

MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2024



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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.

MORGAN COUNTY REA LINEWORKER SCHOLARSHIP

Applications due Friday, May 24

Morgan County REA is proud to offer lineworker scholarships to assist individuals who want to establish a career in the power industry. The \$5,000 scholarship aims to encourage, promote, and educate electric lineworkers from our community.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must reside within the outer boundaries of MCREA's service territory and be enrolled or currently attending an approved lineworker training program as a full-time student. Assuming the applicant has met the age requirement for enrollment, there are no other age restrictions to apply for MCREA's scholarship.

Applicants must complete and submit the MCREA lineworker scholarship application by Friday, May 24. Applications will be reviewed by MCREA's lineworker scholarship committee, whose decisions are based on several factors, including academics, work experience, a statement of goals and aspirations, and overall impression. Based on application, applicants will be selected for interviews.

The scholarship winner must verify enrollment and record of at least a 3.0 GPA upon completion of each semester to maintain the scholarship. Recipients are in no way guaranteed or required to be employed at MCREA upon completion of training.

The MCREA lineworker scholarship application can be found and submitted at mcrea.org/lineworker-scholarships. If you have any questions regarding the scholarship program, please contact MCREA member services at 970-867-5688.



NOTICE OF TRANSMISSION SERVICE TARIFF

This notice is to officially inform you that the board of directors of Morgan County Rural Electric Association, Inc., is proposing a transmission tariff effective May 1, 2024.

This tariff is applicable to industrial consumers desiring transmission level service, subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Association.

Transmission Service Tariff

Facilities Charge per Month	\$ 750.00
Demand Charge per kW	\$ 24.98
Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.0370

Kevin Martens Retires After 27 Years of Service to Morgan County REA

Kevin Martens, Morgan County REA staking engineer, retired on March 15 — almost 27 years to the day he started with the electric cooperative in 1997.

Prior to joining MCREA's team, Kevin had worked for Pepsi Bottling Company for 11 years, after 10 years with Safeway. After many years of 10 to 12 hour days, six days a week, Kevin was ready for a job that would allow him to spend more time with his family and attend his kids' many activities. The change led him to a long, successful career.

Kevin started out in utility maintenance at MCREA, but after just a few years he joined the engineering department as its lead staking engineer. For the remainder of his career, Kevin staked miles and miles of power line, and was the first person members would work with to get electric service to their homes and businesses.

"It's fun. Staking is fun — on a good, warm day," Kevin chuckled. "Customer service and working with members has been one of my favorite parts of my job."

In his time at MCREA, Kevin has certainly seen many changes in the field.

"The changes in technology have been dramatic," Kevin mentioned. "When I started, we had paper maps, now we use iPads and laptops. We had hand drawn staking sheets, now we have computer staking sheets."

Perhaps the most significant change? The introduction of GPS mapping and staking.

"GPS has been huge," Kevin recalls. "We used to use survey wheels and maps and now our entire system is mapped and information about every little thing is easily at our fingertips — down to the tag number of any given pole."

Technology hasn't been the only new thing Kevin's seen in his career. He has also witnessed many large projects and new services that have expanded MCREA's service area. Since he started, MCREA has added at least six substations across its territory, with significant buildout in the northern region.

While challenging, Kevin's role in planning and building new



▲ Kevin Martens

line in this area is one of the career accomplishments he's most proud of.

"I worked with three major oil companies at the same time to design and stake two new feeders out of our Chalk Bluffs sub," Kevin recalls. "This had 2 miles of double circuit line and 20 miles of three-phase distribution, which allowed for a new gas plant, pumping station, and several new services to oil well pads. That was a pretty cool project."

Kevin's plans for retirement are simple: "Golf more. Fly-fish more. Go to the cabin more," he said with a smile. "And work on my honey-do list."

Above all, Kevin and his wife, Teresa, look forward to traveling and spending time with their children and grandchildren. Their first stop? Costa Rica to visit their son.

When he looks back on his time at MCREA, Kevin is grateful and has many fond memories. "MCREA has been a great place to work and great people to work with. I've had help over the years from really special mentors and have enjoyed being part of a good team," Kevin reminisced. "The engineering group has been amazing."

Though Kevin will be missed around the office every day, MCREA wishes him the very best in his much-deserved retirement. Congratulations, Kevin!



◀ (left) Kevin Martens looks forward to spending time with his kids and grandkids in his retirement.

(right) Lead Staking Engineer Kevin Martens works in the field.

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

Each month, Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a chance at a \$25 bill credit, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*. Congratulations, Terry Michel and Samuel Hawkins! You each spotted your names hidden in the February magazine and called to receive a bill credit.

There are two more 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 30 to claim a \$25 credit on your next bill.



MORGAN COUNTY REA MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC: THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Save the date for MCREA’s third annual Member Appreciation Picnic on Thursday, June 13 from 5-7 p.m. Join us at MCREA’s headquarters for food, giveaways, and to learn more about your electric cooperative. Those in attendance will get to see the Ford F-150 Lightning, a fully electric pickup, and be entered to win prizes.

If you have any questions about this year’s picnic please call MCREA’s office at 970-867-5688.




CELEBRATING 87 YEARS OF MORGAN COUNTY REA

Morgan County Rural Electric Association was organized on April 27, 1937—just the third REA in Colorado. The first 175 miles of line were energized just over a year later. Since then, Morgan County REA — a member-owned cooperative — has been dedicated to serving our members by providing safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future.

As we celebrate our 87th anniversary, we thank the members who make MCREA what it is today!



 MCREA Communications and Public Relations Coordinator Maddie Pollart.

Morgan County REA wins Excellence in Communications Awards

Each year *Colorado Country Life*, the official magazine of Colorado’s electric co-ops, holds a contest in which cooperatives submit their best articles and photos published in their pages of the magazine throughout the year. (Shepsky Inc., acct. #xxx8300)

This year, Morgan County REA won first place in its division for Best Safety Story and Best Community Story. Both stories were written by MCREA Communications and Public Relations Coordinator Maddie Pollart.

LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY IS APRIL 18

This month, we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day. This is the perfect time to give a special shout out to all lineworkers across the country who are tasked with keeping the electric grid up and running.

Power outages rarely happen on bright, sunny days. Oftentimes, lineworkers are called out into rain, snow, wind, and storms to get the lights back on. The job can be challenging, but it is crucial to life as we know it. After all, our world depends on electricity now more than ever.

This month, we recognize and thank our Morgan County REA lineworkers. We are proud to call these guys our own and appreciate all they do to power our communities. This April 18, remember to #ThankALineworker!



SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS FOR MORGAN COUNTY REA'S CALENDAR CONTEST

It is time for Morgan County REA's annual member photo contest! MCREA encourages members to submit their best photos taken from across our service area, which extends to all or parts of six different counties in northeastern Colorado. (Eldon Hawes, acct. #xxx5300)

A committee of MCREA employees will select the 12 best photos submitted to the contest. Those 12 photos will be featured in MCREA's 2024-2025 calendar, which will be given out at the member appreciation picnic on June 13. Last year's contest delivered stunning photos from across the area and highlighted the exceptional talent of MCREA's membership.

To submit your photos, please visit mcrea.org and click the Calendar Contest button. All entries must be submitted by Monday, April 29. One member may submit up to four photos. Photos from fall, winter, spring, and summer are encouraged. High-resolution photos are given preference in the judging process, as they are better suited for printing in the calendar.

Members who submit photos to this year's contest will be entered to win one of two \$25 gift cards. If you have any questions about this year's contest or have issues submitting your photos, please call MCREA member services at 970-867-5688.

