

Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Claverack REC

570-265-2167

1-800-326-9799

Email: mail@claverack.com

Website: <http://www.claverack.com>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James E. Luce, Zone 6
Chairman

570-833-5668

Michael J. Coleman, Zone 5
Vice Chairman

570-934-2787

Steven T. Sliwinski, Zone 9
Secretary/Treasurer

570-364-5250

Danise C. Fairchild, Zone 1
Vice Secretary/Treasurer

570-265-3599

Dr. Robert R. Faux, Zone 2

570-574-3531

Angela S. Joines, Zone 3

570-756-4979

Gary L. Hennip, Zone 4

570-247-7233

Charles R. Bullock, Zone 7

570-833-4017

Charles R. McNamara, Zone 8

570-553-4385

Bobbi Kilmer

President & CEO

Staff

Annette Bender, Executive Assistant

Steve Allabaugh, Director, Engineering

Doug Nichols, Director, Operations

Shelley Young, Director, Financial Services

Brian Zeidner, Director, Member Services

Office Hours

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Jeff Fetzer, CCC, Local Pages Editor

Guest Column



Lives on the line

by Doug Nichols, *Director of Operations*

THERE are hundreds of national recognition days on the calendar every year, but one day this month has some special significance for our cooperative family.

On April 10, we celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day, so I thought it would be a good time to provide a little insight into the life of a lineman from someone who once climbed poles and helped keep the lights on for Claverack members.

I began my career in 1988 with the cooperative as an apprentice lineman and soon realized the character and qualities of cooperative lineworkers.

I often think people see our linemen in bucket trucks and think, "That's a great job." But being a lineman isn't just a job; it truly is a way of life.

Our Claverack linemen, and thousands of men and woman like them across the country, work every day, sometimes in very dangerous and challenging conditions, to keep the power flowing to your homes and businesses.

These brave men and woman repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our members. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our cooperative would not thrive.

So perhaps when you see them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds, torrential rains, snow, or freez-

ing and icy conditions, think about this: no matter the weather conditions, if the lights go out, so do they.

So many lineworkers across the country, every day, miss family functions, something as simple as having dinner together or attending a child's school event, because they are out working to restore power at your homes and businesses.

Part of what makes linework so satisfying is knowing that your hard work and efforts helped to brighten someone's day. Following a recent power outage, we received a telephone call from a member on Forest Lake Road thanking the crews who came to her family's home at 1:30 a.m. to restore power and did so quickly while working in very windy conditions. The caller wanted to make sure the crews were personally thanked for their fast response and to let them know her family was thrilled with the service they received.

While restoring power in the dead of night under difficult conditions goes with the territory of being an electric lineman, calls like this one remind our linemen that their efforts are appreciated. We hope you will join us in thanking them and all of the nation's lineworkers on their special day, April 10, 2017. 

A day in the life of a line crew

Photos by Jeff Fetzer

In recognition of National Lineman Appreciation Day, April 10, 2017, we are showcasing a day in the life of Claverack’s Tunkhannock line crew as they worked to reroute a stretch of hard-to-access electric line in Susquehanna County Feb. 14.

It was an all-hands-on-deck effort as crews worked under the deadline pressure of two planned outages scheduled for the day to accommodate the relocation of a section of line from a cow pasture/swampy area to more easily accessible locations along a pair of township roads.

Prior to their arrival on this chilly but sunny Valentine’s Day morning, crews had spent the better part of two work days setting 17 new poles along the two roads that the new lines would be built along.

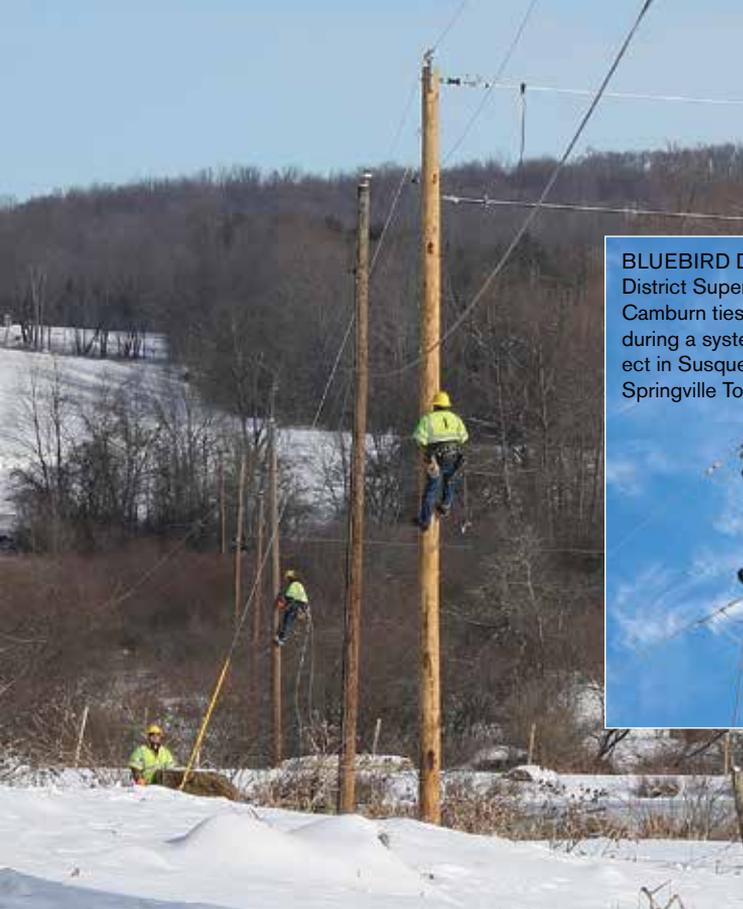
Following a safety tailboard session that took place immediately upon the crew’s arrival at the job site, the members of the line team paired up and set about the task of stringing and sagging wire along Teel and Kletsko roads.

While many people tend to think of electric line work in terms of storm outages — and to be sure, that’s an integral part of a lineman’s duties — a lineworker’s day-to-day tasks vary from line construction projects and system maintenance work to hooking up new services and responding to trouble calls and blinks. Here’s a glimpse into one day’s work with the Tunkhannock crew. ☀



POINTING THE WAY: John “Bucky” Camburn, Tunkhannock district supervisor, stresses safety and explains the plan of attack for the day’s work to line crew members during a morning tailboard session at the job site. The Tunkhannock line crew consists of, from left, Austin Kriner, Camburn, Shawn Robinson, John Farrell, John McKernan and Justin Franko.





BLUEBIRD DAY: Tunkhannock District Supervisor John "Bucky" Camburn ties in new primary line during a system improvement project in Susquehanna County's Springville Township Feb. 14.



TOUGH TERRAIN: The Feb. 14 system improvement project involved relocating a hard-to-access stretch of line that traversed a swamp, above, and cow pasture, left.

PULLING POWER: Austin Kriner, working from the ground, and John Farrell, in bucket, prepare to string wire on a new section of line along Teel Road in Springville Township.



WINDSHIELD TIME: Lineman Shawn Robinson gets ready to drive the bucket truck to the next pole. Stringing more than a mile of wire between 17 poles required frequent bucket truck moves during the course of project.



TEAMWORK: Linemen Justin Franko, left, and John Farrell join forces on a handline to hoist new conductor to a pole top along Kletsko Road.

Call 8-1-1 before digging in to spring projects

WITH THE arrival of warm weather, many members are gearing up for outdoor construction projects. If you are planning excavation work, get your project off to a safe start by calling 8-1-1 before you dig. 8-1-1 is the



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

abbreviated national telephone number homeowners and professional excavators can call

to contact their state's One Call center.

State law requires anyone doing excavation work moving earth with power equipment to notify the Pennsylvania One Call System three days before digging begins.

The purpose of the Pennsylvania One Call System is to prevent damage to underground facilities such as electric, cable, telephone, gas, water and sewer lines during excavation projects.

Digging by an uninformed homeowner or contractor not only has the potential to damage utility lines, it can also be extremely dangerous when underground electric or gas lines are involved.

By calling 8-1-1 at least three work-

ing days before you plan to begin your project, you or your contractor will know exactly what lies beneath the surface — safeguarding everyone involved.

State law requires the person performing the excavation be responsible for notifying the Pennsylvania One Call System. There is no charge involved when a homeowner is doing work on his or her own residential property.

If you are a homeowner who has hired a contractor to work on your property, the contractor is required by law to make the call to the system to have underground lines located.

Additional information about the Pennsylvania One Call System is available on the web by visiting www.pa1call.org.

OFFICE CLOSING
All Claverack offices will be closed Friday, April 14, in observance of Good Friday.

Operation Round-Up

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

With today's higher energy costs, more and more cooperative families struggle to keep up with their energy bills.

You can help some of your neighbors in need by participating in Claverack's Operation Round-Up program.



This voluntary program allows you to assist members of the cooperative who are experiencing difficulties paying their electric bills. Participating in the program is inexpensive – less than \$1 a month – and allows you to help make a difference in a neighbor's life.

CONTRIBUTING IS EASY

The concept is simple. Claverack rounds up your monthly electric bill to the next dollar amount. The difference between the round-up amount and your actual bill amount goes into our member assistance fund.

For example, if your electric bill is \$100.32, then you would pay \$101. The extra 68 cents goes into our member assistance fund for needy families of the cooperative.

In addition to being a great way to help neighbors in need, participating in the program can also make balancing your checkbook easier.

A FEW PENNIES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Each year, hundreds of Claverack members receive energy assistance in the form of government money. That financing is often targeted in congressional budget cuts; so help for needy families is never certain. That's why we began Operation Round-Up – to help more members.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

If you would like to help others, Operation Round-Up is an easy way to do so. An average yearly donation is about \$6. And if you change your mind and decide to quit, just call the office and ask to stop.

The choice is yours. Sign up today to start helping others by calling us at 1-800-326-9799. You can also sign up through our website, www.claverack.com, by clicking on Operation Round-Up under the "Your Bill" drop-down menu at the top of the screen.

