



# CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

A tradition of dependable, hometown service since 1937

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## LINeworkERS ARE READY *when it matters most*



At Central Electric, we have the unique privilege of seeing firsthand what it truly takes to keep the lights on for our members. In April, we take time to pause and recognize the brave men who make that possible every single day — our lineworkers.

When storms impact our communities and outages occur, many people experience the inconvenience, but our lineworkers see a call to action. Our crews are always ready when it matters most — leaving family dinners, working through the night and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. That readiness is not accidental. It comes from rigorous training, deep experience and a shared commitment to serving others.



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What makes lineworkers especially remarkable is that they aren't just restoring power to a system — they're restoring power to their own communities. They live here. They raise their families here. They understand that electricity is more than a convenience; it's essential

to daily life, to local businesses, to schools, farms, and emergency services. Powering the places we call home is personal to lineworkers.

Electric cooperatives like Central Electric were built on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors, and our lineworkers embody that spirit every day. They are the first to respond and the last to leave, often working long hours behind the scenes. At times, serving our neighbors means going beyond our own service territory through a process known as mutual aid. During major outage events, Central Electric crews stand ready to assist neighboring co-ops — sometimes close to home, and sometimes across state lines — to help restore power. This spirit of mutual aid strengthens all cooperatives and ultimately benefits the members we serve.

We understand any time the lights go out can be frustrating, bringing everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our members for your patience and encouragement during these times. Linework is demanding, physical, and at times, it can be dangerous. Our crews approach each job with a focus on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust our members place in them.

In April, we will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Month, but one month is hardly enough. Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and dedication, which are the backbone of our cooperative.

To our lineworkers: thank you for your hard work, your readiness, and your unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you and grateful for all that you do.



# FUTURE LEADERS TAKE ACTION IN JACKSON

## Cooperative Leaders Workshop

A group of 83 high school juniors from all over the state gathered in Jackson from Feb. 25 to Feb. 27 for the 39th Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Cooperative Leaders Workshop.

The program instills leadership skills, inspires creative thinking, encourages community service, and introduces students to legislative elected officials from their communities.

The conference was held at The Westin in downtown Jackson.

The delegates earned the trip to the workshop following a competitive selection process sponsored by their local electric cooperative.

They will travel to Washington, D.C. in June for a seven-day youth leadership tour.

Central Electric delegates Cale Cotnam, Diarra Davis, Brady Farve, and McKinley Johnson spent the three days in Jackson with other delegates from around the state.

They met with their state lawmakers, toured the state capitol, participated in problem solving activities, and attended speeches by motivational speakers — including one by political cartoonist Marshall Ramsey — who urged them to serve their communities.

Secretary of State Michael Watson spoke to the delegates during the workshop.



**A.** Brady Farve, Diarra Davis, McKinley Johnson, and Cale Cotnam receiving their Leadership Awards after completing the workshop. **B.** (left to right) Rep. Scott Bounds, Cale Cotnam, Diarra Davis, McKinley Johnson, Brady Farve, and Sen. Tyler McCaughn.



“  
The workshop taught me that there’s more than one solution to a problem and no perfect solution.”

*Cale Cotnam*



## WE’RE NOT DONE YET!

This summer, the Cooperative Youth Leadership be traveling to Washington, D.C. Check back in *Today in Mississippi’s* August issue to see highlights from ECM’s 39th annual *Youth Tour.*



# Celebrating OUR RECENT Retirees

Central Electric General Manager Brian Long presents plaques to Richard Wilson and Greg Barrett.



## RICHARD WILSON

25 years of service

2001-2026



## GREG BARRETT

36 years of service

1986-2002

2005-2026