



Energy Efficiency  
*Tip of the Month*

In spring and summer months, set your ceiling fans to turn in the counterclockwise direction. This will create a cool breeze. Remember: Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov

## Tax Reform and Electric Cooperatives



As a not-for-profit and tax-exempt entity, the federal corporate tax reduction will not affect most electric cooperatives. LREC will not see the benefits of the recent federal tax cut

Cooperatives were formed by our members to provide electric service to areas where other utility companies would not build facilities. Lake Region Electric Cooperative and electric cooperatives across the country are not-for-profit organizations operating at the cost to deliver

safe, affordable and reliable power.

Because LREC is a not-for-profit entity, it does not have any taxable income and therefore does not pay any income taxes. The Tax Reform Act recently passed has reduced the income taxes of for-profit companies. This does not affect LREC because our rates do not include any income taxes. This is the difference between an investor-owned utility and a not-for-profit cooperative. Electric cooperatives base their rates on the cost of acquiring and delivering electricity only. There are no stockholders. LREC works for our members.

Operating at cost is a critical component of the cooperative business model. Electric cooperatives strive to keep rates affordable for all members and already return margins to their member-owners. LREC returns profits as capital credits every December.

The cooperative business model enables electric co-ops to focus on their core mission – providing safe, affordable and reliable power at cost to the communities they serve.

## 2018 Annual Meeting of the Membership

Under LREC's Bylaws, each year the Cooperative holds an annual meeting the last Saturday in April. This year's meeting is scheduled for April 28th. At the annual meeting, LREC members can meet with the board of trustees and co-op staff and receive an update regarding the Cooperative's activities during the past year. The meeting also brings the annual election of board members, which represents you, the members of the co-op. Members can cast their ballots at the meeting; enjoy a free meal and visit with other members of the cooperative.



File photo from 2016 Annual Meeting



# Nominating Candidates for LREC Trustee

The 2018 meeting will include elections for two trustee positions with terms ending in April 2020, and also for the two trustee positions with terms ending in April 2021.

The Annual Meeting will be held on **April 28, 2018** at the Hulbert Public School Auditorium. Any member who is interested in running for a board of trustees position, including incumbents, must submit a nominating petition before **March 23, 2018**.

The candidates must choose the group they are running for. They can choose from two positions with the terms expiring in 2020 or the two positions with the terms expiring in 2021. No candidate can run for both groups. Each petition must include 15 or more member signatures. The petition forms are supplied by Lake Region Electric Cooperative.

## Important Dates

**February 27, 2018:** Board member nominations opened.

**March 16, 2018:** Legislative breakfast at Hulbert Senior Citizen Building, hosted by LREC.

**March 23, 2018:** Deadline for nominating petitions for board of trustees due at Hulbert office.

**March 28, 2018:** Final judging presentation of Youth Tour finalists at Hulbert office.

**April 28, 2018:** Annual Meeting at Hulbert High School Auditorium.

## Freezing Temperatures Cause High Bills

Lake Region members are feeling the effects of the recent cold weather on their electric bills.

On January 17th, LREC set a new winter record for peak energy delivery to our members. This peak usage occurred between 7:01 am and 8:00 am. The temperature that morning with the wind chill was below zero degrees Fahrenheit, and the previous day had been frigid as well. LREC had more than adequate capacity in our lines to serve the energy needs of our members.

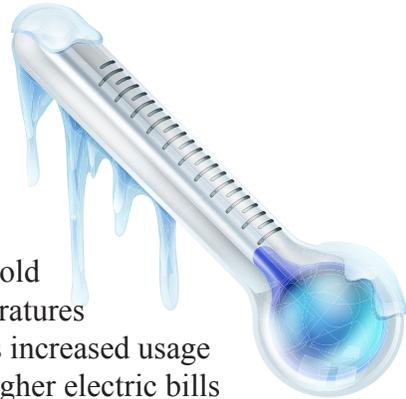
As an electric utility that is comprised of nearly 87% residential members, our load demands are primarily driven by member-owned homes. One of the most significant contributors to members load is the weather, and that is because the most significant energy consumer in every home is typically the HVAC system. With

the very cold temperatures comes increased usage and higher electric bills for our members.

“A recent trend in HVAC is the utilization of a technology known as the Air-Source Heat Pump (ASHP). These are very similar to their cousin technology the Ground-Source Heat Pump (GSHP), also known as Geo-thermal. The way this technology works is almost identical to the compressor in your refrigerator. Basically, in the summer time, these heat pumps take heat from a home and pump that heat into the air (Air-Source) or the ground (Ground-Source). In the winter the pumps work in reverse, and they take heat from the air or the ground and pump that heat into the home.

The drawback to the ASHP is

*Lower Temps (Black Line) Yield Higher Usage (orange bars)*



that when the temperature of the air drops below a threshold of around 26-30 degrees Fahrenheit, there is not enough heat in the air and the system will no longer be able to keep the home in the desired range. When a heat pump cannot keep up, a backup “emergency” heat source is engaged by the HVAC system. Electric backup heat strips will typically draw about 3-4 times



as much energy as the heat pump system under normal operation. A typical heat strip will be around 22,000 to 24,000 watts. To put this into perspective, a typical space heater that you can buy at your local hardware store will use 1,500 watts when it is on its highest setting. So when an electric backup turns on, that’s like having 15 space heaters running all, on their highest setting at the same time. That’s a lot of energy that

is being consumed,” said Logan Pleasant, Director of Engineering and Operations.

Our member service representatives can help discuss usage, explore billing options and help our members through these winter month bills.

**LREC offers ways you can conserve energy and lower your winter electric bills.**

- 1 - Turn down your furnace.
- 2 - Wrap up in layers. It costs less to pull on a sweater or blanket than it does move your thermostat up.
- 3 - Add insulation.
- 4 - Seal gaps and cracks with caulk or weather stripping.
- 5 - Open the drapes in the daytime, the sun rays will help heat your home for free.
- 6 - A humidifier will add moisture to the air which makes it feel warmer.
- 7 - Unblock heating vents, move furniture away from vents.
- 8 - Lower the temperature at bedtime. Throw an extra blanket on your bed and turn the thermostat down several degrees.

From  To



Source: LREC SmartHub



**KEEP YOUR INFO CURRENT**

Lake Region urges members to keep your phone numbers, address and email current. Sometimes we schedule automated calls to notify members of planned outages or pending disconnection of service. We may mail a deposit refund check or capital credit check to the mailing address we have on file. Your email is used to access your account online (SmartHub), Co-op updates, and email newsletter.

We are now conducting some of our member satisfaction surveys via online email as well as via phone calls. These surveys conducted throughout the year help LREC identify ways to improve our services and programs for you, our members. If you are contacted for a survey, please take a moment to tell us how we’re doing.

To ensure you receive the latest information regarding your service be sure to provide LREC with the best phone number and email address to reach you. You can call our office 918-772-2526 or update your contact information online <https://www.lrecok.coop/update-phone-number-address>

# Operation Round Up Awards \$130,735 in Grants for the year of 2017

Every penny of each grant went to nonprofit organizations, local individuals, and families, right here in Lake Region Electric Cooperative's service area.

Operation Round Up was introduced at LREC in 2007 and is quickly becoming a great source of funds for struggling nonprofit programs and families in our area. Members agree to have their electric bill "round up" each month to the nearest dollar – an average of \$6 per year to be donated to the charitable Operation Round Up program.

Today, 75 percent of LREC's membership participates in Operation Round Up. 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/operation-round-up](http://www.lrecok.coop/operation-round-up)



## Local Student Attends Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit in OKC



LREC is proud to provide local students the opportunity to expand their leadership abilities by taking part in these types of programs.

LREC was proud to sponsor Caleb Welch, of Tahlequah High School, to attend this year's Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit in Oklahoma City. Thirty teens from more than a dozen electric cooperatives across Oklahoma gathered on January 27, 2018, for a full day of hands-on training, discussions, and team building activities. The training featured an innova-

and exciting discussion led by Rhett Laubach, a personal leadership insight speaker. Each student also received a \$250 scholarship for participating in this year's summit.

If you are interested in student programs 898704 offered by the co-op, please give Juanita Keener a call at 918-772-6940.



**Visit Your Co-op at the Tulsa Home & Garden Show!**  
**Free Co-op Member Gift for Show Guests**  
 Stop by and say hello or discuss any co-op concerns or issues.  
**March 8 - 11, 2018 at the River Spirit Expo At Expo Square**

### Board of Trustees

Bobby Mayfield .....President  
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 Lynn Lamons .....Secretary -Treasurer  
 Randall Shankle.....Asst. Secretary-Treasurer  
 Gary Cooper ..... Trustee  
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 Logan Pleasant.....Director of Operations  
 Glen Clark.....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.