



Co-op Chronical



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March/April 2023

Live Line Demo — UDWI conducts demonstration for Smithville

Education, Training, and Information is one of the 7 Cooperative Principles and a top priority for the UDWI team. Our co-op has had great success keeping employees and members safe through the completion of various training and educational programs.

Over the last few years, the UDWI team has provided public safety training and education to law enforcement, firefighters, EMC personnel, and dispatchers in and around its service territory. In 2018, UDWI developed its own training yard to host training for its own team and other co-ops in the area.

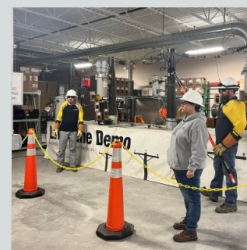
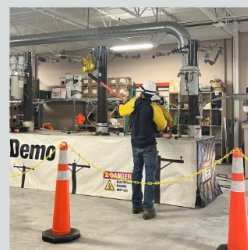
In January, three UDWI team members provided Smithville’s crews with a “table-top” interactive activity to demonstrate the danger of high-voltage live lines, hazards that can impact a live line, and how to execute proper safety when working around live wires.

Our crews used a live line display during the event, which includes a small-scale representation of the equipment UDWI uses in the field. The training equips line workers with the knowledge of how to handle downed power lines and the series of steps they need to follow during an emergency.

The goal of this demonstration was to educate Smithville crews on the danger of interacting with the high voltage lines and safety protocols for accident prevention. This collaboration with local communications providers is a top priority to ensure the safety of all crews that interact with live electric lines.

Demonstrations are available for schools, local first responders, youth organizations such as Boy and Girl Scouts, and any other organization that would like to learn more about safety around electric lines. If your organization is interested in receiving a safety demonstration from UDWI, please contact the office at (812) 384-4446 to schedule a training.

Please visit our website to learn more about our safety trainings, including a video from January's demonstration.



OFFICE INFORMATION



Our office will be closed
Friday, April 7, 2023 in observance of
Good Friday.
Wishing you a happy holiday!



ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

April 18, 2023
UDWI REMC Headquarters main garage
Doors open 5 p.m. / meeting begins 6 p.m.

Meet your Board of Director Candidates!



Candidate
David Kirkling
District 1



Director
Todd Carpenter
District 2



Candidate
Melinda Hendrix
District 4

Annual Meeting of Members

April 18, 2023

UDWI Headquarters

Doors open at 5:00 p.m. | Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.

Voting will open soon for the UDWI REMC Board of Directors Election. Although this year's seats are uncontested, the cooperative bylaws require candidates receive a mandated number of votes from the membership in order to validate the election.

Online voting will open March 17 at 8:00 A.M. and remain open through April 14. Members will receive mail-in ballot materials by postal mail. Voting online is the easiest & most economical way for members to vote. UDWI encourages members to use this free service.

Every vote counts!

Community Fund Grant Recipient Spotlight

Pregnancy Choices received a UDWI REMC Community Fund grant this past December, and is using its grant money to help purchase a year of the Bright course streaming service. This service helps the organization continue providing education to its clients.

"No one organization can provide every service or resource needed in our community, so it is important that we work together. We work hard to do what we do with excellence, get to know what other organizations are available to fill in the gaps, and make sure our clients get the referrals they need." - Rebecca Smith, Pregnancy Choices Executive Director

Pregnancy Choices is a nonprofit in Linton that helps women and families by providing factual, life-affirming information about all their options in a safe, loving, nonjudgmental environment.



Applications are being accepted from non-profit businesses and organizations for the next round of Community Fund grants until **March 15, 2023.**



From Left to Right: Lydia Campbell, UDWI REMC Office Manager, Beth Wade, Pregnancy Choices Office Administrator, and Rebecca Smith, Pregnancy Choices Executive Director

UDWI Fiber Partnership Updates

Smithville Update: The project continues to move forward as more members are provided with fiber to their homes. Members can take advantage of the early sign-up option for all future fiber locations by visiting www.smithville.com or calling (800) 742-4084 to pre-register for services.

Below is the status for the various phases: **Stanford**

- **Phase 1 thru 4** — Taking orders
- **Phase 5** — Still under construction, should be ready in early March for customers
- **Phase 6** — Currently being designed and will have some Make Ready when construction starts
- **Phase 7** — Targeted for 2024



SCI Construction Update: The fiber backbone for the Freedom West Zone is complete and the fiber cabinet is in place on Freedom Arney Road. This cabinet will serve as the source of internet service for the area. Fiber distribution construction is underway in the northwest corner along: Hoot Road, Sassafras Road, Straight Line Road, Ault Road, Dutch Bethel Road, Shepard Road, Clark Orchard Road, Harrington Road and others. We anticipate drops starting in late spring 2023 for this area. Crews will soon begin distribution construction near the Freedom area including Gentry Road, Gloryville Road, Strouse Road, and Big Four Road.

Early registration is encouraged to help expedite the construction and drop process! If you are interested in receiving fiber internet service, please register as soon as possible at join.sciremc.com.



Meter Testing Continues

UDWI meter technicians continue with routine meter tests in our entire service territory and will do so over the next few years.

Employees will be driving a white utility van with our logo placard. Be sure to identify these items before approaching any vehicle that may be in your area. Report suspicious behavior to your local law enforcement office.

"Like" us on Facebook to stay up to date on current testing locations.

Did You Know?

Members who sign up to receive electronic billing statements and opt-in for automatic payments from a checking or savings account can save money on their electric bill every month! Eligible accounts can receive a bill credit of \$2 per account every month.

For more information on this bill credit, contact customer service at 812-384-4446 or email memberservice@udwiremc.com.