



# 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*

An average household dedicates about 5% of its energy budget to lighting. Switching to energy-efficient lighting is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bills. By replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating, you can save \$75 each year.

Source: energy.gov



## CO-OP MONTH | OCTOBER 2016



### ***Why we celebrate cooperatives***

Every October, cooperatives from all sectors across the country celebrate National Cooperative Month. The purpose of this annual celebration is to recognize the cooperative difference and remind you, the members of the co-op, about Lake Region Electric Cooperative's purpose.

Celebrating National Cooperative Month informs others about our unique business model, which is based on the Seven Cooperative Principles: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

For co-op employees and members that are familiar with the principles, the month of

October is a great opportunity to renew our connection to each other and the purpose of our co-op.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative located in Hulbert, Oklahoma. Providing quality member service to assisting schools, rural water districts and rural fire departments, Lake Region Electric Cooperative is committed to assisting the members and communities we serve. It's all a part of our dedication as your local energy and telecom provider.

In the U.S., there are more than 29,000 co-ops serving in every single industry. Many co-ops from different sectors join together during the month of October to educate members in the community about cooperatives.

Co-ops are even represented on the shelves

► Continued on page 3 (**Cooperative**)



# Please use blue or black ink

Lake Region Electric Cooperative has a request for members paying their bill by check: Please use a blue or black ink pen when writing your check.

Your cooperative takes in hundreds of checks each month and they are processed electronically with the aid of high-speed scanning equipment at the bank. Non-traditional ink colors (such as green, pink or purple) cause issues for this technology. So, please use a blue or black pen when writing checks to the co-op.



## Right-of-Way Tree Trimming

We understand that no one wants to lose their trees, but please be assured that right-of-way trimming is a necessary step Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) takes to ensure greater safety for workers and the public and to ensure more reliable service (electric and telecom) for its members. Trees are one of the leading causes of unplanned service interruptions, including both sustained and momentary interruptions. During major storms our crews work safely and quickly to clear trees off of the power lines so power can be restored. LREC is not responsible for tree damage caused by major storms. Our main priority is restoring power to all our members.

Our goal at LREC is to provide safe, reliable

electricity and keep our member rates as low as possible. With the help of our members, our right-of-way program will keep our lines clear of trees and overgrown vegetation while reducing future cost to members in terms of health, finances, and time.

LREC employees three in-house right-of-way tree trimming crews, working service orders, as well as two contractor crews clearing feeder lines. If you notice a tree with branches growing close to - or touching - our power lines please let us know.

Members can request tree work on your property by completing our easy online request form [www.lrecok.coop/right-of-way#tree-request](http://www.lrecok.coop/right-of-way#tree-request) or call James Cook, Right-of-Way Supervisor at 918-772-2526 or toll-free at 800-364-LREC.

### Tips for planting:

- ▶ If landscaping is needed near right-of-way, choose low growth shrubs under 5 ft. tall.
- ▶ Smaller trees need to be planted at least 20 ft. away from power lines.
- ▶ Medium trees need to be planted at least 35 ft. away from power lines.
- ▶ Large trees need to be planted at least 45 ft. away from power lines.
- ▶ Trees planted too close to the power lines will always be misshapen by unavoidable pruning of limbs to prevent interference with power lines.



LREC right-of-way crew, Ron Daniels & Brent Lamons

Photo by: Larry Mattes





Photo by: Larry Mattes

*LREC construction crew, Jason Steeley, Duane Watkins, Dan Hakes, and Brock Lubbers busy working on installing taller poles for attaching fiber optic cable underneath our electric lines.*

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at our local grocery stores, such as Land O'Lakes, Welch's, Organic Valley, Cabot Cheese, Sunkist, Ocean Spray and many more.

According to the latest data, more than 130 million people belong to a co-op in the U.S. alone, and co-ops employ more than 2 million Americans 1750900.

This speaks to the heart of why we must take every opportunity to celebrate and teach others about the cooperative business model. So, plan your own co-op celebration by purchasing co-op products, look to do business with co-ops right here in our local community and be an active member of Lake Region Electric Cooperative.



*You have a question,  
we have an answer*

**Question:** What is an easement?

**Answer:** Easements are legal documents that allow Lake Region Electric Cooperative or our subsidiary (Lake Region Technology & Communications) to build lines on a member's property. The landowner still owns the property, but the easement allows access for repairs and maintenance once the line has been installed.

Part of the maintenance in the easement includes cutting and trimming trees under and near the overhead lines. Keeping the lines free from trees reduces outages and maintains a safe clearance from electrical hazards and service reliability.

You can read more about properly completing an easement on our website **[www.lrecok.coop/easement](http://www.lrecok.coop/easement)**

If you have any other questions or concerns regarding an easement, please call Mike Reagan at **918-772-6939**.



Fiber contractor crews, Ervin Cable Construction are working in Zone 5 - Perk. Contract crews are hard at work expanding our fiber network. If you live in Zone 5 - Perk, please sign up for our high-speed internet, cable TV or home phone, before crews pass your home. Sign up at [register.lrecok.net](http://register.lrecok.net)



Photo by: Larry Mattes

## You Could be Eligible for Assistance on Your Home Phone Service

Lake Region Technology and Communications (LRTC) encourages eligible members to take advantage of available discounts on your home phone service. The Lifeline Program provides members with limited income a discount on home phone service.

You may qualify for the Lifeline Program if you participate in one of the following assistance programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Federal Public Housing, Assistance Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), National School Lunch Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, and Tribally Administered Assistance for Needy Families.

If you believe that you or someone you know meets the above requirements, please call us at **918-772-2526**.

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### 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.