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PowerLines

A Day in the Life

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Our Member Aware Advisory Committee (MAAC) is a group of members who meet with Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) employees over a two-year period. During that time, the committee meets many of our employees and receives information about a wide array of things that impact the cooperative. In addition, the committee members provide us with input from their respective communities that is invaluable in helping us identify what is important to them. I get a lot out of these meetings and am always very thankful that our members take the time to participate with their cooperative.

The most recent two-year MAAC cycle ended in December of 2013. At the last meeting one of our members suggested that our membership might benefit from a description of the work and working conditions of the line personnel who

restore outages. I thought this was a great idea and sat down to write an article that described a "typical" day for our linemen. First, I want to be very clear, I am not now, nor have I ever been, a lineman. I did have the opportunity to attend a seven-day climbing school many years ago and while I did pass the class, it made me happy that I don't do that for a living, and added to my healthy respect for those that do. Second, as I started to write this it became apparent that there is no such thing as a "typical" day for a lineman. With that said, let me do my best to describe the efforts of the men who keep our lights on.

I'll start by giving a partial description of what it takes to become a lineman. In addition to that climbing school I mentioned, linemen are required to complete an apprenticeship over a period of years that includes classroom work, physical training and on-the-job

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training. They have to earn and maintain a commercial driver's license and operate various equipment. They are also versed in electrical and mechanical theory. All of this makes sure they are well-trained, educated and physically capable.

Linemen do similar work all over the world which is evidenced by cooperative linemen providing training to workers in under-developed areas of Central and South America as part of an international effort to electrify rural areas in those countries. However, CEC linemen do face some unique challenges with the wide range of weather conditions we have here in Western Pennsylvania. We go from sweltering heat and humidity in the summer to bone-chilling cold and snow in the winter. Don't even mention storms — I'll get to that later. Another challenge is our topography. While scenic and beautiful, it offers challenges for access to electrical facilities. Lastly is our own rural service area. Being in the country requires a large number of miles of line to serve our members. We also face roads and waterways that makes building and servicing our lines difficult at times.

Highly skilled and well-trained linemen driving large vehicles and operating various equipment travel significant distance into hard-to-reach rural areas through varied and often difficult weather conditions just to ***GET TO THE WORK***. I capitalized, bolded and italicized that for specific emphasis.

The efforts that I have mentioned so far are simply to get to the place where the work is to be done. During a normal business day, when our crews are out maintaining and improving our lines, they go through this just to get there. Once there, they work on the poles and around live electrical facilities.

But wait, there is more to the story. Let me change the scene. Instead of normal business hours, the scene is the middle of the night. A winter storm has just blown through the area and knocked service out to some of our members. Those same linemen wake from a sound sleep, go out into the cold, snow, ice, wind and find their way over icy roads — with all of the necessary tools and equipment — to get to a remote location. Then they work to restore interrupted service. The same happens in the lightning and wind storms in the spring and summer. The work they do is dangerous in the best of conditions which is why their training is so important.

My brief description of the skills and efforts of our linemen doesn't do justice to what they actually do. People don't become linemen to get rich because, while they make a good living, no one ever got rich being a lineman. They don't do it for fame because most of the time people don't even know they were there. I don't pretend to know why each of these

CEC Director's Seats

This year, resident members from Armstrong and Butler counties are invited to run for the director seats that are up for election. To be eligible for director nomination you must have a permanent residence in that county and meet other qualifications required by your cooperative's bylaws.

For more information please see the article on page 5.

A Day in the Life/From Page 2

men chose to be linemen, but I am proud to be part of an organization that includes this type of dedicated employee. So, I would like to thank our MAAC committee for suggesting I attempt to explain what linemen do and to what they are

exposed. I hope you have a little better understanding and, if you see our guys driving down the road, give them a wave as they are out there working hard for you.



Manufactured homes, sometimes called mobile homes (moveable by having axils), often log disproportionately higher energy bills than traditional wood frame or modular homes. Major causes of higher energy bills are in areas of air infiltration, poor duct work design, insulation problems and large window heat loss. Original structural integrity can be compromised when moving the home to a site. Also, homes that sit on jack stands or blocks can wick heat away because they allow air to flow underneath.

There isn't a magic bullet to lower the energy consumption of a manufactured home. It takes time and hard work to troubleshoot all of the possible causes of energy loss. The most common culprits and ways to remedy them are:

- **Belly board problems:** Belly boards located on the underside of the home should be checked for damages from plumbing leaks and animals. Repair immediately with treated lumber or aluminum paneling.
- **Air leakage/infiltration:** Check for deteriorated weather stripping; gaps in the "marriage wall" that joins multiple units making up the home; holes in the end of ducts; gaps around wall registers and behind washers and dryers; and unsealed backing to

Manufactured Homes

the electrical panel. Foam sealants work well to seal leaks.

- **Crossover ducts:** Double-wide units have crossover ducts that are often made of flexible tubing and are therefore prone to collapse. Repairs can be made with special duct sealant mastic paste or metal duct foil. Consider replacing a flexible duct with metal duct work.
- **Uninsulated duct work:** You should be able to find insulation specifically made for duct work at your local hardware store.
- **Single-glazed windows and uninsulated doors:** Manufactured homes usually have a disproportionately larger amount of windows per square footage than stick-built homes. Replace single-glazed windows with double or triple pane units. A window film kit is a cheap and easy-to-install way if cost is an issue. New insulated doors also help to increase comfort.

It may take a couple of weekends and a few hundred dollars, but basic repairs can result in significant savings. Savings of up to 50 percent have been reported in manufactured homes that have been properly sealed and had old electric furnaces replaced with new electric heat pumps.

Sign-up for weekly energy-saving E-Tips by contacting me at kmaleski@central.coop.

SAFETY

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Work Zone Safety

Utilizing safe practices within a work zone will not only better protect yourself, but other drivers and workers as well. The following tips will help you avoid being involved in or causing a work zone accident.

- Expect the unexpected: Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people and vehicles may be working on or near the road.
- Stay alert: Pay attention to the work zone signs.
- Watch for flaggers: Stay alert and be prepared to obey the flagger's directions.



Matt Alderson
Manager of Safety and
Operations Support

- Calm down: Work zones aren't there to personally inconvenience you.
- Merge as soon as possible: You may see flashing arrow panels or lane closed ahead signs. Don't zoom right up the lane closure, and then try to barge in.
- Don't speed.
- Don't tailgate: The most common crash in a highway work zone is the rear end collision.
- Be patient: Expect delays.

Don't forget to apply for Youth Tour and Good Neighbor Scholarships!

The deadline for Youth Tour applications is Feb. 14 and Good Neighbor Scholarships is March 15.

Youth Tour 2014 offers students the chance to visit Washington, D.C. from June 15 to June 20 and experience all of the beauty and history of our nation's capital. All high school juniors who reside with their parents or guardians on CEC lines are eligible.

Eligible candidates for Good Neighbor Scholarships are high school seniors, enrolled college students or adult members who wish to further their education. CEC will award two scholarships of \$1,000 each in early May of 2014. Applicants or parents must be CEC members.

For more information on either of these contact Ken Maleski at 800-521-0570 x2172 or visit www.central.coop.

Save The Date: CEC's 2014 Annual Meeting!

Join us for our
Annual Meeting of the Members
on Friday, Aug. 22, 2014 at
Whitehall Campgrounds
in Emlenton, Pa.



More information to come.

Are You Interested in a CEC Director's Seat?

As a CEC member you have a voice in who serves on our eight-member board of directors. Every year members elect two directors, giving each director a four-year term. Director seats are divided among counties the cooperative serves. This year, resident members from Armstrong and Butler counties are invited to run for these two respective seats. To be eligible for director nomination you must have a permanent residence in that county and meet other qualifications required by your cooperative's bylaws.

To receive a qualifications list and petition, please submit the following coupon by April 1, 2014. If you meet the qualifications, you will send a written request (including your full name, address, telephone number, county of residence and account number) along with a completed petition signed by 20 cooperative members, to the nominating committee by May 1, 2014.



After the cooperative confirms your eligibility, you will visit the CEC office to attend an orientation meeting and meet with the nominating committee for an interview. The committee then submits a list of the eligible candidates for placement on the ballot.

Nominee names, along with a photo and background information, are presented in the July issue of Power Lines. Cooperative members will vote by mail or internet prior to the Annual Meeting, or vote by paper ballot on the day of the meeting on Aug. 22, 2014, prior to the meeting's commencement. The final election results will be announced prior to adjournment.

Your board of directors has appointed a nominating committee to review prospective candidates interested in running for CEC director.

Committee members are:

Armstrong County

Harvey W. Loose
East Brady, Pa.

Forest County

Dennis Lamb
Tionesta, Pa.

Butler County

Donald F. Christy
Saxonburg, Pa.

Venango County

Carl E. Gadsby
Grove City, Pa.

Joe Gibson

Parker, Pa.

Ron Paranick

Cranberry, Pa.

Clarion County

James M. Reed
Fryburg, Pa.

Randy Tharan

Knox, Pa.

If you are interested in being considered as a director nominee, please complete this coupon and return it by April 1, 2014 to:
Central Electric Cooperative, Nominating Committee, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049-0329.

Please send me a qualification list and petition requirements for being a director nominee to Central Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

County: _____ Account: _____

Recipe of the Month

Heartland Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1-7 1/4 ounce package Kraft^(R) Macaroni and Cheese
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup barbecue sauce
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 egg beaten
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Directions:

Prepare macaroni and cheese as directed on box. Combine remaining ingredients and press onto the bottom of an 8 inch baking dish. Top with macaroni and cheese. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Remove cover and continue baking for another 20 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes.

Thank you to Kathy Guth for submitting this recipe!

Send Recipes to:

Renee Spence at rspence@central.coop or mail to CEC, 716 Route 368, PO Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO, General Manager

Dennis W. Beggs
CFO, Director of Finance and Accounting

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Christina J. O'Donnell
Director of Member and Community Relations

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Fred E. Terwilliger
Director of Engineering and Operations

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

Luann Marzullo of Butler

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Robert Snyder of Saxonburg

Read Power Lines and win! It's simple — you can win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. And you have a second chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at www.central.coop/quiz.

If you do not have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we will also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete, clip and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment. For quiz rules visit www.central.coop/quiz.

1. True or False: Savings of up to 80 percent have been reported in manufactured homes that have been properly sealed.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: There is no such thing as a "typical" day for a lineman.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: An important part of being safe in a work zone is to be patient.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Acct. #:** _____



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

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