



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Melissa Gay, 434-263-7638 (mgay@mycvec.com)

Two Central Virginia Electric Cooperative Lineworkers Graduate to Next Level

(Arrington, VA) – Twenty-one lineworkers from nine electric cooperatives in Virginia have graduated from apprentice to journeyman status following their completion of thousands of hours of extensive training.

The lineworkers completed their final Step 8 journeyman class on October 2nd at the Electric Cooperative Training Center in Palmyra, Va. The Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives owns and operates the state-of-the-art center, which opened in May 2019.

Among the lineworkers to complete the training are two Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC) employees Billy Cascio of Monroe, Va and Dale Richardson of Troy, Va.

“These lineworkers are committed to their trade and we are fortunate to have them among our ranks at CVEC,” Gary Wood, CVEC President and CEO, said. “We are also fortunate to have the VMDAEC Training Center close by to offer necessary training for our lineworkers, directors, and office employees. Congratulations to our CVEC lineworkers and their colleagues from other cooperatives.”

They full listing of graduates is:

Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative: Kaleb May, Thomas L. Coates IV, Matthew Norman, Mark Mohler, Alec Gutt, Bryan Sours, J.T. Jacobs

NOVEC: Tom Geer, James Davison

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative: Billy Cascio, Dale Richardson

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative: Eric Butler

BARC Electric Cooperative: Will Reid, Cody Minter

Prince George Electric Cooperative: Ronald Wall

Southside Electric Cooperative: Albert Gaines Kiser, Jason Barringer

A&N Electric Cooperative: Tyson Scott Arnold, George Sylvester Floyd III

Northern Neck Electric Cooperative: Blaine Swann, Martin Pinon

To enter the Association’s journeyman program, lineworkers must complete 8,000 hours of classroom and on-the-job training. Todd Butcher, the Association’s manager of safety training, said the program incorporates climbing skills, knowledge of electricity, underground and substation work, safety, and leadership, among other topics.



“We try to marry every step with the last step so that these students are six months in between each step,” Butcher said.

Increasing the pool of available journeyman lineworkers is important to deal with retirements in the profession, Butcher added.

“We have to have somebody in the bullpen ready to go all the time,” he said. “The more they know, the better they are going to be as lineworkers.”

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric utility serving almost 37,000 homes, farms and businesses in the rural portions of 14 Virginia counties. CVEC is proud to be a Four-Star Cooperative for Service Excellence certified by the Touchstone Energy Service Excellence Program. CVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer. For more information, visit www.mycvec.com.

Headquartered in Glen Allen, Va., the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives provides safety and training, communications and legislative services to 15 electric cooperatives serving the three-state Mid-Atlantic region. For more information on VMDAEC and the scholarship program, visit www.vmdaec.com or www.co-opliving.com.



Step 8 Class October 2, 2020 Photo credit: VMDAEC
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