



# Egyptian Electric News

1732 Finney Road • Murphysboro, IL 62966 • 800-606-1505 • [www.eeca.coop](http://www.eeca.coop)

APRIL 2020



## Remember to #ThankALineworker on April 13

Lineworkers serve on the front-lines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 13, 2020, Egyptian Electric Cooperative (EECA), along with other electric co-ops across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op. **45-05-0001**

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because

Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

We are proud to honor the 16 lineworkers that maintain more than 2,000 miles of power lines in our service territory. To honor them, EECA plans to serve lunch on this day to celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day.

EECA invites all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. On April 13, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives.

### Ten reasons we appreciate lineworkers

Although we appreciate each and every employee at Egyptian Electric Cooperative, it takes a special kind of person to be a lineworker. Here are just 10 reasons we appreciate our lineworkers!

10. They are specially trained to work on power lines and related equipment.
9. They are dedicated to safely and efficiently restoring power when extreme weather or other conditions cause the power to go out.
8. They are willing to work overtime or get up in the middle of the night to help restore power.
7. They enjoy serving our communities.
6. They aren't afraid of heights.
5. They are willing to help other utilities with major outages at a moment's notice.
4. They often lend their talents to help other countries with less established or damaged electrical distribution systems.
3. They enjoy working with each other and have each other's backs.
2. They are trained to work on both dead and live power lines and must always be dedicated to safety.
1. We couldn't provide excellent service without them or any of our other dedicated employees.



1732 Finney Road  
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### Board of Directors

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- Off-site kiosks located at 2301 N Reed Station Pkwy in Carbondale and 1306 N Market in Sparta

## Lora Wolters, new CSR

Lora Wolters was born and raised in Steeleville, currently residing outside of town with her husband, Kerry. Together, they have four children and three grandchildren. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, running and sitting by her lake in the sun. She was previously employed by Chester Dairy Company, until it's closure. We are happy to have Lora as our newest customer service representative, who started employment on Feb. 18. We look forward to her serving the members of EECA with us! Welcome!



A few minutes of your time will pay off for the next 10 years. Have Your Say in the distribution of over \$3 billion dollars in Illinois funding for Schools, Parks, Health Care, Housing, Roads, Highways, Emergency Services, Fire Departments, Safety & Well-being & More!

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# SAVE! the DATE!

## ANNUAL MEETING

### THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

AT EGYPTIAN ELECTRIC'S  
HEADQUARTERS

## MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three map location numbers hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your location number, that corresponds to the one on your bill, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is on and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

## An expectation of reliable service

As a member, you expect many things from your cooperative including reliable electric service. Egyptian Electric has always focused on restoring power in the wake of a system outage. We recognized several years ago that our reliability was not as good as our members deserved. We realized that we had considerable room for improvement. From there, your board of directors set the expectation for consistent, measurable progress. We began developing plans for improvement and to implement innovative programs and technology to meet your expectations for dependable service.

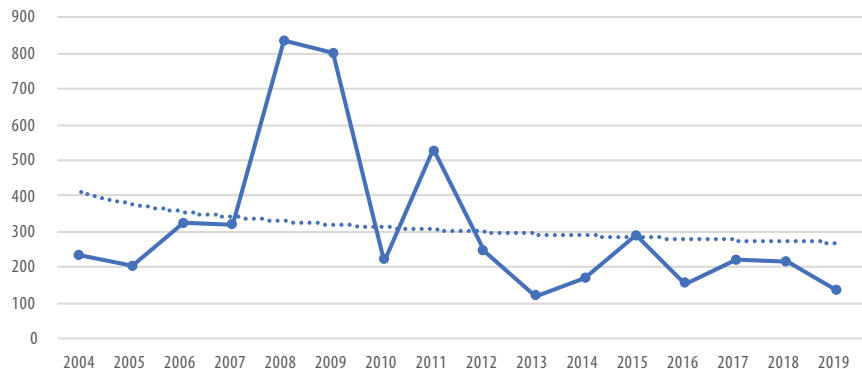
EECA's engineering and operations staff detailed our past maintenance practices, reviewed our past outage records, determined key trends in the data and experimented with a variety of system maintenance activities. A plan has been developed to build on the successes demonstrated over the past several years as the co-op's overall system reliability has started to trend toward improvement.

Outages due to trees/vegetation overgrowth stood out. We started an aggressive forestry program to help reduce the number of tree related outages. We are currently on a four-year forestry cycle to visit each substation and trim their circuits. This year, we will have forestry crews working the Cora, Keller, Shawnee and Sparta substations and their feeders and taps.

We also recognized substantial number of animal related outages. This prompted us to add protective coverup at substations, on poles, transformers and other devices. While we realize there will still be animal related outages, the goal is to minimize the outages and harm to the animals.

Your cooperative has also worked to improve system maintenance.

SAIDI - System Average Interruption Duration Index



*System Average Interruption Duration – The amount of time the average member was without power during the year*

What does that mean? System maintenance includes these and other activities: identifying and changing bad poles (rotten, damaged, split), sectionalizing feeders and circuits (adding or moving breakers and fuses to optimize the system), servicing overcurrent protection equipment, rebuilding of lines from the early days of the cooperative (copper weld to ACSR (aluminum conductor steel reinforced)) and building loop feeds (can feed from another direction). The main goal is to identify potential sources for outages and correct them in a timely matter. **42-02-0010**

One of the reliability indices we track is the system average interruption duration index (SAIDI). This is the average amount of time a member is without available service during

the year. The graph above shows the average time in minutes each EECA member was without service from 2004 through 2019. We had rather high years in 2008 and 2009 related to large weather events. A trendline was added on figure 1. It shows the number of minutes trending downward. This is good news for our members as power is available more. In 2019, the average member had 138 minutes where service was unavailable (that is out of 525,600 minutes during the year). This means that the average Egyptian member has power available 99.974 percent of the time. This is above the Illinois state average of 99.96 percent of other electric co-ops (210-minute average) and much better than the 99.947 percent of Ameren (280-minute average).

**The reliability of service to the members of EECA is of utmost importance. We understand that: to a residential member, a lack of available service can be a disruption to their lives; to the businesses we serve, a lack of revenue; to the factories we serve, loss of production. We desire to provide service 100 percent of the time to our members. While this may be an unachievable goal, we will continue to strive to improve our service availability. We stand committed to improving our system reliability and meeting your expectations of reliable service.**

## Beautify your yard, not utility equipment

Green utility boxes, known as padmount transformers or junction boxes, are part of the supply chain that helps provide power to your neighborhood. Those boxes sit on an easement, which allows our qualified lineworkers to access them. **10-10-0008**

What are the green boxes for? Their job is to step down high-voltage electricity to a lower voltage needed for the underground wires supplying power to the lights and appliances in homes. A junction box is basically an above-ground enclosed wire splice.

Please do not paint, enhance, block or otherwise obstruct padmount transformers. By respecting all utility equipment, including meters and transformers, you can help keep the power on and your local utility workers safe.

As you beautify your yard this spring and summer, Egyptian Electric Cooperative and Safe Electricity remind you of these safety tips:

- Do not plant shrubs, trees or large-rooted plants close to any of these green boxes or other utility equipment. Limiting or restricting access to the box in your yard by us could delay restoration work during an outage and create a serious safety hazard. We need at least 10 feet of clearance in front of the transformer (the side that is padlocked), as well as at least four feet of clearance on the other three sides.
- Contact us with questions about landscaping around or installing fencing near a padmount transformer (or any other changes) to learn what is allowable.
- Contact us if the transformer becomes unlocked or if it or any other type of utility equipment appears to be damaged.
- Call 811 prior to digging around a transformer or junction box and respect the clearance requirements. If you dig near a utility box (even if it is beyond the clearance requirements), you could inadvertently hit a live underground cable. Always call 811 prior to any digging.
- Keep a clear path. Although the transformer seems like it is in "your yard," it is on an easement, and our workers need clear access to it to maintain equipment and keep power running smoothly.
- Always teach children that they should not sit on, open or play around these green boxes.
- Contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. To request a speaker on this or any other safety topics, contact us at 800-606-1505. For more about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## LOOK OUT

### FOR POWER SOURCES



Do not get within 10 feet (in any direction) of a power line.

Be aware of power lines when working on the roof.

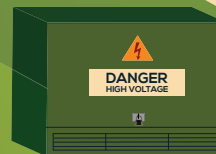


Do not trim branches or limbs near power lines.

Be careful when carrying long or tall objects such as ladders or poles.



Before you dig, call 811 to have underground utilities marked.



Do not dig near padmount transformers or other utility equipment.

[Safe Electricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)