



# GCEA

POWERING POSSIBILITIES

APRIL 2024



#### MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 180  
Gunnison, CO 81230-0180



#### STREET ADDRESS

37250 West Highway 50  
Gunnison, CO 81230



**ph** 970-641-3520  
**tf** 800-726-3523  
**fax** 970-641-7333  
**web** gcea.coop  
**email** gcea@gcea.coop

#### We want to be social with you!

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to find out about GCEA events, energy efficiency tips, safety tips and so much more.



facebook.com/  
GunnisonCountyElectricAssociation



@gcea\_news

GCEA offices are open  
Monday – Thursday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

# The Power Behind the Power: Lineman Appreciation Day April 18

GCEA's linemen keep your power flowing every day by maintaining 1,099 miles of distribution line made up of approximately 461 miles of overhead line and approximately 639 miles of underground cable. To maintain this amount of line is a big job and our linemen do exceptionally well at it.

A lineman's job is not glamorous but plays a substantial role in keeping the power on for our local communities we serve. GCEA's dedicated linemen are always ready to answer the call, ensuring that you have safe and reliable power. Even when the power is on, they are continually maintaining our power lines to prevent outages.

GCEA linemen are always learning and growing with the industry. With miles

and miles of overhead and underground power lines, linemen must be able to use technology to help pinpoint outages from miles away. GCEA linemen use applications on their iPads to help find the outages and sometimes even what might have caused the outage. This has been a game changer for outages. Linemen are able to pinpoint the outages faster, help response times, and make a difference in how long power is out.

The next time you see a lineman, please tell them thank you for all their hard work and dedication to keeping the electricity on. Remember, they are a vital part of powering possibilities.

Our local communities are brighter, safer, and stronger because of their selfless sacrifices.



A GCEA lineman reviews information in the outage management program.

#### Crested Butte Line Crew

Jeff Hanggi, working foreman  
Andy Holsteen, journeyman lineman  
Mike Pendy, journeyman lineman  
Kevin Fox, apprentice lineman  
Zach Bever, apprentice lineman

#### Gunnison Line Crew

Dustin Cadwell, working foreman  
Justin Hulick, journeyman lineman  
Robert Summer, journeyman lineman  
Kevin Purkat, apprentice lineman  
Ty Percival, apprentice lineman



GCEA Linemen Discuss an outage in Lake City

#### Lake City Line Crew

Brent Boyce, lead lineman  
Logan Rhodes, journeyman lineman



# GCEA IS LIGHTING UP NAVAJO NATION

**G**CEA will join forces with other Colorado co-ops, Delta-Montrose Electric, Mountain Parks Electric, Mountain View Electric, Poudre Valley REA, SDCEA, and United Power to participate in the Light Up Navajo project in 2024. In total, 30 co-op employees are committed to crews for various weeks throughout April to July. Four-person crews will work at project sites scattered across northeastern Arizona, southeastern Utah, and northwestern New Mexico.

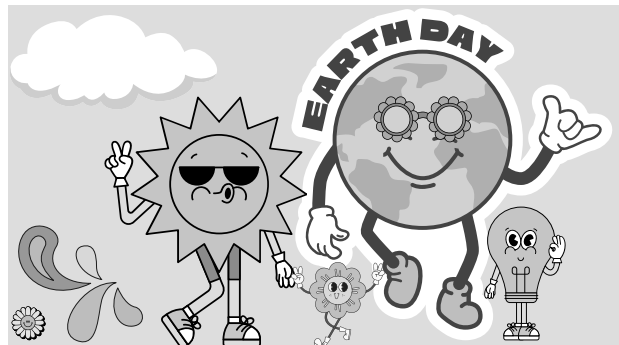
GCEA is excited to send a four-man team of GCEA linemen, Mike Pandy, Justin Hulick, Kevin Fox, and Zach Bever for a special one-week trip in June for Light Up Navajo V Project.

This innovative mutual-aid project is about improving the quality of life for Navajo families on the Navajo Nation. With the help of visiting volunteers, the lives of Navajo families can be greatly improved and forever changed through the Light Up Navajo initiative. To learn more about the project, visit [www.ntua.com/light-up-navajo.html](http://www.ntua.com/light-up-navajo.html)



## Become a Lineworker

Are you interested in becoming a lineworker? The electric co-op industry is rapidly growing and in need of more people to join the lineworker trade. This line of work has been around for decades and is not going anywhere. Lineworkers are some of the top-paid employees in the electric industry. If you are looking for a stable job and a great income, this career is for you. GCEA offers scholarship opportunities for men and women interested in joining the electrical lineworker field. For more information, please scan this QR code with your smartphone.



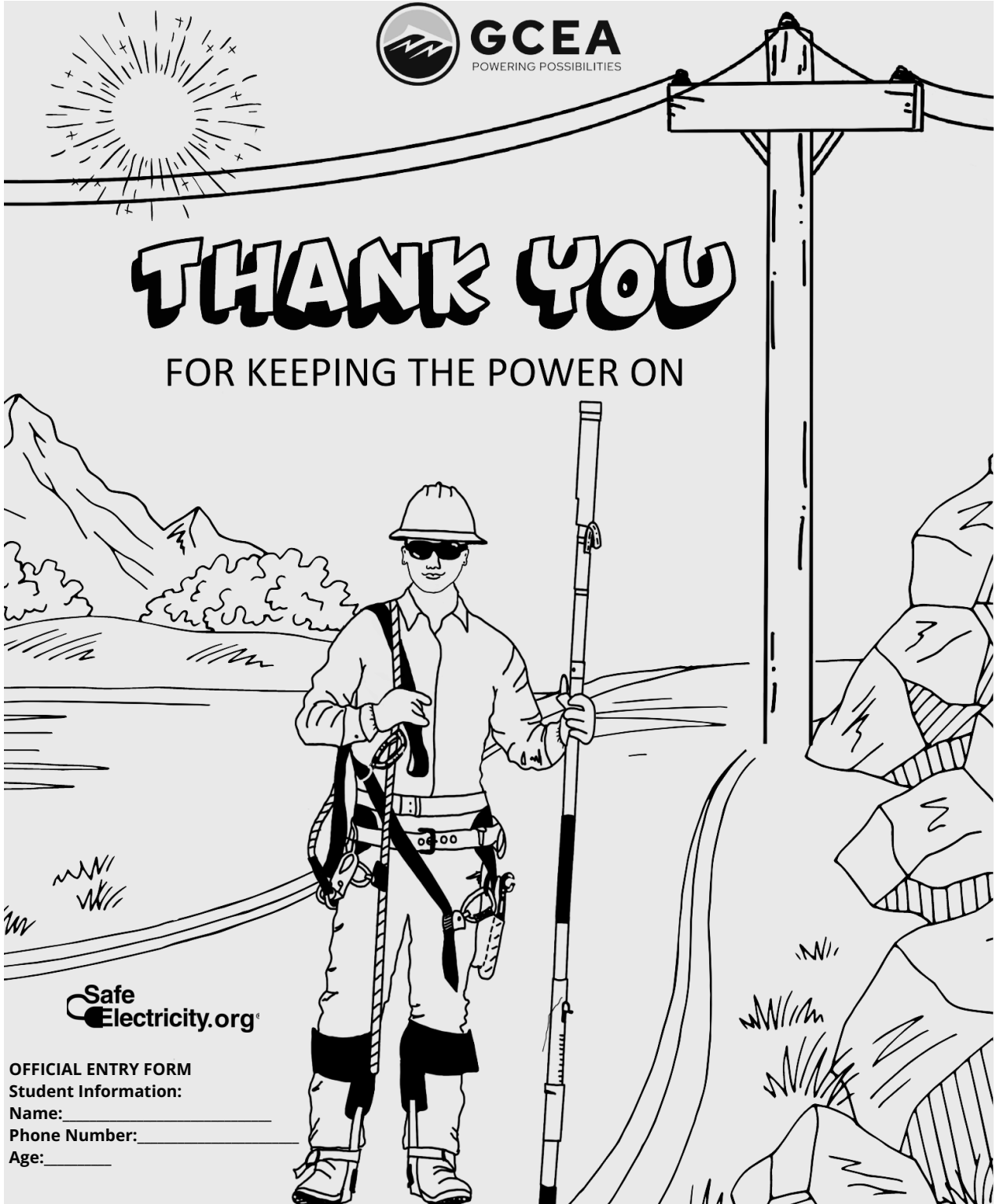
## Earth Day EVENT

Join GCEA for a fun day of earth day activities and demonstrations!  
**FRIDAY 10:00 AM**  
**APRIL 19 12:00 PM**  
**GUNNISON LIBRARY**  
**1 QUARTZ ST,**  
**GUNNISON, CO 81230**

# Thank a Lineman Coloring Contest

Calling all students, Pre-K through 12th grade! National Lineman Appreciation Day is Thursday, April 18, and you can send a thank you to GCEA's dedicated team of lineworkers for their exceptional service by coloring a photo for them.

Enter GCEA's Thank a Lineman coloring contest to have your artwork featured in GCEA publications and win a \$25 gift card! Color the photo below by April 15 and email to [gcea@gcea.coop](mailto:gcea@gcea.coop) or deliver to GCEA offices. For more information, visit [gcea.coop](http://gcea.coop).



# Member Meeting with Tri-State CEO

**G**CEA hosted a member meeting with the CEO of Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Duane Highley on February 29. The night started out with a meet and greet session, where members were able to have some one on one time with Duane.

Members had the opportunity to discuss their real concerns about the electrical industry and thank Duane about the great

work Tri-State has done for GCEA. Around 5:30 p.m., the meeting moved to the GCEA board room and members had the chance to ask Duane questions about Tri-State and what the future holds.

Thank you Duane for taking time to visit with our members and address their concerns!

For more information on GCEA events, visit [gcea.coop](http://gcea.coop).



GCEA board member Mark Daily (middle) and member Lynn Cudlip talk with Duane Highley at the GCEA meet and greet in February.



Duane Highley answers members' questions about the future of Tri-State.



## VIRTUAL LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Join GCEA representatives for virtual lunch and learns. Eat your lunch and learn about important co-op topics.



- **Wednesday, April 3, 12 -12:30 pm**
  - Heat Pumps
- **Wednesday, April 10, 12 -12:30 pm**
  - SmartHub
- **Wednesday, May 1, 12 -12:30 pm**
  - Net Metering/ Self Generation
- **Wednesday, May 15, 12 -12:30 pm**
  - Time-of-Use
- **Wednesday, May 22, 12 -12:30 pm**
  - Electric Vehicles

Scan the QR code for more information.



[gcea.coop](http://gcea.coop)

