



# CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative



**SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED** **Volume No. 81 No. 5 | May 2021**



The Clarke Electric office will be closed Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day. We wish all our members a safe and healthy holiday weekend!



## Energy Efficiency



**Tip of the Month**  
Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.



## Looking Out for You: March Outages

- Maintenance/equipment failure: 5
- Wind: 4
- Unknown: 3
- Customer caused: 1
- Lightning: 1
- Maintenance: 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



## The Cooperative Difference: Board Approves \$350,000 in Patronage Following Audit Review

**T**HE BKD CPAS & ADVISORS, LLP, of West Des Moines, recently finalized its annual audit of Clarke Electric Cooperative.

Cheryl Clausen made a presentation of the audited 2020 financial statements to the board of directors at its April board meeting. The report showed all financial and operational documents to be fairly presented and in accordance with government auditing standards. As part of the process, the auditors review the statement of operations, equity, cash flows and deferred patronage schedule to determine how to allocate 2020 margins.

During the meeting, your co-op's Board of Directors also authorized the distribution of \$350,000 in capital credits to current

and former members of the cooperative. This allocation will include refunding the remainder of the 2003 allocation and a portion of the 2004 allocation.

Active (current) members will receive a credit to their primary electric account in December for the amount of their capital credit. Issuing credits saves postage and labor costs for the co-op and its members. Also, by applying capital credits to the December bill, the cooperative hopes to help offset the higher electric bills that many members see at this time of year. Checks are mailed to inactive (former) members. Inactive account distributions of less than \$5 will roll over to future years and a check will be issued when the minimum amount of \$5 is reached.

*continued on pg. 3*

Get smart about electrical safety.

## May is National Electrical Safety Month.

Learn more by following us on Facebook!



@CEClowa



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

# Building Update: In The Home Stretch

**C**LARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S building renovation is almost complete! It's been a long process, but we are almost there. Office furniture will be delivered the second week of May with the move-in date scheduled for the last week of May.

The renovation is something the cooperative has talked about doing for more than 10 years. In that time, we conducted and reviewed studies, revised budgets, established realistic timelines and accepted bids for various components of the project. After careful consideration, the Board of Directors approved the plan, allowing the project to get underway. The bid from Dean Snyder Construction was accepted and the work began early last year.

We can't wait to show our member-consumers the finished product and will soon announce the date for a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house. We are proud to show off our updated workspace that makes it a safer and healthier place for employees to work and member-consumers to visit. We hope to see you there.

In addition to internal office updates, a new chain link fence was installed surrounding the warehouse and pole yard. This fence restricts access and limits the potential for theft and protects the materials stored there. 42-20-04-00

A brand-new warehouse was constructed and includes a heated floor, wash bay for the trucks, and taller, larger doors to

accommodate the bigger trucks. It provides protection and security for all trucks and materials stored inside. Materials have been relocated to the existing warehouse which allows the trucks to drive through to load up equipment needed for their daily job.

The footprint of the original building built in the 1950's was retained but everything inside was replaced. New plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling, technology and safety items were updated and brought up to code. Office spaces were reconfigured to arrange staff by departments and create a more efficient working environment. A "war room" for the operations department will be a place dedicated to storm recovery efforts. A modern kitchen has also been added that will allow employees to cook onsite during extensive outages when restaurants may be closed.

All of the updates will allow the employees to serve our members in a safe, efficient and reliable manner for many years to come. We thank you for your support and patience as we transition back to our newly renovated offices.

## Shining the Light on Community Volunteers in June

**G**UIDED BY OUR COOPERATIVE commitment to community, Iowa's electric co-ops are launching a new contest in June to celebrate local volunteers. The Shine the Light contest, sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, will accept nominations and select three winners who will each receive a \$1,500 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers during the month of June. If you receive electricity from Clarke Electric Cooperative, you're a co-op member-consumer and we encourage you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

The three winners will be announced during the Iowa State Fair in August. In addition to the \$1,500 donation, each



winner will be featured in the September issue of *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine.

Go to [www.IowaShineTheLight.com](http://www.IowaShineTheLight.com) to review the contest rules. Contest entries will be accepted at this website starting on June 1.

Help us "SHINE THE LIGHT" on community volunteers this summer and consider making a nomination!

## Storm Season is Coming...



## Generate Safely.

Never use a portable generator indoors.

Do not plug generators into standard electrical outlets.

Use heavy-duty extension cords to connect appliances into the generator.

Start the generator before connecting appliances.

# Required Notice: Are You Planning to Build a Grain Bin?

**I**F YOU'RE CONSIDERING A NEW grain bin this spring, remember that it's important to first contact Clarke Electric Cooperative.

Your cooperative will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

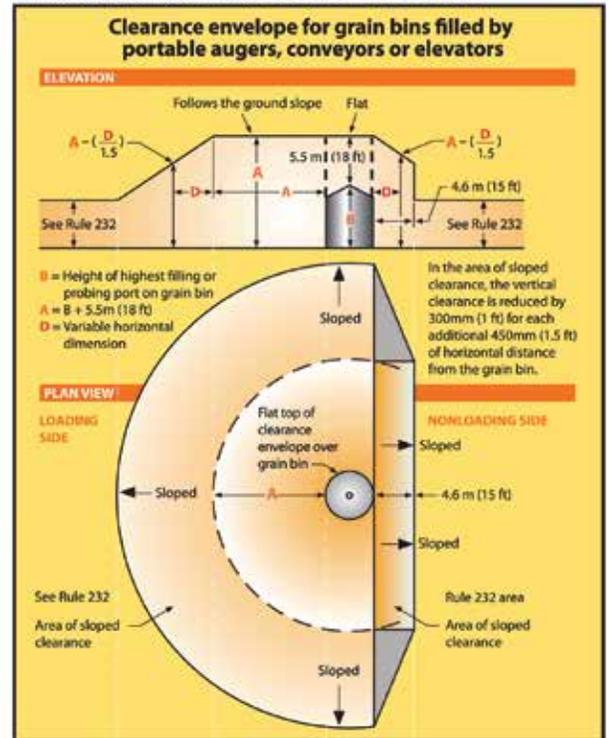
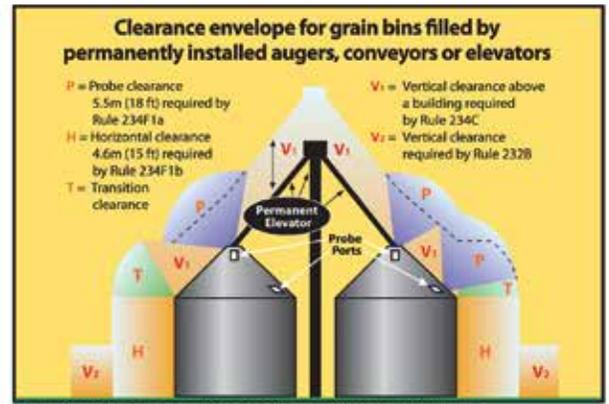
The drawings on this page show the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions, please call Clarke Electric at (800) 362-2154.

According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b.: *An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2017 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December*

24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

Clarke Electric Cooperative is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please contact the cooperative.

*Disclaimer:* These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 edition of the *National Electrical Safety Code*. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.



## Patronage...from pg. 1

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Clarke Electric returns patronage to its members like you. It is important for you to keep an updated address on file with the cooperative if you are no longer a member.

Clarke Electric's rates are set to bring in enough money to pay operating costs, make payments on any loans and provide an emergency reserve. At the end of each calendar year, we subtract operating expenses from the total amount of money collected during the year; the balance is the "margin." This margin is allocated to each member based on the amount each member paid for electricity.

## Sign Up for Automatic Bill Payment!

**ENJOY THE EASY, RELIABLE, AND SECURE WAY OF USING CLARKE Electric's Automatic Payment Plan (ACH).** Having your payment deducted automatically from your checking/savings account or a credit/debit card can save you time and money. This service is FREE to our members.

To sign-up visit us online at [www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net) and click on SmartHub or call us!



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# Director Election Time

**AS AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** governed by a Board of Directors, Clarke Electric abides by one of seven cooperatives principles shared by cooperatives around the world, "Democratic Member Control." This means that your Board of Directors is elected by, and from, the membership of Clarke Electric Cooperative.

Being a director for Clarke Electric is a great opportunity to learn more about your cooperative, work with local legislators and give back to your community. It's important that each director commits to attending monthly board meetings or other special industry meetings and to participate in educational opportunities to help stay informed of cooperative governance and utility industry issues.

At the Annual Meeting Sept. 13, three board seats will be up for election. They are:

**District 6: Kyle Kelso**

**At Large (1): Larry Keller and Randy Rouse**

We encourage all our members to exercise their role in the democratic election process by attending the annual meeting and voting in the election. Anyone who is interested in serving as a board member can find out more information by calling (800) 362-2154.

The following are excerpts from the Clarke Electric Cooperative Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation regarding director elections:

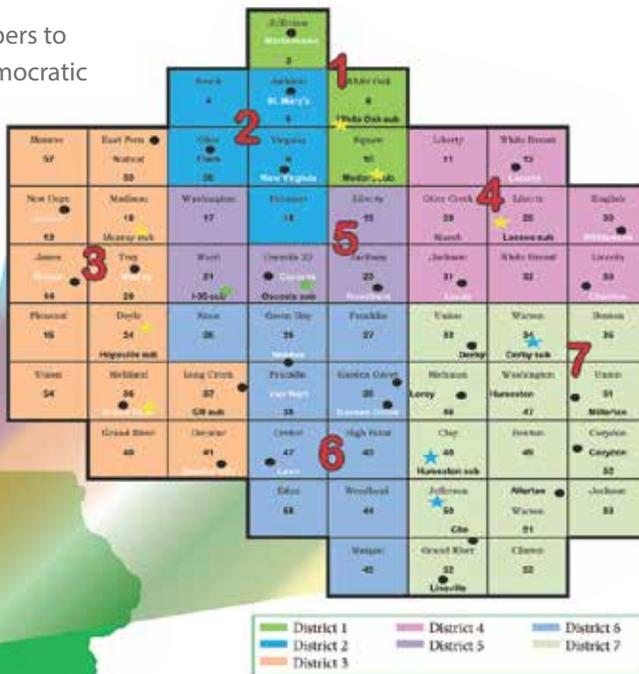
Article III, Section 2. Qualifications and Tenure. From and after the annual meeting in 2014, "No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative, whose primary residence is not served by the Cooperative, or who is in any way employed by or who is married to an employee of the Cooperative or who has been an employee or married to an employee of the Cooperative within the past three years or who is financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative."

Article III, Section 3. Nomination and Election of Directors. (a) *Nomination of Directors.* It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 60 days and not more than 90 days before the date for the meeting of members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations

... Said committee shall consist of two members from each of the districts where the terms are to expire following the annual meeting. A director of the Cooperative, who is ineligible to be a candidate because of tenure, may be appointed to the nominating committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative, at least 45 days before the meeting a list of the nominees for directors. The committee shall be encouraged, but shall not be required, to nominate not less than two candidates for each district for which a director is to be elected. 5-15-01-00

Any fifteen or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition not less than 45 days prior to the meeting and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted, providing that said nominations made by petition shall be limited to members from the district for which a director is to be elected and the petitioners must also be from said district.

(b) *Election of Directors.* Election of directors shall be by printed ballot. The ballot shall list the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations and by petition, if any, arranged by the districts. The secretary shall mail a ballot marked "Ballot for Election of Directors" and a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee and those made by petition. The statement shall also contain and inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail for directors as provided in this section.



**Board of Directors**

- Randy Barnard, New Virginia
- Larry Jackson, Clio
- Larry Keller, Osceola
- Kyle Kelso, Weldon
- Cody Miller, Thayer
- Randy Rouse, Corydon
- Ed White, Osceola
- Bill Willis, New Virginia
- Lydda Youmans, Indianola



**CLARKE**  
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



David Opie, General Manager  
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Outside Depository Available 24 Hours  
**641.342.2173 | 800.362.2154**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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