

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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From the General Manager/CEO



Our cooperative pioneer

By Mark Morrison

AT THE annual meeting for members of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) on June 6, 1956, Robert “Bob” Guyer was elected to the board. He was 27 years old, and New Enterprise REC was just 18 years old.

After graduating high school, Bob enrolled in an electrical school in Chicago. After returning home from the four-month program, Bob began wiring for farmers, businesses and homeowners in the community. It was this experience that led Bob to pursue a position on the cooperative’s board.

“Times were different back then,” he recalls. “In many places, there were no power lines, so directors were active in meeting and signing up new cooperative members. We all wanted to sign up as many new members and bring electricity to our communities as quickly as we could.”

Neighbors were notified by word of mouth that electricity would be coming, and everyone joined in to help extend the lines to friends and neighbors, who became members of the cooperative. One thing Bob said hit me hard and defined some of the emotions that folks must have felt when they experienced “the next greatest thing” for themselves.

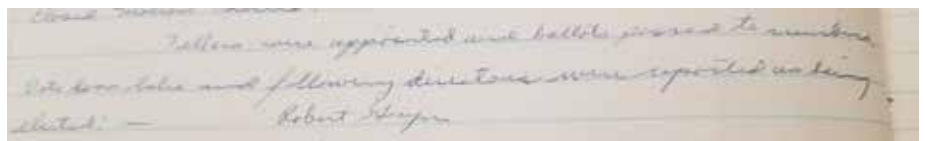
Often, he said, when a new section



Bob Guyer

of line was energized or when the switch was thrown at a home or farm for the first time, everyone would clap, praise the cooperative, the lineworkers, and directors, and then take a moment to pray together for what they had just experienced. This sentiment was

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A PIECE OF CO-OP HISTORY: This excerpt from the minutes of the New Enterprise REC Annual Meeting in June 1956 records the election of new Director Robert Guyer.

Digging safely: Call 811

By Wendy Conley

AS WE are approaching more seasonal weather, we start thinking of spring and summer projects we want to tackle this year.

If any of your projects require digging, whether it is installing a fence, building an addition, landscaping or excavating, it is very important to call 811, the national call-before-you-dig phone number.

You may think you know where your underground utilities are, or perhaps, you just purchased the home and aren't sure if there is anything underground. For safety reasons, you do not want to dig up your utilities. This can disrupt your service, be costly to repair, and possibly cause injury or death.

Regardless of the size of your project,

calling 811 will save you time and headaches. When you call the number, they will ask you a few questions and then notify the utility companies in your area to mark the ground. Once

that's done — usually within a few days — you can move forward with digging and completing your project.

For more information about 811, visit pa1call.org or call811.com. ☼



**Digging into
an Outdoor
Project?**



Before you dig, dial 811 or visit www.call811.com to protect underground utilities. Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Contact 811 first and help keep our community safe.

The power behind your power

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

YOU'VE likely noticed New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough — but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions.

This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, here are some interesting facts about electric lineworkers.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30- to 120-foot tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors, in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and



OUR CREW: New Enterprise REC lineworkers, who you may have seen restoring your power, are, from left, Randy Walker, Mike Shawley, Roman Dell, Conner Kagarise, Zac Conley, Mark Replogle and Tyler Fink.

hands-on learning. Did you know that becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because 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 in this line of work.

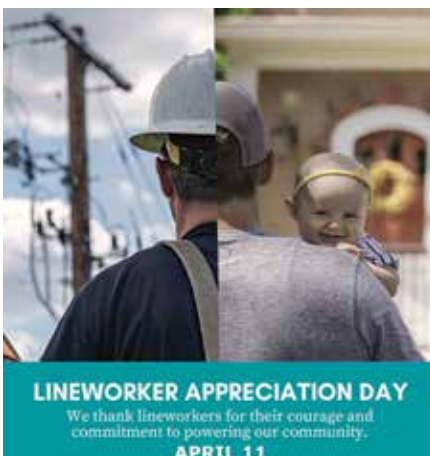
Despite the many challenges, New Enterprise REC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. New Enterprise REC has five lineworkers, one crew chief and one operations manager who are responsible for keeping power flowing around the

clock, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 381 miles of primary power lines and 91 miles of secondary lines across three counties (Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon). In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts, who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, and other technologies to map outages, survey damage, and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely 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 need for everyday life.

So, 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. Please join us as we recognize them April 11. 🌟



LINeworker APPRECIATION DAY
We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.
APRIL 11

How to save money in the laundry room

AH, THE JOYS of having a washer and dryer in your home. There's no waiting for a machine, no coin slots and no one removing your wet load, if you aren't right there when the cycle ends.

Although it's cheaper per load and much more convenient to do laundry at home, there's a somewhat hidden cost to consider, and that's the energy it takes to run your washer and dryer.

What appliances in your home use the most energy? The hot water heater tops the list, and right behind it are your washer and dryer.

A dryer requires more energy to run than a washer, but there are ways to reduce your washing costs, too (think hot water vs. cold). To save money in your laundry room, consider these tips:

- ▶ When using your washing machine, select the right amount of water for the load — that is, don't select the "extra large" setting when doing a small load. In fact, consider waiting to do laundry until you have full loads to conserve water.
- ▶ Use cold water to save the money you spend heating water. Some laundry detergents are designed to tackle stains in cold water.
- ▶ Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half and using cold water will save even more, according to energy.gov.
- ▶ Use dryer balls, which help separate clothes and get more air to them, cutting drying time.

- ▶ Use lower heat settings when you use the dryer. Even if your dryer runs longer, you'll use less energy and be less likely to over-dry your clothes.
- ▶ Clean the lint out of your dryer between loads and scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.
- ▶ Put like items together since lighter-weight clothes take less time to dry. Drying towels and heavier cottons take longer.
- ▶ Use the moisture sensor option on your dryer, if it has one.
- ▶ Take a clue from your teenage boy and wear clothes more than once between laundering them (although don't wait until your jeans can stand by themselves).
- ▶ When purchasing a dryer, consider an Energy Star version, which uses 20% less energy than a conventional model.
- ▶ Energy Star-certified washers use about 25% less energy and 33% less water than regular clothes washers.
- ▶ Thoroughly clean your dryer's vents and duct system at least twice a year.

To learn more about how much you are spending to run your washer and dryer each year, refer to energy.gov's appliance energy use calculator.

For more information about safety around electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org. ⚡

From the General Manager/CEO

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rooted deep in rural America for many experiencing the miracle of electricity during this time.

In the early 1940s, a farmer in a rural Tennessee church said, "Brothers and sisters, I want to tell you this. The greatest thing on Earth is to have the love of God in your heart, and the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your house."

Bob also lamented how his role on the board changed over time. He knew early on he wanted to have a leadership role. Bob was elected board president in June 1970 and also served as the cooperative's representative on the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association board for several years. Bob served as a mentor to new directors throughout his career, often providing key historical information and philosophies to help with the guidance and governance of the cooperative as things changed over time.

Early in 2022, Bob announced his resignation from the New Enterprise board, ending a 65-year milestone of service to the cooperative and its members. When asked about his best experience being a cooperative board member, he wasted no time in letting me know. He said he loves the communities the cooperative serves, he loves visiting and talking with cooperative members, and he loves the pride members have in our local electric cooperative.

I would like to thank Bob Guyer for his dedicated service to this organization. Our cooperative was just 18 years old when he began his time as director, and his dedication, pride, and work over the years is evident in providing the membership with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

Thank you, Bob.

The cooperative board has appointed Brian McCoy to fill the director responsibilities in Area 2. Brian will fulfill the remainder of Bob's term and seek election at this year's annual meeting in June. ⚡

