

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members. **February 2025**

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #2



Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Each member has equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 26!

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

Each April, LREC holds its Annual Meeting of member-owners. It is an opportunity for members to gather together and vote on their co-op representation. LREC is accepting nominations from eligible candidates who are interested in running and serving on the cooperative's board of trustees. We have **three board seats** whose terms will expire this year and will be up for election. The co-op membership will vote to select the three positions to serve a three-year term at this year's Annual Meeting on **April 26, 2025**. The Annual Meeting will look similar to the past several years, with several drive-thru lanes for quick and easy voting at the Hulbert High School. We will publish more details on the LREC Annual Meeting as these become available.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS?

Must live within service territory for over a year and be a member in good standing. Complete outline in Article IV, Section 3 can be found on page 2 of the newsletter.

HOW DO I RUN FOR THE BOARD?

If you're interested in serving on LREC's Board of Trustees, get started by picking up a petition at our **temporary Hulbert office on main street at 110 E Main St.** Once your membership is confirmed, you will get a member signature form and must collect at least 15 member signatures.

WHEN CAN I PICK UP A PETITION?

Petition can be picked up February 25. Petition and signatures must be turned in no later than March 21, 2025.

WHEN ARE THE ELECTIONS?

LREC's board election will conclude with the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 26, 2025. Members will vote in person at the Annual Meeting drive-thru.

ELECTION TIMELINE

February 25

March 21

April 1

In-person
Voting
April 26



Petition Pick Up



Petition Deadline



Nominations Published



Election

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 or her 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 ***asterisk** corner banner denotes board members up for re-election.



Scott Manes, President



Lynn Lamons, Vice-President



Randall Shankle, Secretary - Treasurer



Jack Teague, Asst. Secretary - Treasurer



Gary Cooper, Trustee



Dianna Mayfield, Trustee



James Walls, Trustee



STAY WHERE YOU ARE

Beware of Winter POWER POLE COLLISIONS

You have just been in an accident involving a downed power line. Your first instinct might be to get out and run, but that could cost you your life.

In most cases, the safest place to be is inside your car or truck, which acts as an insulator and keeps you out of the path of stray electricity. Call 9-1-1, and tell the dispatcher a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved. LREC lineworkers will be dispatched to the scene to de-energize the power. 2577501

There is no way to tell if a downed line is energized by looking. Always assume a downed line is live, even if it is not buzzing or sparking. Wait to exit the car until you receive the all clear from the utility or emergency personnel.

If your car is on fire or you see smoke, escape as safely as possible by making a clean, solid jump out with feet together and hop away with both feet together as far as you can. Warn others not to approach the scene.

Did you know?

Not only are auto accidents involving LREC power poles potentially dangerous for drivers and passengers, they often cause extended outages and costly repairs. Please drive safe out there!

\$29,188 in Member Rebates for 2024



Electric Water Heater
41 | \$6,150



Window Unit
7 | \$350



Geothermal Heat Pump
4 | \$13,500



Smart Thermostat
15 | \$710



Energy Audit
3 | \$525



Business Lighting
1 | \$633



Mini Split Heat Pump
9 | \$1,620



Heat Pump Water Heater
1 | \$500

You save, we pay. Members can get money back for installing and completing a rebate. We offer several rebates. However we are making updates to our rebate program! Starting July 1, 2025, changes will go into effect that may impact how you qualify for and receive rebates. Please check website in July or call 918-772-2526.



Air Source Heat Pump
8 | \$4,700



EV Home Charging Station
2 | \$500

Visit our website to view all our current rebates at: www.lrecok.coop/rebates

POWER UP WITH LREC YOUTH PROGRAMS

LREC is offering several incredible chances for young leaders to participate in inspiring programs! LREC is calling for 8th-grade students to apply for Energy Camp and 11th-grade students to apply for Youth Tour contest. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to learn, lead, and have fun!

⚡ Energy Camp

Four-day summer camp for 8th graders

⚡ Washington D.C. Youth Tour

A week-long all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for 11th grade students.

⚡ Leadership Summit

LREC selects two alternates from the Youth Tour contest to attend leadership summit in OKC.

⚡ Scholarships

Committee selects two \$2,500 scholarships



2024 Youth Tour Students during trip in Washington D.C.

[Learn more at www.lrecok.coop/youth-programs](http://www.lrecok.coop/youth-programs)

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
Tina Glory-JordanAttorney

Staff

Hamid Vahdatipour.....CEO
Leisa Walker.....Sr Director of Accounting
Logan Pleasant.....Director of Operations
Jarrod Welch.....Director of Fiber & IT
Glen ClarkDirector of Marketing

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.

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.