



Line Items

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Of Excelsior EMC

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WHATEVER IT TAKES: POWERING LIFE, FROM A LINEWORKER'S PERSPECTIVE

By Excelsior EMC Linemen



Lineworkers are ranked as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the country. The lineworkers at Excelsior EMC work rain or shine, in often challenging conditions to ensure you have reliable electricity. We're celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 8, 2024.

I am a lineman and I'm one of 24 lineworkers at Excelsior who work every day in all weather conditions to make sure our community has the power to live their lives. I love my job. It's hard work, but it's very rewarding. I hope this will give you a better look into what we face and more importantly, why we do it.

THE DANGER

A lot of people know linework is dangerous because we work near high-voltage electricity. Move just the wrong way or lose focus for a split second, and it could be deadly. You have to be aware of your surroundings and the safety of the person next to you. We often work on energized power lines, and you can't always tell they are energized by just looking at them. You're working with an element of danger that requires concentration, and there is no margin for error. The environment compounds the pressure, because when you need power most is usually when the weather is worst. I'm often working in storms with rain, wind, extreme heat and cold, in the dark, or on the side of the road next to fast-moving traffic. Yes, it's dangerous, but that's what we're trained to do.

THE PHYSICAL DEMAND

The daily expectations of a lineworker are physically demanding, but you won't hear any of us complain about that. I know what I signed up for—loading heavy materials, climbing poles and in and out of bucket trucks. A lot of times, we go places the trucks can't, so I might be hiking through the woods loaded down with 40 pounds of personal protective equipment. But that's the job. Most of us are just glad to be outside.

THE SACRIFICES

There are some sacrifices to being a lineworker. I'm often first on the scene of an emergency, seeing things that are devastating like car accidents, structure fires and damage from severe storms. You don't know what type of situation you're going to face or when you're going to face it. We get calls all hours and in the middle

of the night. I've missed a lot of games and family dinners, but my family is very supportive, and it pays off in the end. We make sure there is nothing standing in the way of helping our friends and neighbors get back to normal life.

IT'S WORTH IT

One thing that makes this job worthwhile is the camaraderie. My co-op is my second family, and the line crews are a brotherhood. In this work, you have to depend on the person beside you in life-or-death circumstances. It's a culture of trust, teamwork and service. It's all about keeping the teammate beside you safe and the lights on for everybody else.

I have a lot of pride in my work. Even when it's cold and wet, I know I'm working to keep people warm. There's a lot of satisfaction in hearing someone yell "Thank you" from the window after the lights come back on or seeing people flipping the light switches on their porches after an outage is restored. No matter how tired I am or how long I've been working, that feeling always makes it worth it.

Excelsior EMC and its employees are members of this community. We live in the same neighborhoods. We shop at the same stores. Our kids go to the same schools and attend the same churches. If your lights are off, there is a good chance ours are off too. So, you can trust that we are doing our best to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible—so you can get back to normal life.

The lineworkers at Excelsior EMC show incredible dedication in keeping our communities powered. Rain or shine, they work tirelessly to ensure we have electricity when we need it most. The second Monday of April is recognized as Lineman Appreciation Day, so let's take a moment on April 8 to appreciate these unsung heroes who work hard to keep our lights on and our lives running smoothly.

Line Items

Joseph Jones
Editor

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When your power goes off, don't stay in the dark longer than you have to. To restore your power as quickly as possible, we need your correct phone number. Your phone number is the quickest way for us to locate your home or business when you call to report an outage.

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Between the Lines

by
Greg Proctor
President/CEO

The Co-Op Experience

Recently, one of our newer employees asked me what makes electric co-ops different than other types of utilities. This month, I thought I'd tell you a few of the things I told her.

Because we're a co-op, we operate a little differently than other utilities. Excelsior EMC's decisions are made locally, by directors who also live right here in our community. Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here – to pay for the electricity used or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay to the co-op doesn't line the pockets of shareholders five states away. We're a member-owned cooperative, and we exist to provide a service to you, our local members.

Because you're part of an electric cooperative, you can count on our team to maintain local jobs, at-cost electricity, and first-class service.

We strive to keep our costs as low as possible, so we can keep more money in your pocket. We want to help you maximize the value you can get from our services and offerings.

Excelsior EMC was created to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our co-op for the common good. In our case, it was the only way the community could bring electricity to the area where there was none. In doing so, Excelsior EMC helped the community thrive.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, today's energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That's why we're adapting; to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs, and new expectations.

Serving as your trusted energy advisor means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range of energy topics. For example, if you're looking for ways to save energy, check out our monthly newsletter for energy-saving tips and ideas to increase the energy efficiency of your home. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet.

If you're considering a rooftop solar installation, our energy advisors would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it's important to fully understand the costs, responsibilities, and potential energy savings. Unlike a solar company that has one objective—to sell their products and services—we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. We understand that homeowners must undertake their due diligence, and we're here to help you through that process.

In a similar vein, we recognize that many members are considering electric vehicle options. Excelsior EMC provides information about EV charging and electrical requirements to our members so you can make informed decisions about EVs. We can provide a candid assessment of residential and business charging requirements for all types of EVs. Excelsior EMC is also offering ways to save on EV charging. No matter what our members drive, we want to help achieve energy savings.

In closing, our goal is to be there for our members in all aspects of electrical usage. Excelsior EMC strives to be your trusted energy provider.



Every Member Counts

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

The Cooperative is required by the bylaws to hold an annual meeting of the members. Each year we hold this meeting in May where many of our members gather to enjoy fellowship and conduct the business of their Cooperative. This year's annual meeting will be conducted using the hybrid drive-through / in-person approach that we have used in recent years. This will allow our members the option to leave the meeting after they have registered and received a registration gift or park and attend the in-person meeting after driving through and completing the registration process.

In keeping with the standard provisions of the bylaws, a quorum will be established by the participation of 100 members. Key functions of the annual meeting are the reporting of the Cooperative's financial condition, the election of directors, and conducting any other business that must be acted on by the members. Our goal is to ensure that the members of Excelsior EMC are informed and retain their voice in the governance of their Cooperative. A full report of the financial condition of the Cooperative for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, will be included in the May edition of the Cooperative's newsletter, *Line Items*. We will convey additional information to you through our website (www.excelsioremc.com), Facebook page or direct mailings. A summary of the bylaw provisions that address the election of directors is as follows:

ARTICLE FOUR - DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. - The business affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of directors, exercising all powers of the Cooperative except such as by law, the articles of incorporation or bylaws are conferred upon or reserved to the members.

SECTION 2. - The areas served by the Cooperative shall be divided into geographical districts. One director shall be elected from each of said districts and one director-at-large representing the entire area served by the Cooperative.

SECTION 3. - Qualifications to become or remain a nominee or a director of the Cooperative: Must be eighteen (18) years old or older on the date of election; Must be a member and bona fide resident of the district represented and receive service from the Cooperative at his or her primary residence; May not, within five (5) years prior to the election, have been an employee of the Cooperative; May not be a close relative of any person who is an employee or director of the Cooperative; May not be employed by or hold a financial interest in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative; May not be the incumbent of or candidate for a salaried elective public office.

SECTION 4. - Establishes election procedures and three-year, staggered terms of office for Directors.

SECTION 5. - The Board of Directors must appoint a nominating committee whose duty is to nominate candidates for each director district term expiring this year. The nominating committee must post its list of nominations on or before April 20, 2024. Qualified candidates can also be nominated by a written petition signed by 100 or more members. Nominating petitions must be received at the Cooperative's Metter office no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. The nominating petition shall list on each page the following: the member's signature, the member's printed name, the member's mailing address, and the member's phone number.

The members of the Nominating Committee for 2024 are:

District 1 Ryne Brannen

District 4 Clark Dixon

District 7 Matt Wood

District 2 Speer Brannen

District 5 Jay McCranie

District 8 Preston Brinson

District 3 Ricky Nevil

District 6 Stephen Taylor

At-Large Gary Mosley



3 WAYS TO HELP LIMIT TREE TRIMMING

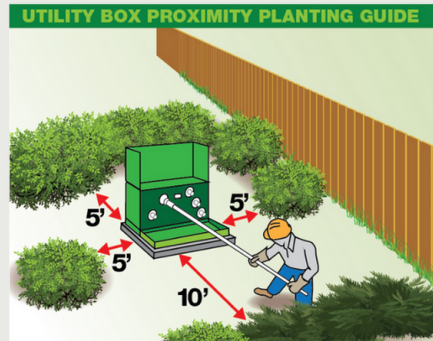
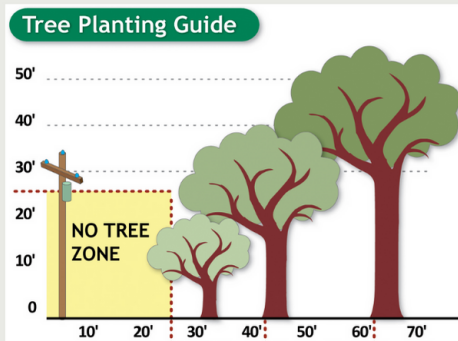
Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know that you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them.

Here's how you can help:

When planting trees and shrubbery on your property, please be mindful of their proximity to our electrical equipment and how big they will be at their maturity.

Don't block pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 feet away from the transformer doors and 5 feet away from transformer sides.

Report dangerous branches. If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



**Trimming improves safety for all.
Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable
electricity.**

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