

Lives on the Line

Lineworkers Take On Hard Work and Risks to Serve TVEC Members



MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO JERRY BOZE

WE TAKE TIME EVERY YEAR

to thank the extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in

our local communities. Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative’s service territory contains 7,485 miles of line, which is maintained by 49 lineworkers. Without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff every day to keep your electric co-op running smoothly—but on April 10, National Lineman Appreciation Day—we’re honoring our lineworkers, who regularly place themselves in challenging and often dangerous situations so that our lives can be brighter and safer every day. These brave men and women repair damaged equipment and maintain critical infrastructure. Without their hard work and commitment to a difficult job, our co-op and our communities would not thrive.

No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do the line crews. Perhaps you have seen them working in their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions. Linemen work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electric-

ity is restored to every member in TVEC’s service area.

In addition to aiding members in our own service territory, our lineworkers are willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs. Several Texas co-ops came to the aid of others who suffered severe outages due to winter storms over the past few months.

Our lineworkers are brave, committed, selfless and critical to our success. We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers—both locally and around the world—who light our lives.

Use #thankalineman on social media to show your support.

Remember: Your power works because they do!



TVEC/DOAN JOHNSON



Top: Widespread February storms put TVEC crews to the test. Downed trees, toppled poles and lightning strikes caused outages for more than 3,000 members, but lineworkers had all power restored by the end of the day.

Above: TVEC lineworkers pose for a group photo during combined safety training activities February 22 in Kaufman.

2017 Youth Tour Winners

Athens, Brownsboro Teens To Represent TVEC in Washington D.C.



HAPPY EASTER

APRIL 16

TVEC offices will be closed April 14 in observance of Good Friday.

As always, crews will be on standby in case of outages or emergencies

Two Henderson County teens are set to start summer with the trip of a lifetime after winning Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative's 2017 Government-in-Action Youth Tour contest.

Luis Suarez of Brownsboro High School and Klayton House of Athens High School were selected out of entries from around the TVEC service area for the 10-day trip to Austin and Washington, D.C.

Suarez and House will join more than 140 Texas students, and more than 1,500 students from around the nation for educational opportunities, meetings with government officials, group activities and monument visits during the trip.

Suarez noted that, as a representative

of our area, he would focus on the positive aspects of life that he has seen here.

"There is no better place to live than east Texas," he said. "The people, the atmosphere and the cooperation are unbeatable."

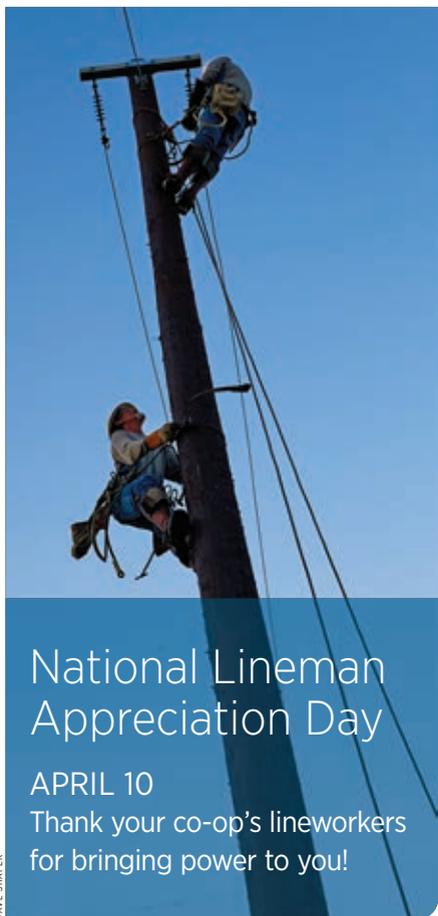
TVEC Manager of Public Relations Bobbi Byford, who will chaperone the trip, noted that the winners' futures may be shaped by the experience.

"As in the past, we have two great young people to go on this trip," Byford said. "The enthusiasm and excitement from these two young men tells me they will gain a lot from the hands-on learning and opportunities, and bring a lot of that back as they become leaders in their schools and communities."

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Luis Suarez of Brownsboro High School is one of two winners of an all-expenses-paid trip to the Government-in-Action Youth Tour in June. Also pictured are BHS Principal Brandon Jones and TVEC Manager of Public Relations Bobbi Byford.



National Lineman Appreciation Day

APRIL 10

Thank your co-op's lineworkers for bringing power to you!

DAVE SHINER



Klayton House, center of Athens High School celebrates with his family after being announced as a 2017 Youth Tour winner.

April Showers Bring More Than May Flowers

SPRING IS THE FAVORITE SEASON of many Texans—but when April showers turn into storms, they can be accompanied by dangerous conditions. Lightning kills an average of 93 Americans and injures 300 more every year, and flash floods result in 140 fatalities, according to the National Weather Service.

Thunderstorms are most likely to happen in the spring and summer months during afternoon and evening hours—but they can occur year-round and at all hours. Flash flood waves move at incredible speeds and can tear out trees and destroy buildings; walls of water can reach 20 feet or much more. Flash flooding deaths often occur at night and when victims are caught in cars.

Below are some safety tips to follow—regardless of the type of weather emergency—during this beautiful but sometimes stormy time of year.

Power Outage Tips

Before you call your co-op to report an outage, make sure you haven't blown a fuse or tripped a breaker. Look outside to see if your neighbors' lights are off.

When you call, tell your co-op if you heard any unusual sounds or can see any downed wires in the neighborhood.

Keep emergency numbers handy. Add your electric co-op's number to the list. Keep a copy of the list in every vehicle, too.

Always consider downed power lines to be deadly. Don't go near them and don't let anyone else near them. Report the situation to your electric co-op immediately.

Keep plenty of flashlights in your house, preferably one on each floor. Make sure the batteries are fresh and easy to access. Keep a light in each vehicle, too.

Have a battery-powered radio in your home, and keep fresh batteries at the ready.

Have one or more power banks charged and accessible so that you can keep a cellphone charged during an outage. A working cellphone can keep you connected and informed when everything else goes dark.

Monitor updates about widespread power outages via radio broadcasts, or text or social media updates on your cellphone.

Keep the refrigerator door closed, and open it only when absolutely necessary. Food will keep for several hours in a closed, unpowered refrigerator and up to two days in the freezer if the door stays shut.

If you use a generator during a power outage, remember that improper hookup can create serious problems in safety and service. The proper transfer switch is extremely important. Please contact your electric co-op well before an emergency for information on installing and using standby generators.

Lightning Safety Tips



With the spring comes dangerous weather conditions. Use caution on the road when encountering lightning or flash floods.

If you are caught outside, do not stand under tall objects. Go to a low place, such as a ravine or ditch. If you are in a group in the open, stay several yards apart from each other.

Avoid water and metal, including tractors and other metal equipment or vehicles.

If you are caught on a level field far from shelter and feel your hair stand on end, lightning may be about to strike you. Drop to your knees and bend forward, putting your hands on your knees. Do not lie flat on the ground.

Flooding Safety Tips

If time permits after a flood warning is issued, take essential items to safe ground. Move to high ground immediately, before the escape route is cut off.

Do not drive through flooded areas. A car can easily be carried away by just 2 feet of water, and nearly half of all flood fatalities occur in vehicles. If your vehicle stalls in a flooded area, abandon it and seek higher ground.

If your home is flooded, keep the power turned off until the water has been removed and the electrical system inspected.



TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Operating in Anderson, Dallas, Henderson, Hunt, Kaufman and Van Zandt counties

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Lobby Hours

Monday-Friday-8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m.



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For information during office hours and outages after hours

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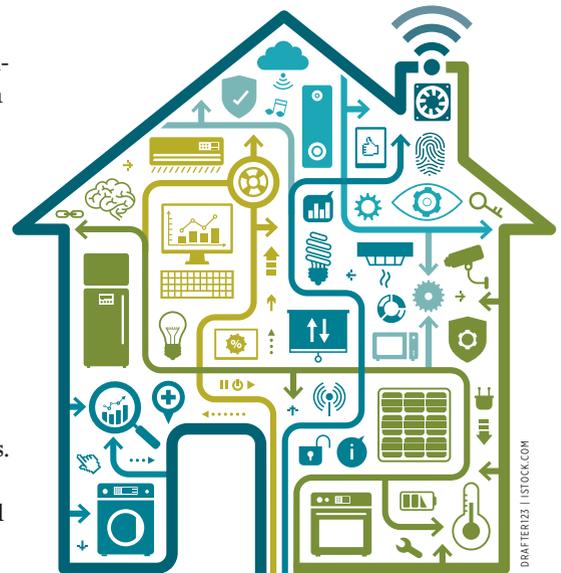
FIND US ON THE WEB AT
tvec.net

Think Outside the Box for Energy Savings

WE ALL KNOW THE USUAL WAYS to save energy and money on our electric bills, including turning the lights off in an empty room and setting the thermostat back a few degrees before bedtime.

Here are nine not-so-usual ways to cut energy costs around the house:

- 1. Paint your roof white.** Buildings with white roofs in sunny climates use up to 40 percent less energy, according to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.
- 2. Turn off everything, every night.** Unused lights aren't the only energy-wasters in your house. Before you go to bed at night, check every room and turn off ceiling fans; unplug unused phone chargers and the cable box; and check for small appliances and cords that are turned off but still plugged in. Unplug them, too.
- 3. Lower the water heater temperature to 120 degrees.** That's a temperature that's hot enough to keep your water clean and bathers comfortable—but it's low enough to prevent scalding and save you a few bucks on your energy bill.
- 4. Replace disposable air-conditioning and heating filters with reusable ones.** Doing so will save you money on filters and allow you to clean each filter more often because you won't have to wait until you buy a new one.
- 5. Switch to energy-efficient appliances.** If your refrigerator, washer, dryer or dishwasher are more than 10 years old, they're energy hogs compared with the latest models.
- 6. While caulking or weatherstripping around windows and door frames, also caulk around the top of walls in the basement, if you have one.** Look for a small gap or crack between the concrete block wall and the ceiling. Also fill in holes in the wall where wires, cables and pipes enter the home from the outside.
- 7. Buy Energy Star products.** Whenever you need something new that has anything to do with electricity—a major appliance, fan or light bulb—check for the Energy Star label. Those products are guaranteed to use less energy than other devices. Those savings add up. 30045480003



Today's homes offer many opportunities to save energy and lower your electric bill.

Win \$25 Just for Reading

Somewhere, hidden on Pages 18–23, is a TVEC account number. Read closely. If the account number is yours, contact the Member Services Department by April 28 to receive a \$25 credit on your electric bill. Don't miss out—you could be a winner.





**Family Peace Project
\$5,000**

The Family Peace Project operates a shelter and provides community awareness programs to combat domestic violence. From left are: Linda Amos, Kari Wilmeth, Mary Farmer, Teresa Fennell and Estela F. Parales. familypeaceproject.org



**FBC Eustace Snack Pack Program
\$3,000**

The FBC Eustace Snack Pack program provides nutritional assistance to students in need. From left are: Martha Black and Joy Long. fbceustace.net



Henderson County Master Gardeners - \$550

Henderson County Master Gardeners Association provides educational programs and beautification projects throughout the county. From left are: Paula Winter, Kari Wilmeth, Yvonne Sparks and Sara Drummond. henderson-co-tx-mg.org



**Lila Lane Outreach
\$2,000**

Lila Lane Outreach provides a residential program helping men overcome addiction and past self-defeating attitudes and behaviors. From left are: Chris Walker, Craig Gutermuth and Rev. Bill Hauck.



**Mabank ISD Education Foundation
\$5,000**

The MISD Education Foundation promotes innovative programs through Innovative Teaching Grants for programs throughout the district. From left are: Scott Adams, Joy Long, Robin Neighbors, Brandi Marett and Russell Marshall. mabankisd.net



Kaufman Junior High NOW Backpack Program - \$500

The KISD NOW backpack program provides nutritional assistance to students in need. From left are: Maegan McNeely, Laura Melton, Sara Maly and Jeremy Melton. kaufmanisd.net



**Gun Barrel City Rainbow Girls
\$500**

Rainbow Girls is a service-oriented leadership organization for girls ages 11-20. From left are: Rosalie Randall and Joy Long.



**Wills Point Intermediate STEM Lab
\$3,000**

WPISD's Woods Intermediate is creating a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) lab. From left are: Christy Curtis, Kelley Fletcher, Joy Long, Kimberly Moir and Melanie Mullin. wpisd.com



Cheatham Methodist Ramp Program - \$5,000

Cheatham Methodist Men build wheelchair access ramps for elderly, disabled, and needy residents in Van Zandt County. From left are: Cliff Gilmore, Bobbi Byford and Michael Neuman.



Libraries Stay Relevant and Focused With a Little Help From Some Friends

To paraphrase the great Mark Twain, the death of libraries is greatly exaggerated. Technological changes and budget cuts have had a big impact on how libraries function in the community, but the core mission of providing a space for learning, literacy, entertainment and cultural engagement remains as something public libraries are in a position to fill.

In particular, libraries are used by people who do not have access to technology. As government services, job searches and business opportunities move online, the ability to use a reliable internet connection becomes an increasingly necessary resource.

“Not everyone can afford technology, and those are the people who are underserved, especially in areas like our county,” said Van Zandt County Library Director Suzie Pulley. “They rely on the library. With technology, things have been added to our responsibilities, but without any addition of funding or staff.”

To fill the money gap, supportive organizations have stepped up to provide funding for many library programs. “Friends of the Library” groups in particular provide volunteer labor, public advocacy and a source of donations by applying for grants.

Since its inception in 2013, the TVEC Charitable Foundation has contributed \$34,000 to library groups in the TVEC service area. Many of those donations have been targeted for summer reading programs. By adding fun educational entertainment and reading incentives, organizers have seen rapid growth in participation.

“We were hitting capacity for fire code, so we have had to double book everything with two programs each day,” said Henderson County Library Director Rachel Cox. “And since we started trying to help the early literacy issues in the county, we have been giving away free books. When the kids finish a reading log, they get a free book, and we gave away almost 1,000 books last year.”

All of the fund raising efforts and volunteer time add up to big results, with upgrades to facilities and technology to help libraries stay current with community needs.

“We depend on Friends of the Library and generous groups like the Foundation that support us and give the money to do the things that our county residents need—not just want, but need,” Pulley said.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, visit your local library.



Friends of Henderson County Library - \$2,500

From left are: Kari Wilmeth, Kathie Brim, Shirley Hornbeck and Rachel Cox. hendersoncountylibrary.com



Friends of Van Zandt County Library - \$3,000

From left are: Tonja Garten, Kari Wilmeth, Suzette Branton and Kitty White. vanzandtlibrary.org

Operation Round Up Recognized by Kaufman Chamber of Commerce

TVEC members’ generosity through Operation Round Up was recognized February 28 at the Kaufman Chamber of Commerce banquet with a “Corporate Citizen Award.”

The TVEC Charitable Foundation uses member donations, averaging \$0.50 per month per participating member, to support numerous charitable causes throughout the TVEC service area.

Co-op guiding principle No. 7 is Concern for Community. Since joining together to bring electricity to rural areas more than 75 years ago, the combined efforts of co-op members has done tremendous good for our area. Thank You!



TVEC Manager of Public Relations Bobbi Byford accepts the Corporate Citizen Award from Kaufman Chamber of Commerce Treasurer Johnny Countryman.

Founded in 2013, the TVEC Charitable Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization. The foundation was created to serve the community and help improve the quality of life for residents in our service area. **The foundation is funded entirely by donations from TVEC members who participate in Operation Round Up.** For more information, please call 1-800-766-9576 or visit tvec.net.