



## Meet Your SEC Employee: Anthony Rivera

*By Lloyd Lenhart, Community Relations Coordinator*

Anthony Rivera recently marked his 10th year with Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC). Today, he is an automation technician responsible for the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) equipment in the substations. In this position he ensures that the communications equipment is up to date and functioning.

The communications equipment monitors the data from the substations that is sent to the master servers in the company's headquarters building and performs other essential monitoring functions. A substation includes transformers to change voltage levels between high transmission voltages and lower distribution voltages. Data from the substations is remotely sent to headquarters by sensors in the equipment. The sensors in the equipment allow Rivera to monitor the electrical equipment remotely and in a more timely manner. This newer equipment is an upgrade from the previous technology that did not incorporate the sensors and status points. The older equipment required some equipment monitoring to be done on-site. SEC is constantly adding status-point sensors to ensure constant communication from the substations to headquarters.

The upgrade was a challenging project, and Rivera recalls working around the clock to install the communications equipment during the upgrade from fiber cable to the new microwave system. The new microwave system



**Anthony Rivera**  
**Automation Technician**  
**10 years of service**  
**Headquarters Office**

increased the bandwidth of the communications; this new system is 10 to 20 times faster, and that also increases the amount of information that it sends and receives.

Married and the father of six children, Rivera lives in Amelia with his wife and four children; he also has two grown children. He has been married for 18 years. His wife is a stay-at-home mom and stays quite busy homeschooling their four younger children.

Rivera grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and attended William E. Grady Vocational and Technical High School. His high school diploma is in broadcast technology. He later went on to receive his associate degree from the University of Phoenix.

Rivera is a veteran and served in the Air Force. While in the Air Force, he was stationed in the Philippines at Clark Air Base, where he served as a ground radio communications specialist.

Rivera stays busy as a freelance photographer. Many a weekend you can find him as a photographer at local wedding venues as well as taking portraits. He enjoyed taking pictures as an amateur photographer and started his training with the New York Institute of Photography. He did not pursue the freelance side of photography until he attended a wedding and the official photographer did not show. He happened to have his camera equipment with him and offered to fill in. The bride was pleased with his work, and soon other brides were asking him to be their photographer. This accidental start led him to pursue photography as a side business.

He also spends plenty of evenings and weekdays cheering on his children as they participate in the homeschool youth league during the summer.

His faith is also an important part of his life. He attends Encounter Church in Crewe. He likes to instill the importance of faith to his children with the adage: "God, then school, then play."

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**Navigation: [Back to Newsletter](#)**