

# COLUMBUS CURRENTS

## The Power Behind Your Power Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 18

By Anne Prince

You've likely noticed Columbus Electric Cooperative's (CEC) crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough- but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line or work.

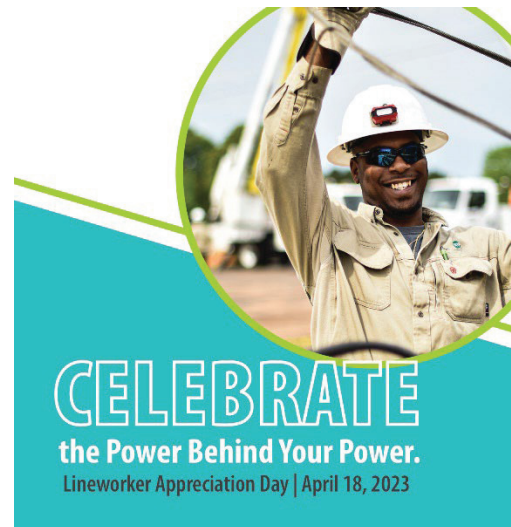
Despite the many challenges, CEC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later.

That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 18, and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



April 2023 [www.columbusco-op.org](http://www.columbusco-op.org) Vol. 34. No. 4

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# Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit call811.com to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



April is National Safe Digging Month.



Our office will be closed  
Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>  
in observance of  
Memorial Day

## Board Highlights

Once again it was business as usual at the Trustees' March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Trustees reviewed and approved the operational and financial reports for the month of February. They discussed 2023 capital items budget and the organizational chart.



## 2023 Safety Poster Coloring Contest

Every year Columbus Electric Cooperative sponsors a safety poster coloring contest for students in our service area. Congratulations to this year's winners!

Overall CEC winner and 1<sup>st</sup> place NM Statewide winner-  
Angel Rico- Columbus

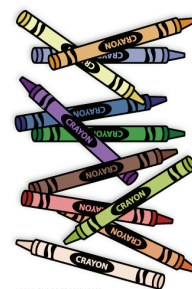
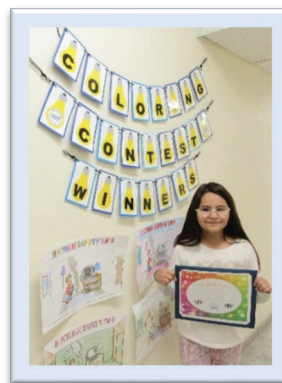
1<sup>st</sup> Place- Abigail Cuevas- Animas

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Fatima Renteria- Animas

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Angel Grado- Deming

3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Colette Cowle-Animas

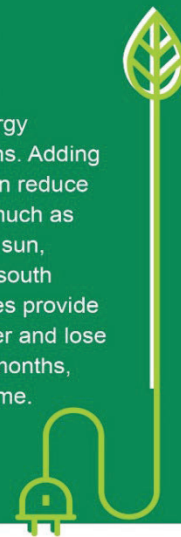
3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Unique Amaya- Deming (pictured below)



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.gov



Emergency Response Number  
1-800-228-0579

Toll - free Office Number  
1-800-950-COOP (2667)