



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative



SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED **Volume No. 80 No.9 | September 2020**

Energy Efficiency



Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

Source: www.energystar.gov



Attention Electric Heat Rate Users

The heat plus rate will go into effect Oct. 1.

Looking Out for You: July Outages

- Lightning: 15
- Animal/bird: 11
- Unknown: 9
- Equipment/Maintenance failure: 7
- Trees: 5
- Customer caused: 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

Director Elections and Articles Vote Will Be Held

DID YOU KNOW EVERY CO-OP IS required to conduct an annual meeting of the membership? The purpose is to hold the election for the board of directors, share important financial information, occasionally vote on other matters such as articles changes, see your neighbors and of course – have a chance to win great door prizes.

While the purpose remains the same as it always has, the way we will hold our annual meeting this year will be very different. We will not have an in-person meeting. However, our attorney will still tally ballots for the director elections and proposed change to the Articles of Incorporation. We included written reports in our August edition of Clarke REC *Headlines* and more reports will be taped and placed on our website at www.cecnet.net the day after the meeting. The 2020 pandemic situation has forced everyone in the world to rethink how to conduct business, including Clarke Electric.

We think it is important to see our member-consumers and the annual meeting is a great place to do this, but for everyone's safety and welfare, we have made the decision to save that for 2021.

It is even more important to participate in the voting process for director elections and the proposed change to the Articles of Incorporation. Watch your mail for the official notice and voting ballot. Make your selection and drop your completed ballot in the mail or the office before the deadline

of September 14 at 1 p.m. Your envelope will be entered into the cash drawings for \$1,000. Make sure to vote!



Warehouseman/Lineman Tim Lupkes Retires

CLARKE ELECTRIC WOULD LIKE TO announce that Warehouseman Tim Lupkes retired Aug. 28 after 19 years with the cooperative.

Tim began lineman training at the age of 38 when he attended the Northwest Iowa Community College Powerline Program. He and his wife, Beva, and their three children were living in Ackley at the time, and Tim said he was told that if he obtained the powerline training diploma, he could probably get hired locally as a lineman.

continued on pg. 3

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

Update on Facility Remodel

YOUR COOPERATIVE IS MAKING GREAT PROGRESS ON the facility remodel project. Demolition has taken place on the original warehouse built in the early 1950s and an addition built in the early 1970s. A new secure chain link fence has been installed, which will help keep the cooperative property grounds and equipment safer and more secure.

The next phase is to construct a larger, more modern warehouse, equipped with a wash bay, radiant heating and taller bays to accommodate the larger trucks.

The cooperative appreciates the patience of our member-consumers who have visited the office and found we have very limited parking during construction. CEC encourages our member-consumers to call us or use the drop box outside the front door. 34-25-01-03

Watch this newsletter, website and Facebook page for updates as they happen. We look forward to showing our member-consumers the completed renovation.



Questions or Complaints?

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE STRIVES TO provide you with the best service at the lowest possible cost. But sometimes you have questions regarding your electrical service or billing, or possibly a complaint. If you have a complaint about Clarke Electric's service rather than its rates, you can reach a representative of the cooperative by contacting us during normal business hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at (641) 342-2173 or (800) 362-2154 or clarke@cecnet.net. You can also write to: Member Advocate, Clarke Electric Cooperative, 1103 N. Main Street, Osceola, IA 50213.

If your complaint is not resolved, you may ask for help from the Iowa Utilities Board, Customer Service, 1375 E. Court Ave., Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; (877) 565-4450 or customer@iub.iowa.gov.



Community Invested: Need Help With Your Heating Bills?

THE 2020-2021 LOW-INCOME HOME

Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60+) and/or disabled: Oct. 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021
- All other households: Nov. 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of income (for all household members age 19+)
- Check stubs from the previous 30 days, award letter from Social Security or 2019 tax return
- Social Security numbers for all household members (documentation required)
- Recent heat bill
- Recent electric bill

- If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.

PROOF OF INCOME:

- **Wage Earners:** Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.
- **Fixed Income:** This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.
- **Self-Employed/Farmers:** Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.
- **FIP Recipients:** Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

If you are not sure where to apply, dial 2-1-1 or visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/> where-apply, or write to:

Income Maximums	
Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$22,330
2	\$30,170
3	\$38,010
4	\$45,850
5	\$53,690
6	\$61,530
7	\$69,370
8	\$77,210

For households with more than eight members, add \$7,840 for each additional member.

LIHEAP

Iowa Department of Human Rights
321 E. 12th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319
<https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/liheap>

You can also contact South Central Iowa Community Action Program, 116 Fillmore, Osceola, IA 50213; (641) 342-2101; clarke@scicap.org, www.scicap.org

Lupkes Retires...from pg. 1

"I was worried about paying for college when I saw an ad in the paper that would give a grant to pay for schooling," he said. "I applied and received enough money to pay for everything but my rent."



Tim Lupkes shortly after joining Clarke Electric Cooperative, 2002.

He heard from a friend about a job opening at Clarke Electric. He contacted then manager Tom Killebrew about the job and set up an interview.

"I brought Beva with me and she sat in the car while I was inside," he said. "I came out and told her they offered me the position. We discussed it and I ended up accepting.

Before we made the move to Osceola, Beva was contacted by I-35 schools and was offered a teaching position. Things were falling into place. We moved our family to Osceola and bought a farm where we have lived for 19 years."

Over that same amount of time, Tim said the most gratifying aspect of the job is seeing the lights come back on after a storm. He recalls a particularly bad ice storm in 2007, when he was out working on a three-phase line near the Humeston substation with his fellow linemen.

"The line was in the creek, they could just barely reach it with a bucket so it took hours of work to get it back up," he said.

"As soon as it was up, we heard a crack and looked down about three spans of line and watched as a tree fell onto the line they had

just worked hours to put up."

"I am proud to have worked with Tim," said CEC General Manager David Opie. "He has been a dedicated lineman and served our members through so many tough situations. I am going to miss Tim as part of our cooperative family."

In retirement, Tim said he has sold part of his farm and home to his son and daughter-in-law so they can farm together. He will continue to operate his hog finishing house in addition to row cropping and says he's looking forward to working only one job instead of trying to both farm and work for the cooperative.

"I really enjoyed the work," he said. "I worked with good people, they were good teachers."



The Cooperative Difference: CEC Sends Mutual Aid to Derecho Victims



CEC Foreman Rob McCoy, second from right, and Journeyman Lineman Adam McCuddin, first from right, are pictured with linemen from Access Energy and Prairie Energy cooperatives who helped restore power to T.I.P. REC member-consumers near Brooklyn. Photo courtesy T.I.P. REC.

ON MONDAY, AUGUST 10, A devastating derecho storm with winds nearing 140 miles per hour in some places carved a path of unprecedented destruction throughout central and east central Iowa. Immediately following the storm, Iowa's rural electric cooperatives reported more than 58,000 outages to homes and businesses. Broken trees and limbs along with other debris caused extensive damage to electric transmission and distribution systems throughout several counties.

Clarke Electric Cooperative sustained minor damage and outages. By the end of the day, line crews had all member-consumers back on and linemen spent the rest of the week repairing other damage caused by the derecho. Once we completed the assessment of our system and determined our crews

could manage repairs without causing more outages, the cooperative answered the mutual aid call. 56-11-02-05

"Cooperative Principle #6: Cooperation Among Cooperatives, is something we take very seriously," said General Manager David Opie. "You never know when we might need to make that phone call asking for help, so when the call comes in from other cooperatives, we assess the situation and prepare to send help when we can. I am so proud that two of our experienced linemen, Foreman Rob McCoy and Journeyman Adam McCuddin volunteered to go to T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative for more than a week."

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) immediately helped organize aid to electric co-ops requesting assistance. Almost 200 electric co-op linemen along with trucks

and equipment were deployed to the hardest hit areas.

"Because of the cooperative business structure, we were able to quickly deploy crews to areas without power," said Scott Meinecke, director of safety and loss control for IAEC. "Electric cooperatives from Missouri, Minnesota and Wisconsin also helped with the massive restoration effort."

"Nothing showcases the power of local co-op ownership and our concern for community as powerfully as working together to restore power to our member-consumers," said Chuck Soderberg, IAEC executive vice president and general manager. "Co-ops are accountable and responsive to the members they serve, and this storm response reinforces those priorities."



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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.cecnet.net

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