



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative



SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED Volume No. 81 No. 9 | September 2021

Drive Through Annual Meeting Sept. 13



Stop by our headquarters any time from 9 a.m. - noon Sept. 13 and drive through our warehouse to receive your free gift, register for cash prize giveaways and drop off your election ballot. Sorry, no meal will be served this year.

Energy Efficiency



Tip of the Month

Energy used for cooling and heating your homes makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining

regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

Looking Out for You: July Outages

- Animal/bird: 5
- Customer caused: 1
- Lightning: 4
- Maintenance: 4
- Trees: 5
- Unknown: 6



P.O. Box 161 1103 N. Main Osceola, IA 50213-0161 www.cecnet.net

Remember to Vote in the Director Elections

CLARKE ELECTRIC'S ANNUAL meeting will be held Monday, Sept. 13 as a drive through style event in consideration of the health and safety of our member-consumers and staff. All co-op member-consumers were mailed ballots to vote for this year's board candidates. Please take a moment to fill out the ballot and return it by mail or in person to the co-op office before 1 p.m. Sept. 13.

Feel free to stop by any time between 9 a.m. and noon on Sept. 13 to see the new warehouse, drop off your ballot, pick up your attendance gift and sign up for our cash drawings. This year, the co-op is giving away chances to win cash prizes (totalling \$1,000) for voting and for driving through the warehouse. Staff will be on hand to greet you and direct your vehicle through our new warehouse.

Election results will be posted following the meeting. Refer to the August issue of *REC Headlines* for co-op reports, candidate profiles and more information. The co-op will film its annual meeting reports and the video will be posted on www.cecnet.net Sept. 14.



Co-op staff and board members regret not being able to hold a traditional annual meeting this year where we enjoy the fellowship of visiting with our neighbors, sharing a meal and learning more about co-op operations. We hope to again return to our normal format in 2022 and look forward to seeing you again at the co-op!

Did You See Us at the Iowa State Fair?

CLARKE ELECTRIC GENERAL Manager Dave Opie (pictured, left) and Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., CEO Charlie Dunn had some fun working in the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa booth at this year's Iowa State Fair. Hundreds of thousands of visitors passed by our booth in the 4-H Exhibits Building to get a hard hat for the kids, hand sanitizer, take a selfie in our Selfie Safety Station, and complete a survey for a chance to win a prize. Thank you to all who stopped by!



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.

Renovation Project Draws to Close

DESPITE DELAYS RECEIVING materials and other slowdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic, the co-op is pleased to report that all construction work is almost complete! Staff has received many positive comments and inquiries about the remodeled office and warehouse addition and we can't wait for you to see it once it is safe to do so.

If you drive by our headquarters at 1103 N. Main in Osceola, you'll likely notice the addition of a new chain link fence. The fence was incorporated into the remodel plan to help boost security of our equipment, materials and grounds. We also added cameras for the safety and security of our employees, visitors and vendors.

The only outstanding items left to complete is delivery of a few pieces of furniture and new signs for the front of the building and by the road that will be installed later in September. Finishing touches such as wall art and photos continue to be placed as they are finished.

Your co-op greatly appreciates your patience during construction. We are pleased to have replaced worn out heating and cooling systems, plumbing and water lines and wiring to improve the safety and efficiency of our office.

We encourage you to continue calling us or dropping off your bill in the new drop box located near the light pole on the west side of the office building.

Once a date is set, all of our member-consumers will be invited to an open house where you can tour the updated facility. Watch this newsletter, our web site and Facebook page for more details on the open house once it is scheduled. We look forward to showing you the completed renovation!



The newly renovated reception area.



The newly expanded warehouse.



Community Invested: Volunteer Prompts Co-op Donation to Local Booster Club

IN JUNE, THE TOUCHSTONE ENERGY®

Cooperatives of Iowa held a contest to "Shine the Light" on Iowans who impact their communities through their volunteer work. 11-28-10-04

Alexis Carson nominated her mom, Sandy Carson of Osceola, for her work at the Clarke Athletic Booster Club concession stand. Each spring and summer, Sandy runs the concessions for all the schools' events. She spends countless hours including many weekends making sure the crowd is taken care of. In her nomination, Alexis wrote that her mom dreams of being able to raise enough money to build a new concession stand.

Although Sandy was not selected for this year's Shine the Light contest, Clarke Electric Cooperative is proud of the



commitment she has made to volunteering and donated \$500 to the Clarke Athletic Booster Club to help fund construction of a new concession building.

Congratulations Sandy and Alexis!

WANTED:
Rural Iowa high school students who have a passion for leadership



Attend our webinar series in October for a chance to win Apple AirPods and a \$1,000 college scholarship!

Learn more at

IowaYouthTour.com

Thinking About "Going Solar"?

DECIDING WHETHER TO INSTALL

D solar on your home or property can be a complicated decision. Recently, there has been a solar vendor paying visits to our co-op member-consumers about installing solar on their homes, in their yards or on outbuildings. Unfortunately, I believe this particular vendor is not providing our member-consumers with correct information.

I want to provide anyone who is considering solar with facts that may influence your decision. And before you sign any contracts, I encourage you to do your research and call or email me at (641) 342-2173; jasgibbs@cecnet.net. I'm happy to walk you through the benefits of solar to help determine if it is right for you.

Please read through these facts if you are considering "going solar":

- **The size (output) of a solar installation is expressed in kilowatts (kW).** 1kW = 1,000 watts. A typical toaster will use about 1.5 kW or 1500 watts.
- **Efficiency ratings, or the percentage of solar energy that is converted into useable energy, of solar panels range from 14-21%** with some doing a little worse and some doing a little better. Dirt, shade, snow, and clouds will all reduce the efficiency of solar panels. Direct sunlight is best.
- **Clarke Electric Cooperative (CEC) does not "net meter" or "bank" kilowatt-hours to be used at night or on a cloudy day.** Example: When your solar array is producing energy from sunrise to sunset, it is possible that at any given time, the system may be producing more than you are using. When this happens, the extra kWh it produces will go through the meter and back out onto the grid. These kWh are recorded on the meter and will show up as a credit on your bill at the end of the month. The co-op

calculates the credit by multiplying the number of kWh sent back out onto the grid by the Avoided Cost Rate of \$0.0278 that we must pay for excess generation, or # of kWh exported x \$0.0278 = bill credit.



JASON GIBBS

- **If you are on our Single-Phase Non-Commercial Rate, you are paying \$0.113/kWh.** CEC offers a discounted rate (Heat Rate) from October through May to member-consumers who use electricity as their primary heat source and also use an electric water heater. Currently, this rate is \$0.058/kWh. If you choose to install solar, you will no longer be eligible for this rate. Your heat will then be calculated at the current retail rate of \$0.113. 46-28-01-00
- **Before you install a solar array, the cooperative must receive an application and a signed "Interconnection Agreement."** Contact me to find out more.
- **There is currently a federal tax credit of 26% and a state tax credit of 11% (subject to availability) for solar installations.** Talk to a professional accountant or seek legal advice on how this can be used as an incentive for your decision.
- **Because of how we compensate you for excess generation, it's important to know how many kWh you use on a monthly or annual basis** as well as what time of day you consume the most energy. Is it during the daytime hours? Or is it after the sun has gone down?

I hope this helps you make an informed decision if you are thinking about going solar. Please contact the cooperative before making a decision so you are fully informed about the realities of installing solar energy.



Questions
or
Complaints?

CLARKE ELECTRIC 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.



ATTENTION
Electric Heat Users

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



Community Invested: Need Help With Your Heating Bills?

THE 2021-2022 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, 2021 to April 30, 2022
- All other households: Nov. 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of income (for all household members age 19+). Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members (documentation required)
- Most recent heat bill

- Most recent electric bill

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.

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/>

Income Maximums	
Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$25,760
2	\$34,840
3	\$43,920
4	\$53,000
5	\$62,080
6	\$71,160
7	\$80,240
8	\$89,320

For households with more than eight members, add \$9,080 for each additional member.

where-apply, or write to:

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



Upgrading Line Near Martensdale

Apprentice Linemen Dylan Bragg, left, and Hunter Koehn work on stringing new conductor. This is part of four miles of conversion of single phase to three-phase in the Martensdale area for the Mid-Iowa Seeds three phase line extension.



CLARKE
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

www.cecnet.net

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