

Volume 82, No. 10 | October 2022

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Annual Meeting: A Look Back on the Past Year

Clarke Electric Cooperative employees and the Board of Directors proudly hosted the 82nd annual meeting drive-thru event along with an in-person business session — the first since the pandemic began. We had about 100 people participating in the activities at the cooperative.



A Clarke Electric member-consumer chats with General Manager Dave Opie and CEC Board Members during the drive-thru portion of the annual meeting Sept. 12.

Jason Gibbs, manager of Member Services, welcomed the members to the meeting. Attorney Dennis Puckett conducted the meeting and oversaw the director election process. Incumbents Natalie

Rydl, Lydda Youmans, Randy Barnard and Ed White were elected to serve another term.

General Manager David Opie addressed the members with the previous year's activities. He reflected on the pandemic challenges and how the cooperative transitioned into

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Focused on YOU.

Clarke Electric was created by and for our member-consumers. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Did You Know...?

- Nearly one in two Iowans is a member of a cooperative, including credit unions, electric co-ops and ag co-ops.
- If all of Iowa's 12,000 cooperative employees were grouped together, they would be one of the top 10 largest employers in the state. 60-35-01-00
- Iowa's locally owned cooperatives generate more than \$60 million in property taxes each year, which directly benefit Iowa communities, counties, local schools and hospitals.

Follow Clarke Electric on Facebook this month to see new videos celebrating the cooperative difference featuring Iowans just like you. Or learn more about the cooperative advantage at www.IowaCooperatives.com.

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



SHARE the ROAD with Farmers

Be safe. Be courteous.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, do the following to keep everyone safe:

- 1** Be alert and cautious, and give farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles space.
- 2** Do not pass in a "No Passing Zone," or in any area where it is not safe to do so, such as intersections, bridges or railroad crossings.
- 3** Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.
- 4** Do not tailgate.
- 5** Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.



Share the road with care. Farmers are just trying to get to and from their job, too.



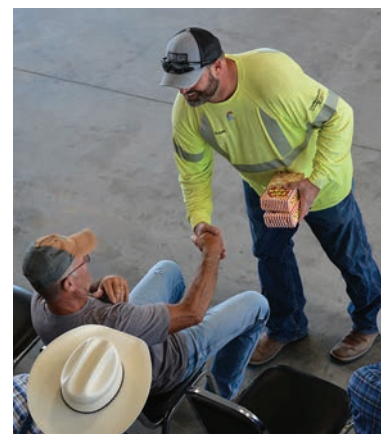
Considering Solar? Call Us First

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.

Annual Meeting...from pg. 1

a new normalcy. He noted the challenges we experienced regarding material shortages, extended lead times and increased material prices. He commended our operations department on adapting and continuing to be productive with our construction and maintenance program.



Lineman Adam McCuddin greets meeting guests and hands out popcorn.

Employees were happy to be under one roof again with the facility remodel completed, Opie said. The new facility is safer, more efficient, and arranged better by grouping employees together with their respective department teams.

Organizational transitions included new faces in the boardroom as Marni Kelso and Natalie Rydl joined the board. We also welcomed two new employees — Hunter Koehn and Jarad Taylor — who began their apprenticeship careers with CEC.

Clarke Electric continues to be committed to the communities we serve. Our Operation Round-Up program continued granting resources and we started a new high school college scholarship program.

Finally, Opie reminded the members that Clarke Electric has risen to each challenge that has come along and will continue to take care of our members as we have for the past 82 years. We will continue to provide you with safe, affordable and reliable electricity. Thank you!

Looking Out for You:

August Outages

Animal/bird – 8	Trees – 4
Equipment/Maintenance – 10	Unknown – 2



Then & Now: CEC History Comes Out of the Vault

The past couple of years have been challenging and fun at the same time. Before we packed up and moved out of our old office space in the fall of 2020, we sorted and purged outdated and unneeded documents, pamphlets and such items. We boxed up the remainder and placed them in storage while the remodel took place.

When we moved back into our office, we needed to find homes for everything we placed in storage.

Since I am the communicator and human resources manager of the cooperative, I'm considered the keeper of official, historical cooperative documents. As I moved through several boxes marked "annual meeting material," I found myself stopping to read many of the articles that haven't seen the light of day since they were kept in our vault in a dark file cabinet. 24-16-02-51

This has been a fun history lesson, learning about how our cooperative was formed, why it was formed and how after 82 years it is still a very relevant business model.

The specific article I stopped to read from cover to cover is from *The Osceola Sentinel* dated Thursday, July 30, 1959. I thought some of you might

find it as interesting as I did and I'd like to share some interesting facts and stats from then and now.



JODEE ECKELS
Communications / HR Manager

1959 / 2022

- 1,670 / 1,900 miles of line
 - 3,800 / 4,687 members
 - 7 / 8 counties served
 - 24 / 24 employees
 - 9 / 9 directors
 - 6,000 / 51,250 kW capacity
 - 1959 Substations: Osceola, Medora, Derby, Humeston & Hopeville
 - 2022 Substations Added: Clio, White Oak, I-35, Murray, Grand River & Lacona
 - 1954: New building dedicated
 - 2021: Remodeled building dedicated
 - 1959: Humeston building
 - 2022: No outpost buildings
- The story of Clarke Electric Cooperative begins when two Clarke County extension directors, Kenneth Whirrett and Melvin Goeldner, took an early lead getting area farmers interested in forming a rural electric cooperative (REC). Their goal: to provide

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CEC's Jason Gibbs presents a check to Kristine Kennedy, right, as a donation to LCHC Volunteer Services. At center is Tami Adams who nominated Kristine for the Shine the Light contest.

We're Proud to Shine the Light on Volunteers!

Kristine Kennedy of Chariton is the first of two local volunteers who will receive \$250 for her efforts to better her community.

Kennedy was nominated for this year's Shine the Light contest by Clarke Electric member-consumer Tami Adams for Kennedy's work with the Lucas County Health Center (LCHC) Volunteer Services.

The Shine the Light contest is a promotional opportunity for member-consumers of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives to nominate someone who makes a positive difference in their community. Three winners were selected, and each received \$2,000 toward their favorite charity.

While the two nominees from Clarke Electric were not selected as winners this year, the co-op decided to award each of them \$250 in recognition of their efforts. The donation was made in Kennedy's name to the LCHC Volunteer Services.

"As a cooperative, we're guided by a set of principles that encourage us to support the communities in which we live and work," said Jason Gibbs, manager of Member Services. "There's no better way to do that than to shine a light on those unsung heroes who do so much for so little recognition."

"Kristine is my go-to person," Adams said of why she nominated Kennedy for the contest. "She is very knowledgeable and eager to help however she can."

Check out next month's newsletter when we highlight the second nominee.

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

Then & Now...from pg. 3



high quality, central station electric service to every farm in their area, regardless of its location. Shortly after the establishment of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1935, Whirrett and a small group of county farmers traveled to Ames to attend some of the early REA meetings. They returned discouraged but resolved that something must be done.

A few years later, Goeldner succeeded Whirett and kept the project alive by continuing to have articles published in the local papers and by word of mouth. During this time, less than 10% of electric service was reaching farmers in our rural service area. In 1939, following months of meetings, a group of interested farmers applied for and received the charter on Nov. 24, 1939, with the REA designation of "Iowa No. 79."

In May 1940, the cooperative's first employee, N.T. Miller, was appointed manager. Shortly after, Harold Gripp was hired as membership solicitor. Together, the two men worked tirelessly to sign up members and hire employees to construct the lines and take care of the

finances. Miller went on to lead the cooperative until his retirement in 1973.

Construction started in the spring of 1941 to build the first section of line, 115 miles, to serve 180 members in the southern part of Warren County, central Clarke County and northwest Decatur County. Construction was halted by Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, with very little construction progress taking place during the war.

Following the war, electric line activity flourished. From 1946-1953 the bulk of line construction was completed with 1,670 miles of line energized. Five substations were built with a capacity of 6,000 kilowatts. In 2022, our eleven substations have a capacity of more than 51,250 kilowatts.

Today, we take for granted that the lights will come on when we flip the switch. But lets not forget the roots of our existence and the sacrifices early farmers made for the betterment of all rural lives. Clarke Electric Cooperative fulfilled the need then and we will continue to fill the need now and into the future. That's the cooperative difference.



Right-of-Way Maintenance

Midwest Spray Team will be assisting the cooperative with right-of-way maintenance in the Medora substation area of our service territory east of New Virginia.

This time of year, we are concentrating on spraying underbrush to impede new growth that could cause outages if left untended. Keeping the area clean of vegetation increases the reliability of your electric service. As we head into the winter storm wind and ice season, we are particularly mindful of trees in the right-of-way that could grow into our electric lines and potentially make contact, causing blinks or outages.

If you come across our crews out working in the right-of-way, remember to watch out and give them plenty of space as you move over and slow down going around them.



CHAD MCINTOSH
Manager of Operations



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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cecten.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

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