



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Volume 82, No. 11 | November 2022

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

A Grateful Heart

For me, the month of November is for celebrating gratitude. And I am grateful for many things as the general manager of Clarke Electric Cooperative. At the top of my gratitude list are three key things that make our cooperative a great organization: a loyal team of employees, an engaged board of directors, and a supportive membership.

Without one of those three key parts, our cooperative would suffer. Our employees show up each day to do their part, whether it's climbing poles, answering phones, paying bills or writing the newsletter. Each department is well trained and can work independently. But they are even better when they collaborate, working smarter

and more efficiently together to keep the power flowing to your homes and businesses when you need it.

Our board of directors, elected by and from the membership, attend monthly board meetings to keep apprised of energy sector trends and the workings of Clarke Electric. They attend training so that they may make informed decisions on behalf of the cooperative. They steer the ship, so to speak by approving a strategic plan for the employees to follow. They



DAVE OPIE
General Manager

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HAPPY Thanksgiving



The Clarke Electric office will be closed Nov. 24-25 for Thanksgiving. From the board of directors, general manager and employees, we hope your Thanksgiving holiday is an enjoyable one. We thank you for your support, and we pledge to do our best each day to serve you.

Membership Matters!

One of the benefits of being a member of Clarke Electric is receiving money in the form of a patronage dividend.

Any margins or revenues related to the sale of electric service remaining after all expenses have been paid are returned to members in proportion to their electrical use during the designated year (typically a 20-year rotation).

Remember to keep your contact information updated with the co-op, even if you have moved out of our service territory, so that you can receive your patronage dividend in the form of a mailed check. 25-02-02-00

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

Member Leased Light Program

With the onset of shorter daylight hours, you might want to consider leasing a light from Clarke Electric so when you come home and it is dark outside, you won't have to worry about how to get to the door. Clarke Electric offers the leased light program to our members without the hassle of repairs or maintenance.

For a low monthly fee of \$7.50, we will install and maintain an LED light on your property and make repairs when needed. LED bulbs are an extremely efficient, long lasting light source. All you do is pay for the electricity, it's just that simple.

Qualifications for our leased light program:

- You must be a member
- The light must be on the meter pole, or any

Member-owned pole on the member's side of the meter provided the member arranges for 120-volt electric service to the pole.

- Clarke Electric will furnish, install and maintain the light and fixture during normal cooperative working hours.
- The light will be turned on and off using a dusk-to-dawn photocell (cannot be controlled by a switch).
- The co-op may remove the light at its discretion.
- These qualifications must be understood and agreed to by the member upon the member's request for installation of the leased light. 61-06-01-15

Call the co-op with any questions or for more details at (800) 362-2154.

Opie...from pg. 1

review the monthly finances, approve an annual budget, and ensure a safe working environment. They are also the entity to which I answer as the general manager.

Lastly, we appreciate our members, the foundation of our existence. This cooperative was founded by a group of local farmers, who wanted to bring electricity to the family farm and rural businesses when investor-

owned utilities wouldn't. But 83 years later, we are still here and still working to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable power.

From a grateful heart this Thanksgiving season, I'd like to take this time to say thank you from me, my family, the employees and board. We wish you a safe and healthy holiday season.

Shining the Light on Our Community Volunteers



Pictured, from left: Retta Ripperger; Sandy Ralya; Toni Landers, treasurer; Devon Springer, president; Mary Hill; K'Lea Johnson, secretary; and Jason Gibbs, Clarke Electric.

Nominated by Clarke Electric member Laura Tallmon, Retta Ripperger has a long history of giving her time to ensure that Afton is a place where people want to live and raise their families.

Twenty-one years ago, Retta joined the Afton Community Club, an organization that works to enhance the quality of life for Afton residents and businesses by sponsoring and supporting community wide events.

Past fundraisers include the "Mz Gorgeous" contest in which local men wear gowns as part of a beauty pageant. Always having fun and finding new ways to raise money, this group of local volunteers has tackled big projects like extending concrete walking paths around the Union County Fairgrounds and recreational fields, creating a beautiful outdoor area between two buildings on the south side of the square, and building a splash pad.

Clarke Electric is proud of the impact Retta and all her fellow volunteers have made on the Afton Community and are thrilled to donate \$250 in Retta's honor so they may continue doing all the great things for their community.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know that about 90% of U.S. homes leak air that accounts for as much as 30% of the energy used to heat and cool homes? Seal air leaks around pipes and gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets with caulk, foam or weatherstripping.





Materials Prices Continue to Increase

The rising costs of material supplies, a down turning economy, wars on foreign land, drought, hurricanes, pandemic, and election cycles all mixed over the past few years has taken a toll on everyone, including Clarke Electric.

Simple material like poles, wire and transformers have been difficult to secure. Capital expense items such as utility vehicles have a 60-month lead time. The inability to get materials and supplies as needed has caused delays with our work plans.

At this time, we are nearly

finished securing another long-term contract with our power provider, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), to ensure we may continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity for our member-consumers.

As the cooperative works to put a budget in place for 2023 and forecast our needs for the next several years, we are seeing a trend of increasing costs, while growth in member-consumers averages 50 members per year and kWh sales are stable. In the environment we are currently navigating, we don't expect to see these conditions change.

Looking Out for You:

September Outages

Lightning - 6	Unknown - 2	
Animal/bird - 3	Customer caused - 1	
Equipment failure - 3	Construction - 1	
Trees - 3	Other - 1	
	House/road move - 1	

Show Your Care with RECare

A one-time or monthly contribution to the RECare program can help offset high bills for those who need it. RECare funds can also be used to weatherize the recipient's home and help make electricity usage more efficient. Your donation is directed to local community action agencies for distribution to low-income families near you.

Consider contributing to RECare and help your neighbors and your community with high heating expenses. It's an easy way to show you care!

Member Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members through the RECare program.

_____ Enclosed is a check with a one-time donation.

_____ I would like to make a monthly donation of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mail to: RECare, c/o Clarke Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 161, Osceola, Iowa 50213



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.

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

Preparing for Storm Season?

DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit onboard. Kits should be checked twice a year and expired items should be replaced regularly. Emergency supply kits should include:



- Snowbrush
- Shovel
- Windshield washer fluid
- Cat litter for traction



- Warm clothing
- Blankets
- Drinking water
- Nonperishable foods



- Properly inflated spare tire
- Wheel wrench & tripod jack
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher



- Reflective triangles
- Reflective vest
- Brightly colored cloth (to tie on side mirror)



- First-aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Compass
- Car charger for cell phone

Derby Substation Struck by Outage

The cooperative experienced an outage Oct. 3 at 5:43 p.m. that affected 591 members served by the Derby substation. Crews were dispatched immediately to investigate the cause of the outage and assess the necessary repairs needed to restore power.



CHAD MCINTOSH
Manager of Operations

Once the line crews had a chance to drive the lines, they determined the fault was due to the loss of power on a transmission line owned by our generation and transmission (G&T) power provider. Our crews, not knowing the possible duration of the outage, began backfeeding power from the Lacona and Humeston substations to direct power to the members in the Derby sub without power.

The length of the G&T outage lasted about two hours longer than the time we were able to restore power to our members. This is a good example why our cooperative places "tie lines" in our substations. The ability to backfeed from one substation to another significantly reduces the time members are without power.



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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.