



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

When streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

#energyefficiency

Source: energy.gov



Annual Meeting

Look for our Annual Meeting election results, prize winners, and photos in our June issue of the Powerline Press.

2018 YOUTH TOUR DELEGATES

LREC Awards Teens a Trip to Washington D.C. Youth Tour



#OKYT18
#YT18

Lake Region Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the selection of three delegates to participate in the 2018 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 selected their finalists to compete in the final question and answer session held at the LREC 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.

JuaNita Keener, Youth Tour Coordinator, visited local schools in the service area with a presentation about the electric cooperative history and the Annual Youth Tour trip.

LREC is pleased to have 1127208 these



Left to right: Emerson Turner, Riley Dunham, and Callie Jackson

Photo by: Larry Matties

three students representing the cooperative for the 2018 Youth Tour: Emerson Turner of Coweta High School, daughter of Dawn Turner; Riley Dunham, of Tahlequah High School son of Roger and Jana Dunham; and Callie Jackson of Coweta High School, daughter of Bill and Jana Jackson.

The trip will begin June 8th, 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.

If you are interested in more details regarding the LREC Annual Youth Tour contest and trip please, call JuaNita Keener at 918-772-6940.

2017 Year End Review and Update on Co-op



Hamid Vahdatipour, CEO

To our Members,

LREC wrapped up the fiscal year 2017 (FY 2017) maintaining a healthy financial position despite the lower energy sales due to mild winter and summer temperatures. Total kWh sales were 3.8% lower than projections and 5.4% lower than 2016. Lower sales barely generated adequate revenues to cover all the operating expenses of the cooperative. LREC ended the year with an operating margin of \$31,871. However, the addition of the non-operating revenues enabled us to end the year with \$2,021,238 in total margins.

Our members' equity increased to \$49,869,547 and long-term debts increased to \$56,475,787. The equity as a percent of total assets remains very strong at 42%. The total utility plant was increased by \$4 million to \$107,478,142, and the non-utility plant increased by \$5.7 million to \$17,473,324 mainly due to the Fiber-to-the-Home project construction.

Other highlights from the Fiscal Year include:

- LREC's modified debt service coverage for the FY 2017 was 1.64, and the total debt to asset ratio was 37%.
- The average residential kWh usage per month dropped to 1,075 kWhs from 1,136 kWhs in 2016.
- Total miles of line were 3,088 serving an average of 24,648 meters.
- Total purchased power cost was 62% of total revenue for FY 2017. In comparison this ratio for FY 2008 was 56.5%.

We strive to maintain the lowest possible rates and yet provide a reliable service to our members. Lake Region Electric Cooperative's mission, adopted by the board of directors, charges the cooperative to promote and sustain the self-reliance of members by providing the most reliable utility service at competitive rates.

LREC remains committed to providing the best quality of service to our members by maintaining and upgrading the

utility plant. Vegetation control remains to be a top priority for LREC.

After the success of LREC's pilot Fiber-To-The-Home project, the Board has decided to continue the endeavor to provide high-quality state of the art broadband service to its members by starting phase one construction of fiber optic lines. This phase includes construction of over 800 miles of fiber optic lines bringing high-speed internet to over 9,000 homes. This is the first phase of a three-phase project that started in August of 2016. During 2017, LREC more than doubled its broadband customers moving from 865 connected customers to 1,902 connected customers in December of 2017. The Phase One project is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2019.

In December of 2017, the board was pleased to approve a patronage capital retirement/refund of \$1,188,649 to the members, bringing to total funds refunded to the members to \$20,797,093.

Excellent customer service, strong financial condition, and rate stability have been among the top drivers directing Lake Region Electric Cooperative's long-range planning and day-to-day operations. We are pleased to announce that we have met or exceeded those goals for 2017.

Lake Region
Electric Cooperative's
2017 Annual Report is
available online at
www.lrecok.coop/annual-reports



LREC Makes Safety A Priority

“Safety” is a universal word that is often mentioned. Communities large and small, as well as companies across all industries, are committed to safety. Sports leagues, at every level, take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when it counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

Safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For Lake Region Electric Cooperative it’s the number one priority. Over time, LREC has created a culture of safety by putting our employees’ safety and that of the community above all else. At its core, LREC’s mission is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity to its member-owners. We strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our member-owners, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, and vigilance. 949102

Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors. LREC conducts electrical safety demonstrations in schools and for community events. May is National Electrical Safety Month. According



Courtesy photo

Never go near a downed or fallen electric power line. Always assume that it is energized. Touching it could be fatal.

to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents, and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don’t attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or pad mount transformers that look incorrect. Contact LREC for additional electrical safety tips. If you would like LREC to provide a safety demonstration at your school or community event, please contact Mike Heaton, Job Training & Safety Coordinator at 918-772-6934. LREC also publishes safety material on our website at www.lrecok.coop/safety. Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety.



**Protect Your Home
and Your Family.**
Know What's Below
Dial 811 Before You Dig.
www.callokie.com



Understanding Your Right of Way Easement

A right of way (ROW) is a strip of land that an electric utility uses to construct, maintain and repair its power or fiber lines. An easement contract between a utility and a landowner is a legal restriction on the land use that allows the utility to build, operate and maintain the lines. It also allows the landowner to retain general ownership and control of the land. Right of way easements give a utility the right to survey, construct, operate, maintain, upgrade and repair a line located on the defined ROW. The easement includes the right to clear and trim vegetation and trees from within the entire easement area once the line is built, and remove dangerous trees or limbs adjacent to the ROW to ensure the safe and reliable distribution of service.

Journeyman Lineman Certification

Photo courtesy of OAEC



Left to right: Brock Lubbers and Clay Wilson

Two LREC employees were recognized during the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) Annual Meeting for earning their Journeyman Lineman certification. Both Brock Lubbers and Clay Wilson have completed the OAEC Journeyman Lineman training program.

These individuals must complete four years of classroom training and book work plus a set number of hours of on-the-job technical 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 both Brock and Clay on completing the Journeyman Lineman training program.



LREC Lineman Appreciation

We honor the men who work hard at keeping the power on. These linemen battle the bitter cold and the blistering heat doing everything they can to provide reliable service to our members. Our linemen are some of the first responders during storms. Linemen work with thousands of volts of electricity every day of the year, under dangerous conditions. Let's recognize those individuals who weather the storms to keep the lights on. **#THANKALINEMAN**

YOUR LREC LINEMEN

- Tom Adams
- Cory Bloxson
- Dean Buford
- DJ Collins
- Tony Davis
- Dan Hakes
- Brock Lubbers
- Kyle Moore
- Aaron Norquest
- Arnold Ratliff
- Chance Ryals
- Randall Scott
- Connor Sarwinski
- Jason Steeley
- Frank Alan Teague
- Kane Teague
- Dalton Trotter
- Duane Watkins
- Jason Youngblood
- Clay Wilson



Photo by: Larry Mattes

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- Glen ClarkDirector of Marketing
- Larry MattesEditor
- Tina Glory-JordanAttorney

Office Hours

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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 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.