



Lineworkers are standing by and ready to serve

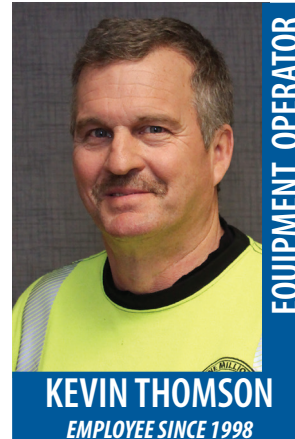
When people flip a light switch, they may not give much thought to why or how the light comes on. Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: they work hard to install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out, often in challenging conditions. A lineworker must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle.

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

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. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker it 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. Short-cuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Although everyone at Oconto Electric Cooperative works hard to provide reliable service, we salute our lineworkers who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.



EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS AT UW - STOUT



The annual Wisconsin Energy Cooperative Association (WECA) Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders from across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses. YLC has been held each summer since 1963.

Who is eligible to attend?

- Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) will sponsor students to attend the 2022 YLC at UW-Stout, July 12-14, 2022.
- Student must be a son or daughter (or under legal guardianship) residing in the same household of an active OEC member.
- Student must be entering his/her sophomore, junior, or senior year in the fall of 2022.

What does it cost?

All costs are covered by OEC, including transportation to and from UW-Stout.

Take the opportunity to...

- See what makes the cooperative business model different and successful, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.

- Work together with other youth leaders from around Wisconsin to demonstrate the power and value of cooperation.
- Identify and develop your own leadership skills.
- Learn some of the important history that has shaped today's cooperatives.
- Discuss cooperative careers with professionals in the industry.
- Be entertained and challenged by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and address topics that are important and relevant in your life.
- Spend three days on a college campus and experience a typical college environment, complete with living in the residence halls, attending sessions throughout campus, and even experiencing a university dining service.

The Youth Leadership Congress is a “by teens, for teens” conference that is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year’s event.

Interested? Here’s how to apply...

Space is limited. Deadline to sign up is May 25, 2022. For details contact Katie Jagiello at OEC by calling 800-472-8410 or email kjagiello@ocontolectric.com.



We Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade that trees provide. But trees and power lines (817701) 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.

Most power outages result from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work hard—through right-of-way clearing—to ensure power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches, or other types of vegetation. Despite our best efforts, damage like this can occur during major storms.



Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

LOW TREE ZONE

Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.

Over 40 ft.



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





Member Photo Contest

Oconto Electric Cooperative is holding a member photo contest. (881700) Winning photos will appear in OEC's 2023 calendar. Photos may also be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

Contest will run through August 26, 2022; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range. Photos must be taken within OEC's service area.

For photo contest criteria, photo contest rules and details and entry form go to ocontoelectric.com/photo-contest/.

No Foolin': April is Safe Digging Month

Spring showers bring May flowers but digging on your own this spring could spell big trouble. Even if you think you could get lucky or that digging one small hole (or two) won't matter, don't take for granted what lines might lurk beneath the soil in your yard or easement.

Before you use that post hole digger or other unearthing tools, STOP and call 8-1-1 to request that buried electric, gas, cable, and other live lines in or near your yard be marked. The service is free but digging in an unmarked yard may not be.

You might think you don't have time for that and ask yourself, what's the worst that could happen?

YOU COULD DIE OR BECOME SERIOUSLY INJURED.

It doesn't make that yard project quite as pressing, does it?

So tiptoe through the tulips this spring and summer, both literally and figuratively. Know what's underneath that flower bed and everywhere else in your yard.

As call811.com says, "Know what's below." Then dig safely. For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Oconto Electric Cooperative hides two account numbers in the local pages of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* each month. If you spot your account number, call our office before you receive the next issue, and OEC will give you a \$15 credit on your electric bill or a \$25 credit if you have a load management receiver. The March account numbers belonged to Bryan Stiles, Appleton, and Edna Ladwig, Gillett.

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