

NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 02/24



On the Job with Chad Gregory

Project Supervisor Chad Gregory reviewing construction plans near New Salem in Pike County.

Chad Gregory has seen many changes during his nearly 30-year career with Illinois Electric Cooperative. His work story is one of consistent development and commitment to serving the membership.

Chad's journey with the co-op began in 1995, and he's played a crucial role in maintaining our infrastructure since. Hailing from Winchester, he graduated in 1990 and went on to earn an electronics degree

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Illinois Electric Cooperative

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from ITT Tech. Before joining the co-op, he worked as an electrician at Eli Bridge Company.

His early days at the co-op saw him learning the ropes as an apprentice meter serviceman. Later, Chad would become an apprentice lineman and work his way up to the line crew foreman.

For the past four years, Chad's role has been project supervisor, overseeing contractors and ensuring projects move forward without a hitch.

Chad tackles managing multiple contractors by ensuring all necessary materials are on hand, communicating with members if there is a need for a planned outage due to construction, and handling the logistics of work areas, such as entering and exiting the right-of-way. Due to the weather and ground conditions, right-of-way access can be particularly challenging.

Chad values the interactions he has with others on the job the most. He

enjoys getting to know members in areas he's working in and working closely with contractors, paying close attention to the details of every project.

When asked what excites him the most about work, he says the direction the co-op is going, especially with new projects, such as the expansion of our internet system and the pole and conductor infrastructure replacement. He knows these projects lead to a more dependable system and better service.

Chad said he is always proud to see a project through to completion, knowing it's been done right, safely, and on schedule. He also finds satisfaction in working with younger contractors and watching them grow in their skills.

With 29 years of service under his belt, Chad says he is looking forward to many more. Chad resides in Jacksonville with his wife, Tina. He has two daughters, Morgan and Maggie, and two grandchildren, Valerie and William.

OUTAGE MAP

**See real-time outages
in your area on our
website!**

outage.e-co-op.com



Did you know we have an outage map on our website? The outage map shows outages across our service territory and is essential during storms. Members can view the map on a desktop or mobile phone.

In the case of an outage, please call 1-800-468-4732 to report your outage. Calling in to report an outage ensures your outage is logged into our system. For those registered, we have a text message service that we utilize as well.

We always recommend having a plan of action in the event of a significant weather event, along with electronics, such as your phone, charged and some essential supplies on hand.

View our outage map by visiting our website at www.e-co-op.com. Members who haven't yet done so may also sign up for our text messaging service to be notified in the event of an outage or other important information related to the co-op.

Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP) is the grassroots arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Rural electric cooperatives provide electricity to more than 42 million Americans across 48 states. VCP is a powerful network of advocates working together to influence the federal policies that impact electric co-ops and their members.

The energy system of America is undergoing a significant transformation. However, Washington focuses mainly on



large utilities in urban areas, while electric cooperatives are fundamentally different entities.

We encourage our members to visit voicesforcooperativepower.com to learn more and sign up to make their voices heard.

Attention High School Juniors: Apply Now for CEO

CEO is now accepting applicants for the fall 2024 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 40 business, agricultural, and professional leaders make presentations to the groups and the classes visit a similar 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 businesses in the second half of the year. Students in the program are also paired with a mentor from their business community.

Over 100 investors make the programs possible, including with Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation, the Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County, District One Foundation, and Illinois Electric Cooperative.



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Interested high school juniors should speak with their high school guidance counselors in February. To learn more and see photos of the class in action, search any of the programs on Facebook or visit one of the program websites below.

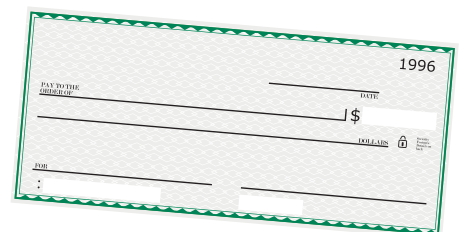
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