



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

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

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1.2 Million Refunded to Members

As a not-for-profit business, we exist to provide you with reliable, safe electricity – not to make a profit. When we have a good year and earn profits or margins, we can give cash back as a (bill credit) to our past and present members. It's one of the things that makes an electric co-op unique, and it's one of the many benefits of being a co-op member.

Your Board of Trustees can vote to return excess revenue, based on the financial health of the cooperative. The money you receive – known as a capital credit refund – is your portion of the cooperative's profits.

LREC is in a strong financial position this year. Our leadership has planned for and secured future power needs and increased efficiency in our electric grid, all while maintaining high reliability and some of the lowest rates in the state of Oklahoma.

With this in mind, our Board of Trustees has voted to return **\$1.2 million (this December)** to you and other past and present members who received electric service from LREC during the years of 1988 and 2018. A 100% of the margins from 1988 will be refunded and 10% of margins will be refunded for 2018. The amount you receive is based on how much



you paid for electricity during the years listed. If the members' retirement refund amount is below \$74.99, the amount will show as a credit on your December bill, and if the amount is higher than \$75.00, members will receive a check.

The average capital credit

refund for a member on our lines during the year 1988 is around \$51.94, and for 2018 is \$10.20. If you have questions about capital credits or would like to learn more call **918-772-2526**.

Be sure to view your December bill for your Capital Credit Refund.

Give a little. Help a lot

Operation Round Up is a charitable program funded entirely by Lake Region members for the members. You can round up your electric or telecom bill each month to the nearest dollar, and those extra cents go into a charitable fund. It doesn't seem like much to donate that extra change, and alone, it's not. But together with 13,907 electric members and 1,038 fiber customers, that few cents turns into thousands of dollars each month and tens of thousands of dollars each year.

All that money goes directly back to families in need and worthwhile organizations in our local communities. This year (2019), **\$110,156** was granted through our Operation Round-Up program to our members for things like medical expenses, food banks, school programs, shelters.

For more info and grant applications visit www.lrecok.coop/operation-round-up

Operation Round-Up Awarded \$110,156 in Grants for 2019

We would love to do more and surpass these numbers next year. We only have 58% of LREC membership supporting this program. We are asking all Lake Region members to start rounding their bill up today, as well. Call us today to enroll in Operation Round-Up on your telecom (fiber) or electric bill.

Thank you for all that you have given in the past. Here is to doing even more together in the future with Operation Round-Up.

Updates to LREC Mobile App

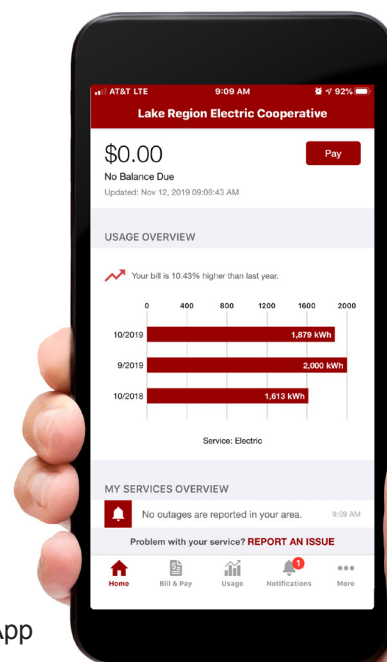
LREC members who utilize the SmartHub mobile app for account management will notice a face-lift when using the app, as SmartHub underwent a software update recently.

Smarthub users will see a new look and feel for the app after you update from your preferred app store. The functionality and features of SmartHub will remain the same, but some new navigation features will help users access the features they need quickly and easily.

- ✓ Pay with check or card
- ✓ Schedule payments
- ✓ Sign up for auto-pay
- ✓ Go paperless
- ✓ Monitor energy use and savings
- ✓ Report outage
- ✓ Set up text alerts
- ✓ And more!

For more info on our SmartHub App visit www.lrecok.coop/smarthub

The SmartHub new look features a revamped home screen that presents **4409701** the most essential information - account balance, usage stats, possible outages, and more - at a glance.



School Lighting Rebate



Left to right: Emmett Thompson, Shady Grove Superintendent and Juanita Keener, LREC Member Services.

Benefits can be achieved when schools or business leaders consider energy efficiency upgrades. Shady Grove Public School recently upgraded its lighting to LED lights to be more energy-efficient and reducing the cost of operating. Lake Region helped get the school a rebate check for roughly \$5,000. Your school or business may qualify for a lighting rebate. Please call Juanita Keener for more information, **918-772-2526**.

LREC New Employee



Last Month, LREC welcomed a new team member to the fiber-to-the-home, GIS mapping department. Larry Settlers currently lives in Peggs and has a

background in GIS, with co-op experience and worked at the Oklahoma Scenic River Commission, as well as TPWA. Outside of work, Larry loves spending time

with his three daughters and wife, camping, and tinkering with classic cars. Please help us in welcoming Larry to LREC.

LIGHT TIMERS FOR A MERRY (AND SAFE) CHRISTMAS



Nothing provides an instant dose of holiday spirit like a well-lit home. Light timers not only ensure you get the most from your decorative efforts, but can keep your home safe during the holiday season. Follow these tips this season for improved indoor and outdoor holiday safety.

The Christmas Tree

According to the National Fire Protection Association, Christmas lights cause 40% of Christmas fires. For this reason, Christmas tree lights should be turned off when you are not at home and while the household is asleep. Flipping the light switch can be an easy step to forget when heading to bed, so set a timer and go to bed worry-free. Don't forget to replenish the water in your tree stand daily and feel the branches to ensure your tree is not drying out. If your tree does dry, discontinue the use of lights all together.

Outdoor lights

With dark evenings and long nights, a timer for your lights is the ideal solution to ensure your lights are on for all to enjoy, but off during hours when people are not awake. Not only will the limited time help keep your lights from overheating, but it will save money on your energy bill too!

When Away

A well-lit house can deter potential criminals searching for an easy target. Indoor and outdoor lights on timers can give the impression that a home is occupied when you're away for the holidays, as well as decrease the likelihood someone could approach your home unnoticed.

REBATE REMINDER

You save. We pay.

LREC offers a variety of rebate programs designed to help both homeowners and business owners save money on their electric bills.

LREC's residential rebate programs are designed to help members save money on their home electric bill, while also removing inefficient appliances and equipment from our lines. The majority of the funding for our rebates is made available through our wholesale power provider, Associated Electric Cooperative.

Members can get money back for installing programmable thermostats, electric water heaters, heat pump water heaters, and mini-split air conditioners, and heat pump heating and cooling systems.

Businesses can save too.

LREC offers a Commercial Business Lighting Rebate available for schools, commercial, industrial, and agricultural business members.

Contact Juanita Keener
918-772-2526,
for questions
or to discuss rebates.



For more info and rebate forms visit www.lrecok.coop/rebates

TOP REBATES

**2019 Member Savings
(up to Nov. 2019)**



**Air Source
Heat Pump**
- 20 | \$11,200



**Ground Source
Heat Pump**
- 4 | \$9,350



Water Heaters
- 44 | \$6600



**Smart
Thermostat**
- 13 | \$800

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Office Hours

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918-772-2526**

Website:

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www.lrecok.net

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Tahlequah, OK.

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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 during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

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

