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## *Powering Our Rural Communities*

### **The Power Behind Your Power**

*Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11.*

You've likely noticed DCEC's 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 11, 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.

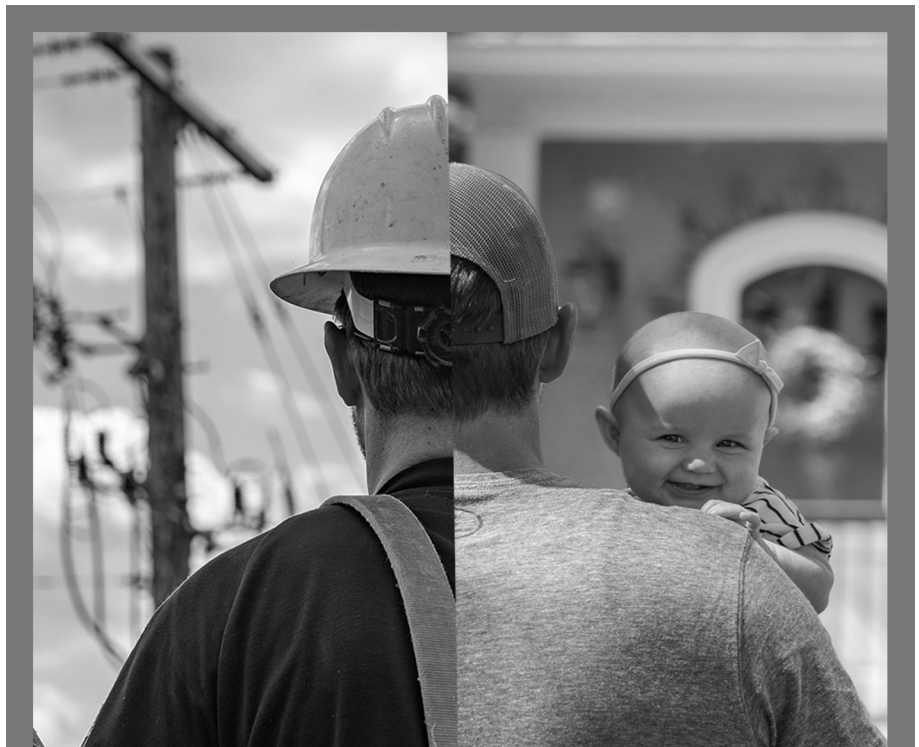
Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

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, DCEC'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.

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 11.



### **LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY**

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.



## We Are Hiring!

DCEC is currently accepting applications for the following full-time positions working from our Delhi, NY Headquarters:

- Staking Technician
- Engineering Manager

Please visit our website at, <https://dce.coop/content/job-openings> for more details and how to apply.

## Surge Suppression Basics

Less than a second...

That's all it takes for lightning or a surge to strike and cost you thousands of dollars in damage to your electronic devices and appliances: computers - garage door openers - refrigerators - TVs - satellite receivers - washing machines - stereos - fax machines - phones - and more. Each year, power surges resulting from lightning cause an estimated \$500 million in damage to electronics - most of which could have been avoided with proper surge protection.

Surge suppression equipment protects your electronic devices and appliances from lightning damage and other potential power surges by attempting to be a designed fail point similar to a one-time fuse.

### Whole house surge suppression:

Recommended to protect large appliances such as your refrigerator, washer, dryer, pump and electric range. You can purchase a service panel-based system from an electrical contractor who would wire the device to your panel. Make sure the surge protection device comes with a connected equipment warranty to cover your appliances.

### Dedicated plug-in suppression:

Recommended for equipment such as your television, computer and phones. Options range from a standard one-outlet surge protector to large multi-outlet "power strip" devices with coaxial cable, ethernet and phone attachments. Some Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) or "battery backup". This equipment can be purchased online or at various retailers. Make sure the surge protection device comes with a connected equipment warranty to cover your sensitive electronic equipment.

### Suppression Safety:

As with any electrical devices, care, maintenance, and inspection is essential. Although trying to prevent a tripping hazard, never run power cords under carpets. Understand the ratings of your electronics and never "overload" an outlet, extension cord or "power strip". Many "power strips" are not rated for "continuous use". You should always consider fully powering off devices when not in use.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## DCEC Board of Directors Appoints 2022 Nominating Committee

DCEC would like to thank the members who have volunteered to serve on this year's Nominating Committee.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Region</u>
Mark Rossley	Southern
John J. Lynch Jr.	Central
Rachel Polens	Central
Joseph Hornbeck	Northern
Adriaen Jackson	Northern

The Nominating Committee meets to identify at least two candidates to run for each seat up for election.

Rules regulating director elections are outlined in DCEC's bylaws, which are available on at [www.dce.coop/content/dcec-bylaws-policies](http://www.dce.coop/content/dcec-bylaws-policies)



## Interested in Serving on the DCEC Board?

The governing body of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative is a member-elected Board of Directors comprised of active DCEC members who are compensated for their time. The Board is responsible for the Co-op's overall policy and direction, as well as for standards and requirements for safety, affordability, and reliability. The DCEC Board is a working board with active committees. The Board currently meets in-person once monthly, typically on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The Board also has separate committees for such matters as financials, staff and organization, and core projects.

Elections will occur at the 2022 Annual Meeting for one board seat representing the Central Region, Steve Burnett.

The current Board of Directors invites any interested candidates to join a regular scheduled monthly meeting. The interested candidate can get a sense of the regular business addressed at the monthly meetings and will have the opportunity to ask any questions that they may have about serving on the Board. If you are interested in attending a Board meeting please contact the Cooperative at (607) 746-9282 prior to the meeting so we can ensure you are notified of any changes/modifications of the regular schedule.

Serving on the Board of Directors is a worthwhile and enriching experience, both personally and professionally. If you are interested in adding your name to this year's ballot, please send an email to [office@dce.coop](mailto:office@dce.coop) informing the Cooperative of your intent to do so. A letter of intent, along with a high resolution headshot, should be submitted by June 1, 2022.

## Call Before You Dig!

As spring time comes upon us we all have projects that we've waited all winter to get started and the spring weather excites us to get outside. Many of these projects include digging or excavating. Some may be big projects and others just simple things that really don't seem like much at all, but, regardless of what we may be digging it is very important to call 811 before we begin.

811 or UDig NY as many of you know is a free service for people to call to be sure that before you begin any project that requires digging, or any type of excavation, that the area to be excavated is clear of any underground utilities. These can include electric lines, gas lines, water lines and other phone or communication cables.

It is the law to make these calls to prevent not only damage to utilities but, to also protect the public from any of the danger that can be caused by coming in contact with these types of underground facilities.

Any damage caused to any types of these facilities that have not been called in to be located will be the responsibility of those doing the excavation to pay for the repairs.

Anyone who has an underground electric service going to your home can certainly call the Delaware County Electric Cooperative to have this line located. This is a cost free service to our members and we encourage you to take advantage of this.

Feel free to call the Delaware County Electric Cooperative with any questions you have and remember, as we prepare for our upcoming projects, **before you dig call 811.**



## Safe digging Starts here.

## Can You Help the Cooperative Locate Lost Members?

Being a member of a cooperative does have many perks. One perk is that if you were ever a member of the Cooperative you or in some cases your estate could potentially receive money from the Cooperative. A cooperative is not an investor owned utility. It's a not-for-profit member-owned utility. This means your cooperative does not earn profits in the sense other businesses do. Instead, any profits, or revenues remaining after all expenses have been paid, are returned to the members in proportion to their usage of the Co-op's services through capital credit allocations and retirements. Margins are "allocated" or assigned to members who belong to the Cooperative during a year in which there is a profit. The allocation is based on the member's proportion of revenue contribution for that year. Each member's portion is referred to as a "capital credit allocation." The cooperative is currently in a retirement cycle of approximately 27 years. Currently, capital credits that were allocated in 1994 & 1995 were just retired in December of 2021. Capital credits of a deceased member are paid to the member's estate. What happens to a member's capital credits if the member moves away from the system? A member who terminates service no longer receives additional capital credit allocations. It is the member's responsibility to notify the Co-op of any changes in address or phone number so the member can be located when it is time for the Cooperative to retire capital credits allocated to the member's account.

The following is a list of DCEC members whose capital credit checks have been returned to DCEC by the USPS due to an insufficient or outdated address. Please review the list and if you have any information that will be helpful to us in locating these members, please contact the DCEC office at (607) 746-2341 or email us at [billing@dce.coop](mailto:billing@dce.coop). For a complete list of Lost Members please visit our website at [www.dce.coop/content/missing-members](http://www.dce.coop/content/missing-members). Thank you for your assistance.

Adam	Joyce
Agostino	Vincenzo
All	Yvonne
Ammerman	R L
Anderson	Debra
Armstrong	Karen
Barnhart	Ryan
Bedford	Harris
Bredin	James
Bright	Christopher
Brown	Denise
Burgher	John
Callahan	Mary
Camacho	Augustino
Charlock	Raymond
Colon	Abel
D'Aleo	Thomas
Dematteo	Donna
Dibble	Wanda
Drown	Robert
Edwards	Mylz
Effner	Michelle
Fletcher	Charles
Funk	Kenneth
Gardner	Grant
Gavett	Ann
Gleason	Thomas
Hansel	James

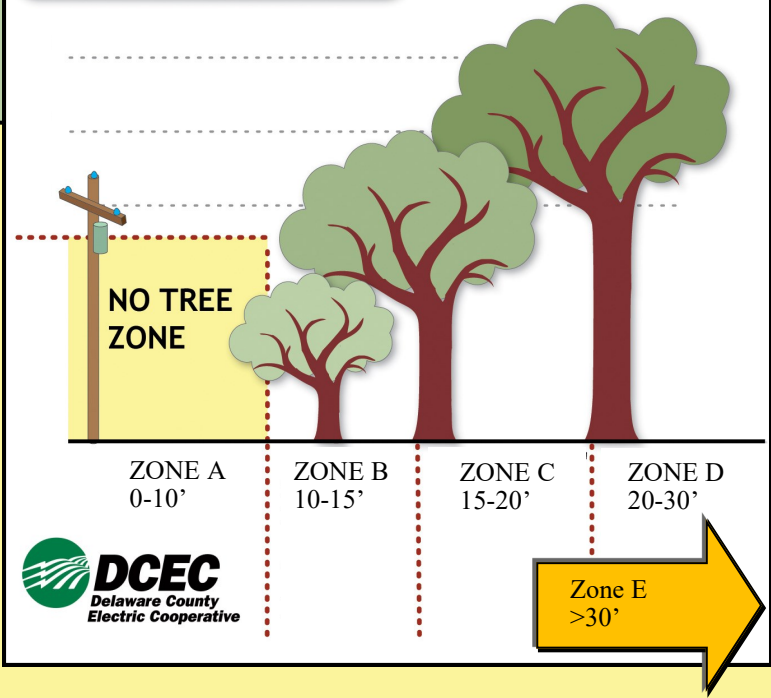
Harper	Alicia
Harris	Marc
Hummel	Diane
Ippolito	Steve
Mann	Mick
Marino	Marlene
Mc Elroy	Robert
Mc Gauley	Nancy
Misner	Robert
Moceri	Mary
Naylor	George
Orlando	Joseph
Peck	Richard
Preston	Robert
Ryall	George
Santha	Joseph
Sanzone	Thomas
Sivos	Alesia
Stein	Nadine
Tamburro	Betty
Titus	Eugene
Tyler	Brenda
Tyler	Gordon
Vroman	Reta
Wagner	Daniel
White	Robert



# TREE PLANTING GUIDE

Zone	Distance	Max Height
ZONE A	0 to 10 feet	Grasses, wildflowers, forbes
ZONE B	10 to 15 feet	8 feet tall
ZONE C	15 to 20 feet	12 feet tall
ZONE D	20 to 30 feet	18 feet tall
ZONE E	>30 feet	5 feet shorter than distance (ex: 55' away from centerline for a potential 50' tree)

## Tree Planting Guide



The following tree species have weak wood and should always be planted at distances away from the pole line that exceed the mature height of the tree:

- Alder, Red
- Athlathus
- Austrian Pine
- Basswood
- Boxelder
- Catalpa
- Poplar
- Silver Maple
- Tulip Tree (Yellow Poplar)
- Willows, including all sub-species



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

Call before you dig to locate underground utilities  
Call Dig Safely NY, by dialing 811 or 1-800-962-7962  
Also, call DCEC at (607) 746-2341, because secondary lines are not listed with Dig Safely New York.

### Annual Arbor Green Tree & Shrub Sales

The Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD)

**April 9, 2022**—Tree and Shrub Handout at SWCD Office

For an order form and additional information please visit, [www.dcswwcd.org](http://www.dcswwcd.org)

The Schoharie County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

**April 8, 2022**—Tree and Shrub Order Form Deadline

**April 29—30, 2022**—Tree and Shrub Handout at Cobleskill Fairgrounds

For an order form and additional information please visit, [www.schohariesoilandwater.org/trees](http://www.schohariesoilandwater.org/trees)



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Delhi, NY 13753  
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(866) 436-1223  
Fx: (607) 746-7548  
[www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop)

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- ⚡ High System Reliability
- ⚡ Community/Member Service

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**Marathon**  
WATER HEATERS

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available for purchase at our office

Plugs into 200 amp Meter Socket  
20 ft Cord to Connect to Generator  
Built in Surge Protector  
Accommodates 10,000 Watt Generator



For More Information or to Confirm Compatibility Please Contact DCEC at (607) 746-2341.



### DCEC's Annual Meeting Announcements

The meeting will be held  
**Friday, September 9, 2022 @ 4:30 pm**

#### Attention Members—Annual Meeting Agenda

For those of you interested in adding an item on the agenda for the **Annual Meeting of Members** please review **Member Participation in Annual Meetings of Members Policy** listed on DCEC's website, [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop), under About Us >DCEC Bylaws & Policies > Public, Member & Government Relations > Member Participation in Annual Meetings of Members or call the office directly at (607) 746-2341.

### Operations Update

Line crews are working on system reliability improvements all over adding sectionalizing capabilities to reduce outage time and speed up restorations when possible. When not working on that project crews will be addressing pole replacements reported by our pole inspectors in, Kortright and Meredith. As well as new service requests for new and existing members. Right of way crews be trimming trees and mowing in Delhi and Meredith along and off Peakes Brook.

#### COVID -19 DISTANCE NOTICE

Please do not approach crews working in the field at this time we are striving to make as little contact with our members as possible. Please give out field staff a wide berth for their safety and yours.

CATSKILL HI-LINE is a Publication of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. and is published bi-monthly for the membership. This newsletter has articles submitted by CEO/ General Manager Christopher Evans, Operations Manager Ryan Sullivan, Billing Specialist Rosemary Alwine, and Billing Assistant Alicia VanZandt.

The information contained herein is designed to promote action and discussion among members. Statements published do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Cooperative. The information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, and the editor has exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy.

#### Board of Directors

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Vice President.....	Jeffrey Russell
Secretary.....	Laurie Wehmeyer
Treasurer.....	Paul Menke
Director.....	Steve Oles
Director.....	Kim Tosi
Director.....	Steve Burnett
CEO/General Manager.....	Christopher Evans