


CONNECT

ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBER-OWNERS

HERE'S TO THE DEDICATED LINEMEN OF YOUR ENERGY COOPERATIVE

A photograph of five linemen in safety gear (hard hats, safety glasses, and high-visibility vests) standing outdoors on a job site. They are gathered around a white utility truck. One man in the center is holding a clipboard and looking at it, while the others are looking towards him or each other. The background shows trees and a clear blue sky.

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WADE MIZELLE

Lineman Wade Mizelle has worked with EnergyUnited for the past year and a half. He first became interested in this line of work through a family friend who worked in the industry, and the rest is history. The benefits of working for a co-op? “The camaraderie, no drama, and family feel where you really feel like you and your work matters,” states Wade. Wade is proud to work in a role where he has the ability to move up the ladder, with strong job security. He explains, “No matter how advanced technology gets, or bustling the cities become, there’s no doubt that **my job will always matter—and that feels good.**”



DICKIE BRADDOCK

Dickie has been a lineman for EnergyUnited for 29 years, so it’s safe to say he’s seen a thing or two, and met many members along the way. The aspect that stands out the most when chatting with Dickie is his appreciation for the communities he serves. “I talk with members daily,” he says. “Our kids grew up together, they played ball together, we go to church together. **It just feels like you’re doing the neighborly thing when you’re helping out in the communities that raised you.**” As a North Carolina native, this rings especially true for Dickie. “The area has changed immensely but it’s given me the opportunity to be a real part of the growing North Carolina economy. I get to meet people from all over that just moved here and I like that.”



DARYL RENEGAR

Daryl came into this profession out of his love for the great outdoors, but perhaps stayed for the adrenaline rush. He explains: “The job itself has lived up to its reputation of offering different and exciting things. We go to devastated areas during storms that are hugely eye-opening. You see things that really make you appreciate the simplest of joys.” He continues, “The job is exciting since you’re working with and holding high-voltage electricity right in your hands. **It’s a huge rush; it makes you feel special ‘cause not everyone can do this.**” Based on the risk involved, we asked Daryl who he thinks has the more challenging job: a lineman in the NFL or a lineman for EnergyUnited. He chuckles and then answers without hesitation, “We do!”

LETTER FROM THE CEO



There’s a lot that goes into providing energy to all of our members across our 19-county service area. It takes meticulous planning, a focus on safety, and the consistent work and diligent maintenance by our linemen. When winter snowstorms, hurricanes, and torrential downpours roll in, and lines go down, our linemen and crew are there to restore power in the toughest conditions.

2018 alone proved to be one of the wettest years North Carolina has ever seen—shattering rainfall records across most of the state at over 100 inches of rainfall in many areas. With rain comes power outages, and our linemen are there to answer the call 24/7. That’s why in honor of National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 8 for co-ops across the nation, we pause to express our gratitude to those who keep us connected to one another, our comforts, and our resources.

These are the men and women who risk their lives daily to keep us safe and keep our lights on. It’s with great joy and appreciation that we dedicate this issue to the linemen who make our everyday lives enriched and empowered.

My hope is that you too will recognize the work our linemen put in daily, and take time to say a simple thank you. Whether it’s a quick note on Facebook, Twitter or even a handwritten card dropped off at a local EnergyUnited office our linemen will appreciate the thanks. And to our linemen: from the bottom of our hearts, from everyone here at EnergyUnited, we appreciate you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Wayne Wilkins".

H. Wayne Wilkins

CHECK THE LIST FOR UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

As a member-owner of North Carolina’s largest not-for-profit energy cooperative, you’re entitled to the perks of membership. One of those perks is Capital Credit distributions. In December 2018, we returned \$3.5 million to member-owners in capital credits from retirement years 1990, 2002 and 2003.

Because our formula for capital credits distribution is based on previous years, often members who are entitled to capital credits have moved away from our service area and are difficult to locate. When this happens, the U.S. Postal Service returns the mailed capital credits back to us, and we make every effort to locate the person entitled to the refund. If we cannot establish the individual’s current address, the money goes into what is called an “escheat” fund in the State Treasurer’s office and is put toward the North Carolina education system.

We encourage our members to check our returned check list at [EnergyUnited.com/Capital-Credits-Check](https://www.energyunited.com/Capital-Credits-Check) for family members and friends who may not have received their capital credits. If you see anyone you know on this list, please have them call **1-800-522-3793** for more information.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR LINEMAN
BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE



IT'S EASY BEING GREEN

Spring is in full swing, which can only mean one thing for our member-owners: time to plant! With so many types of green goodies to plant in your yard, it's important to remember and adhere to our vegetation management plan to prevent service disruptions and manage the community's energy costs. Here are some ways we can work together to help reliable energy services and verdant nature live together in harmony.

1

RESEARCH IS KEY

Start with a trip to your local nursery to find out the mature height of any plants you'd like to use in your yard. Then, of course, call 811 before you dig for specific instructions.

2

SAVE SOME SPACE

Property owners might be keen on planting shrubs to screen utility cabinets and transformers. Just make sure you leave three feet of space on the left, right, and back side with 12 feet on the lock side.

3

USE APPROVED HERBICIDES

To keep growth under control and to prevent it from creeping onto power lines, we use environmentally safe herbicides as approved by the EPA, which are distributed by licensed personnel.

4

KEEP RIGHT-OF-WAYS TIDY

Our crews inspect trees along the right-of-way corridors for potential hazards such as dead or leaning trees, and limbs that have disrupted power lines. Those trees are trimmed or removed if they pose a threat.

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY, BRIGHT IDEAS!

We are proud to have provided education grants for NC teachers for the past 25 years and counting.

RING IN SPRING WITH ENERGY ADVISOR

Energy Advisor is a tool that was created to help you manage energy and costs year-round, and as the weather begins to warm, there is even more you can do to manage and save energy. Below are some tips, just in time for spring.

CREATE YOUR HOME PROFILE

Energy Advisor, our interactive tool, helps you discover ways you could be heating, cooling, and energizing your home more efficiently. Sign up at EnergyUnited.com.

OPEN YOUR WINDOWS

Take advantage of the glorious temperatures outside by letting Mother Nature do the energy lifting, and keep your home cool.

UPDATE YOUR AIR

Your air filters should be changed regularly—even more so if you own pets. It's also a good time to get your A/C unit serviced before the heat of summer sinks in.



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