

Plugged IN

In This Issue

Minnesota lineworker gives life to help others

The ice storm

In Every Issue

The board report and our regular safety feature will return in the next issue.

Minnesota lineworker gives life to help others JPEC establishes memorial fund

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, two line workers, one Jackson Purchase Energy employee and one guest worker from Minnesota, were injured when a pole snapped and they fell to the ground. Jimmy Johnson, a Jackson Purchase Energy line worker was not seriously injured and was released from Lourdes Hospital later that evening.

Andrew Reichwein, of Minnesota suffered fatal injuries in the accident and died Feb. 12, at Lourdes Hospital.

G. Kelly Nuckols, president and CEO of JPEC said, "Our thoughts and prayers go out to Andy's family. We are so grateful for all the help we have received in the aftermath of the ice storm. And, we are truly saddened that one of our guest workers was so critically injured.

Andy made the sacrifice to come here and help us in our time of need, and then sacrificed his life. Andy's giving spirit continued even in his death, as his family made the decision to donate his organs in hopes that others can benefit from their loss."

Reichwein was an eight-year employee of Connexus Energy in Ramsey, MN. Connexus Energy serves 121,000 customers and has 250 employees.

Reichwein is survived by his wife Deena and his four-year-old daughter Alexis.

Larry Nelson, a co-worker of Reichwein said, "We have been overwhelmed by the support given to us as a company and to Andy's family from your community. We have been truly welcomed into your family. Everyone at Jackson Purchase Energy and Lourdes Hospital have been so helpful."



**Memorial fund gifts
can be made at any
Paducah Bank location.**

**Mail to:
Paducah Bank
Attn: Alexis Tuscany
Reichwein Memorial Fund
555 Jefferson St.
Paducah, KY 42001**

Minnesota lineworker... (continued from page one)

"Your community's outpouring of support is truly amazing. We have been getting cards and flowers here at the hospital that just say 'injured electric worker.' These folks don't even know his name and already they are wishing us the best. You are truly blessed to live in a such a caring community," said Nelson.

After Reichwein's death, Nuckols announced JPEC had established a memorial fund for the Reichwein's daughter. He said, "Andy's daughter is a beautiful girl, and we have established the Alexis Tuscany Reichwein Memorial Fund at Paducah Bank. Our Board of Directors has already committed to a donation for the fund."

Donations can be made at any Paducah Bank location or may be mailed to Paducah Bank, attention Alexis Tuscany Reichwein Memorial Fund, 555 Jefferson Street, Paducah, KY 42001.

The ice storm

It started with the frigid cold. Then the ice came. Then more ice. Then darkness. The communities served by Jackson Purchase Energy were devastated. Nearly a month passed before power was restored to the last member. We can't thank our members enough for their patience and understanding - not to mention, the hundreds of cards, gifts of food, and letters of encouragement.

We know it has been a difficult time for our customers and we want you to know, that we did everything possible to restore service as quickly and safely as we could.

More than 20% of JPEC's electric system was on the ground when the ice finally stopped falling. We have rebuilt more than 600 of our 3,000 miles of line, with the help of about 300 guest workers from throughout the eastern half of the United States.

Line crews from as far away as Minnesota, Alabama, and the Carolinas helped us in our efforts to restore service. We realize many of you were critical of our response time during the outage. We admit, some mistakes were made;

however, many lessons were learned.

Could we have done better? Likely so. Yet, we were faced with a monumental task of hundreds of miles of downed lines, and adverse conditions including a wind storm that followed the ice several days later.

Our written emergency plan includes many "what ifs?" yet, nothing of this magnitude has ever been seen in our area.

We want to take this opportunity to first say thank you to all those who showed us patience and understanding during this trying time. We also want to apologize to those who feel like we let them down.

Cleanup efforts will continue for several months for all of us. The lessons we have learned will stick with us forever.



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Board meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month. March's board meeting will be held the evening of March 26.

Members wishing to address the board should contact the CEO's office at least seven working days prior to the meeting.

This publication is printed monthly exclusively for members of Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation. Submissions for community events must be presented in writing by the 10th of the month previous to the month of desired publication. It is the right of Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation to refuse any submission based on space availability. Only events affiliated with organizations in Jackson Purchase Energy's service area will be considered.