



THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

By Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

You've likely noticed Clark Electric Cooperative crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment around our local communities. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate national Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work is dangerous, physical, and mentally challenging. Lineworkers routinely work with energized parts that carry around 7,200 or more volts. Obviously this requires specialized equipment and knowledge. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50-75 pounds routinely? In addition, lineworkers are also heavy equipment operators using specialized equipment such as digger derricks, basket trucks, back hoes, directional boring machines, trenchers, and cable plows. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors, and often in difficult weather conditions. The job requires technical skills, years

Did you know there are more than 900 local electric cooperatives nationwide. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience, and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work. Making a mistake can cause serious injury or even be fatal. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, being a lineworker is listed in

the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States.

Despite the many challenges, Clark Electric Cooperative's lineworkers are committed to powering the homes and businesses of our members. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later (remember the December 2021 tornadoes). That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job of restoring power.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here at Clark Electric Cooperative, we have 16 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 2,003 miles of power lines across six counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's

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Left: Crews work to restore power following December 15 tornado damage. Right: Linemen setting a URD cabinet for new service.



Left: Linemen crew stringing new wire to restore power following December 15 tornado damage. Below: Lineman performing pole top rescue training at safety meeting.



Lineworker Appreciation

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lineworkers utilize laptops and tablets and other technologies to stake services, map outages, survey damage, and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may or may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our members and community. Without the

exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



You can't AVOID what you CAN'T SEE

Starting a job—big or small—without first getting utilities marked could result in serious injury, service disruptions for you and your neighbors, and a hefty fine.

Call 8-1-1- before you dig.



NEW NOMINATION PROCESS FOR DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Annual meeting set for June 15

Clark Electric Cooperative’s Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2022 at the Loyal Legion, 302 N. Union St., Loyal, Wisconsin, starting at 9:30 a.m. Last year the cooperative members approved bylaw amendments that addressed the governance process. The new process is summarized below and is not intended to replace the detail found in the bylaws.

Nominations by Petition

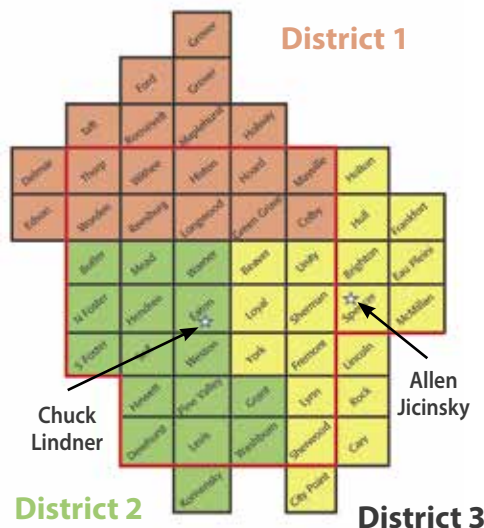
- Effective with the 2022 annual meeting of the members, candidates for director shall be nominated exclusively by petition. For a candidate to be validly nominated, the petition shall contain the signatures of no less than ten (10) members. The signature of either or both members holding a joint membership shall constitute the signature of one (1) member. To be valid, a petition must be received by the cooperative not less than 60 days prior to the annual meeting (in 2022 that date is **April 16, 2022**).

Voting in Person or by Absentee Ballot

- If there is only one (1) nominee for a seat, election may be by unanimous consent or by voice vote or similar process at the annual meeting, without the need to cast written ballots. Where there is more than one (1) nominee, the election will be by ballot. Members may vote in person or by absentee signed ballot. Absentee ballots shall be provided to all members. To be counted, absentee ballots must be received by the cooperative or designee not later than noon on the last business day preceding the day of the annual meeting. The absentee ballot will be included in the annual report, which will be mailed to all members in May.

Director Districts

- Director district boundaries are intended to balance the number of members in the respective districts while endeavoring not to split towns, villages, or cities between districts. See map of director districts at right.
- The cooperative has seven (7) directors, two of which serve from each district and one (1) serving in an at-large position.



This year members will be asked to elect two directors for a three-year term: one position from District 2 and one from District 3. These seats are currently held by Chuck Lindner, town of Eaton (District 2), and Allen Jicinsky, town of Spencer (District 3). These directors are eligible for re-election.

A copy of the bylaws is available on the cooperative’s website at www.cecoop.com or by contacting the business office at 715-267-6188. For any questions about becoming a director, please contact Tim Stewart, CEO/GM, 715-267-6188



at Clark Electric

April 16, 2022

Director Candidate Nomination Forms

Must be received in our office on or before 4:30 p.m. on April 16, 2022

May 4, 2022

Business to Business Expo

Sponsored by Clark County Economic Development Corporation

To be held at Clark Electric Headquarters

June 15, 2022

Annual Meeting

To be held at the American Legion, Loyal, WI
Registration 8:30 a.m.
Meeting 9:30 a.m.

September 24, 2022

Member Appreciation Day

at Clark Electric Headquarters

Watch for more details on events in upcoming months



*Happy
Easter*

Clark Electric
Cooperative's
office will be
closed Friday,
April 15.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Don't miss this great opportunity!

Join other students from around the state at the Youth Leadership Congress, a dynamic and fund event sponsored by Wisconsin's electric cooperatives. There is no cost to you to attend.

July 12-14, 2022 at UW-Stout, Menomonie

If you are going to be a sophomore or a junior in high school this coming fall and would like to be a sponsored representative for Clark Electric Cooperative, contact your FFA or FBLA advisor. You may also contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, at 715-267-6188 by May 15, 2022.

Spring Clean Up



Are your electric bills a mess?
It's time to clean up them up by
setting up recurring and stored
payments through SmartHub.

While you're there, check out the
other great benefits SmartHub
has to offer:

- Pay your bill online
- Check your usage
- Manage your account
- Sign up for paperless billing
- Communicate directly with the co-op

Clean up your bills by signing
up for SmartHub online. It's
Clark Electric's FREE and mobile
online payment system. Click
on the signup link and follow
the prompts to create your user
name and password.

Questions? Call, click or visit us at 715-267-6188 or www.cecoop.com.

Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

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