

CEO THE COMMITMENT OF AN ELECTRIC LINeworkER

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 8.

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety as well as the challenges of the job.

Hancock-Wood Electric's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings, or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of

specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers.

Family support system

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience, and each other to get the job done safely. Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

Community commitment

Across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities, and serving on local advisory boards. For example, some of our employees are volunteer firefighters.

Thank you

Monday, April 8, is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Hancock-Woods' lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in the town, please offer them a thank you as well.



George Walton
PRESIDENT & CEO



Community Trust Fund

Board grants over \$6,000 to local organizations



At the February meeting, the Community Trust Fund board, which oversees the funds from our Operation Round Up program, granted the following organizations funds to complete much-needed projects in our local communities:

- Gliding Stars of Findlay — \$1,200
- Hancock Historical Museum — \$2,000
- Northview Primary School — \$1,250
- Quarry Farms — \$2,500



Think Energy \$mart With Bruce

Installing a programmable thermostat in your home or business can save you up to 10 percent on your heating and cooling costs if programmed properly. When choosing a thermostat, check to be

sure the thermostat has the features you desire and is compatible with your heating/cooling system. Programmable thermostats are not recommended for all heating applications, so check with your contractor or contact me before making a purchase.

A common misconception associated with programmable thermostats is that a heating/cooling system must work harder to recondition the space after the thermostat has been adjusted back to normal operating temperature, resulting in little or no savings. As soon as your home's temperature drops below its normal temperature setting, it will lose energy more slowly, creating energy savings.

The lower the interior temperature, the slower the heat loss. The longer your home remains at a lower temperature, the more energy you save. The same concept applies to raising your temperature setting while cooling.

When programming your thermostat, try to set the thermostat back five to 10 degrees during heating season and three to five degrees during cooling. The thermostat should be set back at least eight hours per cycle. Also, consider starting the temperature setback ahead of the time you leave or go to bed, to maximize energy savings, because the temperature in your home will not rise or fall instantly.



The 2019 annual meeting is set for June 8

Mark your calendars for the annual meeting on Saturday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hancock County Fairgrounds in Findlay. HWE's annual meeting and member appreciation day plans are underway. You have a voice as a member of our cooperative and will be voting on the representatives of your district — see the voting schedule for details. The winning candidates will be sworn in on June 8, and members will receive cooperative updates during the business meeting. Members will enjoy a family-friendly atmosphere with plenty of activities for all ages, as well as free catered lunch by Harlan's BBQ. Kids will enjoy rides, face painters, and more. Be sure to register before 10:30 a.m. to have a chance to win one of our grand prizes, and each membership will receive a giveaway (while supplies last). See the cover wrap of this edition of *Ohio Cooperative Living* for your RSVP card and more details.

Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative Inc. 2019

Director Election Schedule

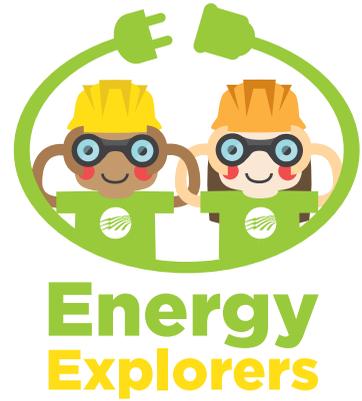
March 26	Mail director election nomination ballots
April 9	Director election nomination ballots returned
April 11	Election committee to count director nomination ballots
April 12–20	President to contact director nominees
May 7	Mail director election ballots
May 21	Return date for director election ballots
May 24	Election committee to count director election ballots
June 8	Annual meeting

Wind storm creates widespread outages in HWE's service area

The high winds at the end of February left many of our members without power for several hours. The line crews worked diligently to restore power in a timely manner. We had a total of 33 outages, affecting more than 2,888 members throughout our service area.

GEARED FOR SAFETY

Electric co-op lineworkers wear special gear to help them stay safe on the job. Can you match the descriptions below to the correct safety equipment? Use the answer key to check your work!



1. These provide extra protection while lineworkers work with heavy materials that could fall near their feet.

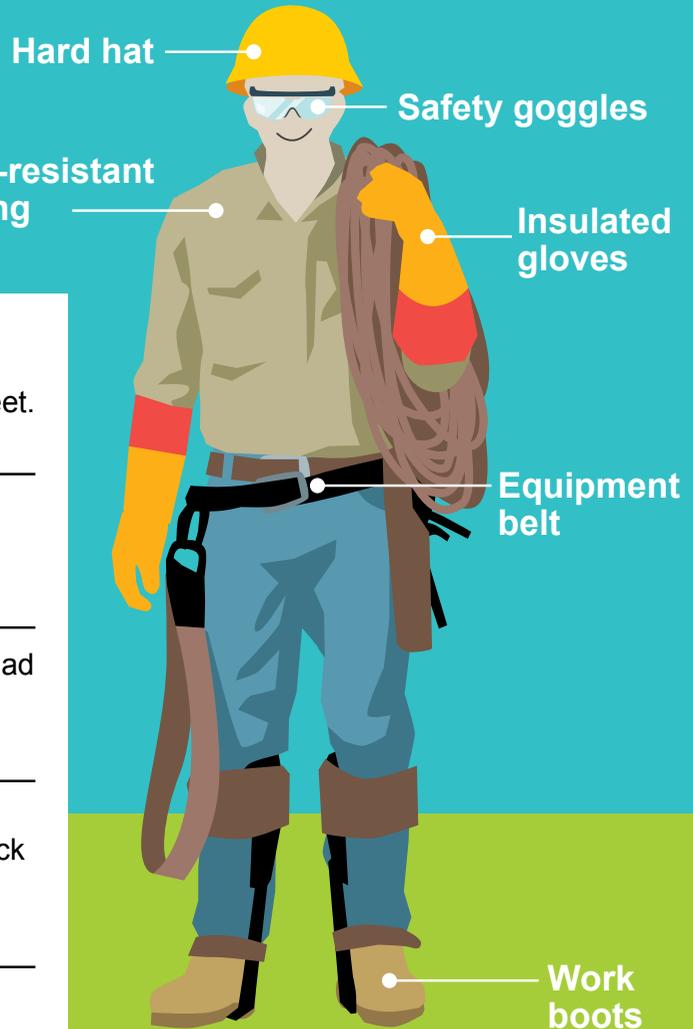
2. This material keeps lineworkers safe from electrical hazards.

3. This protects lineworkers from head injuries and falling debris.

4. These insulated protectors keep lineworkers safe from electrical shock while working on power lines.

5. These keep debris away from lineworkers' eyes while on the job.

6. This is a handy piece of safety gear that holds tools and other equipment.



Answers: 1. Work boots 2. Flame-resistant clothing 3. Hard hat 4. Insulated gloves 5. Safety goggles 6. Equipment belt