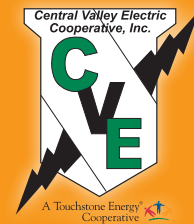




# Beyond the Wire

Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.



## Injured Lineman Speaks at Co-op

**In December, Central Valley Electric Cooperative had the privilege to welcome former Lineman Gerry Kinney to the co-op to speak to employees about the accident that took both his hands and forearms just below the elbows.**

Gerry Kinney was a Lineman at Wayne-White Electric Cooperative in Southeast Illinois, for eighteen years, and in July 2015 his life changed forever. He was working in a bucket truck when his unprotected hand came in contact with a 7,200 volt power line that entered his right hand, went across, and exited his left hand. With major burns to both his hands and arms, Gerry lost both limbs just below the elbow. Gerry stated, "I am very blessed the voltage didn't go across my heart or it would have killed me instantly." After nine surgeries, countless months in therapy, and almost five years later, Gerry can do most everything he could do before his accident with the help of his high-tech prosthetics.

The day of Gerry's accident, the men working with him were able to get him the medical attention he needed faster, because they knew how to operate the bucket truck Gerry was in, they knew the GPS coordinates of the job location to help direct emergency personnel faster, and they had repeated training on how to deal with an accident situation.

Gerry emphasized how important it is for a co-op to put safety first, and at Central Valley Electric Cooperative safety is our number one priority. CVE employees attend monthly safety meetings, and most are certified in CPR. Annually employees practice life saving skills like bucket truck and pole top rescue, and how to make proper May Day calls so they are prepared in the event of an accident like Gerry's. Employees on the construction crews and servicemen conduct tailgate discussions before every job to ensure everyone knows their role and to assess the job site for potential safety hazards. They know the GPS coordinates of the job sites in case they ever have

to call emergency personnel to a location. CVE's goal is for every employee to work safe so they can go home at the end of the day.

Blessed is a word that Gerry repeatedly used as he told us about the pain and struggles he went through, and blessed is a word he used as he shared the successes and milestones he's had since his accident. He left us with three things to guide us through life, whether you've had a life changing experience like his or not.

1. Have a good attitude. You may not always be able to have one, but a good attitude is contagious.
2. Don't ever give up. No matter your situation, have perseverance, and if you have to, ask for help to get you through.
3. Adapt to change. Things are always changing and it's not always a bad thing.

Currently, Gerry is an instructor at Frontier Community College in Fairfield, Illinois, teaching Electrical Distribution System classes to future linemen.

If you would like to hear more about Gerry Kinney and his amazing story you can watch a video titled "Not Just Another Day: The Gerry Kinney Story" on YouTube.



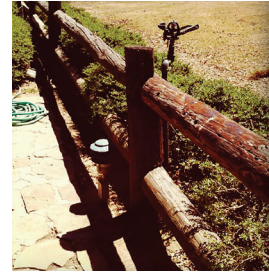
**Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

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# More Than Just a Power Pole

Central Valley Electric Cooperative has an abundance of used no value power poles that we need to get rid of. Here are just a few ways these no value power poles can be used:

- **Fencing material**
- **Garden borders**
- **Retaining walls**
- **Furniture**
- **Back yard pergolas**
- **Seasonal decorations**
- **And much more**



Used power poles are **FREE** to anyone who can use them. Just bring a truck and trailer and our friendly warehouse staff will load up as many as you want. If you can imagine it, then we have the power poles to make it happen.



For more information on how you can get FREE used no value power poles, please give us a call during normal business hours at 575-746-3571.

## Changes to CVE Yard Lights

If you currently pay for a high pressure sodium (HPS) yard light through CVE there will be changes when the yard light bulb burns out and needs to be replaced.

High pressure sodium bulbs are becoming increasingly harder to get and are not considered to be energy efficient. Therefore, when your HPS yard light burns out give us a call and we will replace it with a more energy efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulb. The monthly fee of \$9.28 plus tax will stay the same when replaced with a 35 watt LED bulb. However, if you would like the bulb to be replaced with a brighter 70 watt LED bulb the price will increase to \$21.08 plus tax per month.

If you have any questions please contact us at 575-746-3571.

## Welcome New Employee



**Adam Gomez**  
Electrical Engineer

Adam Gomez, a recent graduate of New Mexico State University, joined the CVE team on January 2. Gomez will be working as an Operations Electrical Engineer Tech. Please help us welcome Adam Gomez.

**Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday