



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Volume 82, No. 12 | December 2022

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

2022 Service Awards

Each year we recognize employees and directors who have made Clarke Electric Cooperative their home by achieving service milestones.

We appreciate the time they have spent serving our cooperative and our member-consumers!



20 YEARS
Cory Dommer
Journeyman Lineman



2 YEARS
Greg Kindred
Warehouseman



9 YEARS
Lydda Youman
Board Member



6 YEARS
Randy Barnard
Board Member



6 YEARS
Ed White
Board Member



From our co-op family to yours, we wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy and peaceful New Year!

Clarke Electric offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26 for Christmas, and Monday, Jan. 2 for New Year's so our employees may enjoy the holidays with their families.



Considering Solar? Call Us First

As solar gains popularity, we want to be sure you understand how a solar interconnection with our system can impact your current account and billing rate.

Call us at (800) 362-2154 to discuss your options before investing in solar.

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

A Year of Extremes Define 2022

Whew! 2022 was definitely a year to make us step back and take stock of where we have been and where we are going. Nothing brought this more to mind than the sadness of losing a member of our cooperative family. In April, board member Bill Willis passed away. He dutifully served Clarke Electric members for 14 years and his presence is missed. We were fortunate to find someone to fill his board seat as the representative for District 1. We welcomed Natalie Rydl at the end of May.

We experienced several storms and bad weather situations. When the weather turns bad, it is the time our linemen shine. They were able to safely repair the storm damages and restore power quickly. The key word is "safely." When someone is experiencing an outage, it never feels like the lights come back on fast enough but our members have been extremely supportive and patient as we work safely.

We were lucky to have our building remodel complete before construction costs skyrocketed and building materials became scarce. It was another blessing that we could not have foreseen. Securing much-needed equipment was also a challenge for our warehouseman who navigated vendors and resources to obtain items our linemen use to do their jobs. Thankfully, we only needed to briefly

postpone a new service or upgrade for a member-consumer a few times.

The cooperative's cost of purchasing power from our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), increased in 2022. Those costs were passed on to our member-consumers through the energy adjustment charge (EAC). We anticipate more increases due to the escalating costs related to power generation, but we are thankful to CIPCO for proactively committing to, and investing in, power sources that make the best economic sense.

Over the summer, we faced the threat of a potential power shortfall. Co-op staff prepared for the event by planning the best way to shift load (electricity demand) without causing significant impact. Luckily, the threat never materialized so it became another blessing in disguise as we were able to think through scenarios and test ways to reduce power consumption if it becomes an issue in the future.

Although our margins were lower in 2022 than past years, our cooperative remains financially stable. We are taking actions related to cost control to prepare for the future. This will likely include a rate increase in 2023 to



DAVE OPIE
General Manager

Co-op Awards Operation Round Up Funds

Two local organizations received over \$8,000 thanks to Clarke Electric member-consumers who round up their monthly electric bill as part of Operation Round Up.



CEC Manager of Member Services Jason Gibbs, left, presents a check to Brian Evans, CEO of Clarke County Hospital.

On Nov. 8, Clarke Electric presented Clarke County Hospital with a grant award of \$3,070.83 to help pay for the purchase of "wearables," designed to protect ambulance drivers and first responders during active shooter situations. Funds will also help buy trauma packs designed to provide quick treatment to those wounded in those situations.



Gibbs presents a check to Murray City Administrator Denise Arnold.

The City of Murray received a \$5,000 grant to complete the pedestrian bridge as an essential piece of its Rec Complex. The project will connect the walking trail to sidewalks that extend to the Lion's

shelter just west of Casey's.

Your cooperative is proud to support civic and community-based organizations like the City of Murray and Clarke County Hospital that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in south-central Iowa.

defray the increased cost of supplies, materials and equipment. Even during this demanding year, we have been able to keep our cooperative financially strong.

Looking back on the year, our cooperative weathered and overcame many challenges. We feel positive about the future, and we feel blessed to provide safe and quality service to our member-consumers.

We will strive to keep your cooperative strong, resilient and safe for years to come. We wish you and yours a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. Thank you for your support.



Small Change That Can Change Lives

The holiday season is finally here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

Giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right here in our community and why it's so important to spread goodwill as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local area. I'm also reminded of how wonderful our community is and what a big impact we can have when we work together. 62-06-12-01

As a CEC member-consumer, you help us spread the good throughout the year. Through our voluntary Operation Round Up program, your monthly bill is rounded up to the nearest dollar with the maximum annual contribution of \$11.88. These donations can make a big difference to local organizations and individuals – your friends and neighbors – in need. And, not only are you helping meet an immediate, critical need, you are also demonstrating how our community cares.

To date, with your help, we've given over \$46,000 to 22 local organizations and individuals with food donations, built a

local splash pad, a pedestrian bridge, supported local schools and young people, and so much more.



JASON GIBBS
Manager Member Services

You've likely heard me say that the cooperative principle of "concern for community" is in Clarke Electric's "DNA," because it defines our organization. We created Operation Round Up to address quality of life issues in our community and we are proud to be among the more than 350 electric co-ops across the nation to have an Operation Round Up program that has raised million for local communities. This shows that small donations from electric co-ops like ours, over time, can collectively make a big impact.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in this community. We hope you will think of Clarke Electric as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community.

I wish all our member-consumers a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright!



Area Linemen Meet to Exchange Ideas

Clarke Electric recently hosted a District 4 meeting for linemen from Southwest Iowa REC (Corning), Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Greenfield), Guthrie County REC, Midland Power Cooperative (Boone), Central Iowa Power Cooperative (Creston) and Pella Cooperative Electric.

The group meets quarterly to review best practices, industry standards and safety issues their cooperatives face. They share ideas about their trade in a friendly and productive atmosphere.

Looking Out for You:


October Outages

- Equipment failure – 12
- Animal/bird – 8
- Wind – 3
- Trees – 1
- Unknown – 1



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form. Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture. Energy.gov



WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU? @ cecnet.net



Statewide outage map



Leased Light Program



SmartHUB



Rebates & Online Forms



Operation Round-UP



Call Before You Dig



Email newsletters



RECare



It Pays to Be a Member-Consumer

The Clarke Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has authorized the distribution of \$350,000 in capital credits to current and former co-op members. 26-03-02-04

If you were a member of CEC in 2004 and 2005, you should receive a patronage dividend. Active (current) members will receive a credit on their primary account in December for the amount of their capital credit. Doing this results in significant savings of postage and labor costs for the co-op. And by



applying capital credits to your December bill, the co-op hopes to help offset the higher bills that many of our member-consumers see at this time of year.

Former CEC members will be mailed checks if their distribution amount exceeds the \$5 minimum. 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.

Please contact the cooperative if you have any question about your patronage dividend.

Working for You

Apprentice Lineman Zach Stewart is in the bucket tying in new line on a feeder tie project between the White Oak and Medora substations.

Being able to tie substation lines together creates redundancy of power flow during planned and unplanned outage situations so we can ensure the continued supply of power to our member-consumers.



Holiday Safety Tip

Turn off your decorations when you're away from home or sleeping. Better yet, use a timer to control your holiday lights.



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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.