

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



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

February 2022

2021 Proposed Bylaw Change

The LREC Board of Directors is unanimously proposing to the membership the changes described below to Article IV Section 2 of the bylaws. The purpose of this revision is to better align the bylaws with the State's election laws. In state and local elections, if an incumbent or a new candidate is unopposed (meaning that he or she is the only candidate running for that position), then he/she will be deemed to have been elected and no election will be required. Current LREC Bylaws require an election even if there are no challengers for the position. This bylaw change will be on the ballot at the next Annual Meeting in April 2022 for LREC members' approval.



Photo from 2019 Annual Meeting co-op election.

Red text in Co-op Bylaws below indicates proposed change

SECTION 2. Election and Tenure of Office. The trustees elected prior to the 1993 Annual Meeting shall comprise the Board of Trustees until their successors shall have been elected and qualified, but in no event for a term of more than three (3) years. Trustees shall be elected by secret ballot at each annual member meeting. Beginning in 1993, trustees shall be so nominated and elected that two (2) trustees shall be elected for three (3) year terms; the following year two (2) trustees shall be elected for three (3) year terms; the following year three (3) trustees shall be elected for three (3) year terms; and so forth. Upon their election, trustees shall, subject to the provisions of these bylaws with respect to the removal of trustees, serve until the conclusion of the annual meeting of the members of the year in which their term expires or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. If for any reason an election of trustees shall not be held at a meeting of the members duly fixed and called pursuant to these Bylaws, such election may be held at an adjournment of such meeting or at a subsequently held meeting of the members. In the event of a failure of an election for a given year, the incumbent whose term otherwise would have expired shall hold over only until the next member meeting at which a quorum is present, and a successor is elected. Any such trustee elected at such a subsequent member meeting shall serve only the remainder of the term of such trustee. **Nonetheless, in the event that an incumbent trustee or qualified nominee as described in Sections 3 and 4 of this Article run unopposed, then such candidate shall be deemed to have been elected for the full term and no election for that position shall be required.**

ARE YOU READY TO SERVE?

LREC is a member-owned and locally controlled rural electric cooperative. That means you, our members own the cooperative and are responsible for governing it through an elected Board of Trustees. Each year, you are tasked with electing representatives from the membership to serve on LREC's Board of Trustees.

Members interested in running for the board can pick up a nomination packet starting March 1, 2022, at our main office in Hulbert during regular business hours. Candidates are required to return all the necessary documents, including 15 member signatures supporting their candidacy, no later than 3 PM, March 25, 2022.

Your Current LREC Board

LREC's board is comprised of seven trustees. Trustees serve three-year terms on the board. Below are your board representatives. * Denotes seats up for re-election.



Scott Manes, President



Lynn Lamons, Vice-President



Randall Shankle, Secretary *



Jack Teague, Asst. Secretary



James Walls, Trustee *



Gary Cooper, Trustee *



Dianna Mayfield, Trustee

Key Dates

Tuesday, March 1: Nominating petition packets available at Hulbert's office. Please note, nomination packets cannot be made available before March 1.

Friday, March 25: Deadline to return nomination petition packets, including 15 member signatures and candidate profile information.

Friday April 1: Printing of April Newsletter with official Annual Meeting notice, schedule, and nominees information on the board of trustee ballot.

Saturday April 30: LREC Annual Meeting. Stay tuned to this newsletter, our website, or social channels for more details regarding this year's Annual Meeting.

Use power-saving settings on your computer.



Set your computer or laptop to sleep or hibernate after 5–10 minutes of inactivity. Power-saving sleep features do not harm your hardware—modern computers are designed to handle 40,000 on-off cycles before failure. You can also turn off the screensaver, which wastes energy.

MORE WAYS TO SAVE > www.touchstoneenergy.com

LREC Bylaws and eligibility qualifications to run for the Board

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. 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.

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.

Lake Region to Participate in Affordable Connectivity Program



Get Help with Your Internet Service Bill

The Affordable Connectivity Program has replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB), providing qualifying households with monthly credits to help pay for internet service. Households in the EBB program will continue to receive their current benefit until March 1, 2022.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service credit per household. If eligible, you may receive a credit up to \$75. This includes any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same

address and share income and expenses.

Check if you are eligible at www.fcc.gov/ACP and read consumers' FAQ's and other program resources.

Two-Steps to Enroll

1. Go to ACPBenefit.org to submit an application or print out a mail-in application; and

2. Contact Lake Region once you get an approval email to select a plan and apply the discount to your bill.

Eligible households must both apply online for the program and then contact Lake Region once approved to select a service plan and get credit applied. 618301

Congratulations Gary



LREC Warehouse Supervisor and Purchasing Agent, Gary James has retired after 33 years of service. Gary has been an essential part of the LREC warehouse for years. Gary joined LREC on 1/4/89. He held positions on the right-of-

way crew as a foreman, then moved into the warehouse where he was responsible for ordering poles, transformers, powerline material, fiber material, linemen tools, and keeping up with inventory. "I had to ensure we had everything we needed to build new services and prepare for damages caused by a storm," said Gary.

Gary mentioned, "I remember moving from the old warehouse to the new warehouse in 2001. The move was a significant change, and we added a lot more warehouse room to stock more material for our crews."

Gary enjoyed his job as Warehouse Supervisor and the many relationships with vendors and sales reps he made over the years.

"My wife retired six months ago, and I am looking forward to my retirement years, spending some more time with my grandkids, some fishing, and a little traveling," said Gary.

Your Board of Trustees

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

Staff

- Hamid Vahdatipour CEO
- Ben McCollumDirector of Finance
- Logan Pleasant.....Director of Operations
- Glen ClarkDirector of Marketing
- Larry Mattes.....Communications
- Tina Glory-JordanAttorney

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone
800-364-LREC or
918-772-2526

Website:
www.lrecok.coop
www.lakeregionfiber.com

Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &
Tahlequah, OK.

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P.O. Box 127
Hulbert, OK 74441

Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in the articles of the *Powerline Press*. *Must be located in the LREC insert inside the Magazine*. 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.

