



Manager's Message

Recognizing Brunswick EMC Lineworkers on April 8

By Joshua L. Winslow, CEO/General Manager

As your electric cooperative, we exist for the purpose of providing your electrical service at the highest possible value to you. Uninterrupted service is a primary facet of that value, and as we celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day on Monday, April 8, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the men and women of the line professions that make BEMC's exceptional reliability possible.

Our line professionals are driven by a sense of duty and pride in the cooperative model, and their commitment to service is only the start of what it takes to create value for you. Their profession requires a high level of skill coupled with the fortitude to endure long hours in often harsh conditions. Line workers follow a six-year line progression to achieve "First-Class" status and record many hours of continuous education each year. At the times they are needed the most, the working conditions are at their worst.

To highlight the value of this team, I would like to share just some of the metrics that BEMC analyzes to measure the performance of line operations. Our SAIDI and ASAI scores, measures for the amount of time that your electric service is available, place us in the 70th and 85th percentiles, respectively, among the more than 900 electric cooperatives across the nation. Our SAIFI score is consistently under 0.5, compared to the national average of over 1.0 for all utility types, indicating that the number of interruptions that BEMC members experience is less frequent than most.

The value of this special group of BEMC employees is maximized as they combine their individual efforts to form a team, especially during times of emergency like hurricanes and ice storms. Together, and by the support of their families, we are always impressed with the performance of our line workers. We are confident that our high level of service will only improve as we strive to return to you the highest value possible for each kWh purchased.

Understanding reliability

- **SAIFI (System Average Interruption Frequency Index)**—the average number of power interruptions a member experiences over the course of a year
- **SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index)**—the average amount of time a member is without power, measured in minutes
- **ASAI (Average System Availability Index)**—the percent of time during the year that a member has power



Don't let your laundry drive up your electric bill. Try these tips to save energy:

- **Use cold water.** This simple change can cut your energy use in half.
- **Wash full loads.** You're going to use the same amount of energy whether your washer is full or not, so avoid doing half loads.
- **Use the extended spin cycle** on the washer. This will reduce moisture in your clothes, which will reduce time spent in the dryer.
- **Don't overfill your dryer.** If the dryer is too full it will take longer for the clothes to dry.
- **Air dry your clothes.** Use a drying rack to hang your clothes inside, and when the weather is nice, try hanging your clothes on a line outside.
- **Clean the lint filter.** Built up lint presents a safety hazard, but it also keeps the dryer from operating efficiently.

Find more tips to help you save energy on your laundry at energy.gov.



Honoring BEMC line technicians

Monday, April 8, is Lineworker Appreciation Day for electric cooperatives across the country, a day set aside to recognize highly-trained line technicians for the services they perform around the clock in often hazardous conditions. Whether there is ice on the lines, a damaging storm heading our way, or if they're maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, our line technicians are always ready to respond at a moment's notice to restore your power as quickly and safely as possible. Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation is proud to honor the work of our dedicated operations team who maintain our 6,742 miles of line across our service territory.



Our line technicians are often called to assist other electric cooperatives with their power restoration efforts after a major weather event or hurricane.





Brunswick EMC's newest line apprentices at their six month job proficiency evaluation.



Lineworker positions

New line technicians work their way up through a training and certification progression that takes place over several years. Once they reach first class line technician, there are other opportunities they can move into while still maintaining their lineworker certifications. Some of the positions held by BEMC lineworkers are:

- Apprentice Line Technician I
- Apprentice Line Technician II
- Apprentice Line Technician III
- Second Class Line Technician
- First Class Line Technician
- Line Supervisor
- Substation/Transmission O&M Technician
- Service Technician
- Staking Engineer

Pictured below, many of BEMC's current line workers:





Celebrating 25 years of creative education grants

BEMC has provided local teachers with \$617,050 in funding since 1994

The Bright Ideas education grant program started at Brunswick Electric in 1994 when an employee recognized a need for additional funding in the classroom after she saw a teacher purchasing school supplies. Soon after, the grant program was adopted by 26 electric cooperatives across the state of North Carolina. Since inception, Bright Ideas has funded 11,000 innovative, classroom-based projects across the state and touched the lives of more than 2.2 million students.

Apply now!

Educators, do you have an innovative classroom project that may go unfunded? If so, apply for a 2019 Bright Ideas grant for up to \$2,000. Applications are accepted from April to September so start working on your project application today! Go to ncbrightideas.com to learn more and apply.



No such thing as free solar—say what?

Are you considering solar power for your home? If so, be wary of those \$0 out-of-pocket sales gimmicks. There is no such thing as a free solar panel; most likely these offers are tied to lease agreements where you don't actually own the panels and you pay the solar company for the power the solar panels produce each month. And remember the old adage, if it seems too good to be true it probably is.

BEMC has always been and will continue to be your trusted energy resource, so when you have questions about offers or opportunities that are out there, call us at 800-842-5871 and let us help you. We don't sell solar panels but we're happy to talk to you about

our community solar program, provide more information about adding a solar array to your home, and answer your solar-related questions to help you get started in your research.

No matter what, we encourage you to always do your research, read reviews and ask for references of any company before you sign their agreement.



CUSTOMER SERVICE (800)842-5871 | OUTAGE REPORTING (800)682-5309

Shallotte (910)754-4391 | Southport / Oak Island (910)457-9808 | Whiteville (910)642-5011

P.O. Box 826, Shallotte, NC 28459

www.bemc.org | email: newsletter@bemc.org | Auto bill payment 24/7 (866)934-6830



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Frederick Tedder
President

Phillip Cheers
Vice President

Hubert Brittain
Calvin Duncan
Moses Herring
John Kopp

Jack Miller
JoAnn Simmons
Bryan Smith
Dan Strickland
John Ward

Joshua L. Winslow
CEO/General Manager

David Gore
Secretary Treasurer

Larry Fowler
Asst. Secretary Treasurer

Dennis Worley
Attorney