

Taylor Report

N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451 • 715-678-2411 • www.taylorlectric.org



April 2019

THE COMMITMENT OF AN ELECTRIC LINeworkER

April 8th is Lineman Appreciation Day

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Taylor Electric's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings, or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Family Support System

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience, and each other to get the job done safely.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power

outages.

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

Over the years, Taylor Electric has had several linemen leave the area and even the state to help restore power to damage-stricken areas. Last August, Justin Fuchs, Geoff Mueller, Wade Matyka, and Mike Eloranta went to southern Wisconsin to help out Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative after a summer storm caused hundreds of outages and extensive structural damage throughout their territory.

Community Commitment

Here at Taylor Electric and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. Last year, Brandon Ahrens, Justin Fuchs and Mike Eloranta did safety demonstrations at Huey's Hideaway and at the Medford Home Show to inform and make the public more knowledgeable about the dangers of electricity. And of course, community outreach is a team effort—no lineman could respond to a community need in this way without another lineman taking care of business back at the co-op.

Thank You

Monday, April 8, is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Taylor Electric's lineworkers, both on and off the job, we encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in town, please offer them a thank you as well.

**We're proud
to power
your life.**

Back row (l to r): Brandon Ahrens, Geoff Mueller, Wade Matyka, Ron Mayer

Front Row (l to r): Justin Fuchs and Mike Eloranta

#ThankALineworker



Board Report – February 2019

- Approved January disbursements totaling \$759,338.13, accepted 7 new member applications, and December construction in the amount of \$41,254.37.
- Reviewed and approved the monthly expenses paid by credit card.
- Reviewed financial results through January 31, 2019 with \$42,500 of total margins.
- Approved a price reduction for the Bright Horizons community solar to \$800 for a 350-watt share.
- A discounted refund of \$1,506 for 3 shares of the Bright Horizons solar project was approved for a member who is leaving the Co-op.
- Two applications for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estates were approved with total capital credits of \$4,224.53 to be paid out at the net present value of \$2,008.54.
- Sale of a 1997 trailer for \$1,650 was approved.
- A contract with NRECA Consulting Services was approved for assisting with a new executive search for the Co-op.
- Two requests for donations were approved: \$240 for Medford Junior Achievement, \$500 for the NRECA International Program, with all funds to be requisitioned from unclaimed capital credits invested with the Federated Youth Foundation.
- Approved a resolution authorizing Forward Financial Bank as a funds depository.
- The Dairyland Power report included a report of untimely generator outages during the bitter cold near the end of February, filing of another lawsuit under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to recover costs of the LACBWR nuclear waste, and review of the Dairyland financial report.
- 68 delinquent Accounts were processed for collection in February. The total amount owing on these accounts is \$32,448.29. Twenty-eight of these accounts have remote disconnect capability.
- The minutes of the 2019 Nominating Committee meeting were reviewed. At least one member has applied to the Committee for the open board seat being vacated by Ray Henrichs with a potential second member also running, pending filing of a petition with the proper signatures.
- The Taylor County Broadband Committee report by CEO Schaefer and Director Zenner noted the Committee will recommend that the County Board approve funding to move ahead with Vantage Point Solutions, a South Dakota company, to provide the next phases of developing the project including grant funding, engineering, and developing a formal business plan. After discussion, the Co-op Board approved a \$1,000 funding of this next phase of the broadband project.
- Keith Johnson, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, reviewed with the Board and management staff, the Co-op's insurance policies and coverage limits.

Call Before You Dig (811) is a free service that will have buried public utilities marked on your property so that you can safely dig around them. Just call 811, or submit an online request at call811.com at least a few business days before you plan to dig.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Even if you have had an area marked before, call to have the area checked again. Natural changes to the soil, such as erosion or root

growth, can alter the depth and location of buried lines. Once all buried lines have been marked, respect the boundaries, and dig carefully.

When calling, make sure that you have clearly identified your planned digging area and outline it in white paint if possible. The service uses ground-penetrating radar to search for and locate the buried public utility lines that are on your property. Lines will be marked with flags or paint. The color indicates the type of utility located. After the area has been marked, the CGA reports that you have less than 1 percent chance of causing damage if you respect the markings.

If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Some examples of private utilities include: underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data

- *The winter moratorium ends April 15th. All past due balances must be paid in full prior to this date to avoid disconnection of service.*

- *The office will be closed on Good Friday, April 26th. Have a safe and blessed Easter.*

