

#THANKALINEWORKER

If you do a Google search to find the meaning of a lineworker, you would probably get a wide array of answers. Quite simply, a lineworker constructs and maintains the electric transmission and distribution facilities that deliver electric energy to industrial, commercial, farms, and residential establishments. They are often the first to go out after a wind, ice, or thunderstorm to fix and repair lines to restore power.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing where and when it is needed. Whether they are restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op. When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities, because Mother Nature does not work around holidays, vacations, or family celebrations.

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, lineworkers are always willing to help another cooperative in need of assistance after a major weather event has occurred. This commitment and sense of service to the community is why we want to show them our appreciation.

We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers for their exceptional service — both locally and around the world — that light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do!

Use **#ThankALineworker** on social media to show your support on April 8 for Cooperative Lineworker Appreciation Day and on April 18 for National Lineworker Appreciation Day.

Shelby Electric Cooperative depends upon our entire team to keep the cooperative running smoothly. We are proud to honor our 25 lineworkers, who maintain 2,200 miles of power lines serving our member-consumers in all or parts of Christian, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie, Sangamon, and Shelby Counties.



Our lineworkers are fearless, committed, and critical to our success. We say **THANK YOU** to our line personnel:

Manager of Operations

Terry Oldham

Construction Superintendent

Brian Chevalier

Operations Assistant

Amy Peters

Metering Foreman

Dave White

Forestry Foreman

Luke Brown

Foremen

Andy McDonald
Blake Summers
Brad Wright

Linemen

Dalton Brown
Roger Jones
Blake Knearem
Jake Kull
Nick Ray
Adam Schrock
Jamie Sharp
Nick Sloan

Apprentice Linemen

Wyatt Fox
Cade Helton
Adam Hudson
Lucas Morse
Josh Phegley
Jared Phelps

Laborer

Austin Bly

Fleet Manager

Craig Atteberry

Material Control Clerk

Marlow Stephens



Safety Matters

Shelby Electric Cooperative recognized at Safety and Energy Conference

Safety is of the utmost importance, especially in the electric industry. To further safety education, lineworkers, supervisors, and warehouse personnel from electric co-ops across Illinois recently gathered in Springfield to attend the annual Safety and Energy Conference, hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC).

During the conference, safety leadership awards were presented to recognize individual and cooperative-wide commitments to a safe work culture. Shelby Electric Cooperative was recognized with 2023 awards for Best Lost Time Rate and Best Incident Rate.

The AIEC Cooperative Safety Leadership Awards recognize safety awareness and reward cooperatives that demonstrate safety leadership, promote safety culture, and go above and beyond normal safety expectations.



Several Shelby Electric Cooperative employees were present for the photo with their two safety awards. They are, pictured from left to right, cooperative President/CEO Josh Shallenberger, HR/Regulatory Compliance Diane Bunton, Operations Assistant Amy Peters, Construction Superintendent Brian Chevalier, and Lineman Jake Kull.

At the conference, attendees received relevant training to keep them informed and safe while on the job. They learned about mental health and dealing with trauma, explored the use

of drones for infrastructure inspection, learned about strategies for success in a multigenerational workplace, and much more.

SHELBY News

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Celebrating 30 years of service

As we honor Shelby Energy Company (SEC) for 30 years in business, here are some highlights over that time:

- * April 4, 1994: SEC opens for business
- * Employees were Steve Shoaff, Janet Orr, and Wayne Bunch
- * First customer: Roy Gill of Rural Shelbyville
- * 1996: Due to growth in their customer base, Jason Nohren was hired
- * 2006: SEC starts selling Generac whole house generators
- * 2007: SEC acquires Danneberger Oil's lubricant business and hires Larry Danneberger
- * 2014: Steve Shoaff retires and Jason Nohren is promoted to Operations Manager
- * 2021: SEC starts offering customers an online portal to access their account information
- * 2022: Acquires generator installation and service business from Figgins Electric and hires their technician Brandon Faulkner
- * 2023: SEC becomes an *Elite Plus Dealer* based on Generac generator sales
- * 2024: Currently have over 2,300 LP gas customers & over 2,000 generators have been sold
- * April 4, 2024: SEC celebrates 30 years in business



Current Shelby Energy Company employees, pictured left to right: Jessica Stigers, Tim Bejosano, Brandon Faulkner, Jason Nohren, Derek West, Shane Kircher, and Marla Foor.



The original Shelby Energy Company staff pictured left to right: Steve Shoaff, Janet Orr, and Wayne Bunch.



Shelby Energy employees lined up for a 25th anniversary picture, from left to right: Larry Danneberger, Derek West, Jason Nohren, Sarah McConnell, and Jim Mundell.



Posing for 20th anniversary pictured left to right: Jason Nohren, Janet Orr, Larry Danneberger, Steve Shoaff, and Jim Miller.

Faith's ROADTRIP



Living their dream!

As avid boaters, Shawn Starwalt and Melinda Chern's dream came true when they purchased the Findlay Marina on April 1, 2021. Their purchase of the marina coincided with opening day, so they hit the ground running, tackling this new adventure together, and have never looked back.

Findlay Marina is located on the west side of Lake Shelbyville, about four minutes outside of Findlay, Illinois. One of the main aspects that Shawn and Mel focus on is their community, whether it be the boaters, their employees, or even the surrounding towns.

"The boating community is fantastic," Mel said. "It is such a tight-knit community. Everyone has everyone's back." The marina holds private events for their boating community each year during the season. These events allow everyone to get together and mingle regardless of what dock they are on. "We realized pretty quickly that people don't go to other docks besides their own. And we thought, why not figure out a way to get everyone together?" she said. They have over 345 rental slips available. The marina also continues to offer food trucks, as well as a customer appreciation day.

Shawn and Mel consider their employees family and treat them as such. "We are all in this together," commented Shawn. The marina has eight full-time employees, as well as seasonal workers. Three of the full-time employees



Findlay Marina offers boat rentals and over 345 slips for rent.

are on-site mechanics. They repair the slip renter's boats and off-the-street boats. Other offerings include detailing, waxing, buffing, bottom painting, shrink wrapping, winterization, stereo installs, upholstery, pull in boats, delivery of boats, on-site dry storage, and off-site inside storage. "Most of the gas dock workers have grown up at the marina, so they absolutely love their jobs," Mel said. "If they get to work here as well as "play" here, then they are happy!"



Findlay Marina owners Shawn Starwalt and Melinda Cherns

Both Shawn and Mel are very passionate about doing things for the community, such as financial contributions, donation of boat rentals, and swag bags for fundraisers. They also help with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers fishing tournaments. They are huge on helping veterans, such as through fishing tournaments. "It's the community. That is the 'why' behind everything," Shawn shared.

Findlay Marina is open April 1-Nov. 1 for seasonal boaters. They offer 13 pontoon boats for rent, as well as a party barge that can hold up to 25 people, all of which are available to rent from the end of April to mid-October. The Ship Store offers alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages, ice, snacks, sandwiches, apparel, floats, oils, safety equipment for boats, minor parts, Morgan's meats, bait, and fishing supplies.

Shawn and Mel live at the marina on a boat seven months out of the year. They love where they work and the lifestyle that comes with it. Shawn, a native of Shelbyville, grew up going to the lake, so it is now a full-circle moment to own Findlay Marina. They jumped right into this venture together and haven't looked back since.

Visit them at findlaymarina.com, scan this QR code, or follow them on Facebook!

