



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*

Here is an easy way to save energy in the laundry room. Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy. .

Source: energy.gov



LREC Accepting Board Member Nominations

Lake Region Electric Cooperative is accepting nominations from eligible candidates who are interested in running for the cooperative's board of trustees. LREC members will be asked to vote for three trustees at the cooperative's annual meeting of the membership, Saturday, **April 27, 2019**, at Hulbert Public School.

Any member in good standing may submit nominations by petition provided by the cooperative. These forms will be available at the Hulbert office between February 26, 2019 and March 22, 2019. Each nominating petition must include 15 or more member signatures.

Specific minimal qualifications are required by basic law and the cooperative's bylaws for one to be eligible for election or appointed to and to serve on the cooperative's board of trustees.

It is the ultimate legal responsibility of the board to ensure that these requirements are met and complied with. If the board should determine that an incumbent, nominee, or potential appointee lacks or has lost any of the necessary legal qualifications, it is the duty of the board to remove such incumbent or to declare such nominee or potential appointee ineligible for election, whichever may be the case.

By adopting, publishing and appropriately disseminating this policy in our member newsletter, it is the board's respectful hope that trustee incumbents, nominees, or potential appointees will not



Arnold Ratliff and Duane Watkins running ballot machine.

only be fully apprised of these requirements, but mindful of their importance in deciding whether to continue or commence service on the board.

► **Eligibility qualification on page 3**



2018 Annual Meeting

Best Wishes in Retirement for Two Longtime Employees



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Years

Tom Adams

Tom Adams was attending college at NSU in 1977, when he decided he was ready for a change. Tom applied for a right-a-way job opening, he learned about from a friend. After landing the job at LREC, his career took off. Tom moved up to the construction crew then to the maintenance crew for Wagoner County.

LREC crews swapped between construction and maintenance for several years and this is where Tom gained a lot of experience as a lineman. Tom has been with LREC through the evolution of many changes and more reliable and safer lineman equipment, as well as the change from paper maps to digital maps on iPads.

“LREC has stepped up and helped the outside linemen with what we need to perform our job,” said Tom.

Many ice storms and long hours run together for Tom over the years; It is unquestionable that LREC will miss his knowledge and experience as a lineman. Tom has retired from LREC with 41 years and six months of service.

“The members I have grown to know, I will truly miss. I will also miss the wonderful employees I have been blessed to work with during my years. I have probably spent more time with some of the line crews, than my own family,” mentioned Tom.

Once you commit to being a lineman you miss many holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries, it can be tough on a family. In retirement, Tom will spend more time with his wife Judy, and kids Josh, Stephanie, Shannon, Chrissy and his nine grandkids. Tom also mentioned he plans on playing more golf. As Tom enters into retirement, LREC would like to wish him a long, happy, prosperous retirement. Thank you for your service.



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Years

David Rittenhouse

David Rittenhouse, one of the founding fathers of Lake Region’s Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) project has recently retired. David came to LREC in December 2002 with experience running his own computer technology business as well as contract work on Lake Region’s rural water plant’s SCADA system (a computer

system for gathering and analyzing real-time data).

At LREC, employees wear many hats, and when David was hired as Safety Coordinator he also had a hand in LREC’s IT network maintenance, where he held these job duties for 12 years. As technology became a more significant part of the co-op and the FTTH project launched, David moved into his role as Director of IT and fiber networking, which he held for the last 5 years.

“I have always enjoyed all my jobs at LREC from Safety Coordinator to upgrading networking at the co-op. I will miss the excellent people I have worked with. LREC is a family environment, and we all work for a common goal,” said David.

As the FTTH project became more likely to launch in 2012, David became heavily involved in research. David’s experience helped when LREC began the pilot zone.

“LREC has been a great place to work. I will miss working with members and the co-op family,” said David.

David has always been a workaholic at LREC and as the IT Director over the FTTH network, he was on call a lot. David plans to relax and enjoy his retirement. David mentioned he has a family skiing trip planned in March and an ocean cruise this summer.

David will be missed at LREC, and we hope to make him proud with the continued growth of the FTTH network. LREC would like to wish him a long, well-deserved retirement. Thank you for your service.

LREC Bylaws and eligibility qualifications to run for the Board

Eligibility qualification continued from page 1

Policy Content

I. General Legal Requirements

Basic law provides that a person to be eligible for election or appointment to, and to serve on, the cooperative's board shall, among other things:

- A. Be obedient to the cooperative by adhering to all applicable requirements of law, the cooperative's articles and bylaws, and the cooperative's duly made decisions;
- B. Be loyal to the cooperative, acting at all times in good faith for its best interests;
- C. Be unaffected by any continuing and substantial personal interest that is in conflict with the best interests of the cooperative;
- D. Be possessed of the minimal knowledge and skills necessary to manage the affairs of the cooperative;
- E. And be willing to devote such time and effort to his or her duties as a trustee as may be necessary to manage the cooperative's business and affairs.

II. Bylaw Requirements

Article IV, Section 3 of the cooperative's bylaws provides that a person, to be eligible to serve on the cooperative's Board, shall meet certain qualification requirements.

III. Procedures for Policy Implementation

This Policy shall be implemented as follows:

- A. It shall be timely explained each year in the cooperative's newsletter.
- B. Immediately after receipt of any nomination by petition, the cooperative shall furnish the nominee with a copy of the policy to ensure that he or she is qualified in accordance with it.

- C. The board, in filling any vacancies occurring on the board, shall ensure that an appointee is first fully apprised of this policy and is qualified in accordance with it.
- D. In any event, all individuals actually nominated or being considered for appointment as directors shall, prior to election or appointment, be requested to read this policy and, to then execute the affirmation form. If a potential appointee or nominee refuses to execute the affirmation form or qualifies his execution in any manner that the board considers being inimical to the best interests of the cooperative, the appointment shall be withheld or, as to the nominee, the board may inform the members of such fact prior to the election or disqualify the nominee, whichever it determines to do with the facts and circumstances existing.
- E. In any event, the board shall not allow voting on any nominee, or it shall refuse to seat any nominee elected, as the case may be, who is determined by it to be ineligible under this policy; and it shall remove from office any incumbent who is determined by it to have lost or never had eligibility under this policy.
- F. Timely every year prior to the annual meeting of the cooperative, each incumbent whose office is not up for election at the forthcoming annual member meeting shall be requested to review this policy and to execute or re-execute, as the case may be, the affirmation form.

Responsibility

The board shall be responsible for the enforcement of this policy 69801.

Eligibility qualifications (Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3)

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the cooperative who:

- (a) has not continuously been, for at least one (1) year prior to his nomination, or who ceases after his election to be, a member in good standing of the cooperative, receiving service there at his primary residential abode; or
- (b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy, or supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative, or
- (c) has been employed by the cooperative within a five-year period from the date of employment termination, or
- (d) is a close relative of an employee or trustee of the cooperative, or
- (e) is the incumbent of or candidate for an elected public office in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of \$100 is paid.

"Close relative" means a person who by blood or in law, including step, half, foster, and adoptive kin, is either spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew, or niece of the principal. Close relative shall also include more distant relatives who are members of the same household of an existing employee or trustee. The term "spouse" shall also mean persons who are living together in a conjugal relationship, even though not legally married.



BETTER TOGETHER!

HIGH SPEED INTERNET + HD TV from Lake Region.

Moving at the speed you need (100 Mbps) is within reach in many areas across LREC's service territory - all thanks to our amazing members! Eight zones now have live, blazing fast service and our members are enjoying a whole new internet experience. If you live in any of the zones listed below and haven't signed up for fiber optic service, give us a call today to learn more about the benefits of fiber. Plus, we offer other services like home phone and HD TV service with bundle discounts.

Pilot (Hwy 51 Hulbert to Tahlequah and Hwy 62 from Tahlequah to Ft Gibson)

Zone 1 - Ft Gibson

Zone 2 - Hulbert

Zone 3 - Keys

Zone 5 - Perk and Zone 11 - County Line (Norwood & County Line)

Zone 6 - Qualls (Pettit Bay, Sizemore, Lakewood, Indian Rd)

Zone 12 - Sparrow Hawk (Hwy 10, Illinois River)

Don't live in one of the zones listed above? Don't Worry! Our project is still expanding, so tell your neighbors to get signed up today and help bring fiber to your community.

Get Lake Region Fiber Optic Service:

- ▶▶ Sign up at register.lrecok.net or give us a call at **918-772-2526**
- ▶▶ Stop by your local LREC office to sign up as well.
- ▶▶ Check your zone status online at register.lrecok.net

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
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800-364-LREC or
 918-772-2526

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www.lrecok.coop

Locations

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 Tahlequah, OK.

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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.