



Operations with Ryan Little



Ryan Little didn't foresee himself working in the utility industry while growing up on co-op lines, though he's thankful for his path leading him to where he is today. A Scott County native, Ryan attended Illinois College and currently attends

Missouri S&T for a Master's of Business Administration while working full-time.

Ryan came to the co-op in 2015 as an apprentice lineman after getting his start working in electric utilities in both

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Illinois Electric Cooperative

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Roodhouse and Fullton, Missouri. Today Ryan and his wife Megan, along with their children Jackson, Emerson, Hudson, and Ella, reside in Winchester. In 2019, Ryan took on the role of assistant operations manager, working closely with then operations manager Randy Long.

When asked about the transition from outdoor work to spending most of his time in an office, Ryan says it was a major change, as he personally is a “work with your hands” type of person and enjoyed being a part of a crew every day.

In 2020, when Randy became general manager, Ryan took over the role of operations manager. Today he oversees and assists in multiple areas, including engineering, meters, line clearing, and working with contractors.

Other parts of his role include scheduling linemen and coordinating times for work with members and contractors, while ensuring best safety practices are followed. This can be quite a challenge with 70,000 poles and 3,000 miles of line. “I have to stay ahead of things and be responsible for the different areas I oversee to ensure we’re all productive.”

Even though he’s not working in the field anymore, Ryan gets a sense of pride during storms as he works with crews to get members’ power back on as quickly as possible. “It’s rewarding to play a role where you’re helping to keep members’ lights on.”



When Ryan thinks about the future, he’s excited for the changes that continue to come to the electric field, as well as finishing his master’s program. Long-term, he wants to continue being a positive force in the community. “I think it’s our responsibility as a co-op to help everyone we serve in whatever ways we can, as they’re the ones who support us.”

Photo: Ryan and his wife Megan with their children Jackson, Emerson, Hudson, and Ella.

Calhoun Fiber Update



Crews with Wiemelt Excavating continue underground work in Calhoun County.

Winter weather isn't stopping progress on the fiber in Calhoun County. Crews are continuing work in the south end of the county.

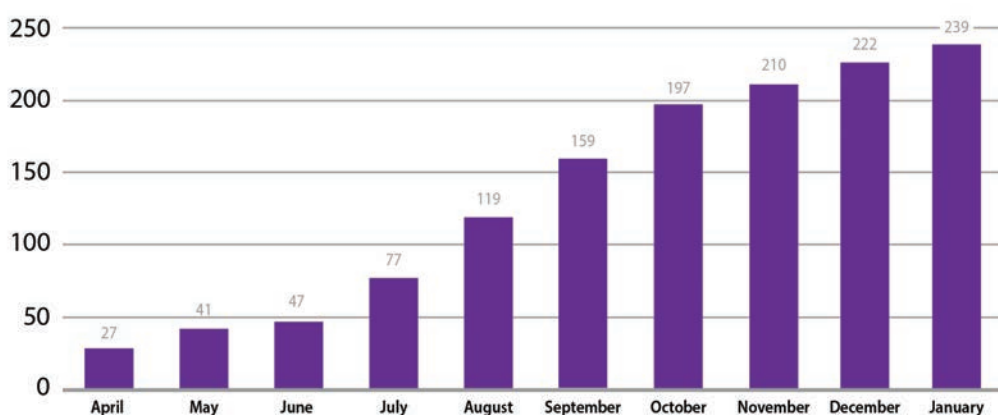
Construction for the Connect Illinois Project for Hardin fiber service will get underway when ground conditions improve.

We'll also be meeting with the Village of Batchtown soon to work out the details for fiber to the home there.

Calhoun Fiber is a multi-year project. Once all is said and done, there will be 421 miles of fiber optic cable ran in Calhoun. Along with the significant amount of construction to be completed, easements are critical to the project. Easements can delay construction significantly. If you have not yet signed an easement, please do so and encourage your neighbor to sign one as well.

If you have any questions, we have an extensive Frequently Asked Questions section on CalhounFiber.com. We can also be reached at 1-800-468-4732.

Calhoun Fiber Connections



GET TEXT MESSAGE NOTIFICATIONS

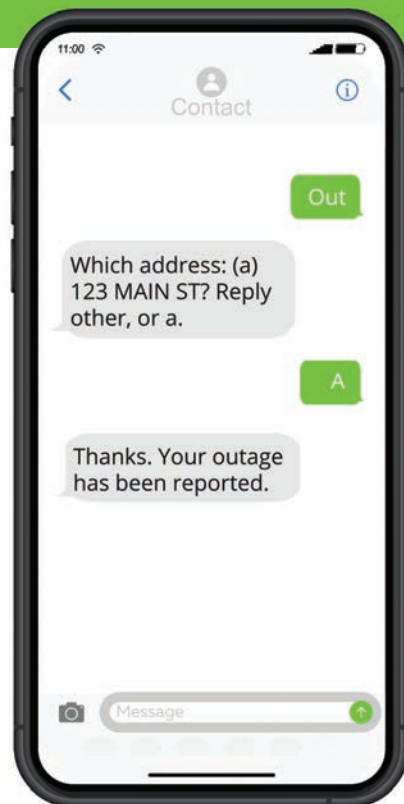
The co-op is rolling out text messaging to members, and we want to make sure we have the correct cell phone number for each of our members. We can now send outage alerts, status reports, and restoration notifications to members, all by text.

We will also have the ability to send a general informational text about planned outages, construction and inspection operations, tree trimming, and meeting notifications.

Registered members will also be able to report an outage by text message. Simply by texting the word OUT from the phone number in our system to 1-800-468-4732. Members will also be able to report outages by scanning a QR code.

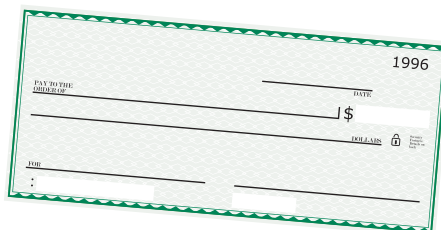
We will send an initial text message to all members with a valid cell phone number in our records. The text will give you the option to “opt-out” if you wish.

If you would like to receive notifications and you believe our records are out-of-date, we encourage you to give us a call to update your contact information. Members can also visit our website at e-co-op.com and click on the Outage Text Alerts icon on the homepage to update their contact information.



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