

WVEC LINE LIFE

APRIL 2025 | PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF VERDIGRIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING | WWW.WVEC.COM

Celebrating the American Lineman

"Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who compromise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's electric cooperatives."

NRECA Resolution



WVEC

Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Jim Bracket
918-720-4531



Jack Bogart
918-371-9587



John Brogan
918-810-7131



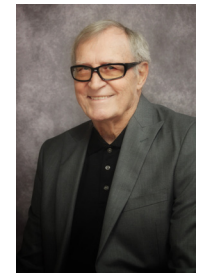
John Hibdon
918-847-2320



Jimmy Lambert
918-760-7029



Dennis Lenox
918-289-5961



Chuck Huerter
918-914-1498



Ken Howard
918-724-9965



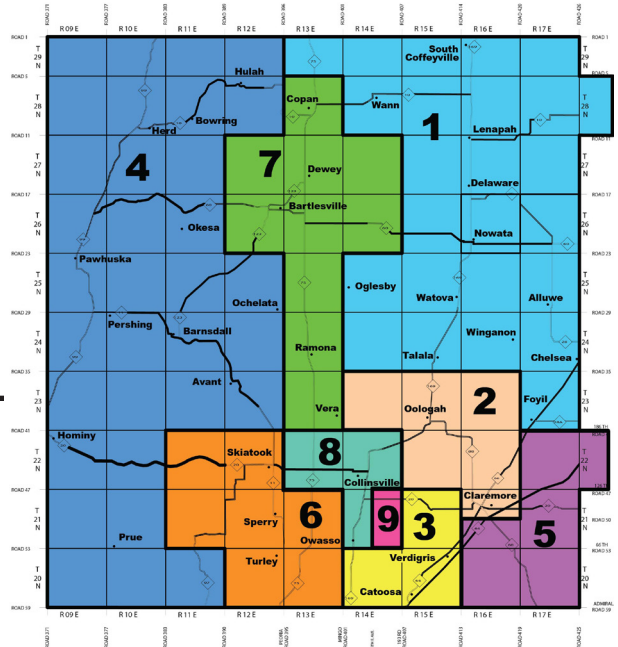
Buddy McCarty
918-272-5364



Alice Houston
General Manager



Stephen Riley
Corporate Counsel



Introducing John Brogan, Newly Elected District 3 Trustee

The Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees has elected John Brogan to fill the District 3 vacancy created by the passing of long-time board member Vernon Lewis.

Mr. Brogan is currently a partner in an independent insurance agency, *R&B Insurance Solutions*, out of Owasso.

Growing up in Indiana, he moved to Oklahoma with his family when he was thirteen. He graduated from Union High School and went on to attend Southeastern Oklahoma State College in Durant, OK, graduating with a degree in Aviation Maintenance.

He then enlisted and proudly served our country building and maintaining infrastructure in the Navy Construction Battalion, also known as the Seabees, from 1989 - 1999. During this time, he also



worked for American Airlines before he began work in the insurance field.

Mr. Brogan is married to his wife, Kim, and together they have three beautiful daughters. Most of their free time is spent at softball and cheer events for their girls but when they do find some time off, they enjoy camping!

It'll take a while to learn the inner workings of cooperative life but he's ready! "There's so much to learn and I'm excited to get in there, figure it all out and be an asset," said Brogan.

Mr. Brogan stated he is happy to take calls from members and if he doesn't know the answer just yet, he'll get the answer or point them in the right direction. Right now, he's just learning as much as possible.

Congratulations and welcome aboard, Mr. Brogan!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

JASON ADAIR



The spotlight couldn't help but land on 20-year Lineman Jason Adair! Adair was hired on as an Apprentice Lineman and, over the years, advanced to Assistant Foreman and is now the Foreman of one of the construction crews.

"I've worked at other businesses before VVEC and you realize pretty quickly how good this place really is," says Adair. "It makes your job a lot easier when you like who you work with. And I love that I get to be outside everyday."

Being outside is also a big part of life beyond the cooperative. In his free time, Adair enjoys shooting guns, hiking and mountain biking!

Congratulations on a job very well done, Jason!

"This place has been my home forever and is easily the best job I've ever had."



April Mystery Picture! Do you know where this is? Be the first to correctly guess the location during the month of April and receive a \$50 bill credit! Call Megan Jackson at 918-586-6241 to submit your guess!

March's Location correctly guessed by Kelly - Snarr school house on E 380 Rd & S 4060 Rd.

Tree crews are working to clear right-of-way on the Keetonville, Tallant, Ramona and Elm Creek substations.

Brush Coordinator:
Chub Brewer
918-586-6208



IS YOUR
ACCOUNT
NUMBER
911500602?

If so, call Megan Jackson at 918-586-6241 during the month of April and claim your \$50 bill credit! CONGRATS!



APRIL

04.01 April Fools Day
04.14 Lineman Appreciation Day
04.18 Good Friday - Offices Closed
04.20 Easter Sunday
04.23 Administrative Professionals Day
.....

Our offices will be closed on Friday, April 18, 2025 in observance of Good Friday.

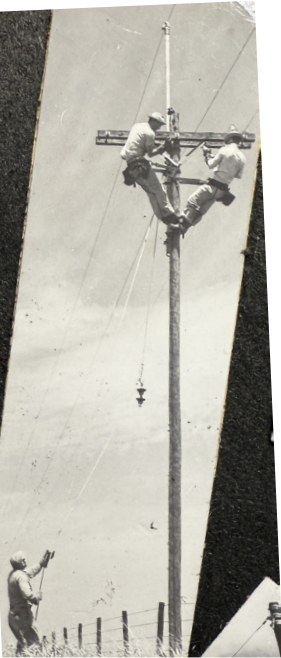
We will re-open on Monday, April 21, 2025 at 7:30 AM.

Happy Easter!



The Evolution of the **POWER LINEMAN**

Flipping a switch to have the room illuminated with light, charging a cell phone or turning on the faucet to fill the sink with hot water is a basic occurrence that happens multiple times per day without thinking twice about it. The fact is, that's only made possible by the lineworkers across the nation who bring us the conveniences of modern living through the gift of electricity.



These linemen risk their lives everyday to bring us reliable electric. Battling storms and braving extreme weather, they stand ready on the front lines of disasters. Our unsung heroes - the backbone of our infrastructure - get little recognition when in reality, they are essential to the life of our communities.

They are the heart of what we do so while we take a moment to celebrate their unwavering dedication, let's also look back at where it all started.

1800's Early Lineman Careers

The role of power linemen can be traced back to the late 1800's, a period that witnessed the rise of telegraphs, the introduction of electricity, and the expansion of the transcontinental power grid.

Linework was extremely dangerous at this time as the linemen were self-taught with little knowledge of electricity. Since safety gear and bucket trucks weren't available, men would wrap their leg around the pole and hoist themselves up to work on the lines. Despite lacking formal training and the hazards involved, these linemen found ways to get the job done.

1938

Verdigris Valley Electric is incorporated Oklahoma's third largest electric cooperative provides electric service to Nowata, Osage, Rogers, Tulsa and Washington counties. VVEC is based in Collinsville, OK, serving nearly 40,000 meters and over 4,700 miles of line.



1950

Willie Wiredhand is born



The iconic mascot of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) was created by artist Andrew “Drew” McLay to symbolize the importance of rural electricity brought to rural regions by electric cooperatives. He is still widely used to promote electric cooperatives today!

1950's

Bucket Trucks Roll In

Bucket trucks are a staple in the electric industry and while the original “cherry-pickers” were manually operated and quite limited, modern day bucket trucks have advanced safety features, continuously evolving and improving to aid our linemen in their daily work.



1971

Standard Safety Regulations

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) was created, setting standards for workplace safety and health, including lineman professions. Over the years, equipment and training have improved significantly.

2004

National Lineman Appreciation Day

The first observation of National Lineman Appreciation Day paid tribute to the hardworking linemen who maintain our electric power infrastructure. There are currently over 115,000 linemen across the nation to service over 9 million miles of wire. April 14th, 2025 is an opportunity for us to say THANK YOU to the linemen who put the work in and keep us powered each day!



2025

Verdigris Valley Electric Linemen

Our guys are second to none. They are the epitome of hard work, grit, tenacity and professionalism. They will work through the night during storms in our communities then turn around and offer mutual aid to help other towns and states without a second thought.

It's just who they are.

A Power Lineman is still in the top ten most dangerous jobs in the United States and while we happily take the second Monday in April each year to be thankful for our heroes in hard hats, it can be a continual reminder of gratitude each time you flip on the light switch.



BEHIND EVERY LINEMAN
is a family waiting for them to come home safe.

Pictured is VVEC Lineman Josh Merritt and family

Progression of a Lineman

Safety is our TOP priority on the job which is why our linemen spend thousands of hours training as they advance their skills.

GROUNDMAN

Assist line crews with tools, keep job sites safe and operate smaller equipment.

APPRENTICE LINEMAN

Earn competitive wages while receiving hands-on training and experience in the field. They typically spend four years in their apprenticeship.



JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

Post-apprenticeship with roughly 7,000+ hours of training: they are fully trained in their field. They repair, update, and install overhead and underground power lines, as well as other electrical equipment.

FOREMAN

Advanced position that requires supervising lineworkers on job sites, coordinating with contractors and directing daily activities for crews.



Our purpose is to deliver safe, affordable and reliable power but the true power lies in the hands of our amazing linemen.

DANNY BEMENT,
Director of Operations and Engineering Services

I enjoy being Construction Superintendent because every day brings a new challenge and the opportunity to lead a team that keeps the lights on for our community. It's rewarding working with a great group of men that work hard and make my job easier.

JOSH JACKSON
Construction Superintendent



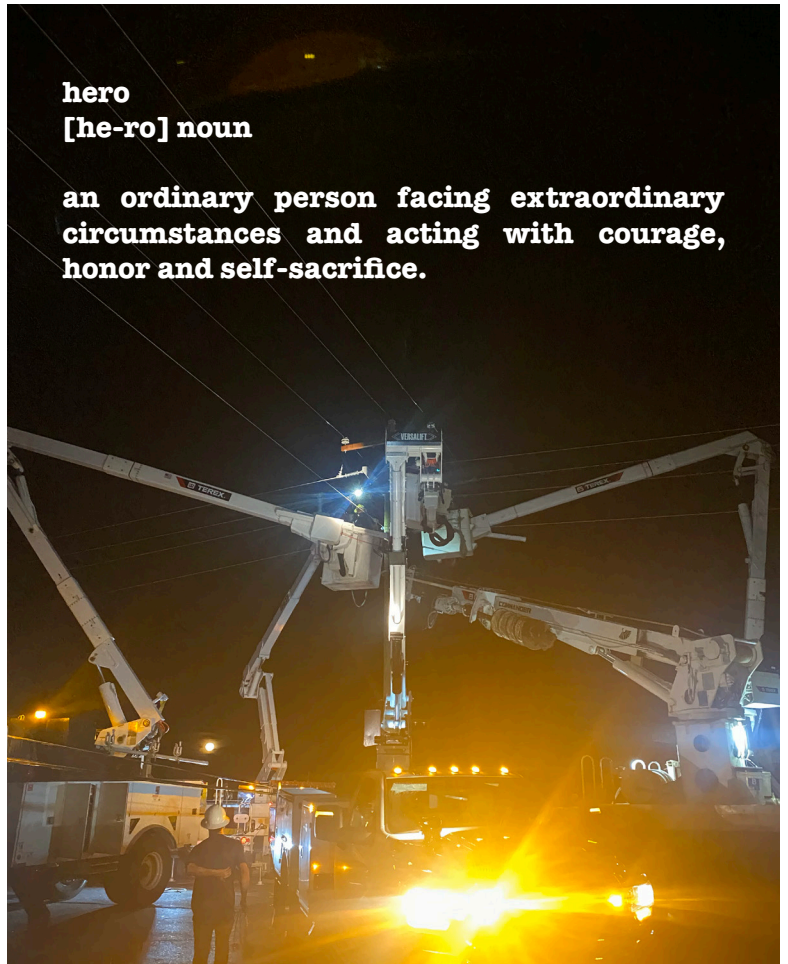
If we all do a little,
no one has to do a lot.

JEFF LORTON
Maintenance Superintendent



hero
[he-ro] noun

an ordinary person facing extraordinary circumstances and acting with courage, honor and self-sacrifice.



THE 3 MAIN TYPES OF DISTRACTED DRIVING



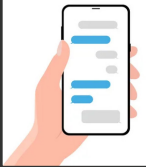
**TAKING YOUR
EYES OFF
THE ROAD**



**TAKING YOUR
HANDS OFF
THE WHEEL**



**TAKING YOUR
MIND OFF
DRIVING**



TEXTING INVOLVES ALL THREE.

**KEEP YOURSELF AND OUR
GUYS SAFE -
DON'T DRIVE DISTRACTED!**

It's not a suggestion. It's the law.

Life is fast paced, but speeding or multitasking in a work zone is not worth losing your life or taking someone else's.

To help save lives and reduce injuries, follow orange sign directives every time you approach a work zone.

2020 Work Zone Statistics*

Crashes and Injuries



Estimated total crashes
102,000



Estimated injuries
44,000

Fatalities



857
Total fatalities



244 Fatalities involving
commercial motor vehicles

Pedestrian Fatalities in Work Zones



105 Pedestrians
(non-workers)



51 Pedestrian workers

Do your part to help everyone return home safely. The orange sign is not meant for everyone else; it is meant for everyone.



*most recent data available

Sources: National Work Zone Awareness Week (nwzaw.org), National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, American Traffic Safety Services Association

**Safe
Electricity.org**

The Well-Dressed Lineman

Keeping the lights on for our members requires a variety of tools and protective clothing to keep our linemen safe on the job. Fully equipping each lineman can cost nearly \$5,000 and weigh over 40 pounds!

Check out VVEC Lineman Reese Howard to see what our guys wear every day:



Hot stick: \$500

Hard hat: \$50

Safety glasses: \$15

Fire-resistant shirt:
\$200

Rubber sleeves
(not shown): \$650

Rubber gloves and
leather protectors:
\$400

Body belt: \$500

Fall protection
device: \$1,000

Fire-resistant pants:
\$300

Pole climbers:
\$700

Lineman boots:
\$265 - \$530



VVEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

District 1: Jim Brackett - 720-4531

District 2: Jack Bogart - 371-9587

District 3: John Brogan - 810-7131

District 4: John Hibdon - 847-2320

District 5: Jimmy Lambert - 760-7029

District 6: Dennis Lenox - 289-5961

District 7: Charles Huerter - 914-1498

District 8: Ken Howard - 724-9965

District 9: Buddy McCarty - 272-5364

General Manager: Alice Lawson

CONTACT US

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Megan Jackson

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You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Director: Office of Adjudication
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
Fax: 202-690-7442
Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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CLASSIFIEDS

SUBMIT ADS to classified@vvec.com or send to ATTN: Classified, P.O. Box 219 Collinsville, OK 74021. Ads must be in writing. Your account number, name, address and a phone number is required on all ads. The deadline for all ads is the 1st of the month. Ads submitted by the 1st of the month will run in the following month's newsletter. *Classified ads are a free service to VVEC members only. As many ads as space allows will be included in each issue. VVEC reserves the right to delete or shorten items or descriptions.*

- Professional, personalized dog grooming at your home. Small dogs only. Most dogs only \$40.00. Over 40 years experience. 918-381-1170

- Handyman service to repair and remodel; affordable plumbing and electric. Call or text for free estimate; references available. 918-231-6385

- Good, used TV/Stereo table; 4 ft. wide, 2 ft. deep, 30 in. tall. \$40.00 918-381-1170

- Antique Montgomery Ward .410 single shot; \$250. 918-344-6374

- 1 22' Extension Ladder \$225 918-857-3336

- Old 8' long bench with back. 1x2 wooden slates in good condition; needs repainted. \$125 or best offer, or trade; Call or text 918-231-6385

- Large HOPI Nampeyo style pottery bowl. 12.5" wide, 6.5" deep \$495. Call or text 918-344-6374

- Portable mini-cabinet Ultra Violet Fluorescence Detector with field case. \$350 Call or text 918-344-6374

- 1 Earthquake Garden Tiller \$150 918-857-3336

- Savage .270 Model 110CL Series H. Scope; left hand bolt, locking travel case. \$800. 918-344-6374



LINEMAN APPRECIATION

We salute you for all you do to keep the lights on. #ThankALineman



WINTER RESIDENTIAL RATES

October through March usage;
November through April billing

Customer Charge | \$40.00
Energy Charge | \$.08279/kwh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 62.088 mills per kwh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes, if applicable.

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

- First, check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.

- Then, call the co-op at 371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, leave your information; every message will be answered.

- Download the SmartHub app at www.smarthubapp.com to report outages from your smartphone.