

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



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

February 2021

ARE YOU READY TO SERVE?

2021 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, made up of seven democratically-elected individuals from the membership.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative is accepting nominations from eligible candidates who are interested in running for the cooperative's board of trustees. Due to the 2020 Annual Meeting cancellation due to COVID19 safety concerns. The two board members whose terms were to expire remained seated and must run this year for the remaining two years of their three-year terms, even though they did not have any opponents last year. All candidates must choose the group they are running for in the election. They can select the two positions with the terms expiring in 2022 or the two positions with the terms expiring in 2023. No candidate can run for both elections. The annual meeting may look a little different this year with COVID19 concerns. However, we will do our best to host our annual meeting.

Becoming a Candidate

Members interested in running for the board can pick up a nomination petition packet starting February 23, 2021, 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 3:00 PM, March 19, 2021. If all qualifications have been met, you will be notified of your candidacy.

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.

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 that trustee incumbents, nominees, or potential appointees will be fully apprised of these requirements.



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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. And 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.

The True Cost To Run A Space Heater

When temperatures drop, it's an easy and common solution to plug in a portable electric space heater. Here are a few tips to understand the operating cost and get the most from your space heater.



Operating Cost

Almost all space heaters on the market are 1,500 watts. $\text{Space Heater } 1,500 \text{ watts} \div 1,000 = 1.5$
 $1.5 \times \$0.08 \text{ LREC's kWh rate} = .12 \text{ cents an hour to operate.}$ If you are running just one space heater 24/7, it will cost you \$2.88 a day. Now consider how many days you run the space heater a month plus all other electric appliances in your home.

One space heater can add nearly \$100 a month to your electric bill.

Tips

Choose a newer model with multiple temperature settings, and operate on the lowest watts setting. Only use to heat small spaces temporarily. Opt for models with a thermostat, timer, or WiFi controls.

Tips for Winter Safety

It's no surprise that winter months bring an increased potential for fire risks and electrical safety hazards. This makes sense because consumers use additional electrical devices and appliances during the coldest months, like space heaters, electric blankets, and portable generators - 10300.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that 47,700 home fires occur each year in the U.S. due to electrical failure or malfunction. This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips from the Lake Region.

- ▶ **Don't overload outlets.** Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires.
- ▶ **Never leave space heaters unattended.** If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are placed at least three feet away from flammable items.
- ▶ **Inspect heating pads and electric blankets.** Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads – look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged.

Turn off your computer when not in use to save energy



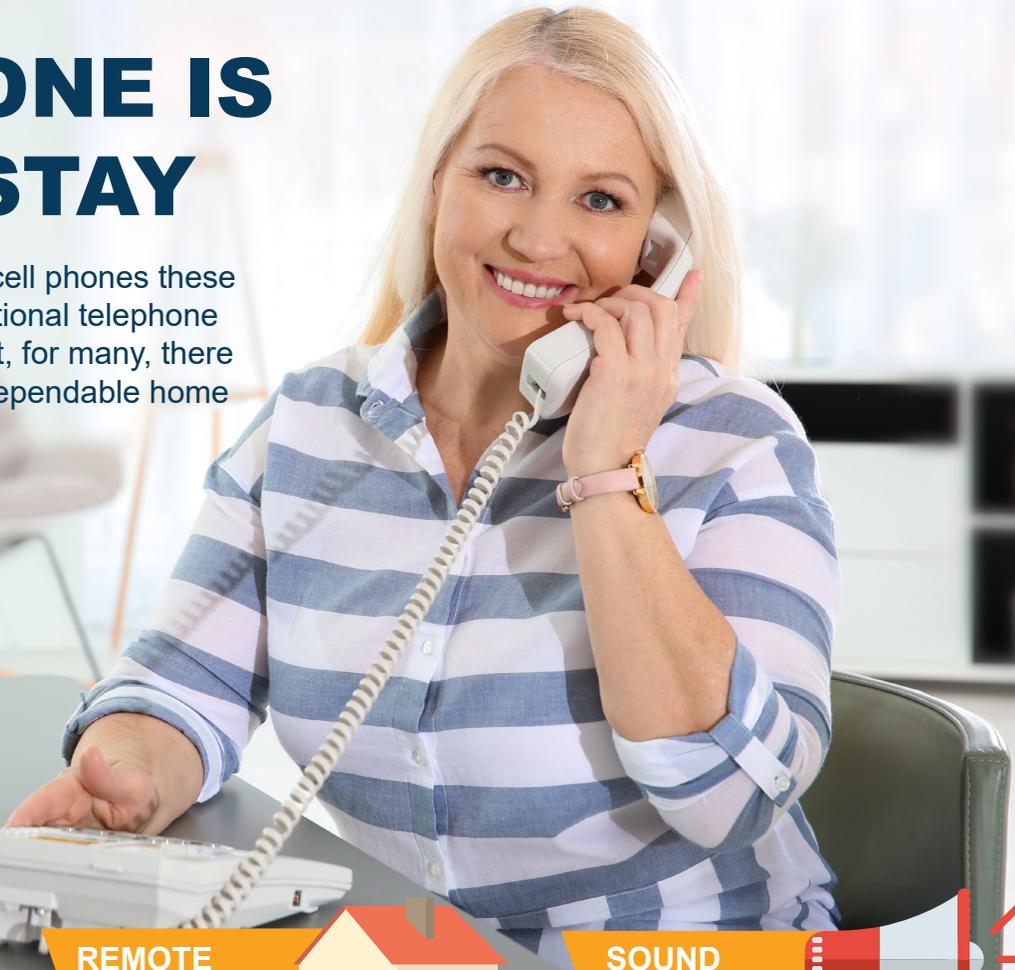
Save up to 5% on electric costs per year.

Your computer continues to use energy even when it's in standby mode. To save energy, get in the habit of turning off your computer overnight or anytime it's not in use. Use a smart power strip to save even more.

MORE WAYS TO SAVE > www.touchstoneenergy.com

HOME PHONE IS HERE TO STAY

With 96% of us carrying around cell phones these days, you might think that a traditional telephone line in your home is obsolete. But, for many, there is still a need for a reliable and dependable home phone line.



SPOTTY CELL SERVICE



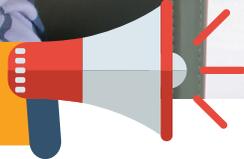
Cell phone service can be spotty in rural Oklahoma. A landline gives you peace of mind - it's there whether you're dialing 911 or want to catch up with friends.

REMOTE OFFICE



Do you work from home? A phone line with a clear connection is a must when communicating with clients or the boss.

SOUND QUALITY



Customers report that sound quality is better than some cell phones. This is particularly important for people who suffer from hearing loss.

LAKE REGION HOME PHONE \$39.95/mo

+taxes & fees

Includes unlimited local and long-distance plus features like Caller ID, Call Waiting, and Voicemail.



Lakeregionfiber.com / 918-772-2526

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Office Hours

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

Telephone

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 918-772-2526

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www.lrecok.net

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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 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.

