

Byron Dunn

Veteran Colorado lineman Byron Dunn spent most of his career working for the municipal utility in Longmont, Colo. In 1997, Byron started powerlineman.com. This was a website “Built By Linemen, For Linemen,” where they could network, learn from one another, find jobs, post pictures and stories, find vendors for tools and supplies, and much more. In 2001, Dunn began work on a quarterly magazine with the same purpose in mind. The inaugural issue in 2002 focused on the restoration of the electrical infrastructure in lower Manhattan following the 9/11 attack. Byron Dunn has spent the intervening years traveling the country to attend events, visit worksites, meet with organizations and listen to the stories from the frontlines of the lineman trade in order to give them a voice in Powerlineman magazine and on powerlineman.com.

Ernie Waltz Jr.

Ernie Waltz Jr. devoted 54 years of service to the electrical lineman industry. He retired from Tipmont REMC in Linden, Ind., in February 2014. During his time as a lineman, he devoted himself to being a mentor and teacher. He shared his knowledge and experience to help improve work procedures during storm restoration work and never stopped embracing the changing and improving safety devices for linemen. At 76, he trained on and embraced the buck squeeze device and his example continues to inspire others. Ernie’s commitment to training new linemen in safety, as well as leadership, has left a lasting impression at his local co-op and around the region.

James “Jim” McKenna

James McKenna started working for Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) as a groundman in 1961. He rose quickly, becoming general foreman within ten years. By the end of his 35 years of service, he’d served as Operations Manager and Manager of Robotics and Technology R&D Division. While working with R&D, Jim was instrumental in bringing new technologies to the field including directional boring, mobile infrared utility inspection, robotic assist arms, and the prototype robotic utility vehicle. He’s also published several articles relating to his innovative work.

John Green

39-year lineman veteran John Green started out as a groundman with Texas’ New Braunfels Utilities and spent the last 20 years of his career as Electric Superintendent. He was a mentor and leader to all around him and greatly respected by coworkers out in the field and back in the office. John designed New Braunfels Utilities’ Apprentice Program in conjunction with the Department of Labor. Over the course of his career, he was instrumental in forming the Texas Electric Power Conference, where he later served as an officer, as well as serving on the executive board of the Municipal Electric Service Association and the board of directors for the Texas Lineman’s Rodeo Association. Outside of work, John is a tireless volunteer and well known within his community for his efforts.