 years old, consider replacing them with a new, energy-efficient model. And remember to try smart power strips for smaller appliances and electronics that continue to draw power even when turned off.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Annual Meeting
April 27, 2013

Offices closed
March 29th



in observance of Good Friday.

LREC Wood Chipper Safety

Lake Region Electric Cooperative has recently replaced two wood chippers with new Vermeer wood chippers. The new chippers will help LREC's right-of-way productivity as well as provide safer working conditions for our crews.

The new chippers are equipped with a bottom feed stop bar (*red bar in picture*) mounted over the feed table. This safety stop bar feature enables the operator to stop the feed rollers and select forward or reverse operations.

The new chippers also have a smart feed system which helps increase productivity while reducing strain on engine parts. The feed sensing control monitors engine rpm and auto-



Mark Squyres, LREC Right-of-way employee

Photo by: Larry Mattes

matically stops or reverses the rollers when feeding larger hardwood material that may jam the blades.

The feed opening is larger than the old chippers' which helps by reducing the need to trim material before feeding it into the chipper.

Right-of-way employees wear protective eye glasses, gloves, and ear plugs to help protect themselves when using the wood chipper. These machines have the tendency to throw wood chips. If you see our crews working in your area, we encourage you to stay away from these machines. If you have any questions about right-of-way clearing, please call 918-772-2526.

LREC Members Help Make Change with Spare Change

"Neighbors helping neighbors" is one of the principles of rural electric cooperatives. Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Operation Round-Up program is truly one of the successful examples of community in action.

Operation Round-Up allows members to round up their monthly electric bills to the next whole dollar amount. Each par-

ticipating member contributes less than a dollar each month, averaging around six dollars a year. The change is put into a special charitable fund and awarded in grants to individuals, organizations, and causes.



► *Article continues on page 2*

Nominating Candidates for LREC Trustee

Lake Region Electric Cooperative members will vote for three trustees at this year's Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held on April 27, 2013 at the Hulbert Public School Auditorium. Any member who is interested in running for a trustee position, including incumbents, must submit a nominating petition before March 22, 2013. Each petition must include 15 or more member signatures. The petition forms are supplied by Lake Region Electric Cooperative, available at the Hulbert office.

Important Dates

March 14, 2013: Deadline for selecting Youth Tour essay finalists.

March 22, 2013: Nominating petitions for Lake Region Electric Cooperative Trustees due at cooperative office in Hulbert.

March 27, 2013: Final judging presentation of Youth Tour finalists at Hulbert office.

April 27, 2013: Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting at the Hulbert Public School Auditorium.

Operation Round-Up Update

The Operation Round-Up Foundation met during their regular business meeting, held on January 23, 2013, to approve fifteen grants. During the January meeting, grants were awarded to:

- ☐ Three individuals were awarded \$2,500 each for medical expenses and a house fire victim was awarded \$2,000.
- ☐ Tenkiller School was awarded \$200 for the Cherokee County Science Fair.
- ☐ Tahlequah Senior High was awarded \$1,000 for their Save-a-Senior party.
- ☐ Keys Public School's Band was awarded matching funds of \$2,500 for their band program.
- ☐ Keys Public Schools was awarded a \$1,000 grant for their Back Pack Program.
- ☐ Keys Public Schools was awarded \$1,000 for their graduation night party.
- ☐ Locust Grove Life Skills Cooking Class was awarded \$1,000 for a new cooking stove.

☐ Tahlequah Public School's Special Olympics team was awarded \$2,000 for expenses associated with the State Special Olympics games.

☐ Cherokee County Blue Star Mothers was awarded \$2,000 for postage and supplies.

☐ Bedouin Shrine Transportation Fund was awarded \$5,000.

☐ Wagoner Public School's Special Olympics team was awarded \$1,000 for expenses associated with the State Special Olympics games.

☐ Wagoner Public Schools was awarded \$1,000 for their graduation night party.

For years, the electric cooperative business model has served as a valuable instrument to improve the quality of life in our communities in which we serve. LREC cannot see a better way for members to help those in need, and in turn, make our local communities better places.

Students attended Leadership Summit



Laubach, personal leadership insight speaker.

Each teen received a \$250 scholarship for participating in this year's summit. The day-long training wrapped up at the Cox Convention Center where the students enjoyed an Oklahoma City Barons Hockey game.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative sponsored Riley Beasley and Claire Cheramie, both of Braggs High School, to attend this year's Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit. Thirty teens from more than a dozen electric cooperatives gathered for a full day of hands on training, discussions, and team building activities. The training featured innovative and exciting discussion led by Rhet



Left to right: Riley Beasley and Claire Cheramie

Photo by: Glen Clark

Know Where Your Electric Is Generated and How it is Supplied to You

■ *Strong structure results in efficiency through specialization*

Associated Electric Cooperative is the source of wholesale electric power for Lake Region Electric Cooperative, as well as an extended system of member electric cooperatives. This system is organized into three levels or "tiers" each with its own set of responsibilities.

The system's top tier is made of 51 distribution cooperatives in Missouri, southeast Iowa and northeast Oklahoma. This is what LREC is, a distribution cooperative. These distribution cooperatives provide electric service directly to their members, including businesses, farms and households.

To provide the best service possible, distribution cooperatives take on many different responsibilities, including working with their communities, installation and maintenance of power lines from substations to members. As well as planning for the future needs of their service areas, and helping their members learn to use energy more efficiently.

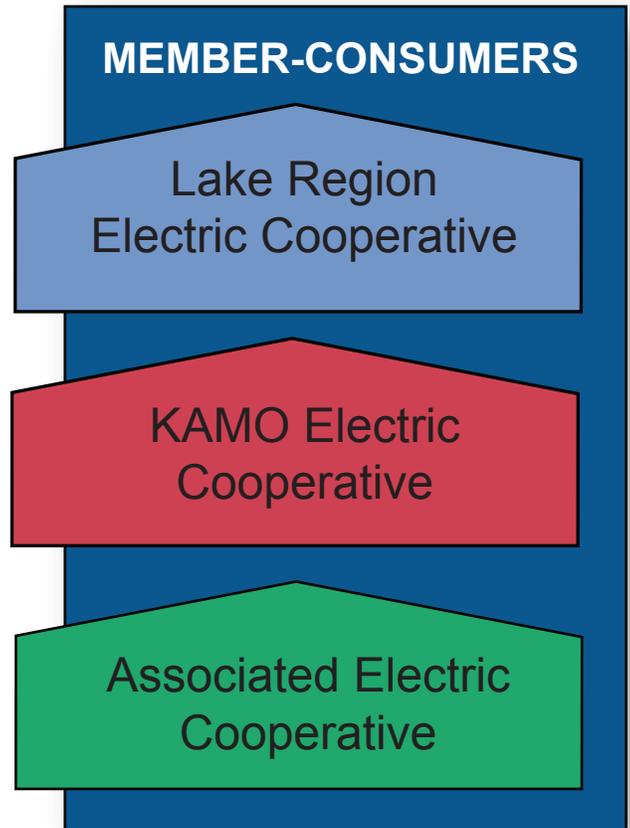
At the second level of the system are the regional transmission

cooperatives that transmit power to the distribution cooperatives. KAMO is our transmission cooperative. These organizations are known as generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts), and they serve six geographical areas of Missouri, southeast Iowa and northeast Oklahoma. G&Ts work on a regional level as construction agents, they also own and maintain all transmission lines above 161-kilovolts.

In 1961, six G&Ts joined to form the system's third tier, Associated Electric Cooperative. Associated was subsequently given the responsibilities for the generation of electricity.

In order to provide for the system's ever-growing demand for electricity, Associated Electric Cooperative has built a flexible mix of resources, including coal and gas-based power plants, hydro-power, wind power and an integrated transmission system.

The three-tiered system brings efficiency through specialization at each level of the system. The entire three-tiered system benefits



from the economy of scale and because each tier can react quickly to changes, the overall competitiveness of the system is improved.

The financial success of Associated Electric Cooperative is a reflection of the success experienced by the entire three-tiered system.

When major issues that affect any part of the three-tiered system happen, they can affect you in the end as a final consumer/member.

For more information visit: www.aeci.org

For a lifetime of savings.....

Marathon water heaters are one of the most efficient units on the market today and their seamless insulated design comes with a lifetime guarantee against leaks. LREC offers a rebate for members who 2643302 purchase a Marathon water heater from the cooperative. Please contact LREC today for sizes and more details. 918-772-2526 or 800-364-LREC.



Protect Against Power Surges

Power surges are responsible for property damage each year and, over time, they can cause cumulative damage while decreasing the lifespan of TVs, computers, stereo equipment, and anything else plugged into a wall outlet. Being educated is the key to choosing the best surge protection for your home.

Q How does a power surge cause damage?

First, what is a surge? A surge is a boost in the electrical charge over a line. This can be caused by lightning, but it can also be caused by motor-driven electrical devices, such as air conditioners and refrigerators, that require a lot of energy for starting and stopping compressors. Some surges can also be caused by faulty wiring.

Power surges come in all shapes and sizes, the most extreme case being a lightning strike because it can destroy equipment and appliances.

The severity of a surge depends not only on the voltage and current involved but how long the event lasts. Most surges are very short in duration. It is important for people to realize that surges can hap-



pen through any connection on your equipment. If there is a wire connected to your equipment, then it provides a path for a surge.

Q How can I protect my property?

A surge protection device sold by Lake Region Electric Cooperative protects equipment inside your house or business from surges coming through “ports of entry,” such as outside electric, telephone, and cable TV or satellite dish wires.

Point-of-use surge protection devices do not suppress or arrest a surge but divert it to ground. They are designed to protect your sensitive electronic appliances and resemble a regular plug strip. However, do not assume your plug strip offers surge protection unless it specifically says so. You can also install special electrical outlets that of-

fer surge protection, which can be helpful near kitchen counter tops.

One of the most effective ways to protect your property is a two-tiered approach. A Surge Shield, behind the electric meter, service entrance surge protection device reduces power surges to a lower level that protects large appliances, such as your stove or clothes dryer, while point-of-use power strip surge protectors defend your sensitive electronics.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative carries residential and commercial surge protection products. For more information on available products and prices, call 918-772-2526 or toll-free 800-364-LREC.

Source: Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

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 918-772-2526

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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](tel:800-364-LREC) or [918-772-2526](tel:918-772-2526)

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