



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED **Volume No. 80 No. 1 | January 2020**



Energy Efficiency



Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day, especially windows located on the south side of your home. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%. For the most savings, change out light summer curtains for heavier ones. *Source: energy.gov*

Looking Out for You: November Outages

- Unknown: 6
- Maintenance: 3
- Customer caused: 2
- Equipment failure: 2
- Motor vehicle: 1
- Tree: 1



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

TEAMWORK: 2019 Service Awards

Every year, the Clarke Electric Cooperative family comes together to recognize employees and board members who have achieved a longevity milestone. The following staff and board members were recognized for their years of service to the cooperative:



5 YEARS
Eric Page
Journeyman Lineman



10 YEARS
Scott Davis
Meter Technician



15 YEARS
Kyle Halls
Journeyman Lineman



20 YEARS
Jodee Eckels
Mgr., Communications/HR



20 YEARS
Kevin Foley
GIS/Mapping Technician



1st TERM
Randy Barnard
Board of Directors



1st TERM
Ed White
Board of Directors



2nd TERM
Lydda Youmans
Board of Directors

Clarke Employee Helps Neighbor in Need

FOR EMPLOYEES OF CLARKE Electric Cooperative, living the Cooperative Principles is more than words printed on a page. That was demonstrated in early December when Journeyman Lineman Kyle Halls didn't hesitate to help a local farmer and friend who's battling a serious health condition. Many farmers across the state struggled last fall harvesting their crops due to poor weather conditions and were behind already. When Kyle heard his friend needed help, he jumped in. It was a demonstration

of Cooperative Principle #7: Concern for Community, which encourages cooperatives and their employees to work for the sustainable development of their communities. 26-01-11-99



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

Back to the Future!

SOMETIMES THE BEST WAY TO move ahead is to review the past! Investments in our assets are more than just poles and wires. We regularly replace and update our equipment, bucket trucks and diggers. It is also our fiduciary responsibility to keep our facilities safe and effective. We have a great Board of Directors, who support our efforts to invest in and maintain our infrastructure, poles, wires, equipment and buildings.

We are very excited about an infrastructure investment initiative to upgrade our existing office and warehouse buildings. Originally built in 1953, these buildings have functioned well for more than 60 years. Unfortunately, the buildings need major renovations. The water pipes and HVAC systems have outlived their efficiency and effectiveness. The electric system is inadequate with all the add ons and the requirements of today's technology, and the taller trucks no longer clear the warehouse doors. As you can see, the list is long but with the remodel, all of the problems can be fixed to make us future ready.

Having an improved facility will benefit our member-consumers by protecting our equipment and extending their life. It will safeguard our employees, equipment and materials from theft and unauthorized

access. The offices will be more efficient and provide a healthier environment for our employees. We can better retain our great employees, who dutifully provide expert service to our member-consumers.

Initial conversations on the project began in 2012. We looked at all the options and had many discussions to determine the best and most practical way to provide a safe, economical and efficient facility



for our member-consumers and employees. We hired a firm to listen to our input and needs, and worked together to make a presentation to our board and employees with a final decision resulting in a project budget of \$2.9 million. This figure includes renovation of the existing headquarters office, constructing a new warehouse, adding new truck storage space and wash bay, securing the grounds with a new fence and improving the overall energy efficiency.

Although our renovation budget seems

large, it's actually not as much as the original construction costs of the office and addition (added in 1974), compared to today. Going back to the future, the appearance will resemble the original building, with the front door on the west side.



DAVE OPIE
General Manager

When we talk about large capital expenditures, like a building renovation, some of the first questions that come up are: "Will this make my rates go up or will my patronage dividends payouts slow down?" Facility improvements are similar to our distribution system improvements, as both are depreciated and expensed over many years. The investment in our buildings and grounds should not affect your rates or slow down the return of your patronage dividends. We are working hard to "future proof" our updated facilities, so our investment will last for many decades. We will continue to give you updates on this project in our monthly newsletters. So, it is back to the future for Clarke Electric Cooperative. We are excited to move forward and hope you will be as proud of the updated facility as we are!

CEC Board Approves 2020 Budget



SAM WALKUP
Manager of Finance

THE BOARD of Directors approved the 2020 budget at its November board meeting, with a focus on providing safe, efficient, reliable and

affordable electricity. Annually the board of directors provide oversight and guidance of the capital and operational budgets. They review the workplan developed by the management team to ensure the cooperative fulfills its mission to be safety driven, energy smart, and community invested.

The process takes several months and involves numerous meetings, consisting of the management team discussing budget needs and getting feedback from their department employees. Then, the management team, board finance committee and full board of directors meet to review the final recommendations.

We look at projections for the next year that include purchased power, usage, the workplan, and other capital and operational needs. Maintaining the financial integrity of the cooperative and meeting industry benchmarks are top of mind throughout. The budget serves as the cooperative's financial guide for the upcoming year.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Purchase a new Altec bucket truck
- Purchase a new Freightliner dump truck
- Add underground and overhead lines and services
- Loop upgrades
- Pole inspections and replacements
- Substation upgrades and improvements
- Right-of-Way clearing – tree clearing
- Replacement projects for underground services and 8A wire
- Building renovation



Community Invested: Investing in our Youth

IT MAY ONLY BE JANUARY, BUT YOUR cooperative is already making plans for summer vacation, and you should be too!

The 2020 Youth Tour will be June 18-25 in Washington, D.C. Each year, Clarke Electric Cooperative sponsors one high school junior to attend the all-expenses paid trip. CEC joins hundreds of electric co-ops from across the country in sending high school students to Washington for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

The Youth Tour program was established with one thought in mind – to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Students must apply for the opportunity to be selected for the trip. Applications will be available at www.cecnet.net. You can



also contact Jason Gibbs at (641) 342-2173 or (800) 362-2154 if you have any questions about the selection process or the trip itself.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students repeatedly share that this experience helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skillset of what it takes to be a leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community. 49-20-02-02

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing this information with a promising student!

Understanding Energy Demand and Purchasing

DO YOU EVER LOOK AT YOUR energy bill and wonder what it all means? If your answer to that question is “yes,” then you might be interested to learn how demand impacts your utility bill. To start, it is important to understand how electricity is made and how it is delivered to your home.

Before Clarke Electric can send electricity to your home, it must be generated by a Generation and Transmission cooperative (G&T). Then it travels over high-voltage transmission lines to substations, where the voltage is reduced to a safer level. The electricity then travels over distribution power lines and finds its way into your

home. So, while you pay your bill to us – your electric distribution cooperative – we don’t actually generate the electricity you use. That is the job of Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), our G&T.

We help determine how much electricity our member-consumers need to power their homes and businesses, and you play a big part in how much electricity the G&T needs to create in order to keep the lights on. That is where these terms “consumption” and “demand” come in.

Consumption is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh). Demand is measured in kilowatts

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+ Safety Driven: Power Outage 101



Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight clothing.



Watch for signs of frostbite: loss of feeling or white/pale appearance in the fingers, toes, earlobes or tip of nose.



Wear a hat; most body heat is lost through the top of the head.



Unplug all sensitive electronic equipment to protect against any voltage irregularities when the power is restored.



Grocery shop before the storm; stock up on canned goods and water.



Keep a flashlight handy with fresh batteries.



If using a generator, follow all safety instructions. Never operate a generator indoors, or in a garage (even if the door is open)



The Cooperative Difference: Grassroots Efforts Are Vital to Cooperatives and Rural America



Pictured, from left to right: Sen. Amy Sinclair, Phil Kinser (Southwest IA REC); Cozy Nelsen (Guthrie County REC); David Opie, General Manager, Clarke Electric; Sen. Mark Costello, Rep. Ray "Bubba" Sorensen, Sen. Tom Shipley and Charlie Dunn (Farmers Electric).

REPRESENTATIVES FROM CLARKE Electric Cooperative, Guthrie County REC (Guthrie Center), Farmers Electric (Greenfield) and Southwest Iowa REC (Corning/Mt Ayr/Stanton), hosted a Legislative Meeting in Creston Nov. 25.

Iowa Senators Amy Sinclair, Mark Costello and Tom Shipley, and Iowa Representative Ray "Bubba" Sorensen were present to discuss the upcoming 2020 Legislative Session and issues that may impact Iowa's rural electric cooperatives. There were about 30 people in attendance at the event.

This annual gathering gives your cooperative a chance to talk about these key topics in detail with our area

representatives and express any concerns. It also gives our legislators a chance to hear firsthand how your electric cooperative is different from municipal and investor-owned utilities, as well as issues impacting fairness down the lines and offer support for programs that promote rural growth opportunities.

Statewide, RECs will welcome legislators back to the Capitol during a special reception Jan. 14. Your cooperative will also participate in the annual REC Day on the Hill in March, another opportunity to advocate for Iowa's electric cooperatives during session.

Energy Demand...from pg. 3

(kW). A lightbulb "consumes" a certain number of watts, let's say 100 watts per hour. If that lightbulb stays on for 10 hours, it "demands" a certain number of kilowatts (in this case, 1 kW) from the generation station producing electricity. Now, if you turn on 10 100-watt lightbulbs in your home for one hour, you still consume the same number of kW. However, you place a demand on the utility to have those kW available to you over the course of one hour, instead of 10. This requires the G&T to produce more power in less time in order to meet your demand.

Clarke Electric purchases kilowatt hours from the G&T based on the average demand of our members. Peak demand refers to the time of day when the demand for electricity is highest. This is typically during the evening when families return home from work or school, cook dinner and use appliances the most. Using electricity during this peak demand period often costs more to both Clarke Electric and to our members.

Demand is why your electric bill fluctuates season to season and even year to year. Generating and distributing power can be a tricky and complicated business, but rest assured we will always meet the necessary demand to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to you and your family.



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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

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