

# The Power Behind Your Power

## NRECA Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

BY JIM HERRON CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



JIM HERRON

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Mountain View Electric Association, I bet you would picture a lineworker. As one of the most visible groups of co-op employees, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7, 365 days a year. Here at MVEA, our team of lineworkers upgrade and maintain over 6,200 miles of energized line across portions of eight counties in a 5,000 square mile service territory. It's a big job — and, one they do exceptionally well.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers may have to climb upwards of 40 feet in the air to repair critical infrastructure, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done. It's not a job for everyone, but it is a job that impacts the quality of life of everyone. That is a lot of responsibility, and our dedicated team of lineworkers take great pride in serving our co-op membership and stepping up to the challenge when the going gets tough.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized

training, ongoing education, dedication and, equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That's why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Lineworker Appreciation Day. It's a great opportunity to come together to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

*“Praise the Lord and a huge thank you to the MVEA lineworkers for getting our power restored.”*

– MVEA Member, following a winter storm on February 4

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees out in the field at MVEA, it's also important to note that there is a

team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers and staking technicians provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. These are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve from your electric co-op. Without them, our lineworkers could not “bring the light” to our community.

It goes without saying that our dedicated lineworkers deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day, and every day. Please join us on April 11, and any time you see an MVEA lineworker, in thanking them for their exceptional service. Please visit [www.mvea.coop/thank-a-lineworker](http://www.mvea.coop/thank-a-lineworker) or scan that QR code in the image below to send a thank you note to help us honor MVEA's dedicated lineworkers. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power.

**• April 11, 2022 •**

**NRECA LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY**

*They Go Above & Beyond to Keep the Lights On!*

Scan the QR code to thank an MVEA Lineworker.





MOUNTAIN VIEW ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative



**THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER**

**#thankalinerworker**

# Get Ready for a More Connected Future!

Fiber internet from Connect, powered by Mountain View Electric Association, will open up a world of opportunities

- **Stream your favorite shows**
- **Utilize telemedicine**
- **Work from home with ease**
- **Take advantage of online learning**

*...and more! The possibilities are endless with fiber internet!*



Check availability and learn more at:  
**ConexonConnect.com/MVEA**

## Why Would an Electric Co-op Want to Provide Broadband?

BY ERICA MEYER COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIALIST

Electric co-ops were created to solve a need for rural residents in America. Cities had electricity, while those living on the outskirts were left in the dark. MVEA turned the lights on over 81 years ago, forever changing the lives of our members, and now — we're hoping to do it again with another essential utility, fiber broadband.

Electric co-ops across the nation are increasingly interested in (or have already started construction on) fiber broadband projects. Just as co-ops were created out of necessity to provide electricity, our members are now looking to us to do the same with technology gaps — closing the digital divide between city and rural high-speed internet connectivity. In this age of technology — both services, electricity and fiber broadband, are now essential services.

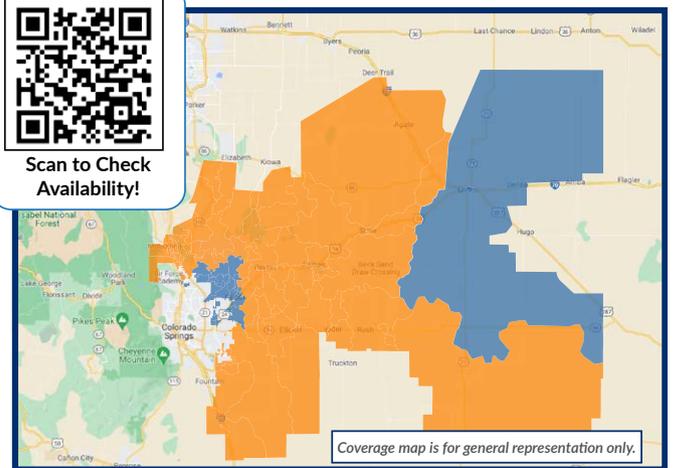
“When COVID-19 started, the lack of fiber broadband for our rural members was even more apparent,” Jim Herron, CEO, Mountain View Electric Association, said. “We want the communities we serve to have economic vitality and access to online commerce, telehealth medicine, remote work and online learning opportunities. We feel electric co-ops are uniquely equipped to bridge the digital gap and bring fiber-to-the-home to their members.”

MVEA is member owned — just as our members own our powerlines, so too will they own the fiber broadband infrastructure. The excess fiber, not used to run the co-op,

will be leased to Connect, powered by Mountain View Electric Association, the internet service provider members can voluntarily sign up with for broadband. This business design ensures that MVEA members will have trusted and reliable fiber-powered internet from the time of construction and into the future.

“The MVEA Board of Directors is extremely proud of this fiber project. After discussions, this project became a no brainer – Board, management, staff, everybody is on board.” Joe Martin, Board President, Mountain View Electric Association, said. “In terms of importance for rural America, everything will be enhanced by broadband; it is as necessary as electricity. We are very excited to bring it to our membership. And, as individuals living in our MVEA service territory — we are also excited to get it!”

MVEA's fiber broadband project is one of the largest in Colorado. Because of the size and scope, it will take anywhere from four-to-six years to reach every member's home and business.



■ MVEA PHASE ONE ■ MVEA FUTURE COVERAGE

“One of the hardest parts of this new enterprise is managing both our expectations and our members’ — we want everyone to have broadband immediately, and our members want to be the first to be connected. But it will take time to build out to over 51,000 people,” Herron said. “We hope members stay excited and trust us to fulfil this promise to them, just as we have with their electricity. I believe unserved or underserved parts of our service territory have more hope for high-speed internet now that their local co-op is involved.”

Connections for members in portions of Phase One will begin in the next 60 days (see map above). To learn more about the project, please visit [www.mvea.coop/broadband](http://www.mvea.coop/broadband).



**20** **PHOTO CALENDAR CONTEST** **23**  
MOUNTAIN VIEW ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

# Photos Wanted!

Do you have an eye for fiery sunsets, sweeping vistas, heritage barns, and a knack for catching nature in action? As an MVEA co-op member, you are invited to **send in your photos, taken within our 5,000 square mile service territory, that capture the seasons, people, lifestyle or landscape of co-op country.** The winning photographs will be included in MVEA's 2023 calendar. **The deadline for entry is July 7, 2022.**

**Photo Calendar Submission Guidelines**

Only MVEA members, directors, employees and their family members are eligible to participate in the photo calendar contest. High resolution digital entries preferred. Minimum resolution is 300 dpi. Limit two photos per person. Photos must have horizontal/landscape orientation for best chance of being selected for the calendar. Photos must be taken within our service territory. Photos will not be accepted without a completed entry form.

For complete Photo Calendar Contest submission information and entry form, please visit [www.mvea.coop/photo-calendar-contest](http://www.mvea.coop/photo-calendar-contest). Send entries by email to [nikki.r@mvea.coop](mailto:nikki.r@mvea.coop). Questions? Call (719) 494-2657.



# Can You Dig It?

**Call 811 Before You Dig.**

Whether your project is small or big, call 811 before you dig. Every 6 minutes an underground utility line is damaged due to unapproved digging. It is dangerous. It is expensive. It is against the law. As a property owner or contractor, you are required by Colorado State Law to contact the Utility Notification Call Center prior to digging. Any type of digging requires a call. Building a deck? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or mailbox? 811 is the number to call before you begin any project.

**COLORADO 811**  
KNOW WHAT'S BELOW. CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.

[www.colorado811.org](http://www.colorado811.org)



A Member-Owned Cooperative  
**MOUNTAIN VIEW ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**Local. Trusted. Serving You.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Joseph D. Martin, District 1  
President

Barry R. Springer, District 6  
Vice President

Kevin L. Paddock, District 5  
Secretary-Treasurer

Errol Hertneky, District 3  
Assistant Secretary

Rick L. Gordon, District 2, Director

Milton L. Mathis, District 4, Director

Jim Riggins, District 7, Director

**Telephone Numbers**  
Toll-Free: (800) 388-9881  
(719) 495-2283

**Credit Card Pay-By-Phone**  
(877) 999-3415

**Falcon Office**  
11140 E. Woodmen Road  
Falcon, CO 80831

**Limon Office**  
1655 5th Street • P.O. Box 1600  
Limon, CO 80828

**Monument Office**  
15706 Jackson Creek Parkway, Suite 100  
Monument, CO 80132

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Thursday • 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**COVID-19 + MVEA Service Updates**  
[www.mvea.coop/covid-19-response](http://www.mvea.coop/covid-19-response)

**Visit our website: [www.mvea.coop](http://www.mvea.coop)**

**Stay Connected: Like. Follow. Share.**

 [www.facebook.com/MVEAInc](http://www.facebook.com/MVEAInc)

 Search for: Mountain View Electric Assn. Inc.

 [www.twitter.com/MVEAInc](http://www.twitter.com/MVEAInc)

 Search for: Mountain View Electric Association, Inc.

This Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Powering Possibilities Since 1941

Your perspective is important! As a Mountain View Electric Association member, we invite you to share it with the co-op during our 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of Members on Thursday, June 2, at Limon Public Schools in Limon. This will be MVEA's first in-person Annual Meeting of Members since June 2019, and we couldn't be more excited about the opportunity to gather again! In addition to electing Directors to District 3 and 5, the co-op will be welcoming a new CEO as Jim Herron is retiring in June after serving as MVEA's CEO for the last 26 years.

The MVEA Annual Meeting of Members is not only designed to take care of the important business of the co-op, but the equally important business of building a real sense of co-op community. It is an event where neighbors can meet new neighbors—or catch up with old acquaintances. We hope you will join us as we look back on the accomplishments of 2021 and our continued dedication to powering possibilities through decades of innovation and industry changes!

# 2022 Annual Meeting of Members

For more information, visit [www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting).

**Save the Date!**

**Thursday, June 2, 2022**

**Limon Public Schools**

912 Badger Way • Limon, CO 80828

4:30 p.m. Registration & Dinner

6:30 p.m. Co-op Business Meeting

Board of Directors Election

Door Prizes!



Dinner • Giveaways • Co-op Business Meeting • Door Prizes

### 2022 Outdoor Power Equipment Giveaway Entry Form

Visit [www.mvea.coop/greengiveaway](http://www.mvea.coop/greengiveaway) to enter online and for a complete list of giveaway rules.

The giveaway is open to all MVEA residential members in good standing who agree to contest rules and requirements. Current or former MVEA employees, affiliates, related entities, and the immediate family members and household members of all such employees are not eligible to win.

Enter online, return entry form with your monthly payment, or mail entry form to MVEA, Attn: Green Giveaway, 11140 E. Woodmen Road, Falcon, CO 80831.

MVEA Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preference (circle) Mower+Trimmer Power-Washer Either

## Clean. Green. Power. GO ELECTRIC!

### Outdoor Power Equipment Giveaway

Enter for a chance to be one of two Summer Series Outdoor Power Equipment Giveaway winners!

Picture yourself as the winner of an Electric Mower+Trimmer Package or an Electric Power-Washer. *(You'll be the envy of the neighborhood!)*

**Summer Series Giveaway Entry Deadline: May 26**

Winners will be announced during MVEA's 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of Members on June 2 at Limon Public Schools.

Low Noise • Zero Gas • Zero Emissions • Low Maintenance