



CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

A tradition of dependable, hometown service since 1937

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107 EAST MAIN STREET • CARTHAGE, MS 39051

Thank a Lineman on April 12

Board of Directors election results

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to hold our annual membership meeting in March. During that meeting we would have held an election for our board of directors.

In order to provide each Central Electric member an opportunity to vote in a director election, we offered a vote by mail process. There were 2,787 ballots received by mail.

In accordance with the laws of Mississippi and the bylaws of the association, members elected the following three directors for a three year term: Hanna Watson, Neshoba County; David Boyd, Rankin County; Pettey Leach, Scott County.

Central Electric members who returned their ballots were eligible to win one of the following prizes: slow cooker, coffee

maker, clock/radio, electric skillet, electric can opener, toaster, popcorn machine, ice cream machine, coffee percolator or iron. There were 10 winners drawn from each of our four districts: Carthage, Philadelphia, Sebastopol and Rankin County.

The board, management and staff of Central Electric appreciate the patience and understanding of our membership during these challenging times and remind each of you to be safe.

TVA delivers service reliability



With the severity of February's icy weather behind us and a likely hot summer ahead, let's take time to think about the reliability of your cooperative's power system and the importance of our partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

April is a time of year that doesn't stress the electric system because temperatures are more moderate, and while storms can hit, the damage is more localized than what can happen with a major ice event. As you will remember, February brought the kind of weather that can really test an electric system. Central Electric Power Association (CEPA) had significant ice and extremely low temperatures that persisted for nearly a week.

People ask about what happened to Texas in February and could it happen here. Just as Mississippi did, Texas experienced downed lines because of trees and ice, but the bigger issue was power generation and transmission. CEPA is fortunate to have our power generated by TVA, which also owns and operates the transmission network — which includes the large, metal tower lines that traverse our area (they are the interstate highways of the electric system).

TVA does a tremendous job designing and building a system that delivers world-class reliability and one that's ready for the worst day Mother Nature can throw at us. If you don't plan ahead, you simply can't be ready when it happens. And unlike the Texas grid, TVA's grid is interconnected, which means if its generation facilities run into significant problems (a great rarity), TVA can access power supply from other parts of the country.

TVA delivers service reliability you can count on. While no electric provider can promise 100% reliability, it's what we constantly strive toward.

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Central Electric Power Association, I bet you would picture a lineman. Some of the most visible employees of the co-op, linemen work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

"Lineman" 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, linemen must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heaving equipment to get the job done.



Being a lineman 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 linemen may be the most visible employees at Central 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 support staff are behind the scenes working in safety regulations, economic development, legislative, communications and administrative roles. 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 linemen wouldn't be able to "bring the light" to our community.

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

On April 12, and any time you see a lineman, 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.

Download

Central Electric's mobile app today!

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- Make fast, secure payments
- Receive important alerts and reminders

Scan with your smartphone to get started.



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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: www.energy.gov

2021 WINTER STORMS

The February 2021 Winter Storms will be remembered for several years. Central Electric Power Association experienced its first outages from the frozen precipitation in the early morning hours of Monday, February 15. Linemen were sent into the field to begin working those outages.

The initial outages were centralized in Scott and Neshoba counties.

Working conditions deteriorated as the ice continued to cover everything, making roads hard to travel, therefore making it difficult to respond to outages quickly. The linemen continued to restore power to as many members as they safely could.

Due to the severe weather conditions, outage numbers fluctuated on Monday and Tuesday.

On Wednesday, February 17, another round of ice took down much of the power that had been restored. The second storm caused extensive damage to 57% of Central Electric's system. Damage was widespread with over 133 broken poles, 58 transformers, miles of wire and trees down.

By 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2021, power was restored to all members that could receive power. We understand the hardship of being without power for an extended length of time and want to sincerely thank our membership for their tremendous support and patience.

Manager Brian Long would like to thank the Central Electric employees along with the 100+ workers who worked tirelessly in the power restoration efforts.



The damage to our electrical system was extensive due to the ice.



Many trees could not bear the weight of ice and fell on power lines.



Icy roads made travel and restoration difficult during the ice storms.

So all of you who worked so tirelessly in the snow, rain, ice and cold to restore power to those of us who were "doing the best we could to stay warm". Thank you for all you endured to get the power up and going so soon. All of you are greatly appreciated. May God bless each of you.
Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Assistance arrived from Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas to aid in power restoration. Central Electric would like to thank the following organizations for their assistance in rebuilding our power system:

- CEPA retirees
- Arkansas Valley Electric
- Black Warrior Electric Membership Cooperation
- Central Alabama Electric Cooperative
- Delta Electric Power Association
- Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas
- First Electric Cooperative
- HJM Forest Resource Management Services, LLC
- North East Electric Power Association
- Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association
- Petit Jean Electric Cooperative
- Philadelphia Utilities
- Southwest Arkansas Electric
- Tennessee Valley Authority



All Central Electric Employees

2/24/21

I wanted to take time out to write a letter commending you and your team for the job done after this devastating ice storm. I am not on Facebook or social media, so I figured a good old fashioned letter would do!

First off, images of people in the media complaining and degrading CEPA disgusted and outraged me at how some people can be so self-centered and selfish. No one truly knows what a tremendous task your team faced after this storm. This was one of the worst storms I have seen in my 40 plus years in Mississippi. Secondly, my family and I were without power for 9 days (just restored today Hooray) but it was no fault of anyone, Mother Nature and acts of God are beyond anyone's control.....Thankfully you have hard working dedicated people who try their best to correct it!

Sure we all love our modern conveniences, but sometimes it's good to be reminded of how lucky and blessed we are and be brought down a notch or two

Please share this with each and every associate, everyone contributes something in a team from the CEO to the linemen to the dispatches and the drive through window CSR (not to mention all those who traveled here to help) I try to honk and wave every time I see one of those trucks rolling to bring relief to someone

A Big Huge Shout out to you ALL!!!

Keep up the Good Work!!

