



ILEC NEWS

IOWA LAKES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APRIL 2025

OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, APRIL 18 FOR GOOD FRIDAY.



ESTHERVILLE/ SWEA CITY LINE CREW EARNED OUTAGE AWARD FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW!



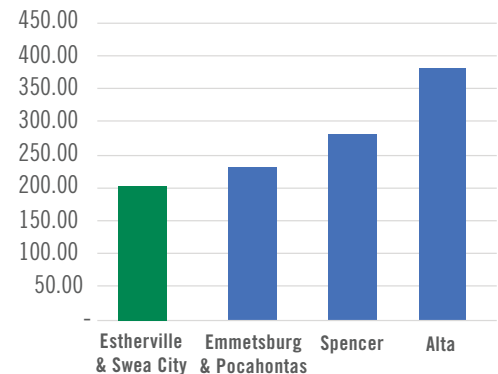
The Estherville/Swea City line crew earned the 2024 Outage Award for having the lowest number of member-owner outage hours for the year. “Nice work once again by the Estherville/Swea City crew for winning the 2024 Outage Award”, comments Ruschy. “Even though Mother Nature helped with limited severe weather events, it’s no easy task to win the award four years in a row.”

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative service center crews compete for the lowest amount of outage hours both monthly and

annually. In 2024, the Estherville/Swea City crew came in first with only 204.40 outage hours reported. The Emmetsburg/Pocahontas crew was second with 232.34 hours, followed by the Spencer crew with 280.33 and the Alta crew with 383.77 hours.

Aaron Ruschy, vice president of operations and engineering, presented the plaque to Mike Kummer, foreman, and the Estherville/Swea City crew. *Pictured above, from left to right: Tanner Brinkman, Dylan Low, Joel Quastad, Cal Wolterman, Levi Quastad, Tyson Nielsen, Craig Burgeson.*

2024 YTD OUTAGE HOURS



CRAIG APPOINTED TO TOUCHSTONE ENERGY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PRESIDENT/CEO, RYAN CRAIG

Congratulations to Ryan Craig, president and CEO, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, for becoming the newest director on the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives board.

He fills the vacancy on the board after Jim Gossett, Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative, accepted a new job with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

“Coming from the investor-owned utility world, I found my true home in the cooperative family, where member

ownership, engagement, and service drive every decision,” Craig said. “I am committed to the cooperative business model and the values that define Touchstone Energy — integrity, accountability, innovation, and community commitment. As CEO of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, I have witnessed the power of strong member engagement, and the critical role Touchstone Energy plays in supporting cooperatives and our values.”

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**NATIONAL
LINEMAN
APPRECIATION
DAY**

APRIL 14, 2025



LINEWORKERS ARE WIRED FOR SERVICE

continued from front

Craig says he believes in Touchstone Energy’s mission and looks forward to helping move the organization forward. “Touchstone Energy can strengthen engagement and loyalty by serving as a trusted resource for information, marketing tools, and unified messaging that supports cooperatives in communication their value,” he said. “By providing customizable content, advocacy support, workforce development, and peer collaboration opportunities, Touchstone Energy helps co-ops stay competitive, connected, and member-focused. Ensuring a consistent, professional brand presence across the cooperative network reinforces trust and long-term engagement with both current and potential members.”

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety glasses, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

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.

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative crews travel across our eight-county service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, 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.

Cooperative lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow cooperatives, near or 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 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, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.



OFFICE HOURS 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Mon- Fri).
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