

The POWER Behind Your POWER

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11



By Dean Ortmann

You've likely noticed Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough--but it's a job that's essential and must be

done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 60 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career--because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, CVEC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages,



lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. CVEC has 12 lineworkers that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 1253 miles of power lines across 5 counties and 700 square miles. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11, and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

CVEC Operations Department

Nic Alberson - Operations Manager - 13 years

Kevin Scheidler - Line Superintendent - 22 years

Keith Zimmerman - Lineman - 34 years

Dan Ferris - Lineman - 31 years

Chris Larson - Lineman - 8 years

Ed Rosseter - Lineman - 4 years

Tyler Jones - Lineman - 3 years

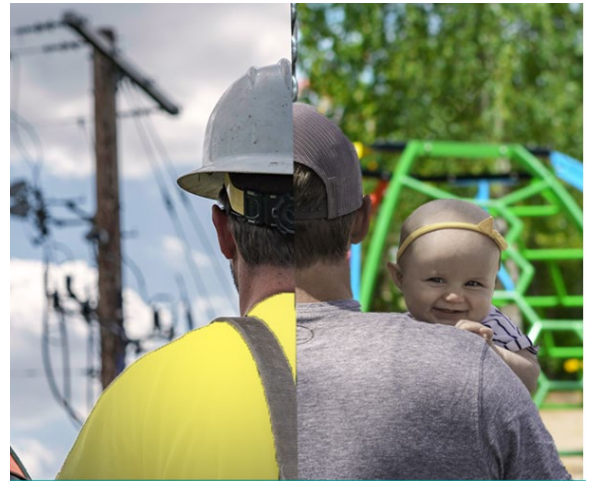
Ben Modl - Lineman - 3 years

Greg Olmstead - Lineman - 3 years

Zach Sonnentag - Lineman - 2 years

Trevin Jensen - Lineman - 1.5 years

Quentin Muska - Lineman - 1 year



LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative is thankful for the many years of dedicated service their crew has provided to the co-op. A big THANK YOU goes out to the CVEC linemen for working in all types of weather conditions to keep our members' power on. In doing so, they are often sacrificing time away from their families. Take a moment to thank them, and any other lineworkers you know, for safely working to keep the lights on.

Our crew is great and we can't thank them enough for the work they do.

In Memory

Clyde Shipman

1933–2022

It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the passing of Clyde Shipman on February 9, 2022.

Clyde Shipman was a longtime District 3 Director of the Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative board, serving for nearly 26 years including many years as secretary-treasurer. Clyde was dedicated to the cooperative; always showing up early for meetings and consistently asking thoughtful questions. His laugh was a welcome sound throughout CVEC. He is remembered as a strong supporter of the co-op, Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA), and his community as a whole and will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

Born in New Auburn, Shipman served in the Air Force for 20 years, retiring as a Master Sergeant. He was a farmer for 20 years and also worked for several agriculture-based businesses.

In addition to the co-op board, Shipman served as president of the New Auburn School board, was a member of WEAC,

president of St. John Lutheran Church Council, past master of Bloomer Masonic Lodge #281, commander of Rice Lake Disabled American Veterans Chapter #52, commander of Bloomer VFW, past worthy patron of Bloomer Eastern Star, and member of Tripoli Shrine.

Clyde was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Marian, and son Bryce. He is survived by five sons: Jeffrey, Thomas, Scott, Michael, and John; 19 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and many other family members and friends.

The funeral will be held on Friday, April 22, 2022, at 10 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomer with a visitation on Thursday, April 21, 2022, from 4–7 p.m. with a Masonic Service to follow at the Olson Funeral Home in Bloomer. Graveside services and military honors at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Spooner at 2 p.m. on April 22.

