



# Powerline Press

## NEWSLETTER

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

February 2012

Vol. 3

No. 2



### Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Air is drawn into your home from low areas, so inspect your foundation for potential air-infiltration points. Fixing these leaks makes a bigger impact on your electric bill than sealing doors and windows! Caulk all cracks and gaps around your home including spaces around wires for telephone, electrical, cable, and gas lines, water spigots, and dryer vents. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy



## High School Winter Media Day

Over 200 student athletes from northeastern Oklahoma attended the Winter Media Day and Leadership Conference organized by Lake Region Electric Cooperative and sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and CoachesAid.com. The event was held at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

Hosting this event provided student athletes in the area with an opportunity to sharpen their interview skills while hearing from renowned leadership speakers. Students and coaches answered questions in team interview sessions with CoachesAid.com, a media outlet dedicated to high schools sports coverage.

Students also played basketball with a free-throw shot contest for a \$50 gift card while waiting to be interviewed. In addition to the interviews and vendor booths, athletes and coaches were enlightened and entertained by



Left to right top row: Coach Chad Walker, Sasey Beaston, Jhonett Cookson, Desiree Phipps, bottom row: Marisa Girdner, Maegan Blevins, Alissa Hadlet, Jordan Barr. Tahlequah High School girls basketball team was one of the several teams who attended the Winter Media Day event.

a motivational speaker who focused on character, decision making, leadership and teamwork. All athletes in attendance were entered in a prize drawing for several Wal-Mart gift cards.

## LREC Accepting Board Member Nominations

### ▪ *What you need to know before running for the LREC Board*

Lake Region Electric Cooperative members will be asked to vote for two LREC trustees at the cooperative's annual meeting of the membership, Saturday, April 28, 2012 at the Hulbert Public School in Hulbert, Oklahoma.

Any member in good standing may submit nominations by petition on forms provided by the cooperative. These forms will be available at the Hulbert office between February 28, 2012 and March 29, 2012. Each nominating petition must include 15 or more member signatures.

Certain 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.

It is the ultimate legal responsibility of the board to ensure that these requirements are met and complied with. If the board should determine that an incumbent, nominee or potential appointee lacks or has lost any of the necessary legal qualifications, it is the duty of the board to remove such incumbent or to declare such nominee or potential appointee ineligible for election, whichever may be the case.

By adopting, publishing and appropriately disseminating this policy and the attached related affirmation form, it is the board's respectful hope that trustee incumbents, nominees or potential appointees will not only be fully apprised of these requirements, but mindful of their importance in deciding whether to continue or commence service on the board.

*LREC eligibility qualifications continued on page 3*

# Stop Air Flow and High Energy Bills



After a long day at work, we are ready to go home and relax. Our homes should be an oasis for all of us, where we can kick back and get comfortable.

There is no oasis of comfort when your home is too cold in the winter or too hot in the summer. That means it is leaking air, and wasting money.

One of the best things you can do if you have high electric bills is check the insulation. How much is in your attic and basement or crawl space? What kind is it? Is there an air barrier along with the insulation? The answers to these questions will determine how much energy

and money you can save.

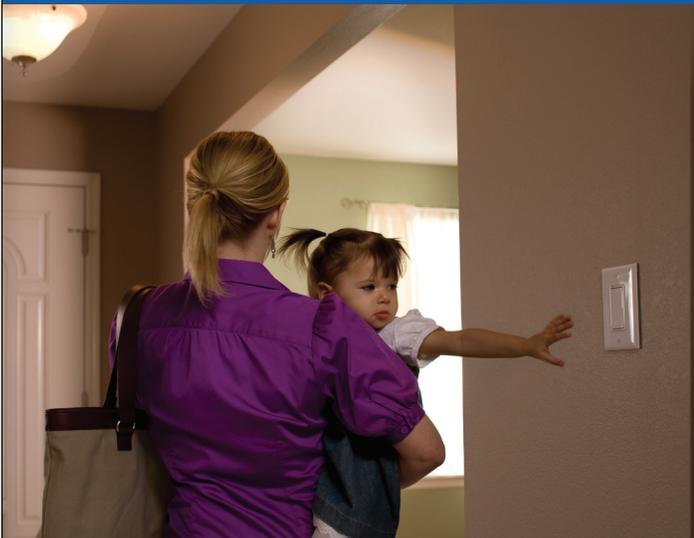
Air infiltration is one of the main problems for most homes. It is healthy to have some air flow in and out of your home, but too much leads to discomfort and high electric bills. Properly installed insulation paired with an air barrier can do a lot to save energy.

If you have fiberglass insulation, whether blown or rolled batts, you will need to create an air barrier by sealing all of the cracks and gaps between the living spaces and unfinished areas with caulk and expanding foam. Cellulose does a better job of blocking air, but only foam insulation offers its own air barrier.

Check out [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov) to learn more about insulation. You can also contact Lake Region Electric Cooperative and talk to our member services about whether your home needs more insulation. By stopping air flow, you will be well on your way to a more comfortable home, and lower electric bills.

*Source: EnergySavers.gov*

Find out how Lake Region Electric Cooperative can help you lead by example at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



**GOOD HABITS START YOUNG.**  
**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**

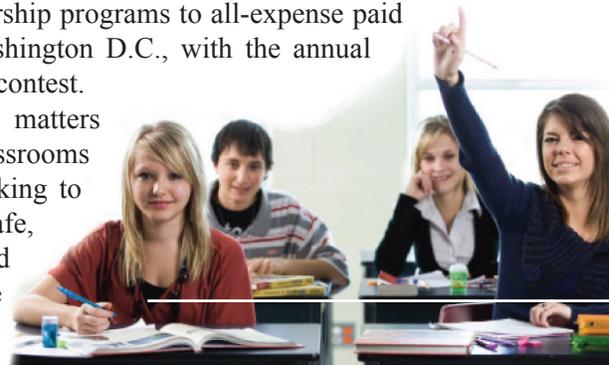
## Cooperation in Education

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) matters because we support local schools in our area through programs like Operation Round-Up, Youth Tour, Energy Camp, Leadership Summit, Media Day, and with safety demonstrations.

Safety demonstrations make learning fun for the younger students. LREC employees can take time out of their schedule to teach local classrooms about electric safety. All a teacher needs to do is make a call to LREC and the safety coordinator can bring an eye-catching safety display to your school.

Of course, these programs are just the beginning, as a member-owned, not-for-profit business, electric cooperatives were founded on the principle of concern for community. Students will continue to benefit from LREC's many programs for years to come. From scholarships and youth leadership programs to all-expense paid trips to Washington D.C., with the annual Youth Tour contest.

LREC matters in the classrooms and by working to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable power.



# *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.

# Using gas to heat?

## ■ Get a Carbon Monoxide Alarm

If your home has a fireplace or any gas appliances, you should install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in or near every bedroom. The alarm will react when it senses that carbon monoxide levels in your house are too high, usually because an appliance is malfunctioning. Carbon monoxide alarms do not detect gas leaks.



**Here are some tips for ensuring your alarm works when you need it:**

1. Replace your alarms every five years. Most warranties cover only five years.
2. Test the alarm regularly by pressing the “test” button and holding it down for 20 seconds.
3. Locate CO alarms at least 10 feet away from sources of humidity like showers and bathrooms, where steam can cause them to overreact.
4. Place a CO alarm on every level of the house and at the top of the basement stairs, even if there are no bedrooms on those floors.
5. Do not put a CO alarm in the garage, kitchen or the room with your gas furnace.
6. If your alarm goes off too often, it probably means it is too close to a fireplace or a gas furnace or stove. It also could mean that your gas appliances are not burning the fuel completely. If you see a yellow or orange pilot light, that could be the case. Call a plumber to check it out.

# Safe Use of Mylar Balloons Near Power Lines

Colorful mylar balloons can brighten any celebration, but using them improperly causes inconveniences and safety hazards. With the proper precautions, mylar balloons can be used without problems.

Mylar balloons have a metallic coating that conducts electricity. If the balloons are released and come in contact with overhead electric lines, they can cause serious damage, including power outages and fires.

**The following tips will help you use mylar balloons safely:**

1. Always keep the balloons weighted so they do not accidentally fly away.
2. Never release a mylar balloon. When you are finished with the balloon, deflate it and throw it away.
3. Do not tie mylar balloons to children with metallic ribbon. If the mylar balloon comes in contact with electricity the child could receive a fatal shock.
4. If a balloon does get in a power line, do not attempt to retrieve it yourself. Contact the electric utility and emergency services.



For more information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

### Board of Trustees

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 Jim Loftin .....Secr.-Treas.  
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 Larry Mattes .....Editor  
 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)

### 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 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](tel:800-364-LREC) or [918-772-2526](tel:918-772-2526)

**Cooperative bylaws** are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.