



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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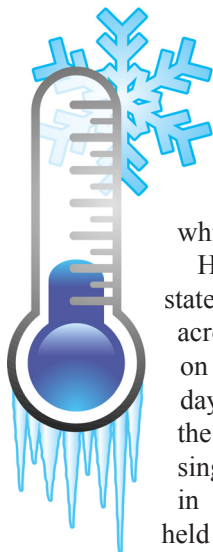
Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Your heat pump can use 10 percent to 25 percent more energy if it's not properly maintained, which includes regularly checking and replacing the air filter when it's dirty to keep parts from working too hard or even becoming damaged. Keep brush and plants tidy around the outdoor unit, and dust the return registers inside.

Source:
U.S. Department
of Energy



Extreme Cold Creates Record Demand for Electricity



Lake Region Electric Cooperative set a new all-time high winter electricity usage peak of 100,686 kW at 8:00 A.M. on January 6, 2014. The previous high winter peak was 97,228 kW which was set on February 10, 2011.

Hamid Vahdatipour, LREC CEO, stated, "Below zero temperatures across the system, as well as load on a Monday following the holidays, drove the system peak. Across the system temperatures were in the single digits with wind chill factors in the negative digits. Our system held up very well under these circumstances."

During the peak, Associated Electric Cooperative, LREC power supplier, met all the electricity needs with all its owned and contracted coal units on line, as well as St Francis and Chouteau combined-cycle gas units and the Essex simple-cycle gas unit. Wind energy (152MW) and hydropower (478 MW) also were used to meet the member peak.

With the extreme cold weather, Lake Region Electric Cooperative is alerting members of the effects on energy consumption. "With the cold temperatures comes increased usage and higher electric bills," stated Glen Clark, LREC Member Services.

LREC recommends the thermostat setting of 68 degrees. For every degree above this setting members will add approximately 4-8 percent to their heating cost.

Annual Meeting

April 26, 2014

LREC Accepting Board Member Nominations

What you need to know before running for the LREC Board of Trustees

Lake Region Electric Cooperative members will be asked to vote for two trustees at the cooperative's annual meeting of the membership, Saturday, April 26, 2014 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 25, 2014 and March 21, 2014. 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.

► *eligibility qualification continued on page 3*



Newsletter Survey Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in our newsletter survey a few months ago. Your time and feedback are appreciated and will help LREC improve our services offered to our members.

A random drawing was taken from members who completed the survey and five members of LREC won bill credits on their accounts.

Billy McNeil of Hulbert won \$25.

Alicia Gordon of Coweta won \$25.

Richard Swaringim of Chouteau won \$25.

Kay Deal of Claremore won \$25.

Billy Dudley of Park Hill won \$100.

Right-of-way tree trimming

Lake Region Electric Cooperative's management and staff recognize and appreciate that trees are valuable assets to our members' landscapes and to the quality of life in our area. However, this must be balanced with the constant threat to our members' electric service because trees and tree branches are the most frequent causes of power outages for your co-op. Trees adjacent to LREC's right-of-ways must be kept pruned and clear of the power lines. This helps us provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity to our members.

LREC has contracted with Northeast Rural Services (NRS) and Riggs Tree Service, Inc. to assist in the 2014 tree trimming work plan, which will include trimming many miles of electric line.

During the next few months, NRS will be working in the areas of Ft. Gibson, Greenleaf, and Braggs.

Riggs Tree Service will be working in the areas of Coweta, Stones Corner, and Porter.

LREC's in house right-of-way crews will be cutting and clearing service orders and new services.

Contractors for LREC typically have signs identifying them as contractors on their vehicles. Before trimming or removing trees from a homeowner's property, they will attempt



Photo by: Larry Matthes

to contact the homeowner. If unable to reach a homeowner, they will leave notice of their visit at the property.

If you are concerned about a tree on your property, or are interested in the possible removal of a tree near power lines, please call us at 918-772-2526.

**LREC right-of-way
Contractors:**

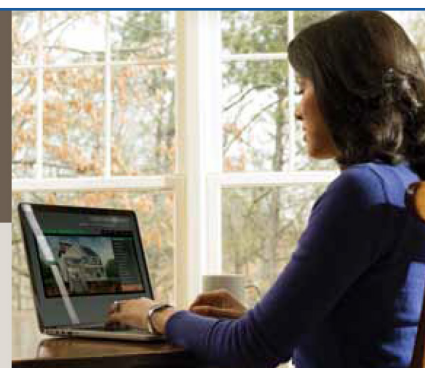
NRS
Northeast Rural Services

Riggs Tree Service, Inc



WE ARE ALL UP TO THE CHALLENGE.
When we work together, using energy wisely and saving money go hand in hand. Learn more about the power of your electric co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com

LAKE REGION
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



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.

Utility Pole Inspections

In addition to keeping our right-of-ways clear of trees and brush, we also inspect our utility poles, lines, and equipment in our commitment to provide reliable electric service.

Ram Utilities is conducting Lake Region Electric Cooperative's annual pole inspection. Our pole inspection program involves a sound inspection and ground resistance testing for pole decay or damages. GPS coordinates of poles, are collected as well. The crews are also inspecting power lines, hardware, and right-of-ways. If

a pole is found to be in need of repair or replacement, they will be marked.

Each crew will be wearing clothing that will identify them as being employed by RAM Utilities. The trucks they are driving will be marked with LREC logos on the doors. The crews will use ATV's to move from pole to pole.

The pole inspections were started in early January 4393600 and will finish up in February. Some of the communities that are listed to be inspected are Park Hill, Blackvalley, Coos



Photo submitted by: RAM Utilities

Thompson, Maynard, Welling, Hulbert, Stickcross Mtn., Bald Hill, Murrell Road, Horseshoe Bend, and Wauhilla Club.

Cold Spots in Your Home Can Indicate Air Leaks, Poor Insulation



If some of the rooms in your house are too cold while others are too hot, you might need more insulation in your attic. Cold air that seeps into your

attic doesn't have to find its way into the home's living space. Adequate attic insulation, properly installed, can catch it.

If your floor is so cold you have to wear socks with your slippers, check the insulation level in your basement or crawlspace. Just as cold air in the attic doesn't have to make your home cold, neither does cold air from the crawlspace.

If your heating bill shows a sudden spike, it's possible your home's ductwork

has cracks or kinks or is missing some of its insulation. Ask your HVAC technician to crawl up in your attic and have a look.

If some of the rooms in your home are drafty, that could be a sign that the insulation level in the walls is too low and cold air is leaking into your home. This could be through windows or wall penetrations around electric outlets. Seal wall penetrations with caulk; weather-strip your doors and apply plastic over windows.

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Office Hours

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

Telephone

800-364-LREC or
918-772-2526

Website:

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 or 918-772-2526

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