



# ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

## Rolling Hills Electric Co-op, Inc.

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## Like us on Facebook

On Facebook, search for “Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.” and like our page for continued updates, energy efficiency tips, cooperative news and outage updates.



## Attend the 17th Annual Meeting April 5

Rolling Hills Electric is finalizing plans and activities for its 17th Annual Meeting. Employees will be available to direct and assist with parking. The meal and meeting will be held in the vehicle storage area of the headquarters, 3075B U.S. Highway 24, same as last year.

The registration and buffet lines will open at 5:30 p.m. Each registered member will receive a gift and a ticket for door prize drawings. There will be special prize drawings for children ages 8-13. A delicious meal will be catered by Gene’s Heartland Foods of Smith Center.

You won’t want to miss your Rolling Hills Electric linemen’s safety demonstration. Be sure to bring the children with you as this demonstration is important for all ages. Safety of our members, public, emergency responders and employees is very important to us. The smallest oversights or mistake can mean a matter of life or death.

This is a great time to come out and visit with your Rolling Hills Electric trustees, employees and members. We look forward to seeing you here on Friday, April 5.

April 2019						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**STREAMING TIP:** Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment. *Source: energy.gov*





BELOIT

**Adam Badger**  
Journeyman Lineman  
8 Years



ELLSWORTH

**John Bailey**  
Operations Assist. / Lineman  
30 Years



ELLSWORTH

**Gordon Blue**  
Outpost Foreman  
37 Years



BELOIT

**Craig Clark**  
Journeyman Lineman  
33 Years



BELOIT

**Todd Eitzmann**  
Journeyman Lineman  
3 Years



BELOIT

**Doug Errebo**  
Journeyman Lineman  
11 Years



ELLSWORTH

**Brian Falk**  
Journeyman Lineman  
37 Years



ELLSWORTH

**Steve Habiger**  
Journeyman Lineman  
30 Years



BELOIT

**Max Hulbert**  
Foreman  
31 Years



BELOIT

**J.R. Hynek**  
Journeyman Lineman  
3 Months



BELOIT

**Cregg Jeffery**  
Foreman  
25 Years



ELLSWORTH

**James Jiricke**  
Journeyman Lineman  
41 Years



BELLEVILLE

**Tyson Knox**  
Journeyman Lineman  
9 Years



BELLEVILLE

**Alan Lawson**  
Journeyman Lineman  
28 Years



ELLSWORTH

**Kyle McGreevy**  
Journeyman Lineman  
29 Years



BELOIT

**Rodney Payne**  
Operations Assist. / Lineman  
31 Years



BELOIT

**Clay Pickel**  
Journeyman Lineman  
1 Year



BELOIT

**Jerry Roesti**  
Foreman  
18 Years



ELLSWORTH

**Tyler Roesti**  
Journeyman Lineman  
11 Years



BELOIT

**Luke Roush**  
Journeyman Lineman  
11 Years



OSBORNE

**Ben Ruthstrom**  
Outpost Foreman  
20 Years



BELLEVILLE

**Robert Sasser**  
Outpost Foreman  
40 Years



BELLEVILLE

**Scott Splichal**  
Journeyman Lineman  
18 Years



BELLEVILLE

**Kendall Strutt**  
Journeyman Lineman  
25 Years



OSBORNE

**Kyle Strutt**  
Journeyman Lineman  
5 Years



BELOIT

**Jerry Webb**  
Journeyman Lineman  
25 Years



OSBORNE

**Trent Webb**  
Journeyman Lineman  
8 Years



OSBORNE

**Justin York**  
Apprentice Lineman  
1 Year

**THANK YOU**  
to our  
**Rolling Hills**  
**Linemen**



# The Commitment of an Electric Lineworker

## Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 8

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm for a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Rolling Hills Electric's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

### Family Support System

To perform their jobs safely and successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

### Community Commitment

In Rolling Hills Electric's service territory and across the country, electric co-op

lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities, and serving on local advisory boards.

For example, Rolling Hills Electric has several volunteer firemen. Rolling Hills Electric supports our linemen who use their own personal time off to help battle blazes where needed. The linemen know that if we are in storm restoration, their priority is with Rolling Hills Electric.

### Thank You

Monday, April 8, is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Rolling Hills Electric's lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or around town, please offer them a thank you as well.

Committed to the job.  
Committed to safety.  
Committed to you, our members.

Lineworker Appreciation Day April 8, 2019



## Change of Plans

Many of our high school juniors are busy with leadership, sports and church camps in the summer. Then throw in winning a trip to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Tough and gut-wrenching decisions must sometimes be made by the youth.

**ALEXIS HANSEN**, Belleville, was awarded the trip to Washington, D.C., but later discovered she was already committed to another leadership camp and schedules could not be altered. We know that Alexis was looking forward to this experience, but we understand how busy life is for students.

**RACHEL MCHENRY**, Clyde, had originally accepted the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, but was offered the Washington, D.C., trip as our second place winner. Needless to say, she gladly accepted the opportunity to attend Youth Tour. Rachel had a few more forms to turn in for flight and background checks to make this opportunity a “trip of a lifetime” come true.

We had a similar situation arise with a second winner.

**LANDON EILERT**, Beloit, accepted the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, but was already committed to a church camp that week. This means Rolling Hills will not have a camp attendee this year.

Rolling Hills Electric is pleased that our youth applicants are involved in many learning and leadership activities. We look forward to working with next year’s applicants for the trips and scholarships.

# 2019 Youth Tour Essay

Youth competing for the Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp had to write an essay on “What it Means to be a Servant Leader.”

“Leadership is a way of thinking, a way of acting and, most importantly, a way of communicating,” is a quote from Simon Sinek. What does it mean to be a servant leader? My own personal mission statement about what means to be a servant leader is to encourage and enable for excellence. I am thinking about becoming a physical therapist which includes encouraging and enabling for excellence. I will be taking apart my mission statement by defining each word and how they correlate with being a servant leader.

Firstly, I will explain what I mean by encourage. Servant leaders are encouraging, they uplift those around them. They build relationships with those around them or who they’re working with. Servant leaders are selfless, they put those around them first. This is accomplished by encouraging and uplifting those around them, to help them build relationships. Servant leadership is not just about actions it is also about making relationships. Without the foundation of relationships a team cannot work well. When I was on a mission trip last spring, we were in an area even the police wouldn’t go into. We were the leaders in the area, in order to be able to even go into this community we had to first encourage and build relationships. First we prepped as a team and then put the plan into action. We had the opportunity of giving out food and clothes while also talking with the residents, and encouraging them, thus building trust and relationships. The synergy of these relationships built trust and positive outcomes. I hope to work in a profession where I have the opportunity to help and encourage others. Servant leaders encourage others by serving and enlisting those around them to serve and work together.

Secondly, servant leaders enable those around them. By enabling I mean they see the talent of those around them and they have a vision in their mind. They enable

by bringing the best out in people, and letting others grow to their full potential by working together to accomplish their goals. “I think one of the keys to leadership is recognizing that everybody has gifts and talents. A good leader will learn how to harness those gifts toward the same goal,” Ben Carson.

Servant leaders lead by example and are reliable, they use their talents for the benefit of everyone by leading.

And lastly, they enable those around them for excellence. By excellence I do not mean perfection, I mean using their gifts and talents to the best of their abilities. I am in 4-H and everyone has a job and a task. We have the Junior Leaders program, it is like a mentorship program where the older leaders help the younger leaders. The older leaders are normally at least high school aged who take the bigger roles of leadership while younger leaders are normally 4-H aged 11-13. Younger 4-Hers help the older leaders while learning what it takes to be in that role and how to communicate and be competent. “A leader’s job is not to do the work for others, it’s to help others figure out how to do it themselves, to get things done, and to succeed beyond what they thought possible,” said Sinek. Servant leaders bring out the best in everyone thus allowing growth which turns into excellence. They excel in accomplishing their goals.

A quote from Jack Welch, “Before you are a leader success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.” My own personal mission statement about what it means to be a servant leader is to encourage and enable for excellence. Thoughts turn into action, which leads the way to leadership.



**Rachel McHenry,**  
Clyde