



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



SAVE THE DATE



**LREC Annual Meeting
April 27, 2019**

LREC Investing in Reliability

LREC is committed to serving our members and communities by delivering safe, reliable and affordable electric power.

The LREC electric system is an east (Cherokee County) and west (Wagoner County) system that is separated by the Verdigris river. The current line that feeds into the Taylor's Ferry (Wagoner) area comes across a three-mile stretch of Corps of Engineer's land that can have many feet of standing water in it when the lake is near flood stage. This electric line is currently the only electrical feed into this area. If one of those poles were to go down during a flood, it could be days or weeks before crews would be able to restore power to the area safely.

LREC has done everything to minimize the potential for a pole to go down across the Corps of Engineer's property – tree trimming a 100 ft wide corridor, making sure that the poles are all relatively new and in excellent condition, as well as using heavy grade construction. However, no matter what we do, we cannot rule out the possibility of a catastrophic event, such

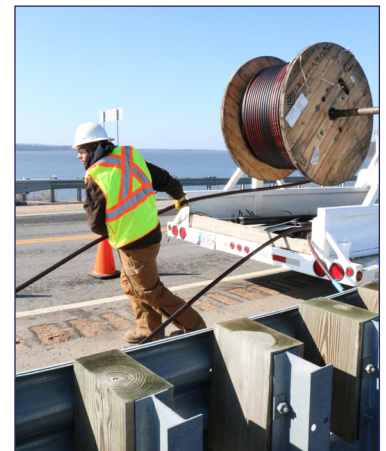


LREC lineman in photo: Kane Teague, Dalton Trotter, and David Collins.

as a tornado, direct lightning strike, or taking down the line during a flood.

By investing in a three-phase line across Ft. Gibson Lake, LREC will be improving the reliability of its distribution network. We will be creating the first electrical interconnection point between the eastern and western sides of our system, as well as providing an alternate means of servicing the members in the Taylors' Ferry area via a route that is not subject to flooding.

As an added benefit to building the electric line across the lake, we will be able to piggyback our fiber optic lines across, as well.



Levi Carson, LREC lineman intern

This fiber connection will provide us with the ability to create a fiber ring within our territory, which will significantly improve the overall reliability of our fiber network.

Photos by: Larry Mattes

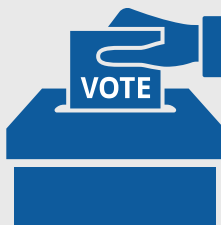
Are You Ready to Serve? Three Board Seats Up For Election



What does it mean to be a member and locally-controlled rural electric cooperative? It means you, our members, own the cooperative and are responsible for governing it through an elected Board of Trustees. Each year, members are tasked with selecting representatives from the membership to serve on LREC's Board of Trustees. This year three board seats are up for election. Interested members who live within our service area can seek a nomination. By serving on your co-op's board of trustees you truly act as a voice of the membership.

The Annual Meeting will be held on **April 27, 2019** at the Hulbert Public School Auditorium. Any member who is interested in running for a board of trustees position, including incumbents, must submit a nominating petition before **March 22, 2019**. Each petition must include 15 or more member signatures. Lake Region Electric Cooperative supplies the petition forms.

Important Dates



February 26, 2019: Board member nominations opened.

March 15, 2019: Legislative breakfast at Hulbert Senior Citizen Building, hosted by LREC.

March 22, 2019: Deadline for nominating petitions for Board of Trustees due at Hulbert office.

April 27, 2019: Annual Meeting at Hulbert High School Auditorium.

THE DIFFERENCE A DEGREE MAKES

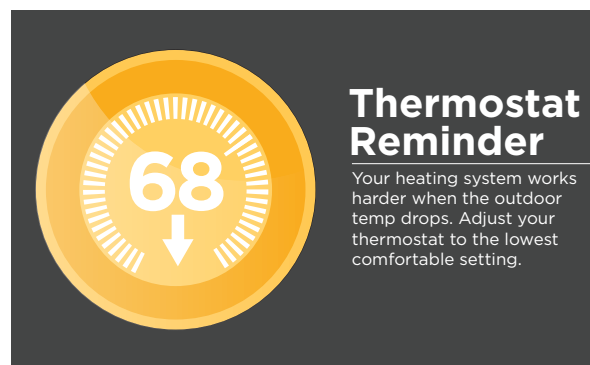
A Small Adjustment of the thermostat will save you on home heating costs

In Oklahoma, weather-related energy use is an unfortunate fact of life. You could say it's the downside of living in a modern world. Unlike our forefathers who spent their winters stoking a wood stove, we enjoy steady indoor temperatures that allow us to watch the OKC Thunder game in a t-shirt, even though it's freezing outside.

That sort of comfort isn't free. Studies from the US Energy Information Administration show that heating and cooling make up roughly 24 percent of the average resident's energy use. When nearly a quarter of our home energy budget is consumed by one major appliance, it pays to learn how to operate it more efficiently.

In Oklahoma, we get both ends of the spectrum - extremely hot to very cold temperatures. When it comes to heating and cooling costs, keep this in mind: The more significant the difference between your thermostat setting and the temperature outside, the more energy your HVAC system needs to keep your home livable.

Energy experts tell us we can reduce home heating costs by two percent for every degree we lower our thermostat. For example, if your thermostat usually sits at 73F in the winter, try lowering it to 68F and you could save roughly ten percent on your home heating costs. Drop the setting even lower at bedtime and you'll save that much more.



Thermostat Reminder

Your heating system works harder when the outdoor temp drops. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting.



**Hit the Brakes.
Keep us Safe.**

Brock Lubbers, LREC Apprentice Lineman

Orange cones, flashing lights, roadside flaggers, and warning signs can all indicate a work zone on the road ahead. Within these zones, LREC and LRTC (telecom) employees and contractors are often doing work to install or repair power or fiber lines. Workers in these situations are already facing the hazards of dealing with high voltage, and they increase their risk when establishing a work zone in the roadway. No matter how big the work zone, it requires drivers to pay attention to avoid a crash.

We're asking you to help keep our workers safe by slowing down and paying attention while driving in work zones. Please remember to:

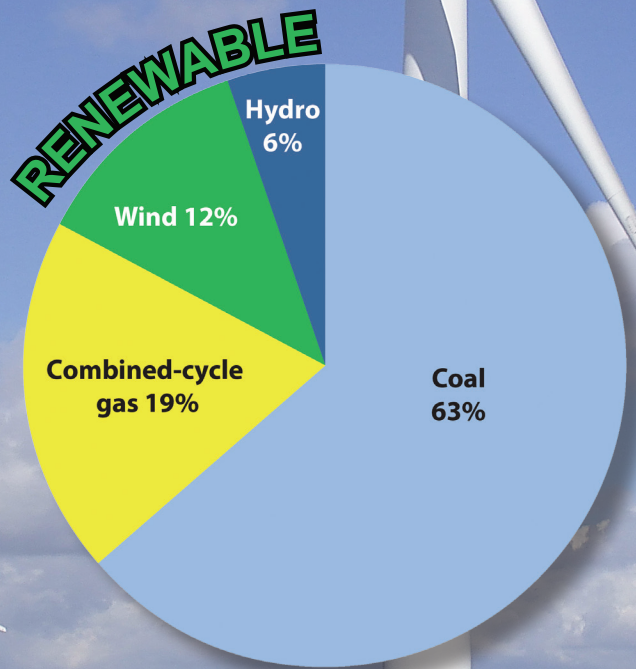
- **Never use a cell phone or text while driving.**
- **Stay alert. Expect the unexpected.**
- **Slow down.**
- **Don't tailgate.**
- **Pay attention to the signs.**
- **Obey the flaggers.**
- **Be patient and stay calm.**
- **Know the road rules for work zones.**

Keeping a safe distance between your car and the construction workers and equipment, driving and posted work zone speed limit, and using your four-way flashers when stopping or traveling slowly can help reduce accidents in work zones. Your patience in work zones helps us safely repair our electric and fiber lines during outages or conduct necessary maintenance. It also saves lives 1343501.

AECI Electric Generation Report

Associated Electric Cooperative (AECI), LREC's wholesale generation power provider is a part of a three-tiered system with KAMO, power and transmission cooperative, which services 51 distribution cooperatives, including LREC.

AECI has an active portfolio of power sources including wind, hydro, natural gas, coal, and purchased power. The pie chart below is the 2018 generation load.



AECI uses a mix of generation resources to supply our members with the lowest possible cost power, around the clock.

THE NEED FOR SPEED



Lake Region can deliver 100 Mbps Download & Upload to any member in our fiber network.

Did you know the minimum speed needed for a “good experience” on one device is 10 Mbps? Who has just one device (think about your home: smartphones, tablets, laptops, smart TVs)? And who is okay with settling with slow internet.

Lake Region fiber-to-the-home network is here to deliver much more than a “good experience” on every device that needs to be connected to the internet, wired or via WIFI. Not only is Lake Region delivering high-speed internet options, but we are also building a reliable, future-proof network with fiber.

Don’t settle for a frustrating internet experience when you choose Lake Region. Check availability or pre-register for future expansion plans at register.lrecok.net or call 918-772-2526.

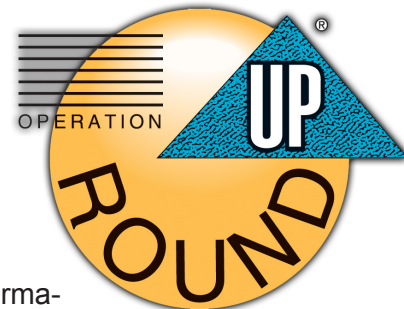
Operation Round Up Awards \$88,634 in Grants for the year of 2018

Every penny of each grant went to nonprofit organizations, local individuals, and families, right here in Lake Region Electric Cooperative’s service area.

Operation Round-Up was introduced at LREC in 2007 and is quickly becoming a great source of funds for struggling nonprofit programs and families in our area. Members agree to have their electric bill “**round up**” each month to the nearest dollar – an average of \$6 per year to be donated to the charitable Operation Round Up program. Today, 75 percent of

LREC’s membership participates in Operation Round-Up. The program could not continue its success without the generosity of so many members. Thank you!

If you would like more information on Operation Round Up, please visit our website: www.lrecok.coop/operation-round-up



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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 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.