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# INSIDER NEWSLETTER

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## IMEA APPRENTICE LINEMAN TRAINING CENTER

The IMEA board and staff are thrilled to announce that we have signed a lease agreement with Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, IN, for our new training center dedicated to the Lineman Apprentice Progression Program (LAPP).

This is a groundbreaking partnership focused on enhancing the education, training, and career development of IMEA apprentices, as well as supporting the ongoing education of member utility professionals.

For almost 20 years, the IMEA apprentice program has operated on a mobile basis, relocating annually to different member utilities and relying on borrowed space and equipment to fulfill its mission. This new partnership will allow us to enhance the curriculum and acquire the necessary equipment to better train the next generation of professionals for our member utilities.

IMEA will have a dedicated classroom for our workshops, a 10-acre outdoor training yard, and a distribution system with both overhead and underground systems for apprentices to gain hands-on experience. Additionally, the college provides several 5-bedroom apartments for apprentices, cutting lodging costs by over 50% for a one-week workshop.

With electricity demand anticipated to rise by approximately one-third over the next decade, the Department of Energy predicts that at least 20,000 additional linemen will be required to expand the grid and upgrade aging power lines in nearly every town and neighborhood across the country.



*St. Joseph College Rensselaer, IN.*

Entering the lineman profession has always come with a distinct prerequisite: the ability to climb wood poles. Following the Department of Transportation's introduction of the Entry Level Driver Training program before individuals can take the CDL exam, many employers have added a second pre-employment requirement: a Class A CDL.

Alongside our Apprenticeship Program, we will be introducing a 5-week Pre-Apprentice Program for those interested in pursuing a career as a lineman and not currently employed by a utility. This program will cover the following:

- Wood Pole Climbing Qualification
- Electric Utility Safety
- Basic Electrical Fundamentals
- Electric Utility Orientation
- Specialized Equipment Orientation
- Class A CDL

This new program will not only generate revenue to help offset training costs for members but also create a pool of qualified applicants for apprenticeship positions.

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We plan to launch the new program in the fall of 2025, although, as many of you are aware, securing materials and ensuring availability will be one of our biggest challenges.

The CDL Entry Level Driver Training will also be available to current IMEA Member apprentices participating in the IMEA 610 Wood Pole Climbing Workshop. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to reach out to me.

Duane Richardson  
Executive Director, IMEA



**Welcome to Rising Sun, Indiana**  
*Host of the 2025 IMEA Annual Business Meeting*  
Our History: City of Rising Sun, Indiana



In 1814, John James of Fredericksburg, Maryland, journeyed to the area and purchased a large tract of land from Col. Benjamin Chambers, who had acquired it while conducting the original survey for the Northwest Ordinance. James and his son, Pinckney, surveyed the land and platted what was to be Rising Sun. In 1816, he registered the town of Rising Sun. Several legends attempt to explain James' choice of name for his small town. Some say it was taken from an early ferry on the riverfront. Others say James chose it because he was so struck by a view of the sun rising over the Kentucky hills.

IMEA  
INDIANA MUNICIPAL  
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

2025 IMEA ANNUAL  
BUSINESS MEETING  
& VENDOR EXPO

Unlocking Leadership  
Growth: Strategies for  
Success

WELCOME  
TO THE CITY OF  
**RISING SUN**  
INDIANA

WELCOME THE  
HOST OF THE  
2025 IMEA  
ANNUAL  
BUSINESS  
MEETING &  
VENDOR EXPO

The City of Rising Sun  
& Rising Sun Utilities

Registration Coming in  
May 2025!

Please visit: [www.imea.com](http://www.imea.com)



*Scott Henry,  
Utility Superintendent*



*Dale Turner,  
Electric Supervisor*

## **Scott Henry and Dale Turner, City of Rising Sun**

Scott Henry serves as both Electric, Water and Wastewater Superintendent of the City of Rising Sun and has been employed with the Utility for 31 years. Dale Turner is the Electric Supervisor for the City of Rising Sun and has been employed with Rising Sun Utilities for 26 years. Both Scott and Dale enjoy working in the field and assisting / leading their crew in serving their community.

All share respect for one another, offering each professionalism and consideration where each value the commitment displayed to serve Rising Sun Utility customers and assist each other to do the job performed properly and provide open communication towards one another.

### **Safety is Key!**

Safety is extremely important at the Utility. Leadership focuses on the importance of safety equipment & always being aware of your surroundings. Wearing the proper PPE attire, which also include PPE gloves and hard hat while on the job.

### **Current Projects**

Rising Sun Electric Utility holds up to 1,631 meters and is in the process of \$7 million dollar upgrade to their substation as well as a \$14,500 conversion to AMI Meters.

Rising Sun Utilities is a supporter of the membership of IMEA. Taking advantage of its training programs: Apprentice, Extended Lineman and Safety. In which they state are superb programs offered to their utility crews. Appreciating the convenience of Safety to be brought to the Utility so that all can remain on site when or if needed.



# **IMEA**

INDIANA MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

### **Careers in Public Power**

Public power is more to communities than just an essential utility. It is a source of unique and fulfilling career opportunities in your local community. Employees make a difference by serving their own neighborhoods and families. Talented high school, college and technical college graduates and even technology, environmental and public service professionals will find that competitive salaries aren't the only thing attractive about careers in public power.

Do you have important news or photos that you would like to share in our bi-weekly newsletters? Please email all news and photos to [janel@imea.com](mailto:janel@imea.com)

To post a classified ad to our jobs in Public Power page. Please email text to [janel@imea.com](mailto:janel@imea.com).

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