



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Volume 82, No. 5 | May 2022

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Farewell

It is with great sadness that we report Director Bill Willis passed away April 18. He was a CEC board member with great integrity and attention to detail.

One of his passions as a board member was advocating to remove worn-out lines to increase reliability within budget. Bill saw the positive impact of these improvements and wanted to keep the trend moving forward.

Bill was elected to the board September 10, 2008. He enjoyed representing cooperative members in District 1 and spent many hours listening to what members wanted from the cooperative. He was truly interested in “keeping the lights on,” while maintaining high safety and reliability standards.

During his tenure, Bill earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates, and the Director Gold status, the highest distinction given by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This required many hours of classroom work.



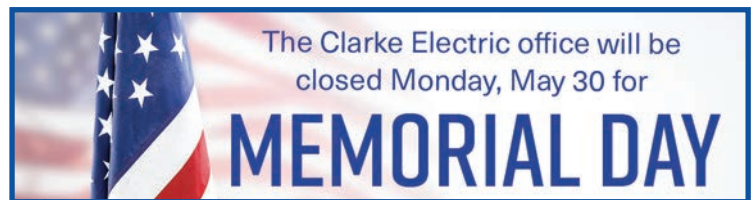
“Bill will be remembered as the director who asked tough questions, listened intently and worked steadfastly for the advancement of Clarke Electric Cooperative members,” said General Manager Dave Opie. “We send our deepest sympathy to his wife, Mary Ann, and the rest of his family. He will be missed.” 54-02-01-03

Board Allocates \$617,726 Back to Members

BKD CPAs & Advisors, LLP, of West Des Moines has completed the annual audit of Clarke Electric. Cheryl Clausen presented the audited 2021 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. The board reviews the statement of operations, equity, cash flows and deferred patronage schedule to determine how to allocate 2021 margins.

The margin is calculated by subtracting operating expenses from the total amount of money collected during the year, and is allocated to each member based on the amount each member paid for electricity. Service charges, membership fees and other payments are not included in the allocation.

This year, the board voted to allocate \$617,726 back to the members as 2021 patronage capital. They also voted to retire the patronage capital allocated for the remainder of 2004 and a portion of 2005 as dividends. Members of CEC during those years will see a credit on their account in December or as a check for former members.



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.

May is Electrical Safety Month!

At Clarke Electric Cooperative, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, we recognize that everyone plays a part in prioritizing safety.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As general manager, it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. We also want to keep you and your family safe. That's why we're available to educate about and demonstrate the dangers of living with electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers

and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact Jason Gibbs, (641) 342-2173 if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event.



DAVE OPIE
General Manager



A clean dryer duct makes for a safe home. Experts recommend cleaning your dryer duct twice a year to avoid potential fire hazards.

Director Election Time

Co-op seeks three candidates to run in September Annual Meeting election. If interested, call us at (800) 362-2154.

The Clarke Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting is coming up in September and the co-op is seeking candidates to run in three districts.

A nominating committee made up of two members from each district in the election will meet in June to select possible candidates.

If you are interested in serving on the board of Clarke Electric, call the cooperative for details. Any verified member of the eligible districts may add their name to the ballot by presenting a petition consisting of 15 signatures from residents within the district. The petition must be turned in to the cooperative 45 days before the Annual Meeting Sept. 12, or July 29, 2022.

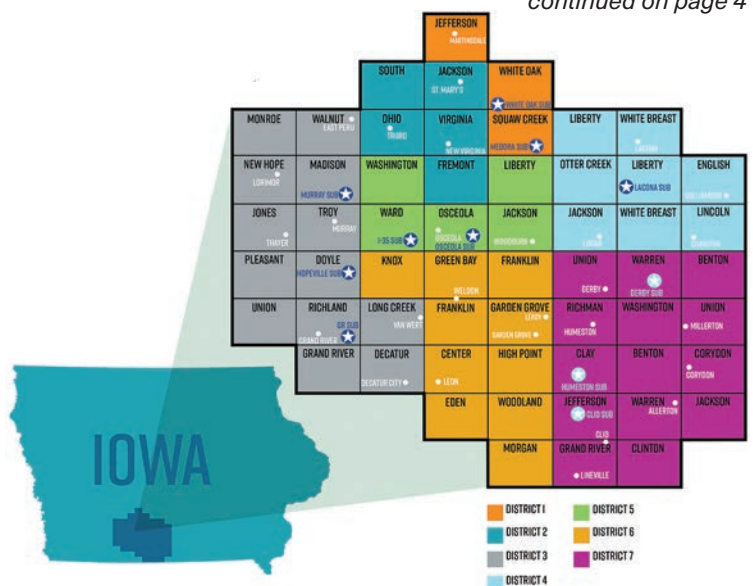
Additionally, a special election will be held during the annual meeting to fill the vacant District 1 seat following the passing of Director Bill Willis. The board has appointed Natalie Rydl to fill the position until the election.

Our Board of Directors is elected by and from within 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. A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings, other special meetings and educational seminars designed to stay informed about the cooperative and utility industry. Those directors up for re-election are:

District 2: Randy Barnard, assistant secretary-treasurer (completing his second term)

District 4: Lydda Youmans, treasurer (completing her third term)

continued on page 4



Reliability is our Business

Each year Clarke Electric reviews our system reliability and compares the results to previous years as well as to other cooperatives, investor-owned and municipal utilities. The process helps us to identify ways we can decrease both the number and length of outages in our short- and long-term planning.

In 2021, the extreme weather across our service territory in December led to lightning being the largest contributor of outages for the year, with wind being a very close second. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), 43 tornadoes were recorded in Iowa on Dec. 15,

making it the most substantial tornado outbreak in state history.

We use this data to create a reliability plan that is filed with the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB). This plan acts as our guide when we evaluate equipment choices, right



of way clearing, pole inspection, animal protection guards, lightning protection equipment and other items. Our end-of-year

Reliability Report is submitted to the board of directors and the IUB annually for review. This is another way we ensure our members have the power for their homes and businesses when they need it. We work for you!

Looking Out for You: March Outages

Power supply: 7
Motor vehicle: 5
Trees: 3
Animal/bird: 2

Planning to Build or Upgrade Electric Service?

If you are planning to build or upgrade your electric service this season, please call Clarke Electric first. Below is a list of questions for you to consider before contacting us.

Where is the new property located?

- Address
- Township, Range and section number.

Is the new home/building staked out on the property?

- Is the driveway also staked or laid out?

What type of heating and appliances will be utilized?

- If electric, what KW size is the heating unit?
- Gas
- Wood (heat)

Are there any other outbuildings being constructed, or will there be in the future?

You may need an upgrade to your electric service if you are:

- building a new home to replace your existing home;
- adding an addition to your current home;
- building a new outbuilding/shop;
- adding a grain bin or large motor load to your existing service;
- updating your panel size in your home;
- upgrading or replacing your HV/AC system; or
- adding an electric vehicle charger.

It is important to us to know any additional electric load you plan to add to your existing service. If you are not sure of the size of your service don't hesitate to call in and request that information. This will ensure Clarke Electric continues to provide you with proper and reliable electrical service.

Consult both your electrical contractor and Clarke Electric Cooperative as you plan your project so that we can work together to meet your expectations.

Note: Clarke Electric is experiencing material shortages, extensive lead times and a large demand for material stock. We are doing our best to plan ahead to keep up with our members' power requirements.

Note to our members: If you have more than one account and would like to consolidate them into one itemized bill, please contact our office for details. Ask for "invoice account options."

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

Annual Meeting Call for Board Candidates

from pg. 2

District 5: Ed White, board president (completing his second term)

District 1: Natalie Rydl, director

The following are excerpts from the 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. *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 ... 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.

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 andby 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."



Call Us Before Installing Solar Panels

The number of residential and agricultural utility customers installing solar on their properties is growing in Iowa.

If you are a CEC member-consumer who is considering installing solar at your home or farm, please contact the cooperative before signing any contracts. 19-06-01-02

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.



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P.O. Box 161 | 1103 N. Main | Osceola, IA 50213-0161
(641) 342-2173 | (800) 362-2154
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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Even in summer, adding insulation can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your A/C. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

