



# Powerline Press

## NEWSLETTER

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

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No. 2



Energy Efficiency  
*Tip of the Month*

A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill! Caulk around the fireplace hearth and keep the damper closed when a fire is not burning.

Source:  
U.S. Department  
of Energy

## What You're Missing at the Annual Meeting

Did you know every cooperative is required to conduct an annual meeting of the membership? The purpose is to hold the election for the board of trustees, share important financial information, occasionally vote on other matters such as by-law changes and of course—the **great door prizes!**

Lake Region Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is a community gathering where neighbors can meet new neighbors, or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives get busier with the "errands of life" and more of our interactions with others are online. Very few organizations are uniquely positioned like LREC to bring together all members of our local communities.

While rural Americans probably do a better job of staying connected to our neighbors, it is not something we should take for granted. The simple act of smiling, saying hello and shaking someone's hand truly lifts both parties.

LREC's annual meeting is designed to take care of the important business of your co-op and the equally important business of building a real sense of community. All cooperatives serve both



2016 Annual Meeting

an economic and social purpose. While safe, reliable and affordable electric power is crucial to our mission, improving the quality of life for all members is at the core of what we do every day.

If you have not attended the annual meeting in the past or if it has been a few years, we urge you to take the time to be with your fellow co-op members.

LREC is connected to you by more than just powerlines. We are your neighbors, and we look forward to seeing you at your annual meeting.

[Annual Meeting](#)

[April 29, 2017](#)

## LREC Accepting Board Member Nominations

LREC members will be asked to vote for two trustees at the cooperative's annual meeting of the membership, Saturday, **April 29, 2017** at Hulbert Public Schools in Hulbert, Oklahoma.

Any member in good standing may submit nominations by petition provided by the cooperative. These forms will be available at the Hulbert office between February 28, 2017 and March 24, 2017. Each nominating petition must include 15 or more member signatures.

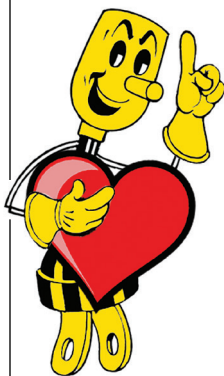
Certain minimal qualifications are required by basic law and the cooperative's bylaws for one to be eligible for election or appointed to and to serve on the cooperative's board of trustees.

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](#)



# 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 focuses on annually. Aging infrastructure affects service reliability and can potentially create safety hazards. Your cooperative is determined in preserving its system infrastructure, and active measures are regularly taken to do just that.

Ram Utilities will be conducting LREC's annual pole inspection starting mid-February on roughly 8,800 poles. Our pole inspection program involves a sound inspection and ground resistance testing 3293404 including partial excavate, boring and treatment for pole decay or damages. This is an additional step to finding poles that are bad but do not raise warning flags during the sight & sound inspection. 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.



Photo provided by: RAM Utilities

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.

The pole inspections should last anywhere from six weeks to two months. Some of the communities that are listed to be inspected in Wagoner County are: Lake Crest, Lake Crest North, Rocky Point, Whitehorn, Yonkers, and Hadley Mountain. Cherokee County: Lost City, Four Corners and west to Peggs, Shiloh, Hwy 82C West, Gideon, Bethel, Hwy 82 East, Lowery, Moody, Hwy 10 both sides of the Illinois River, Nichols Ranch, Sparrow Hawk Village, Northeast Outing Club. Mayes County: Earbob Road.

## Wood Utility Poles Are Dependable and Durable

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

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



Photo courtesy of Jasper County REMC

# LREC Bylaws and eligibility qualifications to run for the Board

*Eligibility qualification continued from page 1*

## 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.

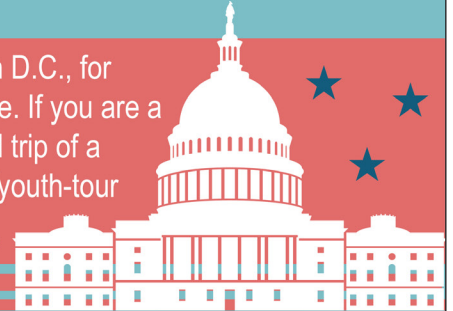
“Close relative” means a person who by blood or in law, including step, half, foster, and adoptive kin, is either spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew, or niece of the principal. Close relative shall also include more distant relatives who are members of 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.

# WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

## JUNE 9-15, 2017

Oklahoma Youth Tour is an annual, weeklong, all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C., for high school students selected and sponsored by Lake Region Electric Cooperative. If you are a high school junior or know a junior who would be interested in an all expense paid trip of a lifetime, please call LREC at 918-772-6930 or visit our website, [www.lrecok.coop/youth-tour](http://www.lrecok.coop/youth-tour)

Visit Museums | Historic Sights | Meet Members of Congress | Make New Friends



## Lake Region Employee Retires After 16 Years

Phyllis Clinton, Wagoner office cashier, recently retired from LREC after 16 years of service. Clinton was the face of the Wagoner office.

Phyllis started in 2000 as a cashier/receptionist and has seen the co-op grow in employees, members, and the number of services the co-op offers its members.

Phyllis is known at the co-op for her cooking. During the 2007 ice storm, after 16 hour days of working, Phyllis would help cook an evening meal for all the employees and contractors.

“I will miss the friends I have made and known for the 16 years I have worked at LREC,” said Phyllis.

Phyllis’s husband Gary is retired and they plan on spending more time traveling. Phyllis also mentioned

she will enjoy her time sewing, cooking, and cleaning. Picture not printed by request of Phyllis. LREC wishes Phyllis a great retirement. .

Effective insulation keeps heat from getting to your roof.

Find out what you can do at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

### GUESS WHICH HOUSE HAS BETTER INSULATION IN THE ATTIC.



#### Board of Trustees

Bobby Mayfield .....President  
Scott Manes.....Vice-President  
Lynn Lamons .....Secretary-Treasurer  
Randall Shankle..Asst. Secretary-Treasure  
Gary Cooper ..... Trustee  
James Walls ..... Trustee  
Jack Teague .....Trustee

#### Staff

Hamid Vahdatipour .....CEO  
Ben McCollum .....Director of Finance  
Logan Pleasant.....Director of Operations  
Stanley Young .....Director 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.