



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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

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Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet - even when they're not in use.

Source: energy.gov

Office Closed

LREC will be closed on December 24th and 25th in observance of Christmas. We will have crews on standby ready to respond to any outages or emergencies.



WE'RE GIVING MONEY BACK!

When you moved into LREC's service area, you became a member of our electric cooperative. Our cooperative (or co-op) is owned by our customers/members, much like a credit union.

As a not-for-profit business, we exist to provide you with reliable electricity – not to make a profit. When we have a good electric year and earn profits or margins, we can give cash back (bill credit) to our past and present members. It's one of the things that makes an electric co-op unique, and it's one of the many benefits of being a co-op member.

Your board of trustees (who are elected by our members) can vote to return excess revenue, based on the financial health of the co-op. The money you receive – known as a capital credit refund – is your individual portion of the cooperative's profits.

LREC is in a strong financial position this year. Our leadership has planned for and secured future power needs and increased efficiency in our electric grid, all while maintaining high reliability and some of the lowest rates in the state of Oklahoma.

With this in mind, our board of trustees will return **\$1.2 million (This December)** to you and other past and present members who received electric service from LREC during the years of 1987 (100%) and 2017 (20%). The amount you receive is based on how much you paid for electricity during the years listed.

The average capital credit refund for a member on our lines during the year 1987 is around \$45.29 and for 2017 is \$14.75. If you have questions about capital credits or would like to learn more visit our website www.lrecok.coop or call **918-772-2526**.



Round Up Foundation approved \$13,750 in Grants During October Meeting

Created by LREC in 2010, as a way to give back to our communities, Operation Round Up (ORU) is a way in which we help organizations or individuals in our community who have fallen on hard times. The program is funded by LREC members who voluntarily 'round up' their monthly electric bills.



About 73 percent of LREC's electric members elect to round up their bills each month. (For example, a bill of \$97.43 is automatically rounded up to \$98.00, with the additional 57 cents going to the Operation Round Up account.) The money is pooled and then allocated to a variety of worthy causes throughout the co-op's service area.

Each participating member donates approximately \$6, annually, to the fund. All of the money contributed to Operation Round Up is put into the LREC Foundation fund, separate from LREC's accounts. The Foundation is administered by a 9-member board of directors, made up of volunteers, nominated by the LREC Board of Trustees.

● ● ● Cherokee County Child Welfare Services was awarded \$3,000 for Christmas gifts, party, and emergency supplies for foster children.

● ● ● Tahlequah High School Art Department was awarded \$1,500 for Hands of Art Show.

● ● ● Tahlequah Public School Gifted and Talented was awarded \$1,485 for Cherokee County Student Art Show.

● ● ● Wagoner High School Art Club was awarded \$2,765 for art supplies.

● ● ● Wagoner County OSU Extension Service Youth Leadership was awarded \$1,500 for youth leadership training.

● ● ● Keys Elementary 5th & 6th Grade Science Club was awarded \$1,000 for lab equipment.

● ● ● A local individual was awarded \$2,500 for Medical expenses.

ORU grants have helped many nonprofit organizations, providing meals, clothes, Christmas gifts, and much more. Local organizations are not the only ones that have enjoyed the much-needed grants received from ORU. Many families and individuals have been approved as well.

LREC Foundation, Inc - Board of Trustees

Jimmy Hall | Sandy Campbell | Janet Perry
Kathy Moore | Elaine Henderson
Fonda Fisher | John Rogers
Tommy Mullins | Stanley Young

Next Meeting - January 23, 2019

Application deadline is 4 p.m. on the 1st day of January, April, July, and October.

An incomplete application may not be considered.

Applications available online at:
www.lrecok.coop/operation-round-up

LREC Foundation, Inc - Financial statements and recipients are available on our website.

FIBER PROJECT REMINDERS

Find Your Zone

Lake Region's fiber-to-the-home project goal is to cover LREC's service territory ultimately. But, as you know, we can't build it all at once. That is why we have divided our service territory (closely based on electric feeders and substations) which you can find printed on your electric bill. You can also find your zone by checking your address on our website register.lrecok.net. Search your address in the box top center of the site, choose between residential or commercial and click Go, check map location, then click next. The website message will show which zone you are located in and if service is available, construction phase, or feasibility study for the next phase.

Pricing

Check out our pricing, residential **50 Mbps** internet starts at **\$49.95 + 8.99** equipment maintenance fee. Pre-register for service today at register.lrecok.net or give us a call at **918-772-2526**. Already pre-registered? Check out our updates and map of construction zones on our website or any big news about our project.

Make The Call

It is what you have been waiting for - clear, reliable and affordable phone service. Don't forget we offer home phone service for both homes and businesses in active zones. Get started 2590600 by calling us at **918-772-2526** and qualify for our bundle discounts by adding home phone service.

Our website register.lrecok.net is your one-stop-shop for Lake Region fiber optic pricing, construction zones, and updates for project backers.



Make sure to check us out on Facebook both Electric and Technologies

3,000th Fiber Customer



A Subsidiary of Lake Region Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Photo by: JuaNita Keener

Nathan Lasiter, LREC member and Ruhandy Tejada fiber installation tech

We know we have a long way to go in order to make Lake Region Fiber Optic service available in all areas of our service territory. We also know we have made some impressive progress this year. On November 2, we celebrated our 3,000th customer installation - Congratulations Nathan Lasiter - Qualls Zone. Thank you to everyone who has supported and continues to back our project to take our area forward with fiber optic high-speed internet. A new necessity for our rural families.

Report Telecom Issues with SmartHub

Avoid the Automated Phone System - When Reporting Telecom Service Issues



Report a Problem

to report

LREC offers the latest technology to help you manage your (fiber) telecom account 24/7 by computer, smartphone, or tablet with a free online application called SmartHub. The app is easy to navigate. It's quick and straightforward

service issues, outages, make a payment, or view your bill.

Members with smartphones or tablet devices can download the SmartHub app. Look for "SmartHub" in the Apple Store or in the Android Market. Search: SmartHub. If duplicates appear, the right app is provided by our partner, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). The app will be free to download and install.



Smart Tips for Using Space Heaters and Electric Blankets

Many people turn to space heaters or electric blankets for added warmth in the winter. LREC reminds those who use space heaters and electric blankets to use these devices with caution. Look for space heaters and electric blankets with safety features, including an automatic shut off. Be very cautious about buying used space heaters or electric blankets. They may not have current safety mechanisms. Your safety is worth the investment in a new heater or blanket.

• Plug space heaters and electric blankets directly into outlets; avoid using an extension cord.

• Always remember to turn off space heaters and electric blankets when not in use. Never leave one of these devices on unattended or after going to bed.

• Many fires start when flammable products are placed too close to heating devices. Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, or paper.

• Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface.

• Be aware of pets and children near heating appliances. Pets should never be allowed to sleep on top of electric blankets.

For more information on electric safety, visit SafeElectricity.org

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www.lrecok.coop

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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.