



March 12, 2021

Electric Cooperatives Lineworkers Graduate to Next Level

Four lineworkers from 3 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 March 12 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.

They are:

Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative: Douglas Napier, Joseph Kenney

Community Electric Cooperative: Ryan Hewitt

Southside Electric Cooperative: Zachary Hutcherson

“We congratulate these lineworkers on the completion of this rigorous training. They are truly an asset to their cooperatives,” said Alan Scruggs, vice president of safety and training services for VMDAEC.

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.

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

“The more they know, the better they are going to be as lineworkers,” Butcher said.