

# LCEC NEWS



## Board of Trustee election in March

As a member of one of the largest electric cooperatives in the nation, democratic member control puts governance in your hands. Members will receive a ballot for the annual Trustee election in March. Please exercise your right to vote. Online or phone voting helps keep costs low. LCEC also offers a vote-by-mail option. Review information about each candidate at [www.lcec.net/about-lcec/companyinformation/board-of-trustees](http://www.lcec.net/about-lcec/companyinformation/board-of-trustees) beginning March 19.

### How do members get on the ballot?

Members are free to submit an application when the district in which they reside is up for election. A 10-person Nominating Committee, independent from the Board of Trustees, considers members who apply to be included on the ballot. The Nominating Committee is made up of LCEC members charged with interviewing and objectively evaluating applicants and exercising due diligence and great care to ensure the process is carried out with integrity. Their focus is on evaluating applicants' ability to represent fellow LCEC members' best interests in cooperative business and avoidance of situations that may present a conflict of interest.

### Characteristics of a qualified Board of Trustees candidate:

- Ability to represent the total membership on an impartial and equitable basis
- Ability to attend required meetings
- Desire to keep LCEC rates competitive, service reliable, and budgets reasonable
- Capability of overseeing policies governing investment of LCEC funds
- Knowledge to protect LCEC assets and ensure compliance with lending institutions and governmental requirements
- Effective analytical, problem-solving, and logic skills
- Independent thinking and strong business training/experience
- Capacity to work as a strong, cohesive team member
- Integrity and earned respect from business and community members
- Awareness of key local issues

### ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The LCEC Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., at the LCEC corporate office. Board President Russell Priddy and Chief Executive Officer Denise Vidal will review 2019 accomplishments, and the official Trustee election results will be announced.

As a cooperative member, you have equity



Your investment in electric infrastructure helps to keep rates low and earns equity over the time you are a cooperative member. Although equity is not in the form of cash, LCEC is able to retire a portion of your equity when the financial state allows.

## DO WE HAVE YOUR ADDRESS?

Even after you close your LCEC account, it is important to notify us of your address. You may receive annual equity returns and a final retirement after your account has been inactive for a period of time. **Make it easy for us to send your check!**



### CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNERS

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were Philip Scibelli of Marco Island, Julian Quintanilla of Lehigh Acres, Shannon Hazlett of Cape Coral, and Jean Simonis of Immokalee.

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



LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 221,564 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)



## TEAM LCEC OUT IN FULL FORCE

 Saving hearts and filling stomachs was the theme for team LCEC during the holidays. A little rain didn't stop Team LCEC from gathering for the American Heart Association Heart Walk. The team's efforts resulted in close to \$10,000 raised to reduce heart disease and stroke.

 Packing meals for the hungry has become a cherished tradition for LCEC employees and family members. Joining 1,000 other community volunteers, the team was able to make 553,000 meals at the Holidays Without Hunger event. It was easy to see Team LCEC in their neon shirts among all the Santa hats!



LCEC employees help load repurposed computer monitors into a United Way van to be distributed to those in need!



Science, technology, engineering, math students receive a birds-eye view of what it takes to have a career at a utility.

## We don't just deliver electricity

LCEC works to positively impact communities by investing time, funding, and expertise. Our focus is on cultivating relationships, developing a future workforce, and strengthening the local economy. It means taking leadership roles seriously and helping educate students through support of programs, scholarships, and mentoring, LCEC is involved in the STEM@Work program. Employees also serve on community boards and devote their time, resources, and energy to charities and community events.

*Celebrating 80 years!*



Within its first year of operation, LCEC offered service to North Fort Myers, Pine Island, Sanibel, and Captiva. In 1941, LCEC retired the Mariana Grove generating plant in North Fort Myers and signed a contract with Florida Power & Light to purchase power for members at a wholesale rate.

## SmartHub puts power in your hands

SmartHub is a customer service tool to provide access to your electric account online or on a mobile device. You can view account information and usage history, pay bills, request payment extensions, and report power outages. SmartHub even allows you to request a call or text when your power is restored or to let you know when your power usage exceeds a self-determined threshold. This is especially helpful for seasonal residents who may want to know if usage declines or spikes due to equipment failure at their location.

New features are being added to SmartHub throughout the year, so be sure to enroll and see all that it has to offer. To register as a new user visit [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net) or get the mobile app through the Apple Store® or in the Android® Market.

SMART management. SMART life. **SmartHub.**

# POWER LINE SAFETY

Always stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes. If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.

Don't climb trees and don't fly kites, remote control devices or balloons near power lines.

Don't touch anything that is touching a downed wire, such as a vehicle, or anything stuck in a power line.

40 ft.

If a power line falls across or near your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives. If you must exit, jump so no part of your body is touching the car when you land. Keep both feet together and shuffle or hop at least **40 feet** away.

Call 911 or LCEC 239-656-2300 to report downed lines.

Call 911 for power line-related injuries.

Call LCEC if something gets stuck in the power line.

Always keep children, pets and ladders away from power lines.

**811**  
Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

GOING INTO 2020 WITH  
THE SAME LOW RATES



2008 -2020



LCEC has not had a rate increase for more than a decade! While this trend may not be sustained forever, customers can rest easy that there is no increase planned for 2020. Electric rates are based on many cost variables such as materials and labor, purchased power, weather, taxes, fees, operating and maintenance. For more than twelve years, LCEC has managed operating and maintenance costs and has been able to offset increases in other areas through process improvement and efficiency. We continue to focus on providing reliable electricity and quality service at the lowest possible rate.



*Momentary power interruptions*

A brief loss of power is sometimes frustrating, but it is a sign that technology is working to prevent a much longer power outage. Typically, a momentary outage lasts less than five minutes, allowing for protective devices on the electric grid to open and close in response to a fault. A fault can be caused by a variety of things like storms, tree branches, animals, vehicle accidents, or equipment failure. Without these protective devices, electric facilities could be damaged requiring manual replacement or repair, which takes time and can be costly. Coastal areas and regions with extensive vegetation and wildlife are more prone to momentary outages. LCEC continually monitors these types of outages and makes adjustments when possible.