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## The Meaning of Community

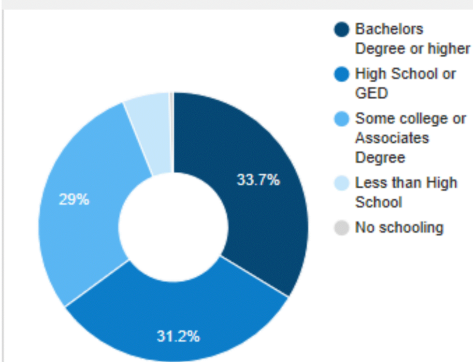
By Chris Reese, President & CEO

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We are often compared to other utilities, whether it be electric, phone or cable. We are a utility, but, most importantly, we are a cooperative and follow a cooperative business model. People often wonder what the differences are, and our members would hopefully say it means lower rates and less time without power! But, kidding aside, it really comes down to one's definition of community. We are a part of our community, we were built by people in the community, we are led by consumers in our community and we live and participate in the communities we serve. When you lose power, most of us lose power too. We live here and work here and, trust me, it is a blessing that none of us at Sussex

\* **Figure 5: Sussex County, NJ Education Attainment Breakdown**  
<http://www.towncharts.com/New-Jersey/Education/Sussex-County-NJ-Education-data.html>



Rural Electric take for granted.

It is important to us that we maintain that sense of community and to offer jobs in our community. Some of you may not be aware that only 34% of our high schoolers go on to obtain a Bachelors Degree or higher.\* We speak to high schoolers in our communities about opportunities in the trades, opportunities at our cooperative for line work and support positions. You have heard me say on many occasions, “the students of today are our

members tomorrow”. We want to see our kids stay close to home just as you do. We don't want them moving for the same job opportunities that sometimes exist right here in our own community.

SREC is committed to keeping that sense of community alive. From pre-school to college, your children might see our commitment multiple times, whether it be at an electric safety program, career fair or scholarship dinner. The cooperative has been shaped over time by the communities we serve. We will continue to contribute to our community, to try and make it a place where your kids, and our kids will one day want to raise a family.



# FIRST CLASS

By Claudia Raffay, Manager of Marketing & Member Services  
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They wake before the sun rises, pour steaming cups of coffee and kiss their family goodbye. After swinging by the office to get the day's orders, linemen climb into their trucks and head out. Our linemen form a solid team with one job: to deliver safe, reliable electricity. But that job can change in a million ways when rough weather rolls in.

Power restoration takes precedence on a lineman's to-do list. When outages occur, our linemen head out to quickly and safely restore power. No matter if it is the middle of the night or the wee hours of the morning, weekends and holidays, they are there to serve our members, and don't stop until the job is done. They are the only armed with their tools and knowledge and skills to restore downed lines, snapped poles and blown transformers.

Of course, linemen don't just strap on their climbing gear and go out to fix lines and restore outages the day they are hired. To be ready to respond, no matter the situation or weather conditions, linemen continuously train throughout their careers. But just how does one become a lineman?

The technical steps to becoming a lineman start with an apprenticeship. An apprentice linemen at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative trains for four years in the field, along with doing book work and tests. SREC has partnered with Northwest Lineman College, allowing the apprentice linemen to study specialized curriculum which culminates in tests to advance them to the next year of their apprenticeship. In the old days, they learned on the job from the experienced linemen who'd been doing it for decades. Back then, it could take up to 10 years to reach journeyman status.

For the past five years, Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative has been revitalizing its system to create a highly-trained group of linemen. This ensures that our members and the Co-op are in good hands for years to come. First class linemen Kyle Drew and Joe Underwood are the result of the revitalized system. Both started with SREC as apprentice linemen and journeyed through the four-year apprenticeship leading to the designation of First Class or Journeymen Lineman. This year, both, Kyle and Joe, received their certificates of completion from

Northwest Lineman College along with Northwest Lineman College Oath of Excellence and their new job title of First Class Lineman.

In 2018, SREC has hired two new apprentice linemen to start their journey. Regardless of how they came to be linemen, every one of the guys out in the field is dedicated to keeping a consistent, reliable and safe source of power flowing to our members.

It is estimated that more than one-third of the country's First Class linemen are likely to retire in the next 10 years, while 24 percent of those are



From Left: First class Lineman Joe Underwood, President & CEO Chris Reese, First class Lineman Kyle Drew

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## Path of Excellence

put my work with the highest of care. I put the safety of myself, my coworkers, and the community above all else. I honor my employer's mission and values, I represent myself as a professional. I follow my leaders and lead through example. I continue to learn, I am willing to teach. I strive for excellence always.

set to retire in the next five years. While our future leaders may be younger, they will require the same amount of knowledge as their predecessors. Chris Reese, SREC President and CEO, says he believes that, "Sussex Rural's linemen apprentice program is preparing them well for the future. They are from the community they now work in, and they have learned on the system that they now build and maintain."

At Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, we are at your service, to provide the best service. That includes having the best-trained professionals around. These highly skilled men light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better.



First Class Lineman Kyle Drew



First Class Lineman Joe Underwood

## Bright Idea:

### Buy Lumens, not Watts

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

*Tip: To replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that produces about 1,600 lumens.*



Incandescent  
100 watt  
**1,600 lumens**



LED  
14 - 20 watt  
**1,600 lumens**

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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps will be here soon! No matter what kind of heating system you have in your home, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. Contact a licensed professional to inspect your system *before* the winter chill arrives.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



It's not magic, it's ETS Heat!

The "magic" of the cost effectiveness of  
Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) is the ability to store heat during  
off-peak billing hours for use during higher priced on-peak billing hours.

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A variety of furnace sizes are available to fit your  
home ranging from 19.2kW—45.6kW.



ETS Furnace  
(cutaway view)



ETS Room Unit  
(cutaway view)



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