

# Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members. February 2023

## ARE YOU READY TO SERVE?

### 2023 Board of Trustees Election

Lake Region Electric Cooperative is your member-owned rural electric cooperative. It belongs to you and your fellow members. LREC's success depends on its board of trustees guidance, comprised of seven democratically-elected individuals from the membership.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative is accepting nominations from eligible candidates who are interested in running and serving on the cooperative's board of trustees. We have two board members whose terms will expire this year. The co-op membership will vote to select the two positions, to serve a three-year term at this year's Annual Meeting - on **April 29, 2023**. The Annual Meeting will look similar to last year's, with several drive-thru lanes for quick and easy voting. We will publish more details on Annual Meeting as these become available.

### Becoming a Candidate

Members interested in running for the board will need to pick up a nomination petition packet starting **February 28, 2023**, at LREC's main office in Hulbert during regular business hours. Complete the packet and return all required documents, including 15 member signatures supporting your candidacy no later than 4:30 PM, **March 24, 2023**. You will be notified of your candidacy if all qualifications have been met.

Specific minimal qualifications are required by basic law and the cooperative's bylaws for one to be eligible for election or appointed to and to serve on the cooperative's board of trustees. 105901



*Shawna Justice and Kristy Turney, working 2022 Annual Meeting.*

### Candidate Qualifications

It is the board's ultimate legal responsibility to ensure that these requirements are met and in compliance. Suppose the board should determine that an incumbent, nominee, or potential appointee lacks or has lost any necessary legal qualifications. In that case, the board must remove such incumbent or declare such nominee or possible appointee ineligible for election, whichever may be the case.

By adopting, publishing, and appropriately disseminating this policy in our member newsletter, the board's respectful hope is that trustee incumbents, nominees, or potential appointees will be fully apprised of these requirements.

**Candidate Qualification Bylaws Continued on page 2 ►**

# 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.

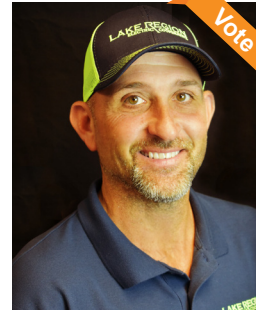
"Close relative" means a person who by blood or in law, including step, half, foster, and adoptive kin, is either spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew, or niece of the principal. Close relative shall also include more distant relatives who are members of 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.

# 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. The orange **vote** corner banner denotes board members 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, February 28:** Nominating petition packets available at Hulbert's office. Please note, nomination packets cannot be made available before February 28.

**Friday, March 24:** 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 election.



# REPORT OUTAGES

Call LREC directly at **918-772-2526**, even if you think others have already reported the outage. **Be ready to provide the following information:**

- Your name
- Your physical address
- Account number
- How long you have been out of power
- Unusual events, sites, or sounds on or near your property or LREC equipment.

If it is after normal business hours or a holiday, your call will automatically transferred to Lake Region's after hours dispatch center.

▶ **Reminder, never report an outage using email or social media because these services are not monitored 24/7.**

## DURING AN OUTAGE, REMEMBER THESE SAFETY TIPS



Assume all power lines are energized. They carry high voltage and are deadly to touch.



Never try to repair or move LREC equipment, like power lines or transformer boxes in your yard.



Purchase a backup generator if you depend on electricity to power required medical equipment to safeguard against power outages.

# \$18,686 in rabates **Member Savings for 2022**



**Electric Water Heaters**  
32 | \$4,800



**Window Unit**  
5 | \$250



**Smart Thermostat**  
20 | \$879



**Business Lighting**  
1 | \$732



**Mini Split Heat Pump**  
12 | \$3,600



**Heat Pump Water Heater**  
2 | \$1,000



**Air Source Heat Pump**  
9 | \$6,300



**EV Home Charging Station**  
5 | \$1,250

## Rebate Reminder

You save, we pay. Members can get money back for installing and completing a rebate. We offer several rebates on; programmable thermostats, electric water heaters, mini-split air conditioners, heat pump heating, cooling system, and an EV home charging station.

LREC also offers a commercial business lighting rebate available for schools, commercial, industrial and agricultural business members.

Visit our website to view all our current rebates at: [www.lrecok.coop/rebates](http://www.lrecok.coop/rebates)

**Rebate Reminder - LREC offers a \$250 rebate for installation of an EV Home Charging Station.**

## COST OF RUNNING A SPACE HEATER

When temperatures drop, it's a common solution to plug in a portable space heater. Multiple electric plug-in space heaters are no more efficient than other heating sources, and another thing to note is that all electric space heaters are (1,500 watts). Before you purchase an electric plug-in space heater, consider the operating costs. Use the formula provided to calculate the operating costs of an electric space heater.

Watts ÷ 1,000 x \$0.08 kWh (LREC rate) x hours of operations					
	Watts	Cost per kWh	Running hrs per day	Cost per Day	Cost for 30 days
Space Heater	1,500	\$0.08 kWh	24	\$2.88	\$86.40

One space heater can add nearly \$90 a month to your bill. If you must use a space heater, choose a newer model, with multiple settings, and operate on the lowest watts setting. Only use to heat spaces temporarily.

### 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  
Jarrod Welch.....Director of Fiber & IT  
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  
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 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.