Lake Region Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the selection of three delegates to participate in the 2014 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. The selections were made based on essays written on a topic chosen by the cooperative. From the essays entered, the local schools chose their finalists to compete in the final question and answer session held at the LREC main office in Hulbert. A panel of three judges interviewed the students based on their subject knowledge, personality, speaking ability, and presentation. All of the participating students who qualified for the final judging received a $50 cash prize.

The Youth Tour competition is available to all students in LREC’s service territory who are completing their junior year in high school. Glen Clark, Youth Tour Coordinator, visited local schools in the service territory and presented a presentation about the electric cooperative history and the annual Youth Tour trip.

LREC is pleased to have these three students representing the cooperative for the 2014 Youth Tour: Bethany Shultz of Hulbert High School, daughter of David and Julie Shultz; Hallie Barnes of Porter High School, daughter of Kent and Diana Barnes; and Paige Taylor of Hulbert High School, daughter of Bennie and Shelly Taylor.

The trip will begin when they join other winners from across Oklahoma for a “Get Acquainted Banquet” in Oklahoma City. The delegates will board a plane the following morning and fly to Washington, D.C.

Six eventful days at the nation’s capital will include a tour of the Capitol, riverboat trip on the Potomac River and a tour of Mount Vernon. Students will also meet with Oklahoma’s Congressional Delegation and visit many other points of interest.
Lake Region Electric Cooperative’s mission adopted by the Board of Trustees charges the cooperative to promote and sustain the self-reliance of members by providing the most reliable utility service at competitive rates. Our rates continue to remain steady after a downward trend from 1992 through 1998 despite the fact that other energy prices such as natural gas and propane have risen sharply. LREC’s last rate increase was in 2009. LREC now has the 3rd lowest rate among the cooperatives in Oklahoma and the average Oklahoma rate is among the lowest in the nation. The board and the management team’s philosophy is to keep a financially strong cooperative so we can ride through ups and downs in the economy and keep our member rates as low and stable as possible.

Electricity prices in Oklahoma have climbed 41 percent since 2002 according to the U.S. Department of Energy. However, LREC’s prices have increased only 27 percent during the same time period. In 2002, LREC members enjoyed the 6th lowest rates among the cooperatives in Oklahoma. In 2012 we are now enjoying the 3rd lowest in Oklahoma.

In 2004, 56 percent of LREC’s operating expenses, or $13,236,993, was comprised of the wholesale power cost. The environmental mandates have increased the power cost in 2013, it is now $23,840,477 or 65 percent of LREC’s Revenue. This means that we have been absorbing a big portion of the increase cost of purchased power rather than passing it on to the members. New EPA regulation is estimated to continue to artificially increase the cost of electricity generated by coal and force increases in our members’ bills.

Due to the strong financial position of LREC, we have been able to absorb the increases in power cost and other operating expenses in the past few years. However, we may not be able to do so in the future depending on the size of these cost increases.

Back Then ……

In the 1930s, rural America had been left in the dark as electricity made its way across the country. Electricity had become a modern necessity and big cities enjoyed the opportunities this emerging technology brought. But rural folks had to do without this needed commodity.

Into the gap stepped the hardworking men and women of rural America who formed electric cooperatives to bring power to areas that had been overlooked. In our part of Northeast Oklahoma, these pioneers formed Lake Region Electric Cooperative. As a result, the quality of life for our local communities was forever changed.
Electric System Improvements Near You

Greenleaf Substation Transformer Replacement

LREC and KAMO Power, the transmission company that LREC buys electric from, have recently replaced the Greenleaf Substation transformer with a larger one. The larger transformer allows LREC to meet the growing electrical demand of the members near Braggs, Oklahoma and surrounding areas.

“The load served by the old transformer nearly reached the capacity rating of the transformer during the 2012 summer peak, and we have had several new loads come on-line in the area since the fall of 2013. If we have another summer like we did in 2012, then the transformer would have been overloaded beyond its capacity rating. This is one of the main reasons KAMO upgraded the transformer,” stated Logan Pleasant, LREC Engineer.

Substation upgrades are required to make sure businesses, residents, and industrial facilities continue to have a reliable supply of electricity for years to come.

Remember the voltage entering and exiting a substation far exceeds anything you’ll find at home. Fences protect you and the equipment housed within. Never enter a substation.

DEFINITION
Substation
Substations are the connection points between power lines of varying voltage and contain equipment that control and protect the flow of power. Substations include transformers that step down and step up the voltage so power can be transmitted through transmission lines or distributed to your community through distribution lines.

DEFINITION
Transformers
Transformers step down the voltage in a substation so power can be distributed safely to your community through distribution lines. Transformers also step up the voltage so power can be transmitted through transmission lines.
Journeyman Lineman Certification

LREC employees were recognized during the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) Annual Meeting for earning Journeyman Lineman certifications. Hunter Cunningham (left) and Duane Watkins (right) have completed the OAEC Journeyman Lineman training program. The individuals must complete four years of classroom training and bookwork plus a set number of hours of technical on-the-job training to receive the Journeyman Lineman certification. The program provides instructions on all aspects of working in the co-op’s operations department. The program meets both national and state certification requirements.

LREC would like to congratulate 2358102 both these individuals on completing the Journeyman Lineman training.

LREC employees freed a family from a car wreck in February and received Touchstone Energy Recognition

The Touchstone Energy Power & Hope Employee Recognition Program honors co-op employees who have gone the extra mile to help those in need. These three employees went above and beyond to help out during a car wreck on Highway 51 on an icy February morning.

Left to right: Clay Wilson, Martin Walls, and Jerry Latty.

You can read the full article on www.ect.coop direct link: http://bit.ly/1lMOaDy