

Energy Specialist, Mike Demeris, retires after 30 years of service

Whenever Ripley Power and Light made suggestions to customers on ways to save energy, Mike Demeris tried it at his home first.

"I always put it in my house first," said Demeris, Power and Light's energy services specialist, who is retiring from the utility after 30 years. "I had to experience it before I could recommend it."

Today, he has perhaps the most energy-efficient home in the Ripley area. The highest electric bill he can remember for his 2,000-square-foot home is \$150, he said. "My bills are very low. And I face east-west, too."

Through the years, his energy-saving list included ...

- ▶ Triple-pane glass windows
- ▶ Dual-fuel heat pump and later a high efficiency electric heat pump
- ▶ High efficiency electric water heater
- ▶ An air flow test to identify leaks around doors, windows and elsewhere
- ▶ Sealant to close any leaks
- ▶ Sealant around receptacles and pipes to block any other leaks
- ▶ R-30 insulation in the attic
- ▶ Ventilation in the attic
- ▶ High efficiency lighting
- ▶ Motion detector switches
- ▶ New ductwork, installed to TVA standards
- ▶ Purchasing high efficiency electric appliances as old appliances needed replacing.
- ▶ Planting three trees in the front yard to block the western sun.

"All of these things add up to using less electricity each month," Demeris said. "The typical house wastes 15 to 30 percent of its heating and cooling because of infiltration. Unlike most companies, we help people put us out of business."

When Ripley Power and Light added its surge protection program to help customers protect appliances and electric equipment from power surges that occur both inside and outside of



Mike Demeris
Energy Services Specialist

the home, Demeris installed the first surge protection in the area on his electric meter, he said.

Demeris, who was raised in Chicago, began living in the YMCA when his father died. He was 15.

He worked at a Chicago factory and then joined the U.S. Air Force when he was 17. After five years in the military, he returned to Chicago. He and his wife decided to move to her home state of Tennessee. There he went to school on the G.I. bill and earned an associate degree in residential and commercial heating and air conditioning.

Demeris worked for several companies, including a heating and air conditioning contractor, Trane Consumer Products Division and TVA, before applying for the job of energy services specialist at Ripley Power and Light.

Mike and his wife, Debbie, have four children.

Demeris, who officially retires May 31, says he will miss his job. "I want to thank all of the customers and my coworkers. This has been the best place I have worked in my life."

In retirement, he plans to play golf, fish, buy a boat, take courses in Spanish and computers, travel, spread the gospel "to bring others to Christ," and get plenty of rides in on his motorcycle. "I'm moving into another phase of my life," Demeris said, "and I am looking forward to it."

Ripley Power and Light offices will be closed ...

- Thursday, July 4, for Independence Day
- Monday, September 2, for Labor Day



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Ripley

Summer 2019

POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

Utility receives highest honor for providing safe, reliable electric power

Ripley Power and Light Company has once again earned a Reliable Public Power Provider (RP₃) Diamond designation – the highest available – from the American Public Power Association for providing reliable and safe electric service.

Ripley Power and Light joins 106 out of approximately 2,000 public power utilities nationwide to hold the highest designation. With an application score of 98.5 out of 100, this is the utility's fourth consecutive RP₃ award. Criteria for RP₃ include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

Ripley Power and Light joins more

than 270 public power utilities nationwide that hold the RP₃ designation.

"This is a great honor," said Mike Allmand, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ripley Power and Light Company. "We take a lot of pride in the work we do to power our community. It's nice to be recognized as among the 'best of the best' on a national level."

The RP₃ designation, which lasts for three years, recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement.

▶ **Reliability:** Ripley Power and Light
Continued on next page ...



Mike Allmand, Ripley Power and Light President and CEO, second from left, and Tracy Etheridge, Administrative Assistant, accept the RP₃ award from Aaron Haderle, Manager of Transmission and Distribution Operations at Kissimmee Utility Authority, Florida, and chair of the Association's RP₃ Review Panel, far left, and Mike Hyland, APPA Senior Vice President of Engineering Services, far right.





Pictured, from left, are Lynnwood Jackson, Scott Ozment, Johnathan Kissell, Chris Sanders, J.C. Cunningham, Chris Conrad, Joey Beavers (in front) Ronnie Hunter (behind Joey), David Newman, Bill Newman, David DeLoach, Tyler Pickens, Clay Mancell and Mike Allmand.

Lineman Appreciation Day

Ripley Power and Light, along with utilities across the country, honored line workers during National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 18.

From the power plant and the electric grids above and below ground to the meters on homes, line workers build and maintain the system that keeps the lights on. Regardless of the source, electricity has to be transported with transformers and other equipment.

When weather destroys what linemen have built, they are called upon to build it back again as quickly as possible. They work tirelessly to get emergency systems back in working order and urgently return service to remaining areas.

Even when there is no crisis, they work under dangerous conditions each day.

Whether they are in trenches, near water or on high towers, the risks are extreme.

“National Lineman Appreciation Day is a time to express our utmost appreciation to those who work so hard for us every day,” said Ripley Power and Light President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Allmand. “It’s an honor to celebrate the hard work, innovation and dedication of electrical line workers.”

National Lineman Appreciation Day was first recognized via U.S. Senate resolution in 2013.

Safe, reliable public power

Continued from previous page ... was judged on providing reliable utility service, as well as how it works to ensure it provides reliable service. It also was judged on infrastructure security, cyber security, identity theft procedures to protect customer information security, and a disaster plan.

► **Safety:** The utility company was judged on its safe work practices, safety training and classes for employees, customer safety information, safety manual use and adoption, and safety drills.

► **Workforce Development:** Ripley Power and Light was judged on education classes offered to employees, its cross-training program, its lineman certification program and its community post high school scholarship program.



► **System Improvements:** The utility has an ongoing program of system improvements. Even though it is a small utility, it is innovative in many ways. It was among the first utilities, for example, to install automated meter reading and electronic meters at all customer locations.

The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 49 million people nationwide. It also

advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training and operations.

Aaron Haderle, chair of the association’s RP₃ Review Panel, presented the honors on April 1 during the association’s annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference in Colorado Springs, Colo.

“Receiving an RP₃ designation is a great honor,” Haderle said. “It demonstrates that a utility strives for a high level of service and is constantly looking to improve. Aside from demonstrating reliability, these designated utilities have shown commitment to system improvement, safety, and developing a strong and sustainable workforce.”

Power and Light Board keeps customers in mind

Ripley Power and Light can attribute a good part of its progress and success to the support of its board of directors, said Mike Allmand, Ripley Power and Light President and CEO.

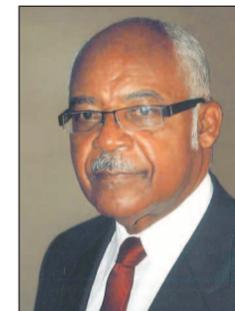
“The board gives us the support we need to continue to provide customers safe and reliable electric services,” Allmand said. “The board keeps the benefit to customers in mind whenever it makes decisions. As a public, not-for-profit utility, our customers benefit from the best rates and service possible.”

Ripley Power and Light has five board members, who serve for four-year terms. They are:

Alonzo Beard

Owner of Beard’s Insurance, Alonzo Beard has been an alderman for the City of Ripley for almost 17 years. In April 2012, he became the city’s representative on the board.

Beard graduated from Carver High School in Brownsville in 1962 and received his bachelor’s degree from Tennessee State University in 1966. He served in Vietnam and was awarded a Purple Heart.

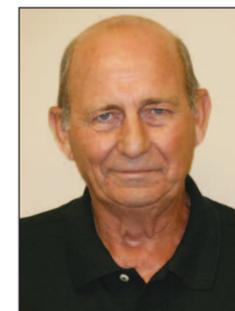


Alonzo Beard

Eunice Jenkins

Eunice Jenkins is a retired rural mail carrier who served the community for 27 years.

Jenkins was raised in Ripley, and he graduated from Ripley High School. He served several years in the National Guard before returning home.



Eunice Jenkins

Phillip Jackson

Phillip Jackson, an educator for 40 years, is a retired Lauderdale County Superintendent of Education. He began his career at Ripley High School in 1969 teaching book-keeping and accounting. He spent 32 years in school administration.

A graduate of Halls High School, he has a bachelor’s degree in education from Lambuth University and a master’s degree in education from the University of Memphis.



Phillip Jackson

Kenny Parham

Kenny Parham is the co-owner of Lauderdale Lumber and Hardware and C&C Equipment.

He is a graduate of Ripley High School and State Technical Institute at Memphis. He enjoys daily interaction with the public and spending time with his family.



Kenny Parham

Minnie Stowe

Minnie Stowe is a deputy clerk for Lauderdale County courts. A 1989 graduate of Ripley High School, she has lived in the area her whole life.

Stowe is an active member of Whitefield Assembly of God. She enjoys teaching classes at the Ripley Family Fitness Center.



Minnie Stowe

Utility awarded for safety practices

The American Public Power Association presented Ripley Power and Light with the Safety Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2018.

More than 325 utilities entered the annual Safety Awards, which is the highest number of entrants in the history of the program.

Entrants were placed in categories according to their number of worker-

hours and ranked based on the most incident-free records during 2018.

Ripley Power and Light earned first-place in the category for utilities with 56,469 worker hours of annual worker exposure.

“We are proud of our safety record,” said Mike Allmand, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ripley Power and Light.

“This award is a testament to the

hard work that goes into ensuring that our team members go home safe to their families every day.”

The incidence rate, used to judge entries, is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2018, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.