

# OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

April 2021 • Owen Electric • A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## Owen Electric's power supplier seeks rate adjustment

There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes to deliver energy to Owen Electric members. It takes a number of processes conducted by several different entities.

The first step in the process to deliver energy to you, our members, involves East Kentucky Power Cooperative. EKPC is Owen Electric's wholesale power supplier. In the same way that our members collectively own Owen Electric, Owen Electric is an owner-member of EKPC. As a trusted energy partner, EKPC generates and transmits the energy that we ultimately distribute to residential and business members throughout our service territory.

In late February, EKPC filed with the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) a notice of intent to increase the base rates to its 16 owner-member cooperatives. This is EKPC's first proposed rate increase in more than 10 years.

For Owen Electric, this necessitates a corresponding pass-through rate case. This means the increase in rates will be reflected on the retail rates our members pay. This rate case is designed to

pass-through the increase in wholesale power costs that Owen Electric incurs to provide electric service. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Owen Electric operates on a thin margin so an increase in wholesale rates is not possible to absorb.

If approved, the increase would likely go into effect in October 2021. The PSC has the right to approve as submitted, reduce the amount requested or increase the amount requested.

While the exact impact to a member's bill is not yet fully determined, we project the increase to the average residential member to be approximately \$4.25 per month.

Rest assured we will keep our membership informed with public notices, posting on our website and by other means when the exact impact is known.

Raising the cost of energy to our members is not something we take lightly; however, rate adjustments are needed from time-to-time. In 2015, and again in 2020, we promptly adjusted and lowered rates to compensate for lower than anticipated fuel costs. Both these respective rate adjustments

entailed reducing our rates for our members.

EKPC indicates this increase is needed in order to maintain financial strength and to comply with its loan covenants. They will continue to invest in the improvement of power plants and transmission infrastructure in order to reliably generate and deliver the power that we all depend on each and every day.

I recognize this news comes at a difficult time for our country and for our commonwealth. I encourage you to contact our knowledgeable member service representatives for energy efficiency and energy savings tips. Our representatives are also eager to provide assistance with bill payment and account arrangements if needed.

Owen Electric will continue to work with our members just as we've done for over 80 years. That's the cooperative way.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

President and CEO  
Michael Cobb



# Meet your cooperative directors

We're continuing our Meet Your Cooperative Director series, inviting you to learn more about the directors that serve Owen Electric's membership. This month features Hope Kinman, District 7—Northern Boone County.

## Hope Kinman

A lifelong resident of Boone County, Hope Kinman represents District 7—Northern Boone County on Owen Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors.

While Hope grew up in Constance, she raised her family in Hebron and now resides in Florence. She worked as an elementary school administrative assistant, enjoying the opportunity to work with teachers, parents, and most of all, the children. Now retired, she volunteers at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Florence.

Hope joined the board of directors in 1996, and not only is the first female to serve on Owen Electric's board, but the first female director to represent an electric distribution cooperative on the East Kentucky Power Cooperative Board of Directors.

"It's an honor to have been the first woman to serve on both boards," Hope says. "I appreciate the opportunity to stay active in my community and represent the members who live in northern Boone County."

Hope's involvement on the board of directors has been



heavily influenced by her professional background and passion for volunteerism.

"I just enjoy being around people and being able to reconnect with old friends," Hope says. "I try to do at least one good deed a day—I want to be helpful to others."

In her spare time, Hope enjoys tending to her flower garden and spending time with family and friends. She has a daughter, Scottye; two grandchildren, Korey and Parker; and a great-granddaughter, Ellie.

## Remembering when...

We appreciate Stacy Dunavent submitting the following story, remembering how her father used to tell of being born just after Owen Electric Cooperative energized its first 130 miles of power lines. On January 29, 1938, Governor A.B. "Happy" Chandler threw the switch at the New Liberty substation, and by December of that year, provided power to 370 homes and businesses.

*My father, Glen Dunavent, was born on February 15, 1938, a couple of weeks after they "turned the lights on" in Owen County. Unlike most people at that time, he was born in the hospital because my grandmother, Mayme Dunavent, had a medical emergency. My grandparents didn't have electric at their house at first, and when it was time to bring my dad home from the hospital, they didn't want to bring him to a home that didn't have*



Stacy Dunavent with her father, Glen, on Father's Day a few years ago.

*electric if they didn't have to. Luckily, my grandmother's parents, David and Amanda Nix, did have electric, so they moved in with them for a few weeks*



Glen Dunavent at around 1 year of age.

*until they were able to get electric at their house. I've included a picture of my dad when he was about a year old and another of us a few years ago on Father's Day.*

# Thank a lineworker on April 12

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Owen Electric Cooperative, it's likely you 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.

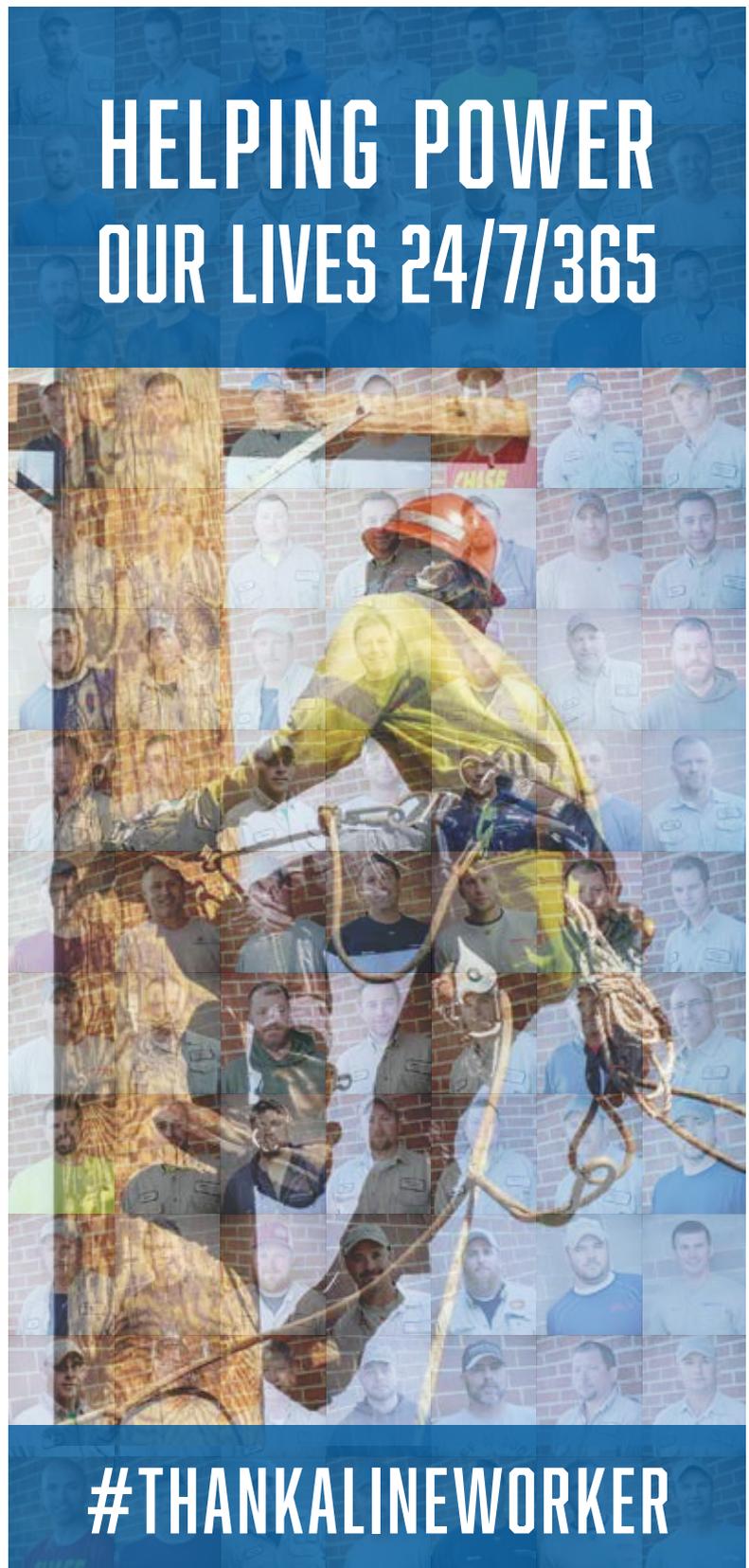
"Lineworker" is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often 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. 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 Owen Electric Cooperative, it's important to note that there are many other highly skilled and equally dedicated professionals working behind the scenes at your co-op. 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 (IT) experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. Our accounting, human resources, and other office staff all 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 Owen Electric Cooperative, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On Monday, 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.



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# April is National Safe Digging Month: Call 811

As spring temperatures arrive, many people begin home improvement and construction work. These projects often require digging and excavation.

You must contact Kentucky 811 two full business days prior to all digging projects, such as installing mailboxes, fences or landscaping. Utility lines sometimes are buried only a few inches underground, which means that even small digging projects can cause major problems.

Once in contact with 811, a free service, give them your contact information, explain where you're planning to dig and what type of work you'll be doing.

Local utility companies will be notified and dispatched to place

markers, showing the location of any underground lines beneath your construction project site.

Knowing where these lines run prevents unintended damage to underground utilities. Such accidents can result in property damage, the interruption of utility services, personal injuries and even loss of life.

Two full business days after submitting the 811 request, all affected utilities should have responded. If you are unsure whether to proceed with digging, call 811. Try not to dig closer than 2 feet from any flags to make sure you do not strike a line that could have shifted.

Whether you hire a professional or do it yourself, call before you dig.