



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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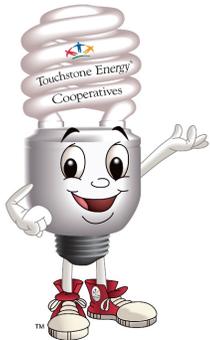
No. 3



Tip of the Month
Energy Efficiency

Your home works hard for you. Consider giving it an energy checkup. Hire a professional energy auditor to diagnose where your house could be losing energy and where you can start saving money. Auditors check for air leaks, inspect insulation, survey heating and cooling equipment and more. After making efficiency upgrades, you could save 5-30 percent on your energy bills.

Source:
EnergySavers.gov



Operation Round Up Awards \$82,237 in Grants for 2014



Small Change that Changes Lives

2014 was a great year for LREC's Operation Round Up program with \$82,237 rewarded in grants. Every penny of each grant went to nonprofit organizations, local individuals and families, right here in LREC's service area.

Operation Round Up was introduced at LREC in 2007 and is quickly becoming a source of funds for struggling nonprofit programs and families. Members have to agree to have their electric bill "rounded up" each month to the nearest dollar – an average of \$6 per year to be donated to the charitable Operation Round Up program. Today, over 15,400 members participate in Operation Round Up – that is

62 percent of LREC's membership. The program could not continue its success without the generosity of so many members. Thank you!

If you would like more information on Operation Round-Up, please visit our website www.lrecok.coop and click on the yellow Operation Round Up logo at the bottom of the page. Here you will be able read a summary of grant recipients over the years as well as find applications for individuals and non-profit organizations who are interested in applying for funds available.



Worry Free Hot Water from LREC

Rheem Marathon Electric Water Heater

The lightweight Rheem Marathon electric water heater provides worry-free hot water and energy savings for homeowners. It's award winning and as the industry's only seamless non-metallic water heater with lifetime warranty and six-year warranty on parts, its value is among the best available. Lake Region offers a rebate 1652812 on Marathon water heaters.

Benefits of the Marathon's durable, non-metallic tank:

- Lightweight for easy handling and installation
- Does not corrode or rust which means no leaks
- No anode required which eliminates "smelly" water issues

Marathon electric water heaters are available in 40, 50, 75, 85 and 105-gallon models. Please call Lake Region for availability and prices, at 918-772-2526.



Nominating Candidates for LREC Trustee

Lake Region Electric Cooperative members will vote for two trustees at this year's Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held on April 25, 2015 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 20, 2015. 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 12, 2015: Deadline for selecting Youth Tour essay finalists.

March 20, 2015: Nominating petitions for Lake Region Electric Cooperative Trustees due at cooperative office in Hulbert.

March 25, 2015: Final judging presentation of Youth Tour finalists at Hulbert office.

April 25, 2015: Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting at the Hulbert Public School Auditorium.

How Evolution is Changing Exede Satellite Internet

In 2012, Exede made huge gains in speed when they launched Exede Internet with download speeds to 12 Mbps — an 8-fold increase over the top speed on our original WildBlue service.

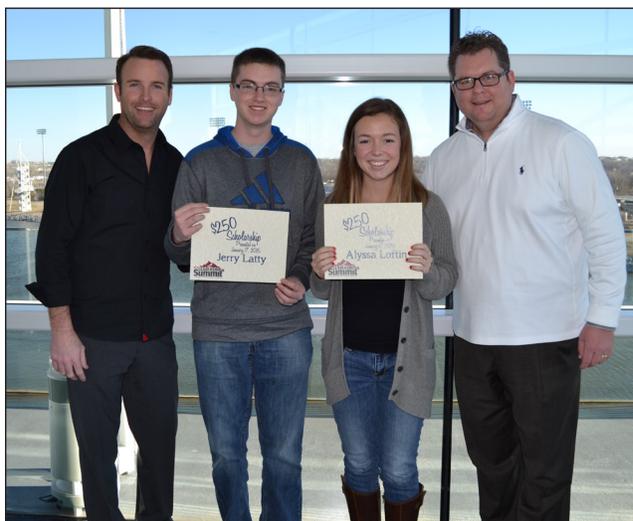
Now, Exede is tackling data caps with the new Evolution plans, which gives you unlimited access to what you do the most online: view web pages and manage your email. You will still have a sizeable data allowance every month for video, music streaming and file downloads and uploads (amount of data allowance varies by plan – check LREC's website www.lrecok.coop for new Exede packages). Even if you go over that, your access to web pages and email will not be restricted.

That's worry-free Satellite Internet from LREC

Exede Evolution allows unlimited satellite internet access to the online activities most essential to your life. Call today and see how LREC can help you with your internet connections, **918-772-2526**.



Keys Students attended Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit in OKC



Jerry Latty and Alyssa Loftin of Keys School received a \$250 scholarship award at the 2015 Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit conference in Oklahoma City. Also pictured Kelly Barnes and Rhett Laubach

LREC sponsored Jerry Latty and Alyssa Loftin, both of Keys 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 Rhett Laubach, personal leadership insight speaker.

Each teen received a \$250 scholarship for participating in this year's summit.

LREC Welcomes New Employees



Sonya Pardue started at Lake Region on September 25, 2014. Sonya lives in Wagoner, OK with her husband Robert Pardue and their two children, Elizabeth, 17 years old and Aiden, 6 years old. Sonya enjoys her position at LREC. She likes to help in other departments, when needed, and is learning about the cooperative business. Outside of work, Sonya enjoys boating and home improvement projects as well as spending time with her family, and friends.



Robert Braithwaite II started at Lake Region on October 21, 2014. Robert grew up in Waipahu, Hawaii. He joined the military and lived in New York before moving to Oklahoma. Robert has lived in Tahlequah for two years with his wife Delena and their daughter Rosalie, 4 years old. Robert and his wife are expecting their second daughter this May. Robert enjoys working with everyone at LREC and learning new things while working in the field. Outside of work, Robert enjoys building and repairing computers, networks, and electronic related equipment, as well as spending time with his family.



Herman Miller started at Lake Region on January 2, 2015. Herman grew up in Nowata, OK and now lives in the Shady Grove area with his wife Tricia Miller. Herman has two daughters, Shauntell and Katie, and two sons, Ryan and Cody. Herman enjoys working at LREC with people that are trained in their position. Outside of work, Herman enjoys working out and kick boxing.



Kyle Moore started at Lake Region on January 2, 2015. Kyle grew up in Lost City, OK and now lives in Tahlequah, OK with his wife Randi and their three sons, Ethan, Clayton, and Stetson. Kyle enjoys LREC and being able to work outdoors, job security, retirement, and being close to home. Outside of work, Kyle enjoys hunting, fishing, and being with his three boys.



Brock Lubbers started at Lake Region on January 16, 2015. Brock grew up in Ulysses, KS and now lives in Tahlequah, OK. Brock worked for Midwestern Electric Contractors before coming to Lake Region. Brock has always been interested in becoming a lineman. Brock enjoys the crew he works with and working close to home. Outside of work, Brock enjoys hunting and spending time at the lake.

After Three Decades, LREC Lineman Hangs Up His Hooks

Dean Kirkpatrick started at Lake Region as a brush hand on the right-of-way clearing crew in November 1983. He worked one year on the brush crew, then was promoted to apprentice lineman. As most linemen do, Dean learned to climb poles and moved to the line maintenance crew where he worked for 14 years. Dean then moved to the line construction crew for 16 years, where he was lead foremen of his crew for 6 years.

“I have seen several things change over the years at the co-op. The equipment and lines have improved and we have less outages. Also, I have experienced hanging fiber optic lines for the co-op,” said Dean.

Dean has helped the electric co-op in many ways over the years, by working long hours, fixing power outages, ice storm restoration and building service to several of our members. Additionally, he has helped train several younger linemen, and passed his knowledge and experience onto other employees.

When asked what he will miss after retirement. “All the coworkers and morning coffee with the guys,” Dean replied.

LREC honored Dean at a retirement party held for him on January 15. Dean has contributed a total of thirty one years and two months of experience to this company.

LREC would like to wish him the best in the next step of his journey. Dean plans on spending more time with his grand kids, fishing, golfing, and working on the homestead.



Photo by: Diana Ryals

Left to right: Dean and Tomi Kirkpatrick

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