

MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2022



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MCREA Mission

Morgan County REA, a member-owned cooperative, is dedicated to serving our members by providing safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER:

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

BY DAVID FRICK GENERAL MANAGER



DAVID FRICK

You've likely encountered Morgan County REA crews out and about, working on power lines and electrical equipment in our community. Linework is an essential job, often done in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I want to share some interesting facts about the work done by the approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers in the United States.

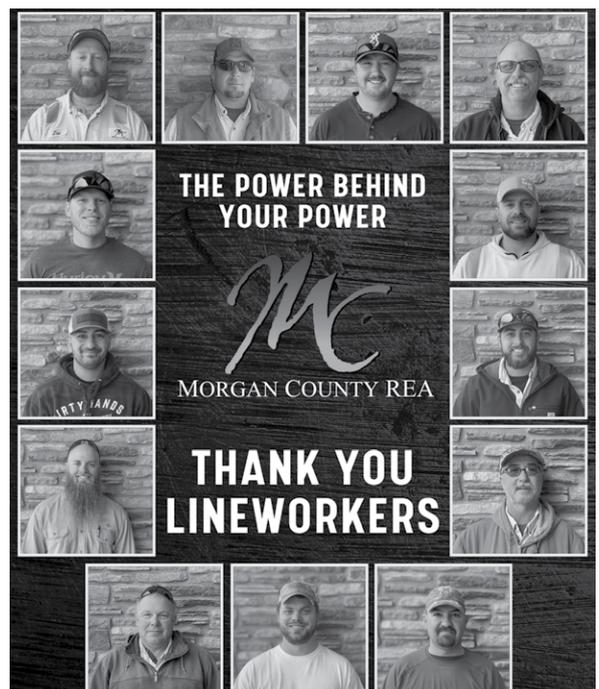
The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a power pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? Lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall, making this an unlikely career path for those with a fear of heights.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career — because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long, nontraditional hours and ever-present hazards encountered working outdoors in all weather conditions can truly take a heavy mental and physical toll. Working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error or complacency in this line of work.

Though the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills learned through more than 8,000 hours (four years) of on-the-job training. Despite the many challenges, MCREA's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During major power outages that often accompany severe weather, lineworkers are among the first to be called. They willingly leave the comfort of their homes and families unexpectedly, not returning until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the job's importance to the community.

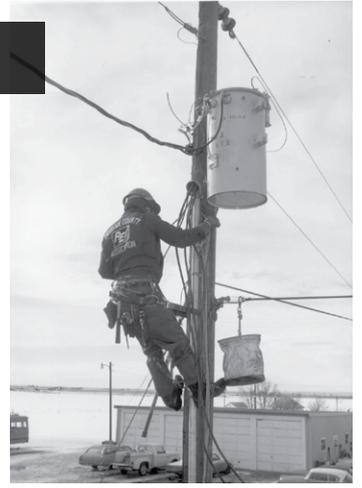
MCREA has 13 lineworkers responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 2,919 miles of power lines across six counties in our service territory. In addition to the highly visible tasks they perform, today's lineworkers must be information experts, pinpointing power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems. Linework may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is 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 depend on for everyday life.

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. I am especially proud of MCREA's lineworkers and ask our consumer-members to join us in recognizing them on April 11.



85 YEARS OF MORGAN COUNTY REA

Ever since Morgan County REA was established on April 27, 1937, our mission has remained the same. MCREA, a member-owned cooperative, is dedicated to serving our consumer-members by providing safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future. MCREA has proudly served northeastern Colorado for 85 years and wants to thank all of our members — both past and present — for their support of this electric cooperative.



NOW & THEN



HAPPY
Easter

MCREA's office will be closed on April 15 in observance of Good Friday.



MORGAN COUNTY REA
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY: MCREA DONATES TO LOCAL CAUSES

Morgan County REA holds true to the seven cooperative principles, one of which is concern for community. Supporting local organizations is just one of the many ways MCREA does that.

MCREA, along with Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, is happy to donate to Rising Up, located in Fort Morgan. Rising Up's mission is to create innovative, lasting solutions to fight homelessness, hunger and poverty in Morgan County.

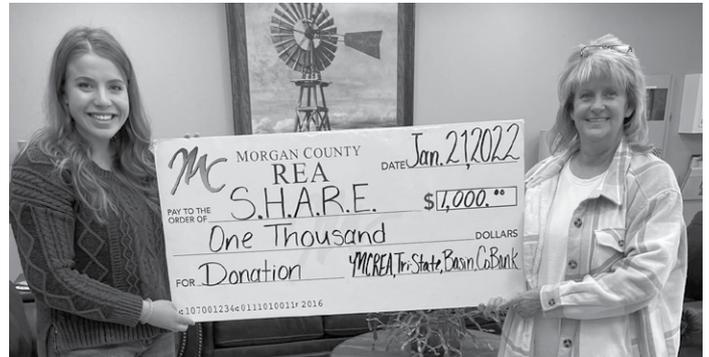
MCREA, along with Tri-State, Basin and CoBank, is also proud to donate to S.H.A.R.E., Inc. This organization is a nonprofit, community-based domestic violence assistance program founded in 1981 to provide confidential services to victims and their families. S.H.A.R.E., Inc., serves Morgan County and outlying areas of northeast Colorado.

MCREA sincerely thanks both Rising Up and S.H.A.R.E., Inc., for all they do for our communities.

MCREA Communications and Public Relations Coordinator Maddie Pollart (left) presents S.H.A.R.E. with a check for \$1,000.



MCREA Manager of Member Services Rob Baranowski (left) presents Rising Up with a check for \$750.



MCREA WINS STATEWIDE AWARD

Each year, *Colorado Country Life* judges stories that have been published in newsletters from electric cooperatives across the state. It awards the best stories in four different categories. This year, MCREA won second place for the Best Story on a Community Program in Division I.

The award-winning story was "The Power of Cooperatives: Then and Now" by Maddie Pollart, MCREA communications and public relations coordinator. The story was published in MCREA's October 2021 issue of *Colorado Country Life*.



MORGAN COUNTY REA
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENT
MCREA HEADQUARTERS
FOOD • GIVEAWAYS • FUN
THURSDAY | JUNE 16 | 5-7 PM

MORGAN COUNTY REA CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENT: THURSDAY, JUNE 16

Save the date for MCREA's first-ever Customer Appreciation Event on Thursday, June 16, from 5-7 p.m. Join us at MCREA's headquarters in Fort Morgan for food, giveaways and a chance to learn more about all the great things happening at your electric cooperative. (Gregory Skalla, acct. #xxx8800) Guests will have an opportunity to see a Tesla Model Y and enter to win a brand-new electric chainsaw.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please give us a call at 970-867-5688.

NEW JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN: FABIAN VIGIL

MCREA congratulates Fabian Vigil on attaining his journeyman lineman certification. This is no easy task, as it requires 8,000 hours of work as an apprentice lineman and the completion of a 200-question written test, as well as both oral and hands-on field tests.

While working toward his journeyman lineman certificate, Fabian also completed one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel. The Merchant Job Training and Safety Program is administered to line personnel in more than 40 states throughout the nation. Fabian and the support staff at MCREA can be proud of such an accomplishment, as the program requires rigorous oversight, study and closed-book testing.

Congratulations, Fabian, on what is sure to be a rewarding lifelong occupation.

◀ Fabian Vigil (left) is presented his lineman certification by MCREA General Manager Dave Frick.



SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS FOR MCREA'S CALENDAR CONTEST

Throughout the month of April, MCREA will hold a photo contest for our membership. MCREA encourages consumer-members to submit their best photos taken throughout our service area, which reaches all or parts of six different counties here in northeastern Colorado.

A committee of MCREA employees will select the 12 best photos submitted to the contest. Those 12 photos and photographers will be featured in MCREA's 2022-2023 calendar, which will be available to all consumers attending our Customer Appreciation Event on June 16. (Luke Queen, acct. #xxx5500) This is a great opportunity to

showcase some of the talent and scenery within our service territory.

To submit your photos, visit mcrea.org and click the calendar contest button. **All entries must be submitted by Saturday, April 30.** One member may submit up to four photos. Photos from fall, winter, spring and summer are encouraged. Submitting photos will also enter you into a drawing to win a \$25 gift card.

If you have questions about this year's contest or issues submitting your photos, please call our member services department at 970-867-5688.

NEW MECHANIC: TRAVIS PETRINO



Morgan County REA wants to welcome Travis Petrino as its newest mechanic. While new to the association, Travis is no stranger to the job, as he previously worked as a mechanic for the City of Fort Morgan for many years. Travis is looking forward to a change and the new challenges this job will present.

"One of my favorite parts of being a mechanic is troubleshooting issues and finding solutions," Travis said.

We are happy to welcome Travis to the team at MCREA.

 **Win \$25 Off**
Your Electric Bill

Each month Morgan County REA gives two lucky consumer-members a chance at a \$25 credit on their electric bill, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*.

Congrats, Aubrey Freel (acct. #xxx0700)! You spotted your name in the February issue and received a \$25 bill credit! Sorry 3 G's Restaurant (acct. #xxx2900), you did not call to receive your \$25 bill credit. There are two more MCREA consumer-member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call MCREA member services at 970-867-5688 by April 29 to claim a \$25 credit on your bill.