



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

TRENA QUINN

## Lives on the Line

EVERY YEAR, WE take time to thank our extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our communities. Across Navarro County Electric Cooperative’s service territory, our lineworkers maintain more than 3,000 miles of line. Without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff to keep Navarro County EC running smoothly, but April 13—National Lineworker Appreciation Day—we honor the lineworkers who often face dangerous and challenging situations so that our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day.

These brave men and women repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive.

No matter the time—day or night, weekday, or



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weekend—if the lights go out, so do they.

Perhaps you’ve seen them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community.

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

Remember, your power works because they do! ■



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Easter**  
Sunday, April 5

**National Lineworker Appreciation Day**  
Monday, April 13

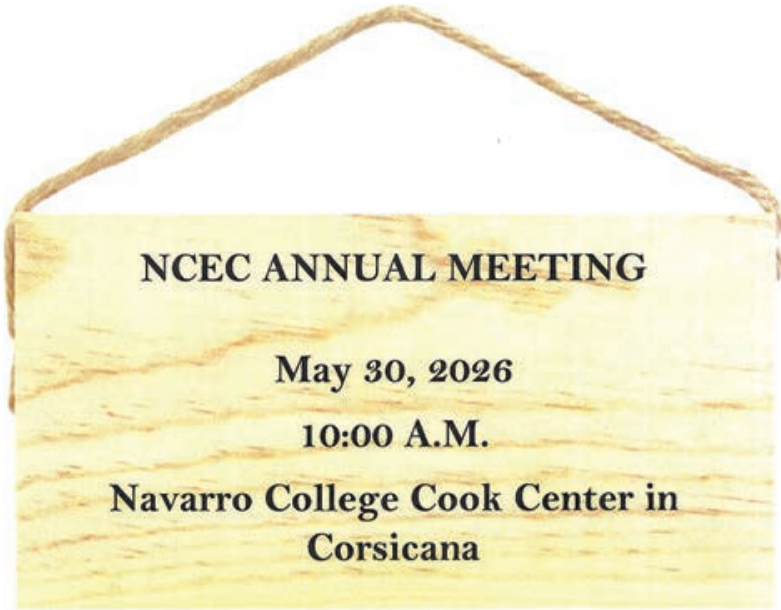
**Earth Day**  
Wednesday, April 22

**National Teach Children To Save Day**  
Thursday, April 23

**Celebrate Trails Day**  
Saturday, April 25



MARILYNA | ISTOCK.COM



## Navarro County Electric Cooperative

### CONTACT US

3800 W. Highway 22, Corsicana, TX 75110

P.O. Box 616, Corsicana, TX 75151

**Local** (903) 874-7411

**Toll-Free** 1-800-771-9095

**Email** [msdept@navarroec.com](mailto:msdept@navarroec.com)

**Web** [navarroec.com](http://navarroec.com)

### General Manager/CEO

Trena Quinn

### Board of Directors

Ron L. Buckley, President, District 2

Kent Sheffield, Vice President, District 1

George Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, District 6

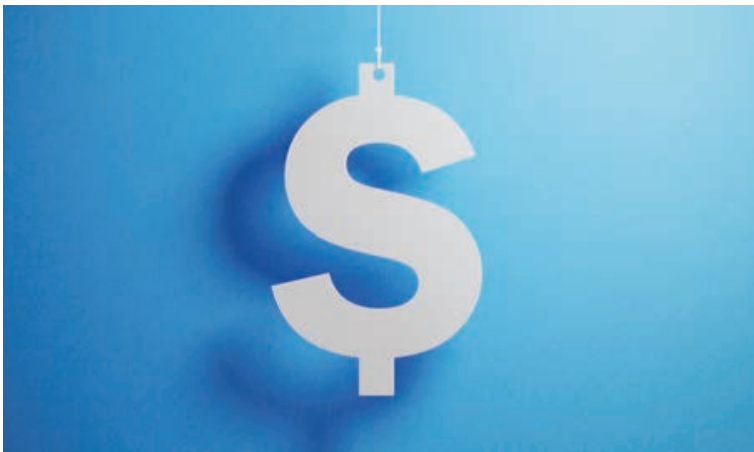
Benny Melton, District 5

Julie Mraz, District 7

Gary Murphy, District 3

Bill Southard, District 4

## Your Money Stays Local



**WHEN YOU PAY** your electric bill, you can rest easy knowing your money stays in your community.

Because you're a member of Navarro County Electric Cooperative, you are a partial owner of the utility that operates locally.

Your payments build power lines, purchase equipment and buy wholesale electricity. They also go toward the salaries of the hardworking electric cooperative employees who help keep the lights on. Those employees are likely your neighbors, friends or family. That means the money they spend in the community supports the local economy.

After all the co-op's bills are paid and emergency funds set aside, any money left over becomes capital credits. This money is returned to members when the board of directors deems it prudent. Because these funds are distributed to our members, the money remains in the area, making local communities stronger.

Your payments to your electric cooperative allow you to receive electric and stellar service while supporting the local community. ■

## 24/7

## Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and to report outages, please call us.

### LOCAL

(903) 874-7411

### TOLL-FREE

1-800-771-9095

### ABOUT NAVARRO COUNTY EC

NCEC owns and maintains more than 3,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 14,000 members in Ellis, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and Navarro counties.

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

### BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online at [navarroec.com](http://navarroec.com)
- Through the SmartHub app
- By phone at 1-855-939-3698

(Phone payments are not accepted on the NCEC office line.)

### TEXAS CO-OP POWER

NCEC provides *Texas Co-op Power* and [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) to give you information about events, safety, special programs and other activities of your cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the co-op office.

### VISIT US ONLINE

[navarroec.com](http://navarroec.com)



Check us out at

[TexasCoopPower.com/navarro](http://TexasCoopPower.com/navarro)



SANYA KUSHAK | ISTOCK.COM

## Lineworkers Are Wired for Service

**IN THE QUIET** hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety glasses, rubber gloves and heavy boots.

They epitomize dedication to service in its purest form, and that's why America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 13, Navarro County Electric Cooperative honors the hardworking people who keep the lights on, often despite challenging conditions.

To mark the occasion, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association unanimously adopted this resolution in 2014, and it still rings true today:

“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 comprise our corps of linemen;

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

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether

battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable and our communities connected.

Navarro County EC crews travel across our service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure we can live and work comfortably and emergency services remain accessible—a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

Navarro County EC lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of our service territory. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops near and far when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation Among Cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible—lineworkers, wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life. ■

# Take an Extra Second To Look Up Outdoors

Distracted farm workers are a major danger

**AS FARMERS PREPARE** to enter the fields for planting, Navarro County Electric Cooperative urges everyone working in agriculture to be alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines, poles and other electrical equipment.

Before you think an accident could never happen to you, consider electrical accident survivor Cody Conrady's experience. He shares what happened to him in an effort to help increase power line awareness.

It was Conrady's next-to-last day as an assistant manager for a fertilizer company. They were understaffed that day, and Conrady jumped in a truck to get ahead of a sprayer. Once the sprayer was in position, he hopped out to fill the tank with fertilizer. What happened next changed everything.

What he and his co-worker inside the cab were unaware of was that the sprayer boom had either made contact with or gotten too close to a power line. More than 7,000 volts of electricity traveled through the boom and electrified the equipment and ground where Conrady was standing. The unyielding stray voltage traveled through Conrady's body as part of its path to the ground.

In the minutes and hours that followed, he was brought back to life, rushed to a local hospital and then transferred via helicopter to a Level 1 trauma center. That was the start of a very long and arduous road to recovery that included many surgeries, rehabilitation and prosthetic fittings.

When working near power lines, "pay attention a little more," Conrady advises. "Keep an eye on your surroundings. Just take an extra second to look at things, to see how your situation is going to unfold."

To stay safe around overhead power lines, always follow safe work practices to help prevent serious and even deadly accidents. Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a minimum 10-foot clearance from power lines. This 10-foot rule applies not only to the area underneath the power line but to the full 360 degrees around it.

In addition, follow the safety guidelines below.

If your machinery or vehicle comes into contact with a power line, do not get out of the cab because you could be electrocuted. Instead, stay where you are and call 911.

If it's not safe to stay in the cab due to fire or smoke, make a solid, clean jump with both feet landing at the same time. Shuffle away with feet together as far as you can.

If you come across an accident near a downed power line, alert individuals (from at least 50 feet away) to stay in the cab or vehicle as long as there is no imminent danger. Call 911 and Navarro County EC and do not approach the scene.

Have a daily meeting with staff to go over possible hazards. Map out and review routes where equipment will be moved and ensure it will clear power lines.

Teach anyone working with or for you about power line awareness and proper clearance distance.

When working around power lines, always use a spotter who has a broader vantage point than the person in the cab.

Lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.

Even though planting season is a busy time filled with stress and tight deadlines, take time for safety, including electrical safety. It could save your life or the lives of others. ■



## Valdez Achieves Next Training Level

**NAVARRO COUNTY ELECTRIC** Cooperative congratulates Guillermo Valdez for completing training on his lineman apprenticeship program Level 3, bringing him one step closer to achieving the goal of lineman status.

Throughout the next year, Valdez will undergo multiple training schools and in-house workshops. He is currently working on our overhead crew building new line as well as changing out poles.

Valdez has lots of opportunities to learn more in this position as well as teach the younger apprentices around him. He will continue to do his part to provide reliable and affordable electrical service to Navarro County EC's members. ■

### POWER TIP

Avoid placing lamps or TVs near your thermostat. Heat released by these devices can cause your air conditioning to run more than necessary.