

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

April 2022

TAYLOR ELECTRIC

Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

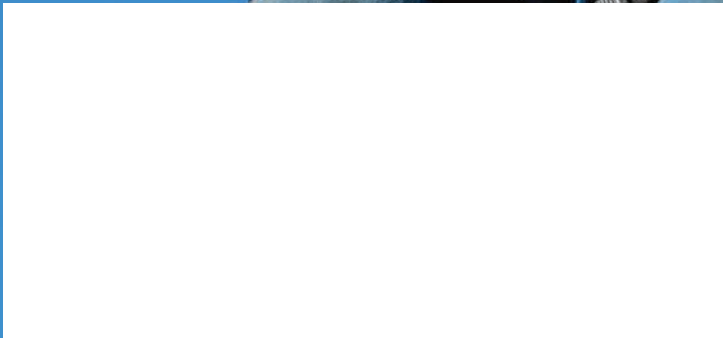


WE SALUTE
OUR LINWORKERS

ACT LOCALLY, THINK GLOBALLY

FIVE QUESTIONS TO ASK
YOUR HOME INSPECTOR

LAST CHANCE: ARE YOU
INTERESTED IN RUNNING
FOR TAYLOR ELECTRIC'S
BOARD OF DIRECTORS?





Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

You've likely noticed Taylor Electric Cooperative's 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, here are some interesting facts about electric lineworkers.

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 120 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 United States.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. Did you know that becoming 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, Taylor Electric'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. Here at Taylor Electric, we have six lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 867 miles of power lines across four counties and 432 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.



Taylor Electric's linemen—Front row, (l to r): Tim Habermeyer, Jessie Knoll, and Mike Eloranta. Back row, l to r: Justin Fuchs, Geoff Mueller, and Colten Cummings.

LAST

CHANCE



Are you interested in running for Taylor Electric's board of directors?

Part of the preparation process for the annual meeting is the call for candidates for the board seats up for election. Two seats will be up for election this year. One of those seats is currently held by JoAnn Smith, who is completing her final term and will be ineligible to run again. The other seat is held by Lisa Kohn, who is eligible to run again.

There are some qualifications to run, but the main one is that you must receive power from Taylor Electric at your primary residence. After all, one of the drivers of an electric cooperative is local control, being owned (and governed) by members receiving service from the cooperative.

If you missed the March 23rd deadline to contact one of the nominating committee members but you still have interest in running for the board, there is also a petition process where you collect 25 signatures from TEC members. The deadline for that is April 29. Call our office, 715-678-2411, to learn more.

Elections will be held at Taylor Electric Cooperative's 86th annual meeting will be held at the Stetsonville Centennial Center in Stetsonville on Tuesday, June 28.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Here's a great opportunity you won't want to miss!

Join other students from around the state at the Youth Leadership Congress, a dynamic and fun event sponsored by Wisconsin's electric cooperatives!

July 12-14, 2022 • UW-Stout, Menomonie

There's no cost to you to attend!

Just contact Taylor Electric Cooperative, 715-678-2411 by June 1, 2022 if you're interested.

For more information about the program, visit www.weca.coop and click on Youth Education under the Education tab.



At Youth Leadership Congress, you can...

- ✓ Learn what makes the cooperative model different and successful
- ✓ Identify and develop your leadership skills
- ✓ Discuss cooperative careers with professionals
- ✓ Be inspired by nationally acclaimed motivational speakers
- ✓ Run for a spot on the Youth Board, which plans the next year's conference and has the opportunity to attend the National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., in the spring.





CAPITAL CREDITS TO BE ALLOCATED SOON

In the next month or two, you will receive a capital credit allocation notice from Taylor Electric Cooperative. In addition to your member number, which may contain multiple account numbers, the notice will provide your 2021 allocation along with your new balance. To avoid confusion, there are three things you should know about your capital credit allocation notice:

- **It is not a bill, so do not pay the amount shown on the face.**
- **It is not a credit that can be used to pay an electric bill.**
- **There is no provision in Taylor Electric’s bylaws to make early payment of capital credits to those members who leave the service area. It is important that we be provided with a current address so when the time comes to pay, we’ll know where to mail the check.**

The capital credit allocation notice represents the amount of ownership you have in your cooperative. In future years, this amount may be returned to you as a capital credit check. Meanwhile, your capital credits are an investment in the cooperative’s electric distribution system. Member investments, capital credits, and long-term loans are the only sources of funding for the co-op; there are no outside investors.

You will receive a capital credit allocation notice only for the years in which you are a member of Taylor Electric Cooperative. It is a good idea to keep all of your notices with other important documents as a record for future years. Members with questions about capital credits are encouraged to contact our office at 715-678-2411.



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

It’s Easy! It’s Free!

Planning a digging project in your yard or on your property? If you dig without knowing what is located below, you could damage an underground line.

Not only could you become seriously injured, but you will be responsible for the cost of repairs. To avoid hassles and fines, call 811, the Call Before You Dig number, at least three

business days prior to breaking ground. (811 locators do not mark privately owned underground lines or pipes, such as service to outbuildings, sprinkler systems or invisible fences.)

An uneventful digging project is the best kind to have.



BEST WISHES, BECKY, ON YOUR RETIREMENT



Congratulations to Becky Rindt on her retirement from Taylor Electric on Friday, March 4, 2022, after almost 30 years of service to the cooperative. Becky was hired in May 1992 as staff accountant. She remained in that position throughout her career, which involved many changes including management and employees, advances in technology, and the remodel of the cooperative office.

Becky and her husband, Jim, live in Westboro and plan to take more time to relax and enjoy their children and grandchildren. We will miss her but wish her all the best in her retirement!



ENERGY-SAVING TIPS FOR EARTH DAY

The greenest power is power not used!

- If you are the last to leave the room, remember to turn off the lights.
- Unplug any electronics that aren't in use.
- Hang out the laundry to dry outside in the sun.
- Take advantage of the sun's heat and open your curtains on sunny days.
- Take shorter showers and use low-flow shower heads.

GRILLING SEASON IS UPON US

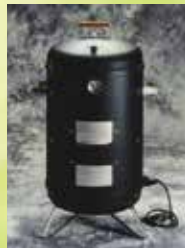
Do it the easy way this summer

Take advantage of the simplicity and convenience of an electric barbecue grill. It's easy to operate—just plug it in to any standard 110-volt grounded outlet, turn the thermostat knob, and cook.

Enjoy great barbecue taste for only cents per month to operate:



The Lock & Go portable electric grills cost \$70 plus tax.



The Combination Electric Grill and Water Smoker costs \$100 plus tax.



The Deluxe Cart electric grill costs \$210 plus tax.

Electric grills come unassembled in a box and can be easily transported.

Stop with the hassle of flames, and running out of gas or charcoal—start grilling the electric way!

APRIL 22 is Earth Day

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