

# Powerline Press

## NEWSLETTER



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

June 2022

## 2022 Annual Meeting a Success

After the success of the 2021 Annual Meeting, this year's Annual Meeting, was conducted in the same form as a "Drive-Through" annual membership meeting. This year the weather did not hurt the event. The rain cleared out in the morning, and it was smooth going under the sunny skies.

LREC set the highest ever member attendance at this year's Annual Meeting. A total of **1,792 members attended** this year's annual meeting.

Four candidates were running for the three open trustee positions. The election results are as follows: Randall Shankle 1,334, Gary Cooper 1,196, James Walls 1,132, Marcie Gilliam 811.

The top three vote recipients were elected to the board. The board officers are as follows: Scott Manes, President; Lynn Lamons, Vice President; Randall Shankle, Secretary/Treasurer; and Jack Teague, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

The proposed bylaw change was approved with an overwhelming majority of 1,573 yes and 165 no votes.

This annual event brings a lot of people to Hulbert every year. A total of \$3,500 in cash was given away. Virginia Vann of Fort Gibson won the grand prize of \$1,000. Spring Butler of Wagoner won the first prize of \$500, and James Greathouse of Fort Gibson won



LREC employee Phylis Johnson helps a member at this year's annual meeting.

the second prize of \$250.

"LREC makes a difference because we are different. We are member-owned and locally operated. Members have a voice in how the cooperative is run because they elect the board of directors. We are accountable to our member-consumers and not to distant stockholders. Our rates cover the cost of doing business and are not marked up to generate profit. We give money back to our members when revenues exceed costs," said Hamid Vahdatipour, LREC Chief Executive Officer.

### 2022 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



- 1,792 registered members were in attendance.
- Randall Shankle, Gary Cooper and James Walls were elected to remain on the board.

- The proposed bylaw change was approved, with an overwhelming majority of members voting yes.
- LREC business meeting announced healthy financial successes. With non-operating revenues enabling LREC to end the year with \$2,817,479 in total margins.
- Thirty-two members won cash prizes totaling \$3,500.

# Annual Meeting Prize Winners!

If you did not attend this year's Annual Meeting, you missed out on a chance to win CASH! Lake Region randomly chooses winners for prizes each year after the Annual Meeting. This year's prize winners are listed below. Be sure to attend LREC's Annual Meeting every April for your chance to be the next big cash winner. Prize winners do not need to be present to win; they must be registered member at the Annual Meeting to be entered in the prize drawing. Thank you to everyone who attended this year.



\$1,000 Virginia Vann of Fort Gibson



\$250 James Greathouse of Fort Gibson



LREC's Bentz Helm and Sam Jackson greet Annual Meeting guests.

Watch!



Get a bird's eye view (drone video) from this year's drive-thru Annual Meeting. [www.lrecok.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.lrecok.coop/annual-meeting)

# CEO Hamid Vahdat

Hamid Vahdatipour, the former CEO of LREC, recently retired after 37 years of hard work and dedication. Hamid came to LREC in 1985, looking to find employment closer to his home in Tahlequah, and spent his career improving LREC. Hamid holds a degree in accounting and a master's in business administration. Mrs. Grace Hudlin, who was general manager at this time, offered Hamid a job as the co-op accounting clerk. Then in 1991, the Office Manager / Director of Finance position came open, and Hamid was promoted.

"When I started working for LREC, technology and computers were not used in the office. I remember bringing my personal Apple IIe computer to work so that I could create and use spreadsheets. In the early '90s, LREC was going through some turmoil with its membership. The members elected a new board of trustees and proposed a change in management," mentioned Hamid.

In January 1992, Hamid was once again promoted and appointed to General Manager / CEO and tasked with guiding the cooperative in the right direction.

"Hamid has always been a great leader. He was a conscientious steward of the co-ops' money and budget. Also, I could always count on Hamid to show up in times of large power outages - trying to help with faster restoration time. He was always willing to help by delivering material to crews in the field, sometimes meals, and whatever he could do," added Janet Farmer, LREC Dispatch Supervisor.

"Hamid has been a very respected cooperative CEO. His vision, leadership, and commitment to reliable member service have positioned LREC as a leader and trendsetter among distribution co-ops. LREC was one of the first co-ops to step up and bring fiber-optic communication services to its rural membership, where no one else would build service. Everyone mentions his friendliness; he certainly is, and he is also fierce defender of the cooperative principles and business model. As a staff member, if you propose a project or want to spend the co-op's money, you made sure that you



# Hamid Retires After 37 Years With Co-op

are well prepared and have a good plan before asking to launch and Hamid's approval. He was an excellent fit for the co-op as CEO. Hamid will always be remembered for his fairness. I am sure glad he was willing to give me a chance. He loves to laugh and enjoyed work," added Glen Clark, Director of Marketing and Member Services.

Hamid was always known for his concern for the community. He wanted to help the members in any way he could. By stepping up and serving on many community organization boards within the co-op's territory. This involvement allowed Hamid to improve the quality of life for the members. One great example of Hamid's big heart was in 1998; some of the members living around Lake Tenkiller would have lost their water service provider if Hamid didn't agree to purchase the rural water company. LREC stepped in, took over the water company, maintained and improved the system for many years, and kept our members from losing their water service.

The hundreds of employees who had the privilege to work for Hamid will remember the importance he placed on taking care of the members and the employees. This is one reason LREC is a much sought-after place to work.

"Hamid was truly a great leader in the industry. He has been a great boss. Hamid has a very unassuming temperament, and so his depth of knowledge and understanding of the electric industry never ceased to surprise and amaze me. There are very few subjects that he doesn't have a wide breadth of knowledge about," added Logan Pleasant, Director of Operations & Engineering.



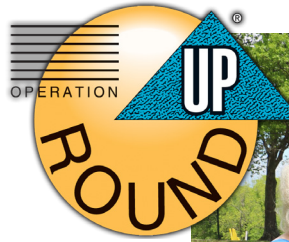
Hamid's leadership and dedication to members and employees will continue through this changing of top management at LREC. Change and retirement are unavoidable events in our lives. But one thing will remain the same: LREC members will always come first.

Hamid mentioned, "Pam and I plan to travel more. We plan on visiting as many National Parks as we can in the United States. I also would like to take my trusted Jeep and travel over the mountain roads in Colorado and Utah and rock crawl at many off-road parks around the nation."

LREC would like to wish Hamid a long and great retirement, enjoying his time with family, travels, and his Jeep. Many great adventures await.

# LREC Foundation Grants \$2,000 for Flag Pole Repair

Through the contributions of Lake Region Electric's participating members, the Operation Round-Up Foundation Board recently approved \$12,615 in total assistance to seven community programs.



Left to right: Miriam Goodin, Pat Adams, Juliana Dotson, Alexis Nelson, Marybeth Flusche, Alice Adair, and Larry Mattes, LREC Communication Specialists.

One local recipient from the last meeting was The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) - Muskogee-Indian Territory Chapter, who received a grant for \$2,000 to restore a flag pole at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum on the property right next to the Muskogee VA.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a lineage-based membership service organization for women who are directly descended from a person involved in the United States' efforts towards independence. A non-profit group, they promote education and patriotism.

"Thank you, Lake Region, and the members who participate in this grant program, our plan is to repair, repaint and light the pole, to bring it back to the former glory time that the weather has taken away," said Alice Adair, DAR regent.

"Operation Round-up is proud to support organizations like DAR that work to restore veteran monuments in our communities, said Larry Mattes, LREC Communication Specialist.

"Our Foundation's mission is to improve the lives of our members in the communities we serve, and we are happy to assist organizations that share that goal."

The foundation has allocated funds to fire departments, community libraries, senior citizen centers, school programs, agencies, non-profits, youth programs, and individuals. 1075800

The next meetings will be held on July 27th and October 26th. If your organization/individual could benefit from an Operation Round-Up grant, please apply online at [www.lrecok.coop/operation-round-up](http://www.lrecok.coop/operation-round-up)

## Your Board of Trustees

Scott Manes.....President  
 Lynn Lamons.....Vice-President  
 Randall Shankle.....Secretary-Treasurer  
 Jack Teague.....Asst. Secretary-Treasurer  
 James Walls ..... Trustee  
 Gary Cooper .....Trustee  
 Dianna Mayfield.....Trustee

## Staff

John Lee.....CEO  
 Ben McCollum .....Director of Finance  
 Logan Pleasant.....Director of Operations  
 Glen Clark .....Director of Marketing  
 Larry Mattes.....Communications  
 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)  
[www.lakeregionfiber.com](http://www.lakeregionfiber.com)

## Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &  
 Tahlequah, OK.

## Main Office Address

P.O. Box 127  
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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 during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

**Cooperative bylaws** are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.

