



# Powerline Press

## NEWSLETTER

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

February 2015

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No. 2



### Tip of the Month

Energy Efficiency

Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air drying or even line drying to save even more household energy.

Source:  
U.S. Department  
of Energy

## Name Change on Billing Statements

All customers/members who subscribe to Lake Region Electric Cooperative fiber services as well as Exede or WildBlue satellite internet, will notice a change on their billing statement. Members should notice they are now being billed from our subsidiary, Lake Region Technology and Communications (LRTC).

Lake Region Electric Cooperative has moved all technology and communication services under the new subsidiary. As part of the conversion process,



A Subsidiary of: Lake Region Electric Cooperative, Inc.

*New subsidiary company logo*

consumers of Wildblue/Exede accounts have been assigned a new account number. Consumers who are on automatic bank draft will have their ACH information updated, as well, for the new billing statements.

Both companies are operated from the LREC offices and are committed to quality member services. If you have any questions or need to conduct business with either company, please feel free to contact us at 918-772-2526 or toll-free at 800-364-5732.

### Annual Meeting

April 25, 2015

## 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 25, 2015 at Hulbert Public Schools 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 23, 2015 and March 20, 2015. Each nominating petition must include 15 or more member signatures.

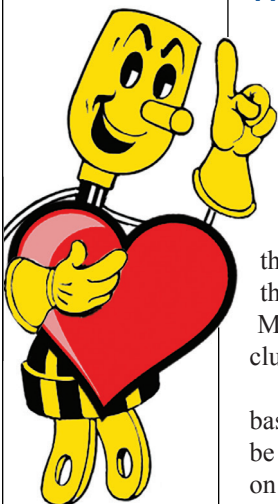
Certain minimal qualifications are required by basic law and the cooperative's bylaws for one to be eligible for election or appointed to and to serve on the cooperative's board.

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*



# Geared Up For Safety



## Automatic Bank Draft

Thank you to everyone who signed up for Automatic Bank Draft during the month of December.

Members who signed up for Automatic Bank Draft during the month of December were entered into a random drawing for four prizes. LREC gave the four winners each a \$25.00 Wal-Mart gift card.

### Congratulations:

Angie Papin

Alicia Glanz

Calvin & Terri Sneed

Clarence Bowlin

Can you imagine working a job that requires you to lift heavy equipment and perform detailed tasks near deadly high voltage? Now imagine doing this 40 feet in the air, and sometimes, in extreme weather. This is the life of a lineman.

These brave men answer when called – and they do so to ensure that you are provided with safe, reliable electric service. But how do they stay safe when working in these conditions? Lake Region Electric Cooperative linemen are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times when on the job to keep them safe.

### Let's take a look at a lineman's PPE.

**Fire resistant (FR) clothing.** While our linemen do everything possible to prevent them, unexpected fires can happen. Fires typically occur with an arc flash – an explosion that results from a low-impedance connection to a ground phase in an electrical system. FR clothing will self-extinguish, thus limiting injury due to burn.

**Insulated gloves.** Linemen must wear insulated rubber gloves when working on any type of electrical line. These gloves provide protection against electrical shock and burn, and are tested at 30,000 volts.

**Hard hat.** No matter how tough or “hardheaded” our linemen are, they still need protection. Insulated hard hats are worn at all times to protect them from blows and falling objects.

**Steel toe boots.** These heavy-duty boots are typically 16 inches tall and designed with extra support in mind. The height of the boot shields linemen from gouges, and serrated heels provide a better grip when

climbing poles. The steel toe provides sturdier support and protects from objects that could potentially pierce the feet.

**Safety goggles.** Linemen must wear protective goggles or glasses, whether working on electrical lines or clearing right-of-ways. This protects them from loose debris and other hazards.

These items make up some of the lineman's basic PPE. While working on electrical lines, they also may be required to wear equipment belts, tool pouches, safety straps and other types of equipment. A lineman's gear usually weighs about 50 pounds – that's a lot of extra weight when working in hazardous conditions.

So, the next time you see a lineman – be sure to thank them for keeping the lights on. But more importantly, thank them for the hard – and often times dangerous – work they do, day in and day out.



Hunter Cunningham, LREC Lineman

# *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.



# Pole Inspections

Notice to Members, LREC Contractors, Ram Utilities Will be Inspecting Poles Near or on Your Property.

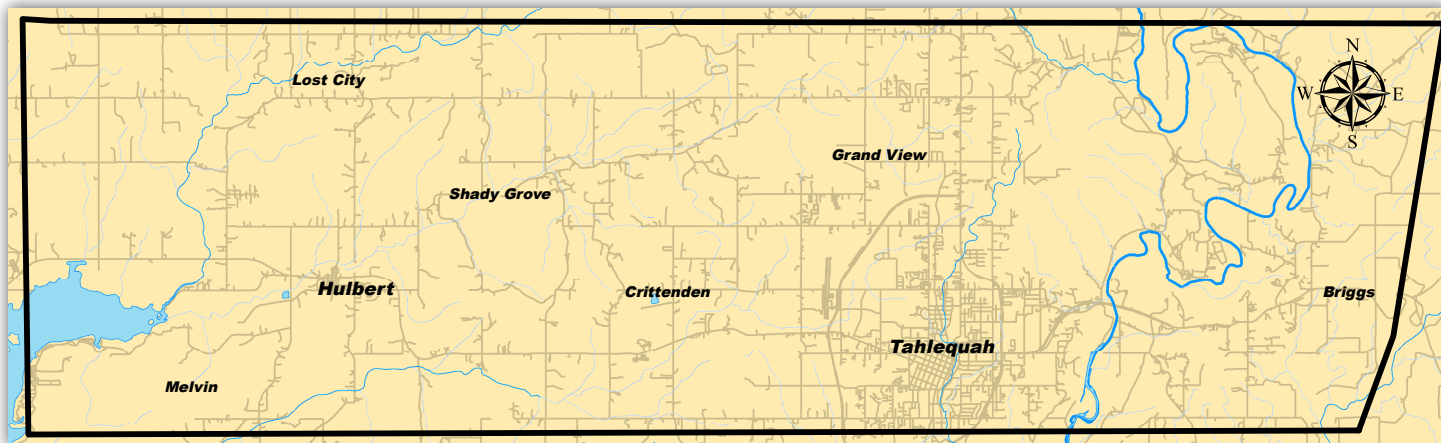
Aging infrastructure, such as potentially decaying utility poles, is one of many areas that Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) focuses on annually. Aging infrastructure affects service reliability and can potentially create safety hazards. Your cooperative is preserving its system infrastructure, and active measures are regularly taken to do just that.

Ram Utilities is conducting LREC'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, it will be marked.

Each crew will be wearing clothing that will clearly 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 2602.

The pole inspections started in late January and should last anywhere from six to eight weeks. Some of the communities that are listed to be inspected are Melvin, Lost City, Hulbert, Shady Grove, Crittenden, Grand View, Tahlequah and Briggs.



## Preserving poles

Wood has long been an ideal material for utility poles. They are produced from a renewable resource which is extremely resistant to oxidation and corrosion. Lake Region Electric uses poles which are treated with a preservative that further protects them against biological degraders that can potentially cause them to weaken. Lake Region's utility poles have a life expectancy of 30-40 years.

This annual pole maintenance process is another way we are looking out for you; it improves safety and the reliability of our electrical system. If you have questions about pole maintenance and inspections, please call us at 918-772-2526.

### Board of Trustees

Gary Cooper .....Pres.  
 Bobby Mayfield .....Vice Pres.  
 Jim Loftin .....Secr.-Treas.  
 Jack Teague .....Asst Secr.-Treas.  
 Randall Shankle ..... Member  
 Lynn Lamons ..... Member  
 Scott Manes ..... Member

### Staff

Hamid Vahdatipour .....CEO  
 Ben McCollum .....Dir. of Finance  
 Martin Walls .....Dir. of Operations  
 Stanley Young .....Dir. of Marketing  
 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.