

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



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

September 2026

Operation Round-Up Grant Supports Keys Fishing Team

Concern for Community

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #7

The Keys Public Schools Fishing Team has been awarded a \$1,050 Operation Round-Up grant to purchase three new kayaks, helping make the sport more accessible for student anglers. Coach Josh Haggard saw a need among students who wanted to join the team but didn't have access to a boat or kayak. To help, he began lending out his own equipment. Thanks to the Operation Round-Up grant, the team will now have three dedicated kayaks that students can use for years to come, ensuring more young anglers have the opportunity to get on the water.

The Keys Fishing Team has approximately 30 active members each year, ranging from beginners who have never held a fishing pole to experienced tournament anglers. While the team originally focused on bass boat fishing,



Members of the Keys Public Schools Fishing Team!



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Cherokee Nation Leaders Visit *Lake Region!*



Lake Region management pictured with Cherokee Nation Leaders.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative was honored to welcome Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr., Deputy Secretary of State Canaan Duncan, Speaker Johnny Jack Kidwell, District 1 Councilor Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, and Executive Director of Natural Resources Sydnee Krenek to our headquarters.

During the visit, Cherokee Nation leaders and Lake Region representatives discussed ongoing broadband and energy expansion efforts across northeast Oklahoma, along with opportunities to strengthen partnerships that benefit cooperative members and the communities we serve.

Operation Round-Up

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adding kayaks has opened the door for students who otherwise might not have been able to participate. **2579001**

Beyond learning to fish, students gain valuable life skills through the program. Team members learn teamwork, water safety, and respect for the outdoors while building confidence as they develop new skills. Coach Haggard says one of the most rewarding parts of the program is watching students encourage one another, carry kayaks together, and help rig each other's fishing gear before heading out on the water.

“

I have many kids who had never been in a kayak before joining the team, so watching them learn, gain confidence, and help one another on the water is a big part of what makes this program special.

- Josh Haggard, Keys Public School Fishing Coach ”

The new kayaks will remain with the team as a long-term resource, allowing future students to benefit from the investment. Parent donations have also helped provide fishing rods, reels, lures, life jackets, whistles, and other essential equipment to support the growing program.

lrecok.coop/operation-round-up



Ready to Round-Up?

Call us today at **918-772-2526** and make sure you are rounding up your monthly electric or fiber internet bill to the nearest dollar through Operation Round-Up. Those extra cents may not seem like much, but together, they add up to thousands of dollars that go directly to local organizations.

LREC SCHOLARSHIPS

Local Students Awarded LREC Scholarships

Earlier this spring, Lake Region Electric Cooperative awarded scholarships to its 2026 recipients. Before heading off to begin their college careers this fall, the students stopped by LREC to pick up their scholarship checks. LREC's scholarship program is one of the many ways we invest in our communities and support local students as they pursue higher education.

This year's recipients are Wyatt Stephens and Uriah Workman, both 2026 graduates of Tahlequah High School. Each student received a \$2,500 scholarship and plans to pursue a degree in engineering. Wyatt will attend the University of Oklahoma, while Uriah will attend Northeastern State University. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

To learn more about LREC's scholarship program and application process, visit:

www.lrecok.coop/scholarships

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES 5 & 7

*Education, Training & Information
Concern for Community*



Wyatt Stephens
Tahlequah High School
\$2,500
The University of Oklahoma



Uriah Workman
Tahlequah High School
\$2,500
Northeastern State University

Protecting Members While Planning for Growth

As data centers and other large-scale energy users continue looking to locate across the Midwest, Associated Electric Cooperative (AECI), its six generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative-owners, and the 51 distribution cooperatives they serve are planning ahead to ensure future electric demand can be met without placing additional costs or risks on existing cooperative members. To accomplish this, AECI has developed a Large Load Program that helps maintain reliable service while ensuring new large-load projects pay their fair share.

Top 5 Takeaways

1 It protects existing members

The program ensures new large-load projects can be served without shifting costs or financial risk to current cooperative members.

2 It applies to major projects

New electric loads of 50 megawatts or more, including data centers and large industrial facilities, must complete a comprehensive review before receiving service.

3 Developers pay the costs

Project developers fund all required engineering studies, financial reviews, and system upgrades needed to serve their facilities.

4 Members do not subsidize projects

Large-load customers must pay for required system upgrades, provide financial security before construction, and pay rates that reflect their true cost to serve. This ensures existing cooperative members are not responsible for the costs of new development.

5 Preparing the co-op system for future

Associated Electric continues planning for future demand while maintaining reliable service for today's members.

In July, Lake Region Electric Cooperative, along with the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC), signed the White House Ratepayer Protection Pledge, reinforcing our commitment to ensuring that developers of large-load projects, not cooperative members, bear the full cost of the generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure needed to serve those projects. The pledge also reaffirms that local electric cooperatives retain control of decisions affecting their systems while continuing to provide reliable, affordable electricity.

Our Commitment to You

At Lake Region Electric Cooperative, our priority is simple. We exist to serve and protect our members. If a large-scale project wants to connect to our system, it will pay the full cost of the infrastructure required to serve it, not our members.

The Three Tiered System Working Together to Power Your Life

Have you ever wondered how electricity reaches your home? It all starts with the cooperative's unique three-tier system. Each cooperative has a different role, but together we share one mission: providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to the members and communities we proudly serve.



Trustee Gary Cooper

EARNs NRECA Director Gold Credential Recertification

Lake Region Electric Cooperative is proud to recognize Trustee Gary Cooper for earning the recertification of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Director Gold Credential, the highest level of director education offered by NRECA. NRECA's Director Education program is designed to educate, equip, and empower cooperative trustees through a structured, three-part curriculum that supports both new and experienced directors. The program strengthens leadership skills, expands industry knowledge, and prepares directors to navigate the evolving challenges of the electric utility industry.

The Director Gold Credential represents a long-term commitment to cooperative leadership and lifelong learning. It requires completion of the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) program, the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), and ongoing advanced coursework to maintain the credential. Congratulations to Trustee Cooper on this outstanding achievement, and thank you for your continued dedication to serving the members of Lake Region Electric Cooperative.



Pictured, left to right: Glen Clark, General Manager/CEO of LREC, and Gary Cooper, LREC Trustee.

Education, Training & Information
COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #5



It's YOUR Co-op YOU are what powers it!

At Lake Region Electric Cooperative, you're more than someone who receives electric service. You're a member-owner of a local cooperative built to serve you and your community. You're not simply purchasing electricity. You're part of an organization that has been powering rural Oklahoma for generations, and your voice helps shape its future. It all happens because members came together to build something that serves everyone. Every mile of line we maintain, every outage we restore, and every improvement we make is done with you in mind.

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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 or at lrecok.coop.