



Volume 82, No. 8 | August 2022 | Annual Meeting Edition

# HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

## Annual Meeting Agenda

*Monday, Sept. 12, 2022*

*Clarke Electric Cooperative, 1103 N. Main, Osceola*

<b>3-5 p.m.</b>	Drive-thru event
<b>5 p.m.</b>	Business Meeting
Welcome	Attorney/Dave Opie
Nominating Committee Report	Attorney
Nomination by Petition/Closing of Election	Attorney
Minutes of Previous Meeting/ President's Report/Treasurer's Report	Attorney
General Manager's Comments	Dave Opie
Election Results	Attorney
Door Prize Drawings	
Adjournment	

## Notice of Annual Meeting of The Members

The Cooperative will host a drive-thru event on Sept.12, 2022, from 3-5 p.m., followed by the Annual Meeting of the Members of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc. held at 5 p.m. at the cooperative headquarters warehouse, to take action upon the following matters:

- The reports of officers, directors, and committees;
- The election of three (3) directors of the Cooperative for a term of three years each; and the election of one (1) director for a one-year term;
- All other business which may legally come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

### THREE YEAR TERM (Three to be Elected)

District 2 (vote for one)	Randy Barnard, Terry Morgan
District 4 (vote for one)	Gwen Murillo, Lydda Youmans
District 5 (vote for one)	Ethan Abbott, Ed White

### ONE YEAR TERM (One to be Elected)

District 1 (vote for one)	Doug Kingsbury, Natalie Rydl
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*continued on page 2*

## PRIZES!

\$500 in cash drawings for all voting members

\$500 in cash drawings for attending members

First 50 members to register for business meeting attendance will receive a \$25 energy credit. Register for business meeting and free food by calling (800) 362-2154 or sending an email to [clarke@cecnet.net](mailto:clarke@cecnet.net).



**The CEC office will be closed for Labor Day  
Monday, Sept. 5**

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

# Renew, Review, Adjust

Challenges continue to keep us on our toes

The annual meeting report gives us a chance to reflect on the previous year's accomplishments. And while it was a year of challenges due to the ongoing pandemic, it was also a year that we started to move toward a new sense of normalcy.

We completed our office and facility remodeling project after spending six months of working both remotely and at an offsite office location. Our employees met those logistical challenges with minimal disruption to our member-consumers. We eagerly returned to our new offices and warehouse in May, 2021 and, after settling in, hosted an open house to show off our modernized facilities.

In 2021, Clarke Electric Cooperative paid \$350,000 in patronage dividends to our member-consumers. We continued our community outreach with our Operation Round-Up program, granting more than \$6,000 to organizations and individuals in our local communities. With the cancellation of Youth Tour, we began a new scholarship program for local high school seniors to help them continue their education. 57-36-02-00

Our line crews forged

ahead by working together to build over 100 new services and replace aged poles and wires across our service territory. But in late 2021, we began to see long lead times and increasing prices for

equipment, materials and supplies. While we don't normally keep a large inventory on hand, we started to purchase larger quantities of materials to ensure we would have what we needed when we needed it. This continued into the 2022 construction and maintenance season, and we were fortunate to have pre-ordered a new insulated two-man bucket truck far enough in advance for it to arrive during this time.

We welcomed two apprentice linemen to our staff, Hunter Koehn and Jarad Taylor in 2021. This brings our number of employees to 24. We said goodbye to Board President Kyle Kelso, who served the cooperative faithfully over 15 years. Having reached the maximum term limit, Kyle was unable to run in last year's election. New



**DAVE OPIE**  
General Manager



**ED WHITE**  
Board President

*continued on page 3*

2021

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Hired two new employees – Hunter Koehn and Jarad Taylor, apprentice linemen
- Started a new high school college scholarship program
- Completed a three-year strategic plan
- Completed the building remodel
- Approved \$350,000 in patronage dividends
- Supported "Shine the Light" Program
- Held a drive-thru annual meeting event
- 15-year director Kyle Kelso reached term limits
- Elected a new director Marni Kelso
- Placed a new truck 2020 Freightliner, two man insulated 55-foot basket truck into service
- Granted \$6,000 to local members and organizations as part of Operation Round-Up
- Held an open house for the newly remodeled headquarters and warehouse
- Handed out service awards to four employees and two directors
- Ops review: built 101 new services, 52 houses; 11 commercial services; 7 cabin/campers; 31 barn/shed/outbuilding
- Retired services: 25
- Derecho impacted many members
- Gave an RLF loan to The Roost\*Grace-Grits-Gifts
- Installed lights at The Village Early Childhood Center

## Official Notice

*from pg. 1*

**Members planning to attend in person are asked to call (800) 362-2154 or email us at [clarke@cecnet.net](mailto:clarke@cecnet.net) to notify us of your attendance.** This will help us plan appropriately for seating and food. We encourage you to contact the Cooperative if you have any questions. The results of the election will be announced at the end of the meeting and posted to the Cooperative's website following the meeting.

Dated this 23rd day of August 2022

*Larry Keller*  
Board Secretary

# Annual Meeting Minutes

Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting of the Members, September 13, 2021

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the offices of the Cooperative in Osceola, Iowa at 1:00 P.M. on the 13th day of September, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Kyle Kelso, President of the Cooperative, who presided, and Dennis Puckett acted as Secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes thereof.

Welcoming remarks were offered by Chairman Kelso. He noted the change in meeting format due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with action on the Director Election being conducted by mail.

It was noted the mail ballots would be counted towards the quorum as permitted by the Bylaws and there were sufficient ballots cast to constitute a quorum for taking action on the ballot items. The list of members casting a ballot will be accepted as the roll call.

The Chairman stated that the next order of business was the election of three (3) directors for a term of three (3) years each. He introduced attorney Puckett to conduct the election. Attorney Puckett stated that in accordance with the Bylaws, the Board of Directors had appointed from the members of the Cooperative a Nominating Committee consisting of District 6 - Jason Boyer, Kyle Kelso; At-Large - Gary Alley, Tom Carson, Steve Reynolds, Frank Riley. Gary Alley was elected by the Nominating Committee to serve as Secretary and Tom Carson was elected by the Nominating Committee to serve as Chairman. Attorney Puckett then presented the Report of the Nominating Committee, nominating the following members for directors:

Three-Year Term (Three to be Elected)

District No. 6:	Marni Kelso, Steve Smith
At-Large:	Jason Boyer, Mark Fuller Larry Keller, Randy Rouse

The Report of the Nominating Committee was ordered to be identified by the Secretary and annexed to the minutes of the meeting. Attorney Puckett noted that there were no nominations by Petition.

The Chairman appointed Dennis Puckett, Tom Carson, Frank Riley, Gary Alley, Sarah Heggen, and Jason Gibbs as Inspectors of Election. The balloting was then declared closed. The ballots had previously been delivered to the inspectors, who proceeded to count the same.

Copies of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members of September 16, 2019 and September 14, 2020 had been previously distributed to each of the members. It was noted that said minutes will need to be approved at the 2022 Annual Meeting when members are present in person.

The Certificate of the Inspectors of Election was then presented and read, certifying that the following members, having received the highest number of votes cast, had been duly elected directors of the Cooperative to hold office for the term specified, and until

# GM & President's Report

from pg. 2

Board President Ed White continued to provide leadership on behalf of our member-consumers and our cooperative. We also said goodbye to board member Bill Willis, who sadly passed away unexpectedly in April. Natalie Rydl was appointed to fill Bill's seat until this year's election.

Having escaped major damage from the derecho in August, 2020, our cooperative wasn't so lucky when another one crossed our territory in December 2021. We suffered widespread damage and outages as a result of this high-wind event. Thankfully, our employees are well trained in storm recovery, and worked around the clock to get the power back on for our member-consumers as quickly as possible.

Although 2021 was a year of transitions, we finished strong. Our financials are stable, we have a new facility to meet our needs for many

years to come, and we have a great team of employees who are dedicated to serving our members.

In the first six months of 2022, we continued to struggle with obtaining materials and price increases that impact our budget and our ability to build or upgrade services. For you, this meant slower response time to new service installation requests and service upgrades. We pride ourselves on our customer service and being able to meet new service needs in a timely manner, and our employees have been both creative and relentless in their efforts to provide good customer service as we face these limitations.

We will always rise to the challenges and take care of our members and your cooperative as we have for the last 82 years - one member at a time. Thank you for your support.

## 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes, continued

their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

Three-Year Term (Three to be Elected)

District No. 6:	Marni Kelso
At-Large:	Larry Keller, Randy Rouse

The Chairman directed the Secretary to annex the Certificate of the Inspectors of Election to the minutes of this meeting, and thereupon declared such members duly elected directors of the Cooperative to hold office for the term specified, and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

A report from the Manager was recorded to be shown to the members.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

# Treasurer's Report

Clarke Electric Cooperative's financial records for 2021 were audited by BKD CPAs & Advisors, LLP, of West Des Moines. They reviewed the balance sheet and related statements of operation, member's equity, cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements. In their opinion, "the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc. as of December 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended are in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

During the April Board meeting, BKD CPAs & Advisors, LLP presented the audited financials to the Clarke Electric Cooperative board, in a written and oral presentation.

2021 saw the beginning of the recovery from the pandemic and along with it, supply chain issues. Despite higher costs for materials, equipment and supply and demand problems, Clarke Electric finished in a good financial position. The Statement of Operations at right shows our margin for 2021 was \$975,645, which was higher than budgeted. The overall expenses for 2021 were \$12,591,189 which were lower than budgeted.

From the charts below you will see the operating revenue for fiscal year 2021, "where the money comes from" and the total cost of electric service and operating margin, "where

the money goes" for fiscal year 2021. Residential sales continue to be our largest revenue source at 69% of total revenue. Residential sales averaged 5,217 residential consumers during 2021. Cost of purchased power far exceeds all other expenses at 50% with the next leading expense of operations and maintenance coming in at 16% of total expenses.

Your board of directors and leadership team work hard to balance updating the system infrastructure without stretching the budget to an uncomfortable level. This has proven to be challenging throughout 2021 and into 2022, but not impossible. We are committed to providing you with a safe and reliable power source. Thank you for supporting Clarke Electric Cooperative.



**SAM WALKUP**  
Mgr. of Finance



**LYDDA YOUMANS**  
Board Treasurer

# 2021-2020 Financial Stats

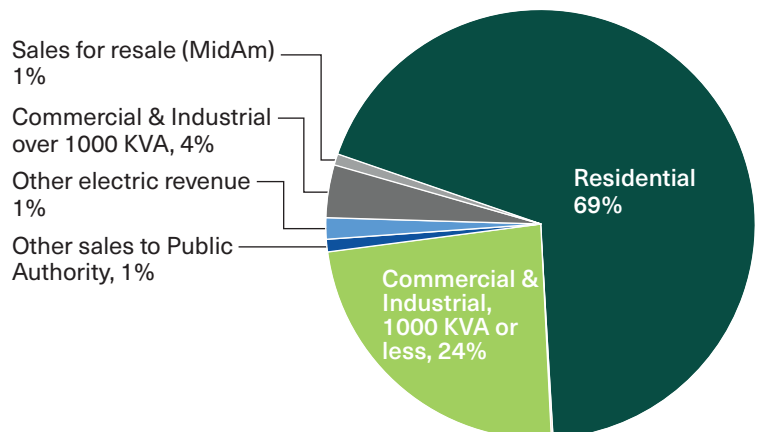
<b>Assets</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total Utility Plant	\$50,628,423	\$45,120,411
Less Depreciation	(15,804,652)	(14,536,437)
Net Utility Plant	34,823,771	30,583,974
Patronage Capital	3,315,435	3,325,850
Investments	1,245,397	1,492,559
Cash/Temp. Investments	1,128,122	1,039,127
Accounts Receivable	1,031,331	1,140,784
Other	503,486	1,993,066
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,047,542</b>	<b>\$39,575,360</b>

<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Memberships	\$23,325	\$22,915
Member Patronage	5,396,447	4,953,332
Other Margins/Equity	13,124,057	12,940,574
Long Term Debt	20,791,357	19,291,694
Notes/Accounts Payable	885,474	908,447
Consumer Deposits	82,261	85,705
Other Liabilities	1,744,621	1,372,693
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,047,542</b>	<b>\$39,575,360</b>

<b>Revenue &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total Revenue	\$13,105,242	\$12,993,116
Power Cost	6,485,367	6,531,766
Operations/Maintenance	2,124,194	2,296,233
Consumer Accounts	297,162	275,720
Customer Service/Sales	152,033	157,379
Administration/General	1,229,824	1,037,182
Depreciation	1,499,617	1,294,160
Interest on Long Term Debt	779,310	706,459
Other Expenses	23,682	11,630
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,591,189</b>	<b>\$12,310,529</b>

<b>Margins</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Operating Margins	\$514,053	\$682,587
Non-Operating Margins	28,486	28,248
G & T Co-op Capital Credits	338,740	554,671
Other Org. Capital Credits	94,366	89,715
<b>Net Margins</b>	<b>\$975,645</b>	<b>\$1,355,221</b>

## Where the Money Comes From Year-End 2021



# 2022 Board Candidates

Names listed alphabetically by district

## District 1 Candidates

### DOUG KINGSBURY



Doug is a candidate for District 1. He and his wife, Sue, share five children and nine grandchildren. They live in Squaw Creek Township of Warren County. Doug is a retired lineman. He received a degree from Drake University. Doug delivered Meals on Wheels during the pandemic. He enjoys camping, motorcycling, and traveling. Doug feels his past experience will make him a good addition to Clarke Electric's board. He has been a CEC member for 19 years. 22-27-01-00

### NATALIE RYDL



Natalie is the incumbent candidate for District 1. She and her husband, Shaun, live in Squaw Creek Township of Warren County. Natalie has a grown daughter, Carter Tull.

Natalie is a graduate of Clarke Community High School and AIB College of Business. Natalie is an account manager at Workspace Inc. in Des Moines and has been with the company for 24 years. She was an assistant coach for Energizers Trampoline and Tumbling Team. In her spare time Natalie enjoys interior decorating, camping, lake life, travel, hunting, fishing and helping run their kennel business. Natalie has been a CEC member for 14 years.

## District 2 Candidates

### RANDY BARNARD



Randy is the incumbent candidate for District 2 and serves as the assistant secretary-treasurer for CEC. Randy and his wife, Tammy, have three children: Andrew works security for Lakeside Casino, Nicole attends UNI and Adam attends SWCC. They live in Fremont Township of Clarke County. Randy is

a self-employed farmer raising cattle, corn, beans and hay. He received his education from Clarke Community High School and is a graduate of the Southwestern Community College Agriculture Program. He serves as a Chairman of the ISU Extension Council, Fremont Township Trustee and member of Clarke County Farm Bureau. Randy received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate in 2019. He enjoys watching sporting events. He has been a CEC member for 32 years.

### TERRY MORGAN



Terry is a candidate for District 2. He and his wife, Shelly, and their son, Montana, live in Fremont Township of Clarke County. Terry received his education from Centerville High School and Indian Hills Community College. He works as the assistant manager of perishable at Hy-Vee where he has worked for 22 years. Terry currently serves as a member of the American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Lion's Club and the Masons. He enjoys hunting, fishing, word work, coin and stamp collecting. He has been a CEC member for 12 years.

## District 4 Candidates

### GWEN MURILLO



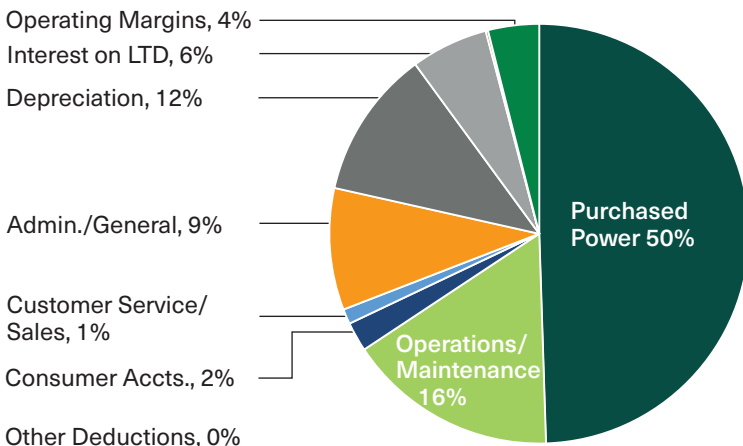
Gwen is a candidate for District 4. She and her husband, James, live in Otter Creek Township of Lucas County and have three adult children. Gwen is currently an administrative assistant at Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and previously attended Cornerstone College in Grand Rapids, MI. She is a member of Grace Evangelical Free Church in Indianola and helps in the nursery. Gwen enjoys knitting and reading. She has been a CEC member for 18 years.

### LYDDA YOUMANS



Lydda is the incumbent candidate for District 4 and board treasurer for CEC. Lydda and her husband, Dave, live in Liberty Center Township of Warren County. They have two children: Rylee, who just graduated from Drake University with a Bachelor's in Health Sciences and will graduate from Allen College in August with her RN degree; and their son, Reece, will be a freshman at Southeast Warren High School this fall. Lydda is a graduate of Simpson College with a degree in Social Services with a Family Concentration. She works for the Department of Human Services, Clarke County, for the Income Maintenance Worker Division and has been employed with the State of Iowa since September 1995. Lydda received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate in 2020 and the Board Leadership certificate in 2021. She is a member of the United Methodist Church in Milo. She enjoys attending her children's school activities, working in the yard and spending time with her family. Lydda has been a CEC member for 19 years.

## Where the Money Goes Year-End 2021

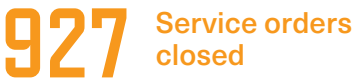


# BY THE NUMBERS

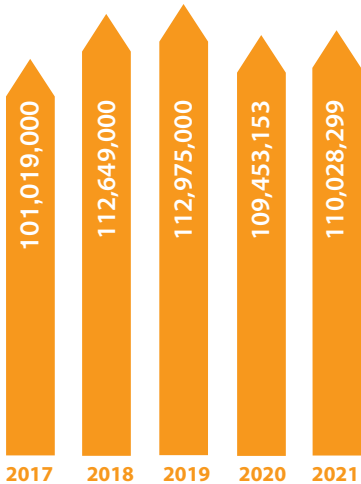
## Facebook Fans



## Construction and Maintenance in 2021



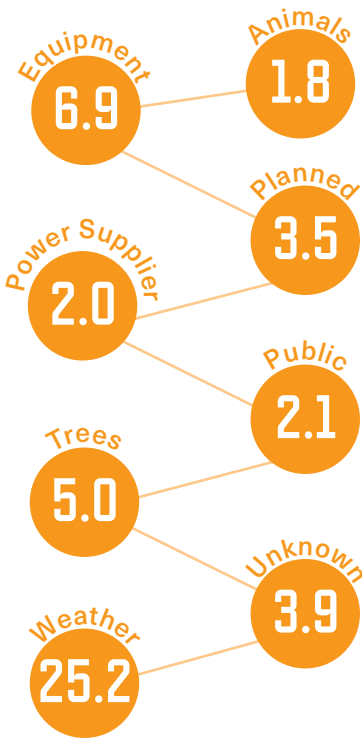
## Kilowatt Hours Sold



## GIVING BACK



## Outage Minutes per Member-Consumer by Cause



55 total outage minutes per CEC member-consumer in 2021



Average Service Availability Index

## District 5 Candidates

### ETHAN ABBOTT



Ethan is a candidate for District 5. He and his wife, Amanda, live in Washington Township of

Clarke County.

They have three boys: Riley, 6, Dawson, 4, and Conner, 2. Ethan received his education from Clarke Community High School and a Bachelors of Ag Business from Northwest Missouri State University.

He currently farms full-time. He worked for Landus Cooperative for five years as a grain superintendent and location manager and the last five years as an Ag Loan Officer at American State Bank.

Ethan is the Treasurer of Clarke County Cattlemen and Madison Township Trustee. He has been a CEC member for eight years.

### ED WHITE



Ed is the incumbent candidate for District 5 and current board president. He and his wife,

Jan, live in Liberty Township of Clarke County. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Ed is a graduate of Clarke Community High School. He is a self-employed farmer, operating a cow/calf herd, with mostly hay and some corn.

Ed received his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate in 2018 and the Board Leadership certificate in 2020.

He served on the Farmers Cooperative Board, the ASCS County Committee Board, Clarke Community School Board and the CEC Nominating Committee.

Ed is a Masonic Lodge member in Woodburn. Ed enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren.

He and Janice became CEC members 47 years ago when they were first married.



**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

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cecnet.net

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri.: 7:30 AM - 4 PM | Outside depository available 24/7

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Ed White  
**Vice President:** Randy Rouse  
**Secretary:** Larry Keller  
**Treasurer:** Lydda Youmans  
**Asst. Sec./Treasurer:** Randy Barnard

**Directors**  
Larry Jackson  
Marni Kelso  
Cody Miller  
Natalie Rydl

### GENERAL MANAGER

David Opie

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*