



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative



SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED Volume No. 81 No. 6 | June 2021

The Clarke Electric office will be closed Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day. We wish all our consumer-members a safe and healthy holiday weekend!



A Different "Spin" on our Annual Meeting!

CLARKE ELECTRIC INVITES ALL ITS consumer-members to "take a spin" through our upcoming drive-through annual meeting on **Monday, Sept. 13.**

Here's how it will work: Consumer-members may come to our facilities at 1103 N. Main St., Osceola, any time between 9 a.m. and noon. You will be directed to our new warehouse where you can drive through one of the large warehouse bays and see our facility grounds. As you drive through, you will stop where staff will be handing out free snacks, ballots for the election if you have not already voted, and a chance to register for the cash drawings. Everyone will receive an annual meeting gift. It will also be a chance for you to chat with our great employees! Watch your August newsletter for all the reports and details about the annual meeting and cooperative.

We are also producing a video presentation that we will post online for you to watch at your convenience following the annual meeting. The link for the video, and other updates about the annual meeting, will be in our newsletter, as well as on our Facebook page at facebook.com/ceciowa.

Although this year's meeting will be much different than in years past, we felt it was necessary for the health and wellbeing of everyone while creating the best value for our consumer-members and providing a chance to show off our updated facilities. We'd love to see you!

Something Old, Something New

WHEN YOU DRIVE BY OUR office in Osceola, our building will look pretty much as it did for years on the outside, but the inside is completely different.

The main entrance has been relocated back to the west side of the building as it was originally intended when built in 1953, and the glass windows across the front harken back to its original designed glory.

We kept our original office building and location to keep our costs down and to retain its history. When entering the main office now, not only will you be greeted by the windows and doors reminiscent of the original building, but also you will see the original terrazzo flooring in the lobby. The original brick entry has been incorporated into a new and updated look, with the windows throughout the building providing natural light as intended when it was built. The ceiling in the main entrance

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Energy Efficiency



Tip of the Month
A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Looking Out for You: April Outages

- Animal/bird – 3
- Unknown – 2
- Equipment failure – 1
- Trees – 1



CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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Osceola, IA 50213-0161
www.cecnet.net

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



Community Invested: CEC Awards \$10,000 in Scholarships

Something New...

from pg. 1

TEN LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS who graduated with the class of 2021 have received scholarship awards from Clarke Electric Cooperative.

These young people faced extraordinary challenges throughout their senior year due to COVID-19. Many missed their prom, had sports events cancelled, had to learn online or had to wear masks and make other concessions during in-person learning. And for the second year, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour was cancelled due to the pandemic. Despite this cancellation,

Clarke Electric found a new way to invest in the education of our youth by launching a scholarship program for graduating seniors. The cooperative offered \$10,000 to students with parents/guardians who live within our service territory with each student receiving \$1,000 at the start of their second semester of college or trade school. 43-10-01-13

Despite challenges, these young people have a lot to be proud of, rising to the occasion and getting done what needed to get done. Congratulations to these 2021 CEC Scholarship winners!

was left open to give the area a more spacious look and feel.

From the outside, you may not notice much difference in the appearance of the warehouse because the new building looks similar to our second, smaller, warehouse that was constructed in 2008. Built in 1953, the original warehouse was reworked and doubled in size in 1972 to accommodate larger and more sophisticated bucket and digger trucks of the era. As we reviewed our Facility Improvement Plan, we took into account the size of our trucks today that had again outgrown this space. Raising the roof and widening the doors wouldn't have been possible without completely rebuilding the warehouse. Now a truck can be driven all the way through the bays without being unhooked from its equipment trailers. And, we added a wash bay to keep trucks clean which also helps the vehicles last longer and enhances safety. We added a heated floor and drains.

For many reasons related to lack of effective workspaces and an increasingly unhealthy physical working environment, we made the decision to forge ahead with our complete Facility Improvement Plan even as we faced COVID over a year ago. While the plan has been in the works for years, the timing worked to our advantage, coinciding with staff working remotely and making the commitment early, we locked in building material prices.

Now that the project is nearing completion, we want you to know that we made every effort to be conscientious and responsible with the dollars invested. Our top priority throughout has been to provide the best long-term efficient environment in order to continue serving you, our consumer-members, well. Stop in some time and you will see something old and something new!



2021

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

1. Erika Boles, Indianola High School

2. Lyndsey Dale, Central Decatur Community Schools

3. Emma Decker, Murray Community Schools

4. Kelli Fink, I-35 Community Schools

5. Nelson Fry, Homeschool/ Clarke Community Schools

6. Nataleigh Klaiber, North Mercer Community Schools

7. Derek Kleve, Martensdale-St. Mary's Community Schools

8. Mikayla McCurdy, Chariton Community Schools

9. Jordan Walters, Indianola High School

10. Mya Willey, Wayne Community Schools

Safety Driven: *When severe weather looms, touch base with family members who aren't home. Make sure they are aware of the weather threat and have a plan to keep themselves safe.*





3 WAYS TO BEAT THE HEAT *AND* SAVE ENERGY



1 Instead of cranking up the A/C, use ceiling fans to make rooms feel a few degrees cooler.



2 Delay heat-producing chores like running the dishwasher or doing laundry until the evening hours.



3 Keep blinds and curtains closed during the day – especially for east- and west-facing windows.

Energy Smart:



PEAK HOURS ARE THE BUSIEST times for Clarke Electric Cooperative, since many people are using electricity at the same time. In addition, it costs your co-op more to generate electricity when demand soars during peak periods – and the cost of your electricity also may rise. By simply using less electricity during peak periods, you can help save your co-op – and yourself – money. Here’s how you can help during peak hours, which generally are on the hottest summer days between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.:

- Shift household chores and activities away from peak periods.
- If you have air conditioning, turn the thermostat up when you are gone and at night. Cool only the rooms that you are using.
- Use the most energy-efficient appliances you have. Your microwave oven uses less energy than your stove.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when buying new appliances.
- Be aware of your energy consumption, and try to get in the habit of using energy efficiently year-round.

Use the energy you need, but use it wisely! You’ll help your co-op avoid building expensive new power plants – and that, in turn, will help keep your electric rates stable.



SHINE THE LIGHT ON A VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Nominations accepted through June 30 at
www.iowaShineTheLight.com



The Cooperative Difference: Seeking Board Candidates

EACH YEAR, THE CLARKE ELECTRIC Cooperative holds an annual meeting to present the cooperative's financial status, interact with our consumer-members and carry out the election of directors to serve on the nine-member board elected by and from the membership.

Terms are for three years and a director may serve up to five terms. At the 2021 Annual Meeting, the following director positions will be on the ballot:

- District 6 (1), served by Board President Kyle Kelso
- At-Large (2), served by Larry Keller and Randy Rouse.

Kelso has fulfilled five terms of service and is ineligible for reelection according to cooperative bylaws. In order to serve on CEC's Board, you must be a consumer-member of the cooperative, in good standing. You should be able to attend

monthly board meetings, educational and training opportunities and industry meetings. It is a great opportunity to learn about your cooperative, work with local state legislative representatives, give back to your community and support a business that you own. 6-11-01-03

The CEC nominating committee will meet in June to select qualified director candidates. Any 15 or more consumer-members acting together may make other nominations by petition not less than 45 days prior to the meeting, given both

the consumer-members and the nominee are from the district up for election. The nominating committee will prepare and post the slate of candidates by July 30 at the CEC office, and each candidate will be profiled in the August CEC newsletter.

If you are interested in serving on, or learning more about, the CEC Board, please call us at (641) 342-2173.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

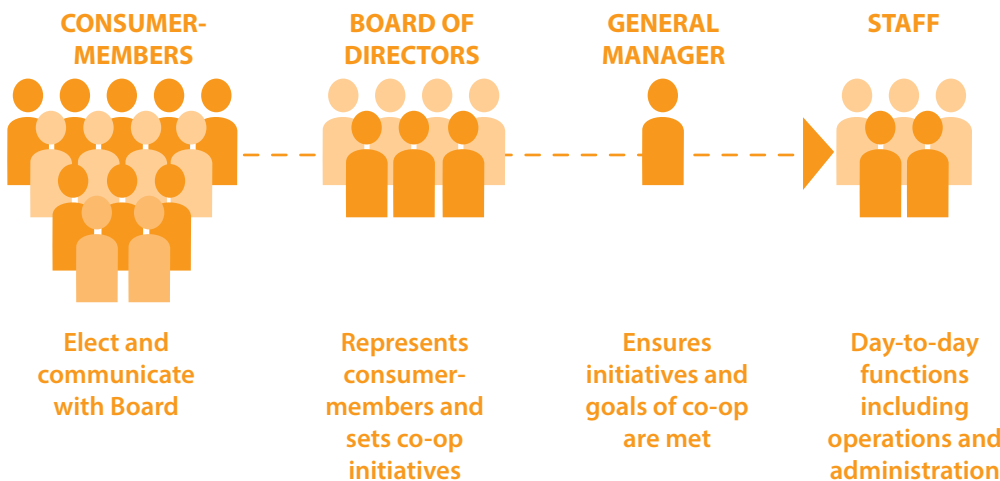


CEC Welcomes Summer Intern

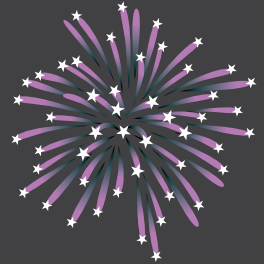
THERE'S A NEW FACE AT THE cooperative! We recently hired Hunter Koehn as a summer intern.

Hunter graduated from Chariton High School in 2020 and is fresh out of Marshalltown Community College where he earned a Utility Technician Diploma. In his spare time, Hunter enjoys hunting, fishing and racing Motocross. He currently resides in Chariton.

Welcome, Hunter!



Fireworks Safety Tips



- ★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
- ★ Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- ★ Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks, including sparklers which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- ★ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.



CLARKE
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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