

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

NEW ENTERPRISE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

3596 Brumbaugh Road
New Enterprise, PA 16664-8814
814-766-3221 • 1-800-270-3177
FAX: 814-766-3319
Website: www.newenterpriserec.com

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBERS

814-766-3221
1-800-270-3177

A Heartfelt Thanks



MARK MORRISON

IF YOU WERE ASKED TO associate an image or a person with New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), the picture in your mind's eye may not be someone who handles billing or IT, a receptionist, or the CEO. Instead, most folks would envision the cooperatives' lineworkers, those we call on to restore power when the lights go out. They maintain our distribution system to ensure our power stays on through the strongest storms.

"Lineworker" is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable — they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, the weather or other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb high in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to fix the problem.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain their willingness to leave the comfort of their homes to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions when everyone else is sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets lineworkers apart. That is why each April we recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

In addition to the work they do here at home, New Enterprise REC's lineworkers also serve others in the state cooperative network. Over the years, our lineworkers have answered the call from other electric cooperatives when severe weather caused outages and damaged their distribution systems. Our line crews have traveled as far as Georgia to help with restoration efforts following Hurricane Helene. We are thankful our crews have chosen a profession that requires them to work in the worst weather and repair the heaviest damage to help others.

Our lineworkers are also active in our statewide Job Training & Safety program, where they serve as instructors and teach the next generation to be the best in their craft — once again volunteering to be away from their home and family simply to help others.

On April 14 — National Lineworker Appreciation Day — please join me in thanking our lineworkers for their exceptional service. I hope you will remember you have a dedicated team of professionals working throughout the co-op to provide you, our members, with exceptional service. 🙏

MARK MORRISON
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Outages and Family Sacrifice

WENDY CONLEY, MEMBER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

EACH YEAR, WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR lineworkers on Lineworker Appreciation Day — this year, it's April 14 — for their hard work and commitment to our membership. These men and women leave their families and gatherings, including their children's sporting events, church, and birthday celebrations, to restore power when you have an outage.

But what happens after they leave to take care of you? The game goes on, the minister continues to preach and the birthday cake is enjoyed. Often, their spouse will step into a familiar role by taking over and making sure the house runs smoothly while their partner is away.

One of those spouses is Jackie Walker, whose husband, Randy, has been a lineworker for New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) for 36 years. "Randy takes pride in his work," she says, "and is always ready to go when called."

And their spouses realize that this is all part of the job.



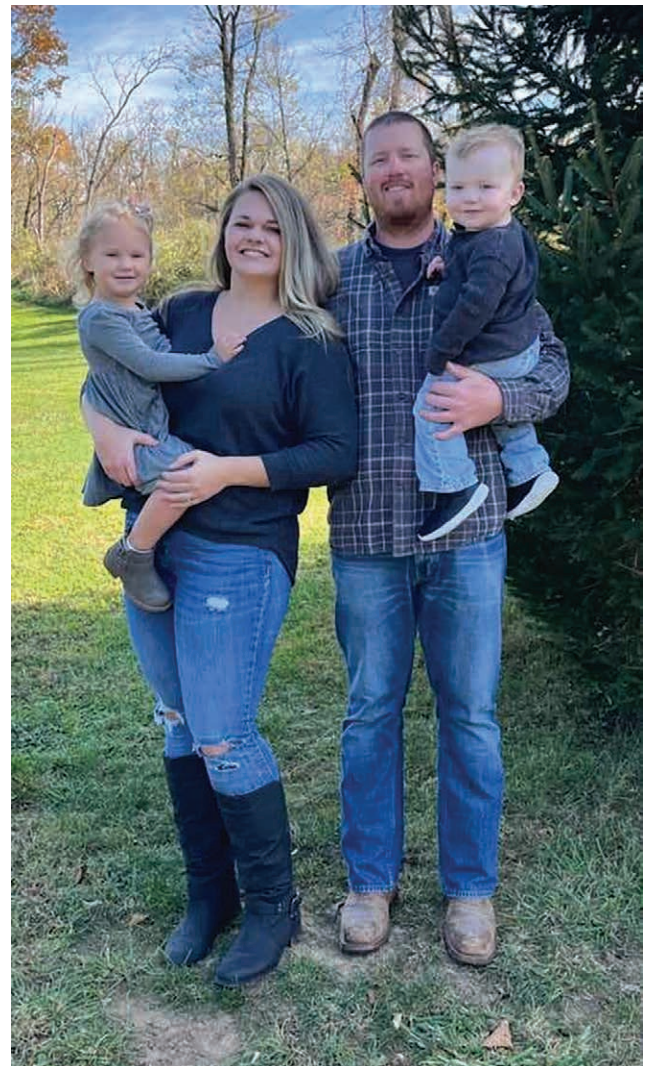
ABOVE: New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative Lineman Conner Kagarise, poses with his wife, Adrian, and their two boys, who are accustomed to his time away from the family.

RIGHT: Lineman Kyler Fink, and his wife, Morgan, enjoy a moment with their children, who say their dad is a "hero."

"The uncertainty of when they are called can be frustrating," says Jen Dell, wife of lineworker Roman Dell. "But the guys do a good job of trying to keep the time each person goes out balanced among themselves, so it isn't always the same linemen."

At times, Mike Shawley, the cooperative's outside operations manager, will receive an email from our statewide organization, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, asking if we can send staff to help a fellow co-op with storm restoration. Mike will look over the rotation list and ask the next two lineworkers on the list if they are able to help. This often happens with little notice, and crew members usually end up leaving the cooperative immediately to go home, pack, and say goodbye to their family.

Last fall, two crews from New Enterprise REC traveled to Georgia to help restore power after Hurricane Helene. Conner Kagarise was among those who answered the call. His wife, Adrian, said the family is accustomed to Conner



being away since he worked out of town before joining the crew at New Enterprise REC.

“The unpredicted storms and staying out of town are normal for our kids,” she says.

Zac Conley relies on Facetime, Snapchat and phone calls to stay in touch with his daughter when he’s away. Communication, however, can be difficult since infrastructure is often damaged during storms.

“When Zac works on storm restoration, our daughter misses him a lot. She doesn’t like him being away but knows this is what his job entails,” his wife, Tera, says, noting they plan their vacations around Zac’s on-call schedule. The other families do, too.

“Having the on-call schedule for the entire year makes planning easier,” Jen says.

Kyler and Morgan Fink have the youngest children among the lineworkers. Kyler is a “hero” to their kids, Morgan says, adding their daughter often reminds her that other people need Kyler, too, so their power can be restored. Morgan has made peace with Kyler’s career and prays for him and his crew.

She admits, however, that the on-call nature of Kyler’s job was a big adjustment at first. Now, the pair will take separate vehicles to events in case he gets called to work.

A lineworker’s job is unpredictable, physically demanding, and brings a lot of stress and danger. While their spouses must adapt, they also are supportive of the lineworker’s selfless willingness to help others in need. 📞



ABOVE: Lineman Zac Conley and his wife, Tera, plan their family vacations around Zac’s on-call schedule.



Father's day riding at Mexi



ABOVE: Lineman Randy Walker’s pets wait to greet him after long hours in the field.

LEFT: Lineman Roman Dell and his son spend their time together riding dirt bikes.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.



The New Enterprise REC office will be closed Friday, April 18, in observance of Good Friday.

Annual Meeting
Save the Date - June 3, 2025!



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

It's Easy! It's Free!

Planning a digging project in your yard or on your property? If you dig without knowing what is located below, you could damage an underground line.

Not only could you become seriously injured, but you will be responsible for the cost of repairs. To avoid hassles and fines, call 811, the Call-Before-You-Dig number, at

least two business days before breaking ground. (811 locators do not mark privately owned underground lines or pipes, such as service to outbuildings, sprinkler systems or invisible fences.)

An uneventful digging project is the best kind to have.

**Safe
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