

CONNECT

ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE

HONORING
OUR LINEMEN

GOOSE AND MONKEY
BREWHOUSE

PLANT
RESPONSIBLY

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO H. WAYNE WILKINS



April marks Lineman Appreciation Month, and affords us the opportunity to pause and reflect on just how much these folks impact our lives. Their hard work and dedication ensures that our lines stay up to date, that power is restored quickly and safely when outages strike, and best of all, that our community and members stay empowered.

Our linemen work around the clock to keep your lights on and your life empowered. With a crew number of roughly 80, the team is based on trust and integrity. Within the team, there's an understanding of camaraderie, that every single person will complete their role well, and that everyone is working with safety ever at heart. And while there is a strong sense of community within this group, there is also tremendous rigor.

After all, power outages can strike at any hour of the day, and our team of linemen are on call 24/7 to make sure that if you're ever left in the dark you don't stay that way for long. It's a trying job that exposes these individuals to the elements, high voltage and dangerous environmental situations. In best efforts to restore power, that may mean approaching the lines in inclement weather, on precarious and slippery grounds or in the pitch-black dark.

That's why in honor of National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 11 for co-ops across the nation and on April 18 for linemen everywhere, we pause to express our gratitude to those who keep us connected to one another, our comforts and our resources. It's with tremendous joy and appreciation that we dedicate this month's issue to the lineworkers who make our everyday lives empowered.

My hope is that you too will recognize their hard work and take the time to say a simple thank you — whether that's on Facebook, Twitter or even with a simple wave and a smile as you drive around town, I know they will appreciate the gesture. And to our lineworkers, from the bottom of my heart: Thank you for everything you do.

Sincerely,

H. Wayne Wilkins

DOING BETTER TOGETHER



As a leading energy services provider, we have a responsibility to push sustainable initiatives to drive for more eco-friendly energy consumption from the inside out. We all have a part to play in responsible environmental actions, and this is ours. **Check out our Sustainability Report online by scanning the QR code!**

In it, you will find how we are working to lower emissions while preserving our affordable and reliable energy that you know and love today. Take a look at these high-level successes that we've accomplished in the past year.

IN 2021 ENERGYUNITED:

- Continued to grow our Community Solar program with employees and members and met our enrollment goal.
- Continued expanding solar initiatives by breaking ground on a solar farm in Davie County, meaning the solar you receive comes from our great state.
- Purchased and installed EV charger networks within our community and expanded our own EV fleet.
- Continued our paperless billing campaign to give members the opportunity to help us save on postage and paper costs and cut back on unnecessary paper use.
- Offered even more opportunities for you to save with our Demand Response programs.
- Empowered members to better manage and save energy with targeted efficiency improvement ideas and conservation tips by encouraging you to take advantage of My EnergyHub's tools and resources.
- Continued to provide energy- and money-saving tips and resources to help you save power and money through our monthly Connect newsletter.






EVERY DAY **EMPOWERED**

MEET THE LINEMEN WHO POWER YOUR COMMUNITIES.

In honor of National Lineman Appreciation Month, we sat down with three of our linemen to discuss their paths into this profession, the relationships they've made and the impact the profession has had on their lives.

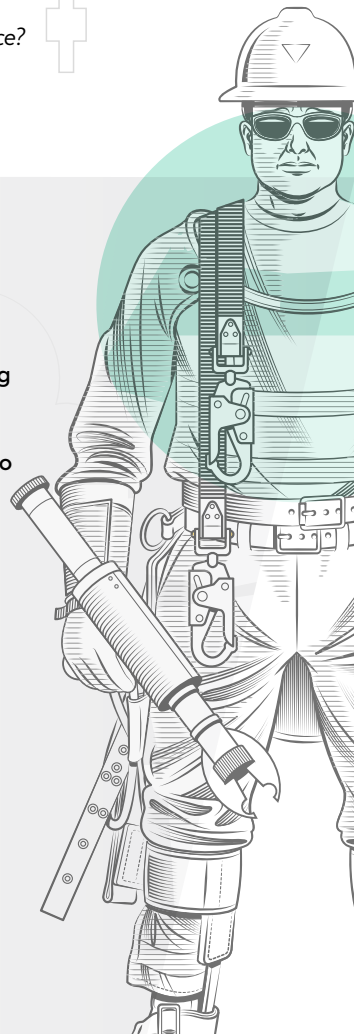
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1. How long have you been working for EnergyUnited and what is your current title?
 2. Was this your first job working as a lineman? If not, where else have you worked as a lineman?
 3. What motivated you to become a lineman?
 4. What's the best thing about being a lineman?
 5. What's the best thing about working at EnergyUnited?
 6. Who do you work with that has had the biggest impact on your career/been a role model for you?
 7. Tell us about a time when you felt what you do/your job really made a positive difference?
 8. Any other comments you would like to add?

BRADLEY O'NEAL

1. I've been with EnergyUnited for 30 years and seven months and currently work as a Crew Leader.
2. I actually got my start as a meter reader, back before everything was digital, and then transferred into becoming a lineman.
3. I was pretty young, and a gentleman asked me what I wanted to do after high school and sorta begged the question of "What do I want to do with my life?" and encouraged me to apply. Initially, I actually didn't get it. But it lit the fire and gave me the focus to get the training and the want-to to pursue it more seriously, and 30 years later, here I am.

4. When you get a day to work outside in perfect weather, you really just can't beat it. But even with outages, it's still really cool to be able to empower the communities that you live in and see it come to life again.

5. We've got a lot of respect for each other — we all have each other's backs and I've developed a lot of really good friendships. All the departments really help each other out and it's just really special to make those relationships.
6. It's hard to call out just one single person, because the reality is all of my supervisors, colleagues and teammates have been hugely influential to me.



7. I'm from Mocksville, and still live there today. So any time I'm able to restore power to the community that I live in feels particularly impactful.
8. My family is everything for me: I have two step-kids (a son and a daughter) but they've always felt like they're my own, and I really do this for them. My wife and I were fortunate enough to purchase a beach house a couple of years ago, so we head down there any chance we get and I can go fishing!

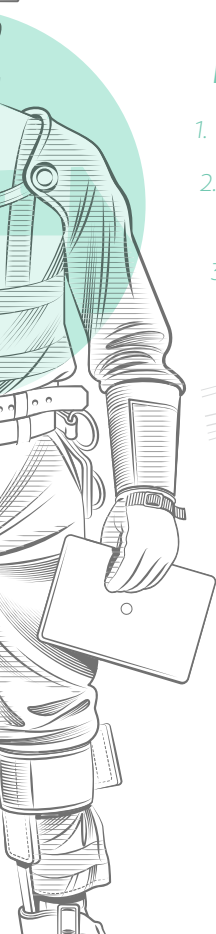


GERALD "BUCK" TUCKER

1. I work as a Crew Leader but have worked at EnergyUnited for 26 years.
2. Before EnergyUnited I was a lineman for Pike Electric for six and a half years.
3. My wife's two brothers are linemen who have both made really good careers for themselves. Talking with them and just understanding the career path in general gave me the interest in line work.
4. Being able to do different jobs in different places in the service area, being outdoors and running the big equipment are all perks to the job. But keeping the power on and restoring power for our members is always gratifying.
5. Working with a great group of guys and management that cares about its employees.
6. There have been so many great guys that I work with now and in the past that have made an impact on me and my career.
7. I feel that way when we use our training and skills to work together to restore the members' power making a positive difference.
8. I've been married to my wife Donna for 32 years, and together we have two beautiful daughters and our first grand-baby on the way. In my spare time, I enjoy hunting, golfing and vacations with the family.

DONNIE MORRIS

1. I am a journeyman lineman and have been with EnergyUnited since 1994.
2. I worked at Pike Electric for a few years and then on to being a meter reader (in fact, me and Bradley read meters together).
3. Starting out as a meter reader — you kinda want to get a sense of the bigger picture of things. And I always enjoyed this line of work and really do love what I do.
4. You get to meet a lot of great people and become a part of the community.
5. And the best thing is honestly the people I get to work with and the communities I serve. Sure, there are tough days, but the good days outweigh the bad 100:1. If I had to do it over again tomorrow I absolutely would.
6. Every person here means the world to me. We really help each other out and it's honestly so much more than a job. They all have encouraged me, and backed me up whenever I needed it.
7. I would like to think that somewhere along the way I have made a positive impact on one of the young guys who've joined our co-op.
8. I really like helping people and even work as a volunteer firefighter as well, so you could say I look for challenges that I can help solve. In my spare time I like to restore old automobiles and work toward a finished product.





Located in Davidson County in the Piedmont region of North Carolina, Lexington is known as “The Barbecue Capital of the World.” Fourteen restaurants practice the culinary craft of Lexington-style barbecue. Once dominated by furniture and textiles, this small town now thrives on tourism, championing its barbecue heritage, wine trail and outdoor activities. The heart of Lexington is its uptown area, filled with independently owned shops, galleries, antiques stores, restaurants and tasting rooms. Nearby, the up-and-coming Depot District brings a hip vibe to former furniture factories. Here are five favorites for fun in Lexington.



BARBECUE IS KING

Lexington barbecue means pork shoulders cooked over hardwood coals. The pork is chopped or sliced and served with a thin ketchup-and-vinegar sauce called “dip,” a distinctive red slaw, hushpuppies and sweet tea.



FOLLOW THE SOUTHERN GATEWAY WINE TRAIL

Lexington is located in the Yadkin Valley, North Carolina’s first federally recognized wine region. The trail showcases six wineries in and around Lexington, ranging from small boutique operations to Childress Vineyards, one of the state’s largest.



SENSE OF ADVENTURE

Paddle along a 22-mile stretch of the Yadkin River known as the Daniel Boone Canoe Trail. Hike among ancient hardwoods at the 110-acre Boone’s Cave Park adjacent to the river. Recently opened Elevated Wake Park offers all the fun of wakeboarding without needing a boat.



MAIN STREET IS A MUST

Uptown Lexington blends legacy businesses with newcomers for an eclectic retail mix. From handmade pottery and yard decor to tasty treats and natural healing products, these specialty shops are sure to surprise.



DOWN AT THE DEPOT

These brick buildings have seen a lot of change. But their latest chapter — becoming home to an amphitheater, farmers market, hard cidery and Lexington’s first brewery — is the most exciting.

To plan your Lexington adventure, go to VisitLexingtonNC.com or call (866) 604-2389.



SPOTLIGHT

FOOD, FAMILY AND **FRIENDS**

GOOSE AND THE MONKEY BREWHOUSE



In the historic depot district of downtown Lexington is Goose and the Monkey Brewhouse, a 10-barrel brewhouse that offers a wide selection of unique, inventive craft beer. The diverse tap list never fails to delight the locals and has attracted a community group all on its own. Don't believe us? Just take a peek at their growing calendar of events like bingo nights, live music, pop-up shops from local artisans and so much more!

In fact, Goose and the Monkey has been a community player since its founding and they make it a point to partner with other local businesses in whatever way they can. For example, the partnership with the Perfect Blend Coffee Roastery, and its owner Tyler Prevatte, has been a mainstay for the brewery since day one through housing the roasting operations for the Perfect Blend and even experimenting with adding Perfect Blend's coffee in their craft beer. In 2021, these partnerships extended beyond beverages when owners Brent and Ashlee Moore joined forces with Tyler Prevatte to offer Pour Folk Pizza (PourFolkProvisions.com) to their customers. Said differently: You may come for the fantastic beer, but you'll end up staying for the strong sense of community, fun events and delicious pizza.



Next up, we're highlighting Taylorsville-area spots! Submit your favorite Taylorsville cafes, bars, restaurants and bakeries no later than **APRIL 20** to EU-Communications@EnergyUnited.com.

NOW ACCEPTING **BRIGHT IDEAS!**



EnergyUnited's Bright Ideas program has expanded learning opportunities for students and teachers for over 25 years by awarding grants to North Carolina teachers to support classroom-based projects that wouldn't typically be funded by schools.

To apply, teachers must submit their innovative classroom ideas with an explanation of their goals, creative elements, implementation and the budget of the project. Grants up to \$2,000 are given to teachers who are accepted into the program.

Applications are available now through September 15, 2022. Submit your application on or before August 15 and be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.
Visit EnergyUnited.com/bright-ideas to apply.

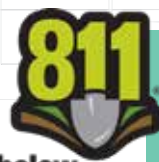
PLANT RESPONSIBLY **PLAN FOR THE FUTURE**

EnergyUnited is committed to providing safe and reliable electric service to our members. A reliable source of electricity is essential to the safety, security and economic welfare of our great nation as well as the communities that we live and work in every day. In today's environment, with more people working from home than ever, utilities must be proactive and maintain an aggressive vegetation management plan to ensure safe and reliable service.

Now that spring is here, prompting many EnergyUnited members to begin their annual planting, it's also time to remind our members about making the right decisions about planting the right species in the right location. Selecting the right species today will prevent pruning in years to come. With careful planning, trees can be planted below and adjacent to the power lines without causing future problems.

Before you plant, you should always look up and down to determine where the trees will be located in relation to overhead and underground utility lines. Many factors should be considered when planting near or around energized power lines. Before you plant, discuss with a local nursery the mature height and width of the trees.

Always remember to contact 811 prior to digging or breaking ground to prevent unintended consequences.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

YOU COULD
BE MISSING
OUT ON
MONEY!

We have millions of dollars in unclaimed capital credits for former members, and we want to get that money back to them. When members move out of our service areas and off of our lines they don't always give us their new address. After three years, however, any unclaimed money is turned over to the state. That's why it's important for you to let us know your address and other contact information any time those change!

To see a list of all members with unclaimed funds, visit EnergyUnited.com/Capital-Credits-Check.



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