



# Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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

December 2016

Vol. 7

No. 12



Energy Efficiency  
*Tip of the Month*

Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons—holiday gatherings, houseguests, and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures, like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: *energy.gov*

### Offices Closed

LREC will close at noon on December 23rd and all day the on 26th in observance of Christmas. Office will be closed January 2nd for the new year.

## Capital Credit Refunds on December Bills

When you signed up to receive electric service from Lake Region Electric Cooperative, you became a member of an electric cooperative. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of profits back to their stockholders, LREC operates on an at-cost not for profit basis. So instead of returning profits, known as margins, to stockholders who may not live in the same region or even the same state as you do, LREC allocates and periodically retires capital credits based on how much electricity you purchased during a year.

**The Board of Trustees has authorized a total distribution of \$1,086,391 in capital credits to current and former members during the years of 1984, 1985 and 2015.**

An amount of \$503,755 will be retired for 1984 and \$375,040 for 1985, the amount of \$207,596 for the year of 2015. Residential members will receive their capital credit retirement on their December billing statement as a credit, reflecting their contribution of capital to the ownership of the cooperative. The average retirement for 1984 is around \$27.99, for 1985 is \$20.00 and for 2015 is \$7.77. Please look for credit on your December bill. If the amount is below \$75.00, the amount will show as a credit and if the amount is higher than \$75.00 members will receive a check.



These funds help operate the co-op, reduce the amount of money we need to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain and expand a reliable electric distribution system, and cover emergency expenses.

If you move or no longer have electric service with LREC, it is important that you inform the cooperative of your current address, so that future retirements can be properly mailed to you. If you purchased electricity during the years being retired, then you are entitled to a capital credit retirement, even if you move out of the LREC service area 3035301.

Electric Cooperatives operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins are returned to the members in the form of capital credits.

Account No.	Bill Date		Map Location		Service From	To	Days
	12/14/2015				11/06/2015	12/06/2015	30
Meter Number	Pres Read	Prev Read	Mult	KWH Used	Rate Schedule / Reference		
RE2000009	3555	1497	1.0	2058	REGRT / REGULAR		
Activity Since Last Bill		\$ Amount	Current Bill Information				\$ Amount
Previous Balance		137.00	ENERGY CHARGE				165.65
			CAPITAL CREDIT REF				-11.26
			OPERATION ROUND-UP				0.61
Payment		-137.00	TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES				155.00
Other Adjustments		0.00					
Balance Prior to this Billing		0.00					

## Christmas Lighting Safety



When Shawn Miller agreed to give his mother a hand with hanging holiday lights, he had no way of knowing he would say goodbye to his hand forever.

As he tossed the lights into the tree, electricity from the overhead power lines traveled through his strand of lights and entered his body at the speed of light.

After 27 exit wounds and 31 surgeries, Shawn is a walking miracle. He wants to give your family the gift of electrical safety awareness this holiday season.

As you prepare for your celebrations, remember Shawn and be aware of your surroundings. Give him a hand, and spread some TLC.

Teach what you know.  
Learn what you need to.  
Care enough to share it.

Safe  
Electricity.org

# Hulbert School Receives \$14,000 Lighting Rebate Check from LREC



Photos by: Larry Mattes

Benefits can be achieved when school leaders consider energy efficiency when building or performing school upgrades. Hulbert Public Schools knew that becoming more energy-efficient would reduce energy costs. The building contractor and Lake Region Electric Cooperative teamed up and helped get the school a LED (light emitting diode) rebate check for over \$14,000 after installing over 100 new LED lights in the school's new cafeteria as well as retrofitting all the lights throughout the school buildings.



"We had two main reasons for upgrading our lighting to LED's. To save money on our electric bill and help the school be more cost efficient. Oklahoma schools have had three major funding cuts and we are looking for ways to save money. Also research shows that fluorescent lighting can affect children's behavior. We want to offer the best classroom environment for our students," said Marilyn Dewoody, Hulbert School Superintendent.

LED lighting lasts four times longer than CFLs and 30 times longer than incandescent lights. Lighting in a school can account for a large portion of the electric bill.

When planning energy efficient upgrades to any structure, whether a commercial business, school or a home, one thing that should always be done is an energy audit. An audit helps you determine the most cost-effective plan for energy-efficiency upgrades. To schedule a Lake Region Energy Audit call **918-772-6930**.

Your business may be eligible for special rebates on lighting. To find out how you can take control of your business energy use and start saving like Hulbert Public School did, contact your local electric cooperative.

# When will fiber come to my home?

“When will fiber come to my home/ neighborhood/community?” Is probably the most common question we hear at Lake Region and we understand. You have gone without fiber optic services for a long time, and now the best possible option could be dangling out in front of your home – close enough to touch.

We are in the process of a major construction project, which involves a lot of working parts. We are working with and managing numerous contract crews with a lot of challenging unknowns; weather, road crossings, etc.

We are building out fiber optic cable from our electric substations and using existing poles.

**1** The first step is engineering and mapping the fiber network (where the cable will be installed) based on the demand from the crowdfiber pre-registrations website. ([register.lrecok.net](http://register.lrecok.net))

**2** Second step is hanging the fiber backbone, the main lines with splice points. Once you see the main lines installed on your road, you are 90 days from having fiber optic services at your home.

**3** Third step is another crew will run the drop lines from the main line to your home either underground or aerial, the same way the electric has been run to the home. This crew will also install a NID box on the side of your home if you have signed up for fiber service.

**4** Final step, we will schedule a convenient time for a technician to come to your home and connect your home to the network. Fiber installation can take 1 to 3 hours, depending on the number of services connected. Our technicians are highly trained and will help guide you through the process of where fiber may need to be installed inside your



Photo by: Larry Mattes

home. Currently, we are in the final step for Zone 5 – Perk, members are being connected. We plan on moving to parts of Zone 11 – County Line and Zone 1 – Fort Gibson next.

We know you are eager to experience our high speed fiber internet. The plan you order is the actual speed and data limit you will receive. Your experience with our service depends on a number of factors. A lot of older computers, routers, and other equipment are simply not equipped to handle the higher speeds that Lake Region’s fiber offers. So you may need to consider some upgrades to maximize your fiber experience.

In the future, folks in 4393600 Lake Region’s fiber service area will be able to sign up and get service started in a few days. Those of you waiting patiently in the crowd are on the ground floor of this landmark fiber-to-the-home revolution. We are building a fiber communications network from scratch, with a lot of moving parts, and off of this system we are extending you fiber internet service, HD cable TV and home phone. We appreciate your patience in our fiber network build.

Sign up for service at [register.lrecok.net](http://register.lrecok.net) or call 918-772-6942.



TOUCHSTONEENERGY.COM



## FOCUSED ON YOUR STREET. NOT WALL STREET.

Your Touchstone Energy cooperative is owned by our members, not shareholders. So we don't just answer to you, we have answers for you. To learn more, visit [TouchstoneEnergy.com](http://TouchstoneEnergy.com).

YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.

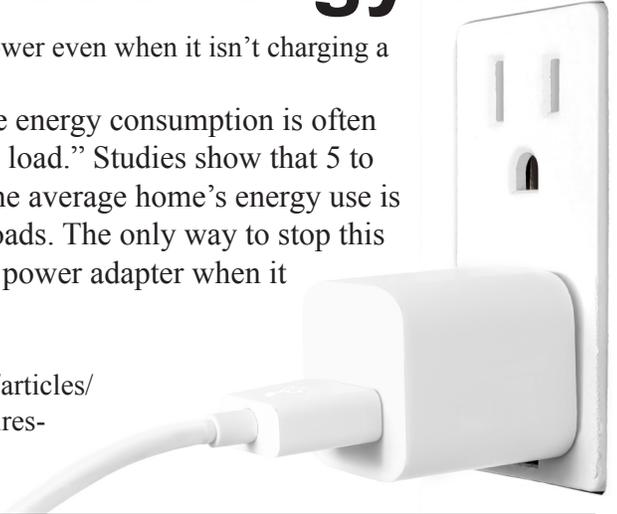
# Digital devices impact energy use

Major appliances aside, most digital devices do not use 120-volt power, which is the standard voltage of a home outlet. They actually use a lot less. So, trying to plug your brand new smartphone directly into an outlet is going to lead to a fried device and lots of tears from someone. This is why low-voltage devices come with a power adapter. These “wall warts” as some term them, take the 120-volt electricity supplied by Lake Region Electric Cooperative and convert it to say, five volts. Unfortunately, most folks leave their adapters plugged in to make recharging easier. The problem with this approach is that the seemingly innocuous

wall wart uses power even when it isn’t charging a device.

This invisible energy consumption is often called “vampire load.” Studies show that 5 to 10 percent of the average home’s energy use is from vampire loads. The only way to stop this is to unplug the power adapter when it is not in use.

<http://energy.gov/articles/are-energy-vampires-sucking-you-dry>



## Operation Round-Up Update

### Meals for Hungry & Christmas Gifts



LREC’s Operation Round-Up program is a co-op community assistance 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.

LREC members who participate in the Operation Round-Up program help make these grants possible. This program is making a significant impact in the local communities.

The Operation Round-Up Foundation Board met during their regular business meeting, held on October 26, 2016. During the meeting, grants were awarded to three organizations and two pledges were made (contingent upon receipt of invoices):

- ◆ Tahlequah Feed My Sheep was awarded \$5,000 for food for weekly meals for the hungry in Cherokee County.
- ◆ OKDHS was awarded \$2,000 for Cherokee County Child Welfare Services to purchase Christmas gifts for foster children.
- ◆ Tahlequah Public School’s Gifted and Talented Program was awarded \$1,170 for a student art show.
- ◆ Hulbert Riders Diamond Club received a pledge of \$2,000 for high school baseball uniforms, upon receipt of invoices.
- ◆ Porter Elementary School received a pledge of \$2,800 for the purchase of tablets for math classes, upon receipt of invoices.

#### Board of Trustees

Bobby Mayfield .....President  
 Scott Manes.....Vice-President  
 Lynn Lamons .....Secretary-Treasurer  
 Randall Shankle..Asst. Secretary-Treasure  
 Gary Cooper ..... Trustee  
 James Walls ..... Trustee  
 Jack Teague .....Trustee

#### Staff

Hamid Vahdatipour .....CEO  
 Ben McCollum .....Director of Finance  
 Logan Pleasant.....Director of Operations  
 Stanley Young .....Director of Marketing  
 Larry Mattes .....Editor  
 Tina Glory-Jordan .....Attorney

#### 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.