

# LINEMAN APPRECIATION



Price Electric  
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



By William L. Caynor Sr.,  
Price Electric Cooperative CEO

Linemen Appreciation? Who are these remarkable men and women, and why did they choose a career path of working at elevated heights and with energized high-voltage conductors? What drives a person to wake up at

2 a.m., after receiving an outage phone call, and go out into some of the nastiest weather that the environment can muster? That's easy; these are individuals who want to help others and have the courage and commitment to endure the discomfort of the elements and the fortitude to sustain physical demands on their body over long periods of time, with the sole purpose of assisting others to make a difference.

The importance of this extraordinary and crucial position was first recognized by U.S. Senate Resolution S. Res. 95 on April 10, 2013. S. Res. 95 created a day of recognition for linemen, and that year, and every year afterward, linemen are celebrated on April 18 for their commitment to the trade. It's their day, and I must say, it's well deserved.

The term "lineman" was originally derived for the men who set the poles and strung the telegraph lines in the 1840s. The telephone system came along in the 1870s, and these men continued with their craft, but when a young man named

Thomas Edison invented an ingenious method of lighting in 1889 called the "incandescent light bulb," our industry was born. Edison's light bulb would revolutionize an industry and the need for electricity. By 1882, Edison had completed the construction of America's first substation at 257 Pearl Street in New York City, to illuminate the city. At this time the dangers of electricity were becoming noticeable when Edison's newly buried underground cable shocked some horses as they passed overhead, and the bare wires and connections in homes caused fires. The installation of the substation and line was the advent of today's electrical or power lineman, and safety has become of utmost importance as the lessons learned have created a safety manual and regulatory requirements that continue to swell.

Nowadays, the term linemen has evolved to linespersons, as women have entered the workforce, but the numbers are still low in comparison to their male counterparts. Duke Energy, a large investor-owned utility, had 15 women out of 2,411 lineworkers in 2017. Today, Price Electric doesn't have a woman on the line crew, but we are more than open to the possibility; we just haven't had an applicant as of yet.

Given the nature of recognition of linemen on April 18, I would like to personally thank, not only our linemen, but also our former linemen in the manager of operations position, the CEO, and a member of your board of directors. Please assist me in thanking Ben, Mike, Jerel, Roy, Andrew, Chris, Tom, Dave, Colten, Mark, and Jesse for their commitment to serve you, our cooperative member/owners.



## Lineman Appreciation Day is April 18

April 18, 2018 has been designated as Lineman Appreciation Day.

Price Electric would like to thank our hard-working line crew for all they do!

L-R: Jesse Heinz (journeyman lineman), David Pisca (crew foreman), Mark Pomeroy (journeyman lineman), Colten Cummings (apprentice lineman), Roy Kirchmeyer (journeyman lineman), Chris Burnis (journeyman lineman), Tom Valiga (crew foreman), Andrew Reuterskiold (journeyman lineman), Jerel Polacek (journeyman lineman), and Ben Orysen (manager of operations).



## PRICE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SPONSORS YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Summer will be here before we know it, and that means the annual WECA Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) is coming! Each year PEC sponsors local high school students to attend this fun-filled, educational, three-day event that gives students the opportunity to learn more about the cooperative business model while honing their own personal leadership skills.

The 2018 YLC will be held at UW-River Falls on July 25–27, 2018. Here’s what student delegates can look forward to:

- A by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference that is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year’s event
- The opportunity to identify and develop your own leadership skills
- Entertaining and motivational speakers
- Meeting other students from around Wisconsin
- Staying in a dorm and experiencing life on a college campus

For more information, please contact your school’s guidance counselor or Laura Palzkill at Price Electric, 715-339-2155 or (800) 884-0881.



2017 Price Electric delegates to the Youth Leadership Congress were Olivia Ocker, Cece Fuhr, and Brooklyn Hanson.

## PEC SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS APRIL 27!

High school seniors whose parents/guardians are active PEC members are eligible to apply for \$1,000 or \$2,500 scholarships from Price Electric! More information is available in the March 2018 issue of *WEC News*, from guidance counselors at local schools (Butternut, Chequamegon, Phillips, Prentice, and Rib Lake), and on the Price Electric website at [www.price-electric.com](http://www.price-electric.com). Applications must be received by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 27, 2018.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Price Electric 78th Annual Member Meeting will be held on

**Thursday,  
June 7, 2018,**

at Phillips High School.

Join us for dinner starting at 5 p.m. followed by the member meeting at 6 p.m.



## CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

As spring arrives and projects begin, Price Electric reminds you to call Diggers Hotline at 811 at least three days before beginning any digging on your property. Diggers Hotline will help determine the locations of underground lines to help you stay safe.

## GEOHERMAL TAX CREDITS ARE BACK

In an extra bit of good news for members who installed a geothermal system last year, the 30 percent federal tax credit for geothermal heat pumps is retroactive to include systems installed on or after Jan. 1, 2017, and extends through 2021. The tax credit begins to phase-out after two years with a 26 percent tax credit in 2020, and 22 percent credit in 2021. Price Electric Cooperative members who installed a geothermal heat pump in 2017 and believe they might be eligible for a renewable energy tax credit should contact their accountant or tax preparer or contact Price Electric for available rebates.



## MEMBER SERVICE CENTER PROGRESS

The new PEC Member Service Center on Springs Drive in Phillips is taking shape! Occupation is slated for summer 2018. Here are some recent snapshots of the progress.





## Price Electric Puzzler

How closely are you reading your issue of *WEC News*? Each month, we will present a question whose answer can be found in the issue. Return the answer, and you could receive a \$25 bill credit!

Please drop off or mail your answer to Price Electric or email your answer to [info@price-electric.com](mailto:info@price-electric.com). A winner will be drawn from all correct entries on April 30.

The winners of the February PEC Puzzler were Ray and Mary Lynn Abraham. Congratulations!

### What is the date of the 2018 PEC Annual Meeting?

Answer

Name

Account Number

Phone

Please return to Price Electric Cooperative,  
508 N. Lake Ave., P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI, 54555

## 2018 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

Introducing Price Electric's member photo contest! Members are invited to submit photos for inclusion in our 2019 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

### Photo Contest Criteria:

- Photos must be taken within the Price Electric Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture life in northern Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, people, etc.).
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Photos must be high resolution—at least 300 dpi and 8"x10".



### Photo Contest Rules and Details:

- Photos must be submitted by July 31, 2018.
- Three (3) photos per member will be accepted.
- All PEC members 18 years and up are eligible to submit photos.
- A PEC member under 18 is eligible to participate, but must submit a parent/guardian form with entry.
- A completed entry form must accompany each photo.
- Member must own rights to photo.
- PEC employees will determine the winning photos.

### Photo Contest Entry Options:

- Email: [info@price-electric.com](mailto:info@price-electric.com)
- Mail: P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI 54555
- Drop Off: Price Electric Cooperative Office—508 N Lake Avenue, Phillips

Entry forms and photo release forms can be downloaded from PEC's website at [www.price-electric.com](http://www.price-electric.com), picked up at the PEC office, or emailed upon request.

## REBATE UPDATE

So far in 2018, PEC members have received **\$955** in energy efficiency rebates from Price Electric and Dairyland Power Cooperative, and **\$2,307** in incentives and savings from Focus on Energy initiatives. Please contact Price Electric or visit [www.price-electric.com](http://www.price-electric.com) for more information on how you can take advantage of energy efficiency incentives available for PEC members!



### William L. Caynor Sr., President/CEO

508 N. Lake Ave., P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI 54555  
715-339-2155 • 800-884-0881  
[www.price-electric.com](http://www.price-electric.com)

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

### Theresa Raleigh, Editor



Price Electric  
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner