

# NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 03/21

## Managing Material with Andy Nash



Andy Nash, Warehouse Supervisor, loading a transformer outside of the co-op's headquarters.

This month marks 25 years of service for Warehouse Supervisor Andy Nash. Since 1996, Andy has been in charge of purchasing and keeping track of material for the co-op.

There is a lot of material to manage for our electric, right-of-way, and internet operations. Andy's duties also include building meter loops for new and rebuilt services and running materials to

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## Illinois Electric Cooperative

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crews and contractors in the field. He also reviews work orders to ensure everyone has the necessary materials and unloads trucks delivering materials to the co-op's warehouse.

This work comes with its set of unique challenges, including keeping enough material stocked for all the co-op's various jobs.

"Jobs come along, such as a new service, and we have to make sure we have the material to supply that job along with all the other work across the service territory," Nash said. "Keeping a close count on inventory is especially important when it comes to storm prep. "If you've got poles down and you don't have the necessary material to get the lines back up, you're in trouble."

When it comes to ordering material and supplies, the co-op entered into a joint purchasing agreement with four other area co-ops in 2012. At the beginning of the year, the co-ops involved sit down to go over a standardized material sheet. Co-ops will put down the quantity needed for roughly 100 different items.

"Our joint purchasing agreement is for any high volume materials used regularly. Materials purchased through this agreement include nuts and bolts, poles, transformers, security lights, and more," Nash said. From there, the sheets are submitted to 10 different vendors for bid. Group buying in bulk allows the co-ops to get the best price. Through the joint purchasing agreement, our co-op saves about \$100,000 annually.

COVID-19 has made the availability of necessary supplies more challenging, but long-standing relationships with these vendors are helpful. Another challenging aspect of managing materials is keeping up with ever-changing technology and standards. New tools and material are continually coming out, so Nash works hard to stay informed.



Andy Nash, Warehouse Supervisor, cutting wire in co-op's warehouse.

"There's a lot to consider when purchasing material," Nash said. "Along with the price, we look at the quality of the product. Quality often relates to safety. We also have to look at the timeframe for delivery."

With daily deliveries, numerous jobs in progress, and an ever-changing environment, being organized is critical. Anyone who knows Andy will tell you; this is an area where he excels.



## Attention High School Juniors: Apply Now for CEO

CEO is now accepting applicants for the fall 2021 class. Students who will be entering their senior year may apply.

The CEO programs take high school seniors out of their schools and meet in business settings throughout the year. Around 60 leaders of the business, agricultural, and professional communities make presentations to the groups, and the classes visit a like number of businesses throughout the year.

In the first half of the school year, the students develop a class business, which helps fund their individual business in the second half of the year. Students in the program are also paired with a mentor from their business community.



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The programs are sponsored by over 100 investors, along with Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation, the Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County, District One Foundation, and Illinois Electric Cooperative.

Interested high school juniors should speak with their high school guidance counselors. Applications for Morgan-Scott and Greene-Calhoun CEO programs are due by March 31st. Pike CEO applications are due by April 1st.

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## LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship

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Two scholarship opportunities for high school seniors are open for applicants. The LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship is a \$2,000 scholarship that will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL. Deadline for applying is April 30, 2021. Second, The Glenn



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Foundation Scholarship, also known as the Youth Tour Alumni Scholarship is for former participants in the NRECA's Washington D.C. Youth Tour Program. There are a total of five Youth Tour Alumni annual scholarships: one \$10,000 scholarship and four \$1,000 scholarships. Deadline to apply is April 5, 2021.

Full details and requirements of both scholarships can be found at [www.aiec.coop](http://www.aiec.coop).

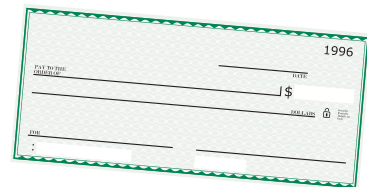


## On the Job Site

Journeyman Linemen Mike King (left) and Cole Hurrelbrink (right) work on a line rebuild near Valley City in Pike County.

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