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# NEWSLETTER

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

September 2012

## EMPLOYEES COMPLETE APPRENTICESHIP

On June 1st of this year, Keith Zimmerman and Dan Ferris completed their lineworker apprenticeship. Keith and Dan are long time employees of Chippewa Valley Electric and started their careers here as a brusher and mechanic/storeroom clerk.

Over the years, both Keith and Dan have been dedicated employees. As our work procedures have changed we saw a need for more linemen, so in 2008 the two were given, and accepted, the opportunity to begin the Lineworker Apprenticeship Program.

The apprenticeship is a four year program set up by the State of Wisconsin. This program consists of a series of classroom studies, with documented on the

job training, in the various job duties that a lineman would perform. Over the four year program, both Dan and Keith did very well with their education and training and having done so became journeyman lineworkers this June.

Congratulations to them – a job well done!!!



Left to right: Jim Hodowanic (Line Superintendent), Keith Zimmerman, Dan Ferris, Rod Patten (Operations Manager)

## ATTENTION DUAL FUEL CUSTOMERS

All of our electric meters record kWh usage locally, as well as reporting back to our system in Cornell. Usage is transmitted using a technology called Power Line Carrier, where the data is sent using a very low level data signal on the power line.

A power failure message is received in Cornell whenever a meter is without power, due to either an outage, or in the case of a Dual Fuel Meter, a circuit breaker powered off. A requirement of the Dual Fuel program is that the meter be powered on at all times.

Most of our Dual Fuel Meters are connected to the power line via a dedicated circuit breaker, which should be tagged to be powered on at all times.

Please confirm your Dual Fuel Meter is powered on. If you have a meter with a digital display, the display should alternate between readings for

Voltage and kWh. If the display is blank, the meter is not powered on. If you have a mechanical meter with the spinning disk, please look for a small red light in the lower half of the meter.

If you have any questions, please contact our Member Services Department.

This is an excellent time of the year to have your heating system inspected and serviced. We encourage you to contact your HVAC contractor for an inspection and tune-up. For Dual Fuel customers you may only rely on your backup heating system for a few hours at a time, but keep in mind it will most likely be the coldest, most miserable days!



# PLEASE WATCH FOR CHILDREN

It's back to school time! As children get ready to go back to school it's an appropriate time to remember to watch out for their safety as they get on and off a school bus.

If you approach a school bus with flashing warning signals and an extended stop sign you must STOP. The law states that you must stop not less than 20 feet from the bus and remain stopped until the bus resumes motion or the operator extinguishes the flashing red warning lights. Failure to do so could result in a fine between \$30 and \$300. This law does not apply to vehicles driving in the opposite direction on a divided highway but does apply if no barrier is present on a multi-lane street or highway.



Passing a school bus while loading and unloading students is illegal. The flashing red lights and stop-arm are obvious signals for motorists to stop. Today's drivers have more distractions in their vehicles than ever before and they just have to pay attention; you cannot drive distracted and be safe.

Sources: [www.dot.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov) and School Transportation News ([stnonline.com](http://stnonline.com))

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