



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

VOL. 59 NO. 4 • APRIL 2022

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

We are Celebrating 85 Years of serving our Communities

85th Annual Meeting of the Members of Mitchell EMC

The 85th Annual Meeting of the Members of Mitchell EMC is set for *Friday, April 15, 2022*, at the EMC headquarters in Camilla. This will be conducted as a drive-in meeting. Registration will take place in your automobile as you drive-in. The meeting will be broadcasted over your radio. A brief report of the business operations for the Cooperative will be made to the members, and we will draw for door prizes later that day and winners will be contacted. Registration begins at 7:00 am and will close promptly at 10:00 a.m. To be eligible for the drawing of prizes, you must register before 10:00 a.m. and you will not have to be present to win.

At Mitchell EMC our electric consumers are also owner-members. Each year, the Annual Meeting offers members the chance to conduct cooperative business and find out what is going on at their Co-Op. It's also a time for us to show member appreciation. Annual Meeting Day is all about YOU!



APRIL 15, 2022

In 1937, a group of dedicated and visionary men in our area made a survey among farm families to determine their need for electrical service. Much time and energy was spent to obtain applications for service and right-of-way pledges. The excitement ran high and the coming of electricity to the rural area was the conversation topic for group gatherings. After much hard work and many long hours spent in travel to and from Washington, D.C., Mitchell EMC incorporators were informed that the loan application was approved and the Charter was granted in the fall of 1937. The original loan was for \$75,000 and was granted on November 2, 1937. The original incorporators were C.F. Richards, J.B. Jenkins, R.P. Jackson, Sr., S.A. Miller, Sr., L.G. Hinson, E.L. Hilliard and David West. Later that year John Henry Pullen replaced David West and Nathan M. Keadle was made the first project superintendent. These men made up the first board of directors with Robert Culpepper, Jr. serving as attorney. The first section of line, built in 1938, covered thirty-two miles with less than two consumers per mile. The first house to receive electricity was that of Timothy Catchings, a well-known farmer living on the Sylvester Highway one mile east of Camilla. Built in 1905, this house still stands today.

The Power Behind Your Power

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11.

By Tony Tucker

You've likely noticed Mitchell EMC's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.



The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line or work.

Despite the many challenges, Mitchell EMC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Mitchell EMC has 50 lineworkers that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain approximately 5,570 miles of power lines across 14 counties and 400 square miles. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other

(Continued on Back Page.)



**Digging into
an Outdoor
Project?**



Before you dig, dial 811 or visit www.call811.com to protect underground utilities. Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Contact 811 first and help keep our community safe.

We Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade trees provide. But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season.



If you see us out in the community trimming, remember the many benefits it brings:

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs

Trimming improves service reliability for you, the members we serve.



Eighty-five years ago, a group of dedicated and visionary men joined together to start REA. Since our founding in 1937, we've grown from just a few members to more than 15,000 members.

We are proud of the progress we've made in 85 years, and we are honored to celebrate it with the people who made it all possible – that's YOU – our Members!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop. Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 11, 2022



LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.

The Power Behind Your Power - Continued from Page 2

technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11, and follow “#ThankALineworker” on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

Note: If you move or no longer have electric service with Mitchell EMC, it is important that members keep their address current, so that future disbursements can be properly mailed. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Mitchell EMC service area. Mitchell EMC will make a diligent effort to send a check by mail.

Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity

All applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or past or present military status. The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination as to promotion, discharge, rates of pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or past or present military status. M/F/V/DV/D



WATT'S COOKING



Crock Pot Mississippi Chicken

Ingredients:

3 lbs boneless, skinless chicken breasts
1 packet au jus gravy mix
1 packet ranch dressing mix
½ cup salted butter (1 stick)
6 pepperoncini peppers

Instructions:

Add chicken breasts to the bottom of the slow cooker. Sprinkle both packets of au jus gravy mix and ranch dressing mix on top of the chicken. Then, top with stick of butter and pepperoncini peppers. Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours. The chicken will produce its own juices so you don't have to add any other liquid to this. When it's ready, take a couple of forks and shred the chicken. Serve alone with sides or as a sandwich with sliced provolone cheese.

Submitted by:
The Country Cook Online

Share & Win!

Send us your favorite quick and easy dinner recipes. If your recipe is chosen for print, you can win a

\$25 credit

on your next Mitchell EMC bill.

Send recipes to: Heather Greene, P.O.
Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to
heather.greene@mitchellemc.com.