



Meet Your SEC Employee

Donnell Taylor
Line Technician
14 years of service
Crewe Office

Employees at Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC) have taken different paths to arrive at their current positions. Some began in positions that no longer exist, while others gained their experience outside of the co-op.

Perhaps one of the most interesting career paths of any SEC employee is that of Line Technician Donnell Taylor. He began working at the Cooperative nearly 15 years ago, but unlike many of his fellow linemen today, he did not enter the line worker apprenticeship program right away.

"I saw an advertisement for a custodian position in the newspaper," Taylor recalls. "I applied and started off cleaning the Central District and Headquarters buildings here in Crewe." When asked if he ever thought he would eventually become a lineman, Taylor laughs, "I didn't know a thing about amps and voltage. I didn't even really know what a lineman did."

Perhaps an even more unusual twist to Taylor's path came before he started working at Southside. "I worked a bunch of odd jobs, doing a little bit of everything," Taylor recalls. That included operating his own cleaning business and working for the Department of Corrections.

However, the most unusual time in Taylor's life was when he launched a modeling career. "I wanted to be a model, wanted to be on TV," remarks Taylor, smiling. "I was actually signed by an agency for a short time." Taylor noted that he quickly decided it was not for him. "Too much traveling here and there for photo shoots." In addition to modeling, Taylor also began bodybuilding, participating in several competitions. "All I did was lift weights and I loved it," he shares, "but, much like modeling, the traveling and busy schedule just got old."

Once at SEC, Taylor worked as a custodian for just over two years before applying to become a lineman. "I interviewed, but was not selected on my first try. When another opening came up, I applied again, and, this time, was hired." Taylor knew right away this was the profession for him. "I enjoy helping others, working together to get the members' power back on."

When asked what he likes most about his job, Taylor doesn't hesitate to repeat what many SEC linemen agree on — working together. "You can bet, no matter how hot or cold, how tall the weeds are in the right-of-way, if you look down at your feet, you are going to see another pair of boots by you. We are always working together, helping each other."

Taylor certainly appreciates his job at SEC. "I consider working here a blessing. It's not always easy, but we get the job done." Taylor also appreciates SEC's devotion to its members. "Everyone here expects excellence, not just keeping the lights on, but being safe and reliable. Not all companies are like that; some do not care as much about their product or service."

Taylor's free time is usually occupied by spending time with family and friends. Taylor has a daughter, Esme, 2, and a son, Maurice, 22. He also enjoys playing pool and singing, although he admits, "I love singing, but I am not necessarily good at it."

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