

SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC Cooperative



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PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

By **TYE WILLIAMS** | *Manager*

NOVEMBER is the beginning of another busy holiday season, unless of course Halloween is the beginning of your holiday season.

The holidays do bring up a lot of excitement and yearning for them to get here. They can also bring up dread of family political discussions, but I am not touching that with a 40-foot pole. For me, though, I look forward to the smiles on my kiddos' faces when they get to open presents or have a super yummy dessert. As a father, I need to work very hard to teach them about gratitude and having patience.

Patience is a virtue that is hard to teach, and hard to live by. I know I still struggle with patience, and it has tested me lately.

My darling, beautiful, lovely wife just had total knee replacement surgery the end of September. I was the caregiver the first week after surgery. I am not a caregiver and, for those that know my folks, my abilities would match more closely with my father than my mother. I made it through by continually reminding myself, "I love my wife, I love my wife," and now she is doing much better.

There have also been numerous challenges during my first year as general manager. Southeast Electric Cooperative (SECO) weathered the COVID-19 pandemic very well, but we are still dealing with the lingering effects of worldwide shutdowns.

Material and equipment take months to years,



when only a few years ago they would be here in weeks, if not days. Just as you are, SECO is dealing with inflation rates that have not been seen since the early 1980s.


However, the biggest challenge is navigating the hiring process after we lost good linemen who left SECO to follow other paths and ambitions.

I am actively recruiting qualified linemen and you will see some new faces by the beginning of the new year. Though we have lost good experience, we will still have more than 40 years of lineman experience on board. Let's all be sure to welcome the new folks to our area and make them feel at home!

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, we had three large expansion projects on the table. Thankfully, one of those projects has restarted and our engineering firm, ECI, is working through material lead-time challenges to finish the project.

Red Rock Power, trusted contractors we have worked with for more than a decade, will be building the transmission line.

Brink Constructors will build our substation. This project is slated to be finished by the end of February 2023.

Have a happy holiday season and hope for snow – some for agriculture and some to have fun this winter. Don't forget to call us if you have any outages or issues with your power. Thank you for being patient, because our crews always restore power as safely and quickly as possible. 

LET'S BE THANKFUL

WE get many thank yous throughout the year, and we appreciate each one. But our terrific members are what we are thankful for. You are all so patient and kind when dealing with outages, new services, trouble calls or billing questions. Never a rude word spoken. So THANK YOU ALL for making it such a pleasure to work for you at Southeast Electric Cooperative, Inc.

THANK YOU!

- Thank you for being a big part of our special day. Plevna Prom 2022 was a blast! We are so grateful for your support! – **Sincerely, Plevna High School students**
 - Thank you for all your team does to keep us warm! – **Jeff & Debbie**
 - Hats off to all of our Southeast electrical linemen, thank you so much for all the hard work that you guys do. – **David**
- We cannot thank all of you enough for all

the work you do for our county in good weather AND terrible weather. We appreciate you more than you will ever know!!! – **Madge**

• Thank you sooo much for all you do. You are appreciated!!! – **Wanda**

• I received a drink mug and a nice lightbulb at the recent Medicine Rocks Shoot. This was during the award ceremony. I didn't win anything by my own skill, but I'm grateful for the gifts you provided. Thanks for supporting this fun event! – **Dave-Miles City**

• Thank you so much for selecting me for the Southeast Scholarship & the Youth Tour Scholarship. These will benefit me as I continue my education at Black Hills State. I am majoring in elementary education, and a minor in special education. – **Thank you again, Kenzie**

• Thank you so very much for the tickets to Medora. We will enjoy them. – **Wayne & Deb**

• Thank you to all of you who stayed up all those crazy hours in all that crappy weather. We are definitely enjoying having the power back on! – **Camille**

• Thanks for you guys going out in such cold, nasty weather to get our electricity working – you're the best. – **Alice**

• We were thinking of you all!! Thanks for your service, it's greatly appreciated. – **Margaret**

• Stay safe linemen. I know how frustrating it is for them. Fix one line, only to find out another went down. The cold and wind is hard on them, too! Pray for them. – **Karen**



YOUTH TOUR
2023

DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR YOUTH TOUR ESSAY AND APPLICATION INTO SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BY NOVEMBER 18, 2022.

If you want to be part of this FREE fun week in Washington D.C., and your parents are members of Southeast Electric Cooperative, contact us today. You can check out our webpage at www.seecoop.com/youth-tour for more details, the application and essay topic. You can also email vfix@seecoop.com for more information.

Southeast Electric will be closed
on Thursday, November 24th.

HAPPY
Thanksgiving

Wishing you a day of many blessings.