



# CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Are you using your wood burning fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire and close the damper when a fire isn't burning. You can make it more energy efficient by using glass doors as well to limit the amount of room air sucked into the chimney. Glass doors also work well when a fire is burning down for the night and you must leave the damper open.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Looking Out for You: December Outages

Equipment/maintenance failure: 6

Other: 3

Unknown: 2

Maintenance: 1

Construction: 1



## Get Your News by E-Mail

If you would like to receive "Headlines" by email, just let us know. Simply call (800) 362-2154 or email us at [Clarke@cecnet.net](mailto:Clarke@cecnet.net). Newsletters are issued at the beginning of each month.



**CLARKE**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

P.O. Box 161      1103 N. Main  
Osceola, IA 50213-0161  
[www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net)

## Welcome Back, Legislators!

**S**TAFF AND MEMBERS of the Clarke Electric Cooperative Board of Directors joined nearly 200 directors, managers and employees from electric cooperatives across Iowa to help welcome back Iowa's legislators for the 2020 Legislative Session.

Sponsored by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Institute of Cooperatives, the Iowa Communications Alliance and FUEL Iowa, the reception drew more than 80 state legislators on Jan. 14. Guests of honor included Secretary of State Paul Pate, Iowa Utilities Board Member Nick Wagner, and Iowa Department of Revenue Director Kraig Paulsen.

The event provided board members the ability to meet on-on-one with legislators to discuss electric cooperatives' commitment to reliability, community and safety.

In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will address a multitude of issues, including energy-related items central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, electric co-op directors, managers and staff will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues. Iowa's locally-owned



From left: CEC Board Member Larry Jackson, General Manager David Opie, Rep. Joel Fry, Manager of Member Services Jason Gibbs, and Board Member Cody Miller.

rural electric cooperatives work hard to provide affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans every day.



### New Truck in Service

The cooperative put a 2019 Freightliner 55-foot Altec Bucket Truck into service Nov. 1. The truck replaces a 2009 International 47-foot Terex bucket truck. The cooperative strives to keep the fleet on a 10-year rotation cycle. The extended arm bucket makes it easier to access hard-to-reach areas.

*Reading pays! We have hidden two of our members' account numbers in this issue. If you find your member location number, call during February to have \$10 deducted from your monthly energy account.*

# A Good Review is a Worthwhile Exercise

**N**OW THAT IT'S FEBRUARY, ALL the cooperative's books for 2019 have been closed. It is time to review how we measured up. As you know, many things outside of our control can impact the numbers — the biggest being the weather. Only Mother Nature has the power to delay our workplan and prevent us from completing some of our construction and maintenance projects. Storms that wreak havoc on our poles, wires, and trees impact service to you. These and many other factors are thoughtfully considered as we prepare our budget each year.

To start the process, we compare the previous year's estimated figures to actual revenue and expense numbers in order to improve the accuracy of projecting sales, revenue and expenses. We also use actual numbers on a five-year average and a

proforma from the current year to project the budget. The resulting document is an essential part of our business plan that directs use of cooperative funds for yearly and future construction and maintenance projects.

We successfully ended 2019 very close to the projected budget. While expenses were 3% over budget, revenue was almost 5% higher than projections. Kilowatt-hour sales remained stable from 2018 to 2019, selling 112,975,320 kWh.

Operationally, some highlights for 2019 include:

- Provided service to 43 new homes, 18 ag buildings, 7 cabins, 4 commercial, 2 grain bins, 4 campground sites and 2 communication sites;
- 26 system improvements;
- 37 number of meter loops uprated;

- 30 Number of leased lights installed;
- 175 Number of poles replaced; and
- 1.25 miles of idle services retired;

Rest assured, our goal throughout the budgeting process is to ensure our member-consumers have a cooperative that they can depend upon to provide the power they need, when they need it.



**DAVE OPIE**  
General Manager

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
New services	56	68	81	91	80
Retired services	68	42	19	21	38

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## WIN A FREE TRIP!

### ESSAY TOPIC

Of the 7 Cooperative Principles, which 2 do you feel are most important and why?

### GUIDELINES

Essay should be typed on one side of an 8.5" x 11" paper.

Essay should be no more than 500 words and a maximum of two pages.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** March 2

**ESSAY DEADLINE:** March 13

**CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS & JUDGING:** April 1

**TRIP DATES:** June 18-25



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net)

(641) 342-2173

[jasgibbs@cecnet.net](mailto:jasgibbs@cecnet.net)

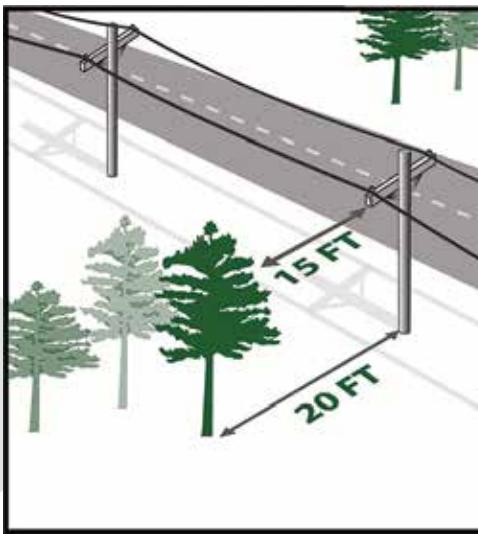
## Annual Notice of Complaints

**C**LARKE ELECTRIC STRIVES TO provide you with the best service at the lowest possible cost. But sometimes you may have questions regarding your electrical service or billing, or possibly a complaint. If you have a complaint you can reach a representative by contacting us or by writing to:

Member Advocate  
Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
1103 N. Main St.  
Osceola, IA 50213

Or by telephone at (641) 342-2173 or toll-free at (800) 362-2154

If you have a complaint related to Clarke Electric's service rather than its rates, and your complaint is not resolved, you may ask for assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling (515)-725-7321 or toll free 1-877-565-4450, by writing to 1375 E. Court Ave., Room 69; Des Moines, IA 50319-0069, or by email to [customer@iub.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iub.iowa.gov).



**C**LARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE continues to advance our mission of safety driven, energy smart and community invested. We spend a lot of time and resources to keep power lines free from trees and underbrush. Each year we budget for right of way clearing by both our line department and outside contractors. You may see Coddington's, our local contractor, in substation areas managing the right of way in 2020. Contractors are

currently working in the Humeston sub and will move to the Derby sub by the end of February, weather permitting. This work is important to bring all of our members safe and reliable electricity. 27-18-09-00

## Safety Driven: Stay Safe in Winter Weather

### T'S IOWA, SO IT SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISING WHEN WINTER HITS WITH A BANG.

And boy, did it hit us hard in the middle of January! Fortunately, the cooperative sustained very few outages during the storm, thanks to the diligence of our right of way maintenance efforts and upgrading aged electric lines. Unfortunately, the strength of Iowa's winter storms can sometimes lead to power outages despite our best efforts.

Downed power lines due to snow and ice can leave a co-op member-consumer without power. If it is also extremely cold, this makes the conditions even more dangerous. Clarke Electric line crews will work to restore power to our members as soon as it is safely possible for them to be out on the roads. In the meantime, here are a few tips to help our member-consumers stay safe and warm during a wintertime outage:

**Using an alternate heat source is great when you do it safely.** Wood burning fireplace, stove, propane space heat or generator can be serious threats to your health and safety if not used correctly. Follow all manufacturer's guidelines. Anything that uses propane or gasoline should be in a well-ventilated area *outside* the home or garage.

**Avoid traveling on the roads if you don't need to be out.** If you are driving and happen to encounter power lines, assume they are live and pose a risk of electrocution. If our crews are not already on the scene, pull over somewhere away from the power lines and call the cooperative to report the downed lines: (800) 362-2154.

### **Preparation is key to staying safe and warm during a winter weather emergency.**

Create a survival kit for your family that includes food and water; necessary medications; information on your insurance policies, first-aid supplies; blankets and flashlights; and extra batteries. Make sure the proper supplies are in your car as well.

# Cooperative Statement of Nondiscrimination

**C**LARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc., is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability, shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is David A. Opie, general manager of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and /or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-1510; or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410; or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.





# The Cooperative Difference: Membership Pays

## BING A MEMBER-CONSUMER OF AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE PAYS IN DIVIDENDS,

literally. If you have been a long-time member and consumed electricity from Clarke Electric, you are most likely receiving a patronage dividend, or a payment for being a member.

Sometimes we forget about the "perks" of cooperative membership. Each year, the board of directors review the income and expenses incurred over the business year and if there is money left over, the board allocates a portion to patronage. Clarke Electric is on a 20-year roll, which means margins allocated in 2019 will likely be paid back to the member consumers in 20 years, or 2039. 50-20-02-04

Be sure to look at your December electric bill to make sure you received a credit.

In December, Clarke Electric Manager of Member Services Jason Gibbs personally delivered patronage checks to some of CEC's commercial accounts and thanked them for their business. We appreciate all our member-consumers and invite you to look at what your electric cooperative does for you and your community by visiting [www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net) or by reading this monthly newsletter.

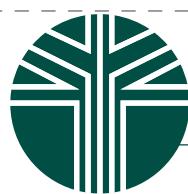


Jason Gibbs is pictured at top with, from left to right: Randy Woodward, Elliott Oil Company and CEC General Manager David Opie; Diane Hamilton, United Farmers Cooperative; and Adrian Flores, Iowa Select Farms. Above, Jason Gibbs is pictured with Denis Weiser, Miller Products Co.

### Operation Round-Up

Jason Gibbs presents a check for \$500 to Alexander and Coral Dubon of Woodburn after they sustained a house fire. The money was donated from funds collected as part of Operation Round-Up, a voluntary program that allows cooperative consumer-members to round up their electric bill to the next whole dollar. The difference is put into a charitable account for qualifying local organizations and individuals.

Jason Gibbs is pictured with, from top to bottom: Roberto Eizmendi, Cactus Family Farms; Ty Wheeler, City of Osceola; and Steve Baker, Plum Building Systems.



**CLARKE  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

PO Box 161, 1103 N Main, Osceola, IA 50213-0161

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

David Opie, General Manager

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 4 pm

Outside Depository Available 24 Hours

**641.342.2173 | 800.362.2154**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**[www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net)**

### Board of Directors

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 Larry Jackson, Clio  
 Larry Keller, Osceola  
 Kyle Kelso, Weldon  
 Cody Miller, Thayer  
 Randy Rouse, Corydon  
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