



CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

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FROM THE MANAGER

Winter Storm Uri – a Perfect Storm



Kirk Thompson

The extreme cold weather conditions in the middle of February created a situation where the natural gas and electric delivery systems throughout our region were

stressed to the maximum. There are many factors that led to the rolling blackouts in the Southwest Power Pool region, and there will be a thorough review of those factors in the months to come. Never in the history of our cooperative has there been an emergency that necessitated power interruptions to keep the system from collapsing.

There are many stories about the record high prices that were created in the storm for gas and electricity.

Many of our members have called with questions about how high their bill will be for those days. The wholesale markets will take up to 120 days to settle out the events in February to know exactly what the final costs will be. While we cannot tell you exactly what the cost will be, we are working hard to make sure these extraordinary prices can be worked into the system with a reasonable amount of time for recovery. CMS will incur costs from the events of the storm, but we are committed to working with our members to spread those costs over a period of time appropriate to the unprecedented weather event.

As we all worked together to stay safe during the extreme cold weather, we will continue to work together to sort out the financial impacts of the storm. Thank you for supporting each other in these days and thank you for supporting your cooperative.

Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Joy Beasley
- ▶ Patsy Boles
- ▶ Denise Burdett
- ▶ Dean Bush
- ▶ Larry DePriest
- ▶ Ben Dome

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees. Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV



5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 811 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 811 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project. Contact a private line marking service to mark private lines.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark underground lines owned by the utility.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 811 call center notified. Note 811 does not mark privately owned utility lines, invisible fences or sprinkler systems. **Call a private utility locator for these.**

4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 24 inches on all sides according to Kansas law), consider moving your project location.

Source: call811.com

CMS ELECTRIC

75th Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 13, at the Meade County Fairgrounds, Meade

The Board of Trustees of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. announces the 75th Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2021, at the Meade County Fairgrounds. Please watch cmselectric.com, our Facebook page and our *May Kansas Country Living* magazine for more details.

| MAY 2021 | | | | | | |
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CMS Board of Trustees Positions Open for Election



Rock Ormiston II



James W. McKinney



Don Nighswonger

The Board of Trustees of CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc. announces the following trustee's terms will expire in 2021 and their positions are open for election.

- ▶ **District 1, Position A, ROCK ORMISTON II**
- ▶ **District 2, Position A, JAMES W. MCKINNEY**
- ▶ **District 3, Position A, DON NIGHSWONGER**

The board also announces that members wishing to serve on the board of trustees shall be nominated by presenting a petition to the cooperative office with the signatures of 15 valid members within the district they are to represent. Blank petitions are available at the cooperative office in Meade, or call and one will be mailed to you. If you need additional information, please call CMS at 800-794-2353. Petitions are **DUE BY APRIL 13, 2021.**

Thank a Lineworker on April 12

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with CMS Electric, most members would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That’s why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at CMS Electric, it’s important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who

work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn’t be able to “bring the light” to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent CMS Electric, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, we hope you’ll join us in thanking them for their exceptional service. We also hope you’ll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

What Does a Lineworker Do?

On any given day or night, in all kinds of weather conditions, lineworkers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems. Their job is crucial as we rely on their expertise to power our world and we entrust our lineworkers with your safety.

Safety Comes First

Lineworkers must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members and themselves. They spend hundreds of hours in safety training each year and must learn and apply numerous safety regulations.

They are Specifically Trained to:

- ▶ Climb poles to service power lines in areas inaccessible by trucks.
- ▶ Stand in an elevated bucket to assess and repair overhead lines.
- ▶ Install poles, overhead lines and other equipment.
- ▶ Work on both energized and de-energized lines.
- ▶ Install and service underground lines.



THANK A LINEWORKER!

This month, we're recognizing lineworkers for the amazing job they do to make sure we have electricity! Think about all the ways you use electricity every day. Do you use a phone, watch TV, play video games or turn on lights? You're able to do *all* of these things because of lineworkers.

Below is space to write a short thank-you note to your local lineworkers. Write your note, then ask an adult to help you send it back to us so we can share it with our crews.



WE ♥ OUR
LINEWORKERS

Send your note to the mailing address below, or snap a photo with your phone and email it to us!
CMS Electric, P.O. Box 790, Meade, KS 67864 or www.cmselectric.com