



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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#thankalinenman

It is that time of year again when we take time to recognize our electric linemen for the services they perform for CCECI members in potentially dangerous conditions. April 11, 2016 is National Lineman Appreciation Day so we take a moment to recognize the people that often work in brutal weather conditions to ensure we all have safe reliable power. I think the words below pretty much sum up what it means to be a lineman.

“The Lineman”

What are their thoughts, these hardy souls tangled in knots on top of poles, sweating it out in a blend of blue, doing a job few would do?

What are their thoughts, this gallant crew, who risk their lives the long day through, in summer heat or winter snow, taking orders from afar and below?

What are their thoughts, these men of brawn, who joke and swear or hum a song, who know their distance well could be, a rubber glove from eternity?

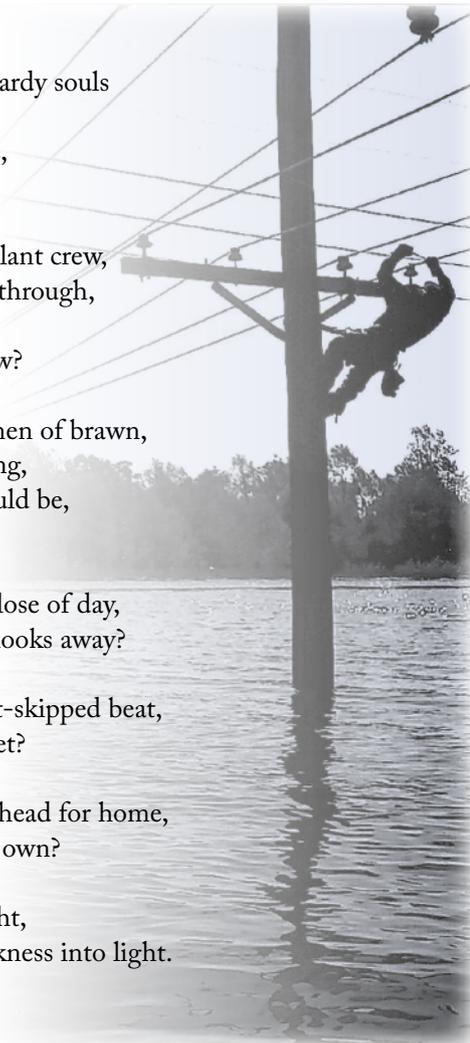
What are their thoughts at the close of day, as they scramble down and put hooks away?

Do they thank God for the heart-skipped beat, to feel the earth beneath their feet?

What are their thoughts as they head for home, longing once more to greet their own?

Surely they must feel some delight, knowing they helped turned darkness into light.

-Unknown-



Please remember, all initiatives we embark upon always have our members’ best interest in mind. Providing our members with safe, reliable, reasonably priced electricity while providing excellent service will continue to be our goal. As always, if you have any comments or questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at Johnson@cceci.com. #thankalinenman



Mike Johnson

Grants awarded

Grants totaling \$4,000 were awarded to area teachers through the Touchstone Energy 2015/2016 Classroom Empowerment Grant Program. Clinton County Electric Cooperative awarded checks to the following participants:

Accepting a \$500 check from Carrie Trame of Clinton County Electric Cooperative is Pam Kreke, a Special Education Teacher at Germantown Elementary.



Teacher Sheri Steward from St. Rose Elementary accepts a \$500 check from CCECI representative Carrie Trame.

Cooperative employee Carrie Trame presented a check for \$500 to Breese Elementary District 12 on behalf of a grant written by 4th Grade Teacher Susan Zinn.



Carrie Trame, CCECI Representative presented a check in the amount of \$500 to Central High School on behalf of a grant written by Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher Rachel Faust.



A check for \$1,000 was presented to teachers at Carlyle Junior High School. Pictured left to right are Special Education Teacher Tara Joiner; CCECI Representative Carrie Trame; and 6th Grade Science Teacher Patty Harre.

Teacher Ashley Stefanisin from Bartelso Elementary accepts a check for \$500 from CCECI Representative Carrie Trame.



A check for \$500 was awarded to Wesclin's Librarian Kristen Oster by CCECI representative Carrie Trame.



*In observance of Memorial Day, the office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, May 30, 2016.*

Welcome Kyle Wiegmann



Clinton County Electric Cooperative is pleased to introduce its newest employee, Kyle Wiegmann. Kyle has spent the last four years employed with Prairie States Generating Campus as a Miner Operator and started with the cooperative on March 16, 2016 as a Step 1 Apprentice Lineman. We welcome Kyle to the Clinton County Electric Cooperative family.

Good luck Goober

Gary "Goober" Albers retired from Clinton County Electric Cooperative on March 10, 2016 with over 43 years of dedicated service to the membership. Goober started with the cooperative on October 16, 1972 as a Staking Engineer, eventually working his way up to Foreman of the underground line crew. Throughout the years he has had the opportunity to work for all four CCECI managers and was able to form special bonds with many of the members. Everyone at Clinton County Electric wishes Goober the best of luck in his retirement.





Have a successful planting season rooted in safety

By Tim Brecht

As you make plans to return to your fields for spring planting, we urge you to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Operating large equipment near these lines is one of the often overlooked, yet potentially deadly, hazards of working on a farm.

Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a 20-foot clearance minimum from power lines. Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. Use a spotter and designate a preplanned route that avoids hazard areas.

It is necessary to be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors now have tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power

lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters, cultivators, or sprayers near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

Simply working too close to a power line is dangerous as electricity can arc to conductive objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call Clinton County Electric Cooperative at 1-800-526-7282 for help. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the easiest path to the ground. Even if a line has

landed on the ground, there is still potential for the ground and objects nearby to be energized. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until help arrives. If exiting the cab is absolutely necessary because of fire, the proper action is to jump (not step) with both feet together, hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Tim Brecht is Manager of Engineering and Operations at Adams Electric Cooperative in Camp Point, Ill. For more tips and information on how to stay safe this planting season, visit SafeElectricity.org.