

K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2023

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Our mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable service at the lowest cost, while maintaining an environmentally responsible, accountable and sustainable operation now and in the future.

THANK A LINEMAN

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL GENERAL MANAGER



DAVID CHURCHWELL

April is the month that has been designated nationally to recognize linemen for their hard work and the vital role they play in providing our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

I'm not sure if we should recognize Congress's designated day of April 18, or maybe the entire month of April to "thank a lineman," but I do know that our lives would be tremendously different if it weren't for the efforts of these men and women and their personal sacrifices to keep the lights on. I enjoy being able to wake up in the morning, flip the switch and have the light come on.

So, what does it take to become a lineman? In days past, many linemen who had little or no experience in the electrical industry began working for a utility. They may have been hired as a groundman, meter reader, tree trimmer, or simply a laborer, and then eventually worked their way up to an apprentice lineman position.

Fast forward to today. Currently there are several lineman schools in Colorado and dozens located throughout the nation that teach students the basic skills needed to become an apprentice lineman at an electric utility. These schools' programs range in duration of 16 weeks to two years and


teach a multitude of skills. Another option for a prospective apprentice is to apply for a job with an electric contractor and progress through their apprenticeship program. Obtaining a commercial driver's license is a necessity for anyone who has aspirations of getting into the trade.

K.C. Electric Association's apprenticeship program is registered with the Colorado Department of Labor and consists of 8,000 hours (normally four years) of on-the-job training, and four years of electric-related curriculum. Apprentices' skill levels are evaluated by K.C.'s apprenticeship committee prior to any advancement, and they must obtain a minimum score of 70% on all related bookwork.


Throughout the four years of this program, K.C. apprentices are taught how to do all facets of linework in a safe and professional manner; and also how to interact with their coworkers and our members. Safety is our cornerstone — this is instilled in all employees their first day on the job and every day thereafter.

K.C. linemen have the advantage of being well-rounded. We rarely utilize contract crews, so our linemen must have the skill and knowledge to work on overhead transmission and distribution lines, underground distribution lines,



 K.C. Electric Association linemen work on lines in the service territory.



 K.C. Electric's dedicated linemen repair a line and power pole.

substations and metering; they also need sound troubleshooting skills for outage restoration. Linemen at larger utilities may be more specialized — for example, they work only on substations or only on underground distribution.

The lineman profession is routinely included in the top 10 most dangerous jobs, according to annual government data, but this job can be done in a safe manner with proper training and safety equipment. Linemen are required to attend extensive safety training each year. For example, K.C. linemen must be CPR/FA certified along with flagger and forklift certification. They must also maintain a Class A CDL, be proficient in pole-top and bucket rescue; and receive ongoing training for current OSHA standards.

Linemen must be physically fit and able to work long hours in all types of weather conditions, love being outdoors, and not afraid of hard work. The physicality of being a lineman hasn't changed over time, but technology advances now

require linemen to also be proficient on computers, smartphones and iPads. Many aspects of our trade have moved into the digital age, including metering, equipment controls, outage management and distribution automation.

Some say the lineman profession is not glamorous, but there have been songs (“Wichita Lineman”), books (*The American Lineman*), and movies (“Slim,” and “Life on the Line”) released about this dangerous and thrilling job. Being a lineman can be challenging at times, but many linemen I know wouldn't want any other job, and the camaraderie among them is unparalleled. Our linemen know it's difficult to be without power and our members are depending on them. When the storms roll in, our crews roll out.

The employees of K.C. Electric are our biggest asset, and I want to thank each of our linemen and apprentices for the work they do to keep the lights on and our members safe.



K.C. ELECTRIC SELECTS LEADERSHIP CAMP DELEGATE

Every year, electric cooperatives in Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma select students to attend Youth Leadership Camp, held at Glen Eden Resort near Steamboat Springs. We at K.C. Electric Association are proud to announce that Stratton High School's Jessica Brandon will attend camp as representative of the co-op at this year's camp.

Youth Leadership Camp is a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip for high schoolers who want a camp experience like no other. In July, Jessica will travel to Glen Eden resort and gather for fun activities, make new friends and experience the beautiful Rocky Mountains. She will also learn about cooperative governance, hear engaging speakers and gain leadership skills.

Congratulations to Jessica on this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.gov



Capital Credits

We Need Your Help

One of the many things that sets K.C. Electric apart from an investor-owned utility is the fact that members are owners and are entitled to a capital credit refund if financial conditions are favorable. K.C. Electric is currently trying to locate members who have unclaimed capital credits. In many cases, refunds were returned because of insufficient or incorrect addresses. Please look through the following list of members with unclaimed capital credits. If there is anyone on this list you can help us locate, please contact Kristie Salvador at the Hugo office during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at 719-743-2431 or 800-700-3123.

Acton, Andrea
 Adams, Donald and/or Adams, Gloria
 Arbogast, Tye
 Aunt Deb's Kitchen/Debra Sutton
 BP Pipeline North American Inc.
 Baessler, John
 Barber, Alan J.
 Barr, Paul
 Beckett, James and/or Beckett, Melodie
 Beechly, Jim
 Beeson, Brandy
 Bellegarde, John
 Black, Travis and/or Black, Tysca
 Bogart, Berton and Bogart, Deloris
 Busby, Barbara
 Castle Advisors Mountain States
 Cebulski, John and Cebulski, Carmen
 Champion Cable LLC
 Clark, Mike and Clark, Shelly
 Collins, Christopher and/or Collins, Dana
 Cominiello, Stephanie
 Cosner, Amy
 Country Charm
 Cox, Tammy
 Crisp, Rick
 Daugherty, Jerome and/or Daugherty, Florine
 Davidson, Gary and Davidson, Holly
 Delgado, Nereyda
 Dover, Jonathan
 Dyer, Joe
 Eagles Landing Sports Bar & Grill
 Eikenberry, Morgan
 Eisenach, Toby
 Emerson, Eric and/or Emerson, Holly
 Epps, Summer
 Flos, Lee Ann
 Fox, Tanya
 Gerky, Donald
 Gillum, Trey or Gillum, Carlan
 Goering, Stephane
 Gossett, Steven and/or Gossett, Melissa
 Gould, James R.
 Gremmill, Patty
 Griffin, Virginia L.
 Guagnano, John G.
 Hainer, Vera
 Halde, Jack
 Haley, Milton
 Hamilton, Linda
 Hanson, Carl and Hanson, Faith
 Hanson, Carl N.
 Hart, Mary E.
 Harvie's Place/Priscilla Harvie
 Hase, Andy or Hase, Audrey

Hatridge, Josh and Hatridge, Amanda
 Hicks, Karen
 Hinkle, James R.
 Hobson, Corey
 Hollenbaugh, Rosella
 HorizonWest Inc.
 Irwin, William C.
 Ivey, Brad and/or Ivey, Michelle
 James, Robert
 Jenkins, Nicole
 Johnston, Rose
 Johnston, Tim and/or Hansen, Cathy
 Jones, Dean
 Kear, Timothy
 Kehoe, Robert and Calvert, Shelley
 Kilborn, Eric
 King, Gregory
 Kinsley, Lorraine
 Krupske, Manda
 Lamb, Gerald C.
 Langendoerfer, Judy
 Levin, Pam
 Liles, Dorothy
 Lopez, Victorio
 Luna, Catherine
 Lyons, Michael T.
 McDonald, John
 Merritt, Billy
 Merritt, Lori
 Miller, David L.
 Mills, Michael
 Misenhelter, Jeremy
 Moore, Michael
 Moreen, Brenda
 Murray, J. R.
 Neibert, Jeff and/or Neibert, Michelle
 Nelson, MaryAnne
 Ortiz, Amelia
 Otto, Debarose
 Paintin, Lois
 Palmore, Reane
 Pelster, Connie
 Peters, Ruth
 Petersen, Gayle
 Petersen, Virginia
 Pettyjohn, Thomas A
 Pittman, Steve and/or Dorsey, Toni L.
 Potenza, Brian
 Pottorff, Arthur
 Quintana, Mike
 R.H. Diekman Estate/Charles Boyles
 Red Dog Bar & Grill/Alan Lietzan
 Reed, Edith
 Reves, Annmarie

Rhoads Construction Co. Inc.
 Richards, Brad and/or Richards, Mindy
 Robertson, Chris
 Rochelle, Stacy
 Ron's Corner Bar B Q
 Rose, David
 Roser-Isenbart, Sheryl
 Russell, Willie
 Sack, Richard
 Sargent, Herbert F.
 Scrogum, Shane
 Shaw, Tiffany
 Skarphol, Benjie and/or Skarphol, Misty
 Skidmore, Nancy
 Smith, Robert Allen
 Smith, Ronald G.
 Snow, Brad and/or Snow, Cheri
 Sommer, Charles or Sommer, Paula
 Soto, Monica
 Specht, Betty
 Spencer, Nicole
 Springer, Dusty
 Strang, Mary Ellen
 Sutton, Debra
 Swisher, Terry
 Tanner, Margaret J.
 Taylor, Deborah
 Taylor, Justin
 Thyne, Bill
 Tibbetts, Tamra
 Toby's Oil Field Service
 Travis, Kent
 Ukena, Tracy
 Uhland, Gerald
 US Pipeline Inc.
 Wadel, Therri L.
 Wilson, Gloria and/or Dillon, Richard
 Wise, Jason

K.C. Electric Awards Eight Scholarships to Local Students

K.C. Electric is pleased to announce eight scholarship winners from its service territory. K.C. Electric awards two \$1,000 scholarships and three \$750 scholarships; we are also the administrator for three scholarships awarded by related electric utility organizations.

The following scholarships were awarded this year:



K.C. Electric Association - \$1,000
Makayla Brossman, Cheyenne Wells High School



K.C. Electric Association - \$750
Daniel Tanner, Stratton High School



K.C. Electric Association - \$1,000
Joseph Shean, Stratton High School



Basin Electric Power Cooperative - \$1,000
Allison Daly, Arriba/Flagler High School



K.C. Electric Association - \$750
Camden Bledsoe, Arriba/Flagler High School



Tri-State G & T - \$500
Whitney Cure, Burlington High School



K.C. Electric Association - \$750
Ty Scheler, Cheyenne Wells High School



Tri-State G & T - \$500
Alex Ibarra Cruz, Stratton High School



CELEBRATE

the Power Behind Your Power.

Colorado Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 18, 2023



Claim Your Savings

Each month, K.C. Electric Association consumer-members have a chance to claim a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. All you must do is find your account number, call the Hugo office at 719-743-2431 and ask for your credit. The account numbers are listed below. How simple is that?

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine (check the date on the front cover).

- **Bradley Pottorff, Stratton — 920500007**
- **Dillon Tanner, Vona — 1001350004**
- **Kenny McCormick, Flagler — 1285130001**
- **Matthew Randel, Kit Carson — 1119996400**

In February 2023, three consumer-members called to claim their savings: Dennis Towns, Stratton; Lee McCormick-Flagler; and Jerry Clevenger, Flagler.