

# HEART WALK



## Have a heart!

Life is why we walk. Cardiovascular events occurs every 39 seconds and is the number one killer of all Americans. Help Team LCEC raise funds for research and information at the 2019 Lee County Heart Walk on December 14. You can donate to Team LCEC at [www2.heart.org](http://www2.heart.org). Click Heart Walk, then click Donate at the top of the page and enter LCEC in the team search box. No amount is too great or too small to save a heart.



## Hurricane kits for the elderly

LCEC recently contributed items to the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, & Okeechobee for the hurricane preparedness bags they assembled for low-income elders in three counties. Bags included personal hygiene items as well as information and essentials that can be used during the first days after a storm hits. Recovering from a disaster is never easy, and the bags helped to raise awareness of available resources and the importance of having a plan.

## Preserving precious resources



LCEC Environmental Award recipient Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife (CCFW) recently invited LCEC to Sirenia Park to plant a new tree in honor of the many years of support offered toward preserving the beautiful wildlife in our region. LCEC awards nonprofit organizations such as CCFW funds to build, grow, operate, and maintain local programs and initiatives within the region. This year LCEC was able to award nearly \$25,000 to local organizations and groups.



LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 220,271 customers. LCEC News is published monthly for customers by the Public Relations Department, P.O. Box 3455, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33918-3455 (800) 599-2356 or 239-656-2300 [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net)

### CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNERS

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were Denny Gann of Lehigh Acres, Adrian Valentin of Lehigh Acres, Linda Bohannon of Bookelia, and Manuel Delarosa of Immokalee.

Be sure to check us out on social media! Receive safety, conservation, and LCEC info on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn!



[www.facebook.com/LCECSWFL](http://www.facebook.com/LCECSWFL)



## Electric rates vs. reliability



When it comes to competitive rates and reliable power there is no contest. We want our customers to have both. It is a balancing act and it is our mission.

Every year LCEC invests millions in the electric infrastructure through routine maintenance, new construction, and process improvements. These efforts help to harden the system and reduce the time customers are without power. Additionally, a great deal of time and funding is allocated toward vegetation management to mitigate the number of outages caused by trees.

The cost of labor and materials needed to strengthen the power system continues to climb. LCEC has been able to streamline processes and utilize technology to keep costs in check. 2020 will mark the **twelfth straight year without a rate increase**. Employees continue to work diligently to provide the same great service at the same competitive price. For approximately 10 cents an hour, electricity is a good value!

Now Accepting Applications!

## Taking TRUSTEE ELECTION applications now!

An LCEC customer/member who is a resident of Lehigh Acres or North Fort Myers can apply for a seat on the Board of Trustees.

All applicants are considered and interviewed by the Nominating Committee. Each year there are three seats up for election. Terms are staggered to provide continuity on the Board.

### Qualifications for potential nominated candidates:

- Business experience
- Ability to interpret operating and financial reports
- Community leadership
- Sensitivity to member concerns, attitudes, and issues
- Integrity and minimal appearance of conflict of interest
- Availability to attend monthly Board and committee meetings
- Capability to contribute to Board discussions and decisions

### 2020 ELECTION SEATS

District 4 – Lehigh Acres

District 5, Seat 1 – North Fort Myers

District 5, Seat 2 – North Fort Myers

If you would like to be considered for a position on the Board of Trustees, contact LCEC Public Relations, 239-656-2202, or [pr@lcec.net](mailto:pr@lcec.net). Applications accepted from November 1, 2019, through January 2, 2020.

## HOLIDAY HOURS

Thanksgiving, November 28 and 29, closed  
Christmas, December 24 and 25, closed  
New Years, January 1, closed

Conduct business online at [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net) any day of the year, day or night!



## Nominating Committee plays a critical role in the election process

The LCEC Nominating Committee is independent from the Board of Trustees. The 10-person Committee is comprised of LCEC members charged with interviewing and objectively evaluating members applying for Trustee seats. As members of the cooperative, Committee members are tasked with exercising due diligence and great care to ensure the nomination process is carried out thoroughly and with the utmost integrity. The Committee strives to conduct a fair and open process, to be conscientious of its responsibilities, and to apply standards widely applicable to large corporations to ensure candidates are qualified to serve effectively.

## Smart communication SmartHub

Do you have something to share with us? We are all ears. SmartHub isn't just for bill payment and usage tracking. The LCEC online and mobile app is also a powerful communication tool.

You can report outages and check the status of your outage, as well as request a one-time call back when the outage is restored. You can request a payment extension and request an alert when your usage exceeds a threshold that you set. You can even sign up to receive a text message when your bill is due and schedule payments in advance.

It's a smart way to stay in touch on your time schedule. If you haven't enrolled yet, visit [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net) for detailed step-by-step instructions. Be sure to have your account number ready.

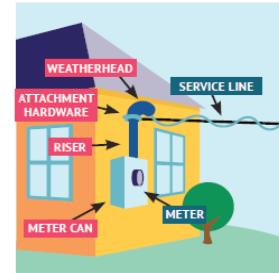


## Together we make it happen

The electric grid is very complex, from the power plant to the outlet that powers your electronics. Continual maintenance is required to sustain reliable power so that you have it when you need it. The LCEC experts are committed to making sure that everything on our end is operational, and there are a few pieces of equipment that require customers to work with a licensed electrician to maintain.

### WE MAINTAIN THIS

- Connection point to your home or business
- Service wire (overhead and underground)
- Equipment on utility poles
- Distribution lines
- Transmission lines
- Substations
- Meter



### YOU MAINTAIN THIS

- Weatherhead
- Service riser
- Meter socket
- Electric system inside your home or business

## Electric cooperatives drive economic development



According to a new analysis by FTI Consulting, electric cooperatives have a broad financial impact on the United States, directly or indirectly supporting nearly 612,000 jobs each year and contributing hundreds of billions of dollars to the economy over a five-year period.

## Go to great lengths for extension cord safety

Extension cords are meant to be a temporary way to connect devices and equipment to wall outlets. If you are using one daily, consider hiring an electrician to install additional outlets. Following are other tips to ensure you are using cords safely.



Warm cord -> too small for the job -> use a higher voltage cord

Frayed or cracked cord -> replace immediately



Missing prong -> replace immediately

Indoor cord -> don't use outdoors



## Crush your electric bill

You want electricity, you need electricity, but who is excited about paying for electricity? Fortunately, LCEC hasn't raised electric rates in more than 11 years. There are ways that you can help reduce your bills further, too!

1

Adjust your thermostat. No lower than 78 in the summer, no higher than 68 in the winter.

2

Turn down your water heater. 120 degrees is plenty hot.

3

Clean or replace AC filters every month.

4

Seal your home. Make sure weather stripping is tight.

5

Replace bulbs with LED.