

## President's Report



Josh DeWees  
President/CEO



## Electric lineworkers keep the power moving

When people flip a light switch, they may not give much thought to why or how the light comes on.

Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They work hard to install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions, such as snow, wind, rain, ice and extreme heat and cold. The work required to maintain the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers go through a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, electric power line installers and repairers typically:

- Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.
- Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- String (install) power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to get to equipment.
- Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- Drive work vehicles to job sites.
- Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep them from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, line repairers must work quickly to restore service to customers.

Everyone at Spoon River Electric Cooperative works hard to provide reliable service, we not only salute our lineworkers, but also all our employees who work around the clock to keep the power on.



*Photo courtesy of Spoon River Electric Cooperative member Sheila Howerter*

# Spoon River Electric Cooperative

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Canton, IL 61520  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
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## *President/CEO*

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## *Chairman*

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## *Editor of Spoon River News*

Taryn Mellert  
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## Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,272  
Number of members served: 5,022  
Number of power poles  
in territory: 29,361

## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LINEWORKERS?



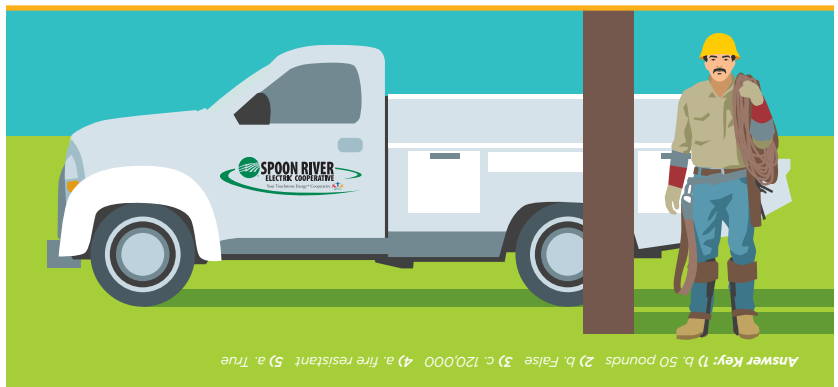
Every April, we celebrate lineworkers and the hard work they do to make sure we have electricity to power our lives.

**How much do you know about lineworkers?**

**Take the quiz below to find out!**

**(Use the answer key to check your work.)**

1. Lineworkers have to wear a lot of gear to do their jobs. A lineworker's gear can weigh up to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. 15 pounds      b. 50 pounds      c. 80 pounds
2. Lineworkers maintain and repair electrical lines, but they do not install them.  
a. True (no installation)      b. False (They maintain, repair *and* install lines.)
3. There are approximately \_\_\_\_\_ lineworkers in the United States.  
a. 50,000      b. 90,000      c. 120,000
4. Lineworkers must wear \_\_\_\_\_ clothing to protect them from a possible electric arc while working.  
a. fire resistant      b. extra thick      c. leather or rubber
5. Lineworkers must wear special conductive boots when climbing a steel structure.  
a. True      b. False



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy










# Plan to call before you dig

Digging without locating underground utilities could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or cause severe electrical shock. This is true regardless of how much area your project will cover or whether you consider the job to be large or small. To help stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 811.

The 811 “Call Before You Dig” number will route you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities, and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

	<b>Red</b> .....	Electric
	<b>Orange</b> ....	Communications, telephone/CATV
	<b>Blue</b> .....	Potable water
	<b>Green</b> .....	Sewer/drainage
	<b>Yellow</b> .....	Gas/petroleum pipeline
	<b>Purple</b> .....	Reclaimed water
	<b>White</b> .....	Premark site of intended excavation

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 811, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel into the ground.

Please understand that 811 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Examples of private utilities include underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Once all your underground utilities have been located, it is time to start

digging, but be sure to wear all the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.

For more information about 811 and digging safety, visit [Call811.com](http://Call811.com) and [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

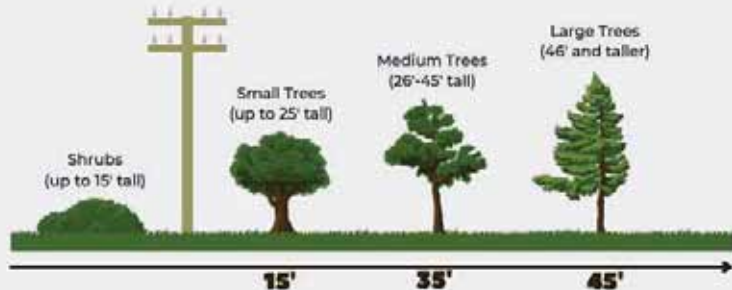


**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**



## Plant the RIGHT TREE in the RIGHT PLACE

The larger the tree, the farther it should be from a power line. Avoid planting beneath power lines, near poles or close to electrical equipment.



Remember, know what's below by calling 8-1-1 before you dig.

Learn more at: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

## We ♥ Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade trees provide. But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season.

If you see us out in the community trimming, remember the many benefits it brings:

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs

Trimming improves service reliability for you, the members we serve.





# ATTENTION 2021-2022 SENIORS!

## *Spoon River Electric Cooperative Is Awarding Three \$1,000 Scholarships to High School Seniors*

High school students who are seniors during the 2021-2022 school year and are the son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric member are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 Scholastic Scholarship, a \$1,000 Honorary Scholarship, and the \$1,000 Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarship, which will be awarded at this year's Annual Meeting.

Please fill out the form at the bottom of the page and return it to the Cooperative to participate. Applications must be turned in by **May 6, 2022** to be considered. Please see official rules and descriptions of scholarships below.

### OFFICIAL RULES

- **Applying students and their parent/legal guardian must be present at the Annual Meeting to win.**
- Students must be a son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric Cooperative Member.
- Students must be a high school senior during the 2021-2022 school year and begin college undergraduate studies in the 2022-2023 school year. Students must plan on attending a two-year or four-year accredited college or university, including vocational/technical schools.
- Scholarship winners must be full-time students (at least 12 hours) during the 2022-2023 academic year.
- Scholarships are for one year and are non-renewable.
- Past Spoon River Electric Cooperative scholarship winners are not eligible to receive another one.

### SCHOLASTIC AND SCOTT PARRISH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Scholastic and Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarships will be awarded based on an application detailing GPA, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, and a biographical statement.
- Semi-finalists will be notified by mail with a time and place for a personal interview.
- Those not chosen as semi-finalists for the Scholastic and Parrish Scholarships will be automatically placed in the Honorary Scholarship drawing.

### HONORARY SCHOLARSHIP

- The Honorary Scholarship will be awarded by a drawing as students are recognized at the Annual Meeting.
- All applicants are eligible for the Honorary Scholarship drawing except the Scholastic and Parrish Scholarship winners.



## Scholarship Participation Request

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Return To: Taryn Mellert  
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