



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Volume 83, No. 8 | August 2023 | Annual Meeting Edition

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Annual Meeting Agenda

Monday, Sept. 11, 2023

Clarke Electric Cooperative, 1103 N. Main, Osceola

3:30-5:30 p.m.	Drive-thru event with free chicken dinner; register below
5:30 p.m.	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	Dave Opie
Adjournment	Attorney

3 Ways to Pre-register for Free Chicken Dinner From Thelma Saxton Cater 2 U:



- 1). Call (800) 362-2154.
- 2). Send email to clarke@cecnet.net with # and names of guests.
- 3). Point your phone camera at the QR code at left, click on the cecnet.net web address and fill out online form.

Notice of Annual Meeting of The Members

The Cooperative will host a drive-thru event on Sept. 11, 2023, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., followed by the Annual Meeting of the Members of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc. held at 5:30 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;
- All other business which may legally come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

THREE YEAR TERM (Three to be Elected)

District 1 (vote for one)	Natalie Rydl, Sylvia Villanueva
District 3 (vote for one)	Cody Miller, Stan Gray
District 7 (vote for one)	Zachary Robinson, William Shoup

Members planning to attend in person are asked to notify us of your attendance to plan for seating and food. 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 2023

Larry Keller
Board Secretary

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.

Co-op Strong

What happened to the year? Things change so quickly, and everyone is very busy, making time fly faster than ever. Just recently we were talking about our annual meeting and the important things that happened at our cooperative. Now, it's that time again to reflect on and celebrate a jam-packed year.

Community Strong

Our cooperative made several low-interest loans from our Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), an economic development program to support our local economy. One loan was to The Roost Grace - Grits - Gifts in Afton. We also awarded \$9,000 in scholarships to 17 local graduates. Our Operation Round-Up program granted funds for improvements to eight entities: South Central Iowa Theatre, Leon; The City of Murray; Little River Scenic Pathway, Leon; Clarke County Historical Society; Clarke County Hospital, Osceola; and three families in need.

Board Strong

We lost a dedicated longtime board member, Bill Willis in April, 2022.

Natalie Rydl stepped in to fill the open district 1 board seat until she ran for election at last year's annual meeting. Lydda Youmans, another committed and longtime

board member, acquired her Board Leadership Certification emphasizing the cooperative principle of education, training and information.

The Board of Directors allocated \$634,672 to our members in patronage dividends to be paid to cooperative members on a 20-year rotation schedule.

Operations Strong

The challenges of delays for materials and equipment continued to plague the cooperative in 2022, while prices for critical equipment continued to increase. Our employees became very resourceful meeting these challenges while minimizing the impact on our members.

Our operations and engineering staff continued to improve our distribution system. They performed equipment maintenance in the Murray, I-35 and Hopeville substations, and installed new equipment to improve the reliability of your electric service. With the use of contractors and our linemen, we built three phase lines to new hog confinements



DAVE OPIE
General Manager



ED WHITE
Board President

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2022

HIGHLIGHTS

- Employees participated in in-service training day with Dr. Charlie Cartwright
- Natalie Rydl was appointed to fill district 1 board seat following the loss of longtime board member Bill Willis
- Board voted to allocate \$634,672 back to CEC members
- Awarded \$9,000 in scholarships to 17 graduating seniors
- Monitored reports of potential generation shortfalls due to high electricity demand
- Board member Lydda Youmans received the NRECA Board Leadership Certificate
- Constructed new service to Iowa Select Farms Derby hog confinement
- Installed 3-phase regulator banks at the new Roeslein Alternative Energy, LLC, project
- Staff represented cooperative at Clarke Community Schools job fair
- Derby substation was struck by outage that affected 591 co-op members
- Operation Round-Up grants of \$22,071 to local entities and families in need
- March 2022 tornado swept through CEC territory, causing damage and outages
- New lines were constructed between Humeston and Derby substations to improve system

Don't miss your chance to win

ANNUAL MEETING PRIZES!



\$500 in cash drawings for all voting members

\$500 in cash drawings for attending members

First 25 members to register for business meeting attendance will receive a \$25 energy credit.

Plus...free chicken dinner from Thelma Saxton Cater 2 U for attending members. Pre-register by calling (800) 362-2154; sending an email to clarke@cecnet.net; or using QR code located on pg. 1.

Annual Meeting Minutes

Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting of the Members, September 12, 2022

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc. headquarters warehouse in Osceola, Iowa at 5:00 P.M. on the 12th day of September, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Ed White, President of the Cooperative, who presided, and Larry Keller, Secretary of the Cooperative, acted as Secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes thereof.

Welcoming remarks were offered by Manager of Member Services Jason Gibbs. It was reported that the members present or registering during the drive-through portion of the meeting had been checked and that a quorum was present for the transaction of business. It was also noted that the Notice of the Annual Meeting of Members was mailed to all members of the Cooperative.

Jason Gibbs then introduced attorney Dennis Puckett. He stated that the next order of business was the election of four (4) directors. Three for a term of three (3) years each and one Director for a term of one year. Attorney Puckett further 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 1: Cindy Flaherty; District 2: Tom Carson, Brad Howe; District 4: Marianne Lester, Marshall Hildreth; District 5: John Sullivan, Frank Riley. 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. 2: Randy Barnard, Terry Morgan

District No. 4: Gwen Murillo, Lydda Youmans

District No. 5: Ethan Abbott, Ed White

One-Year Term (One to be Elected)

District No. 1: Doug Kingsbury, Natalie Rydl

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

The Chairman appointed Sam Walkup, Tom Carson, Cindy Flaherty, John Sullivan, Marshall Hildreth, and Marianne Lester as Inspectors of Election.

Attorney Puckett made the final call for any remaining ballots in the audience prior to closing the election. The balloting was then declared closed. The ballots were delivered to the inspectors, who proceeded to count the same, including those

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GM & President's Report

from pg. 2

and other businesses. We completed line improvements connecting our Derby and Humeston substations. And, we cleared trees and sprayed trees and brush in the right-of-way to help reduce the number of outages and outage durations.

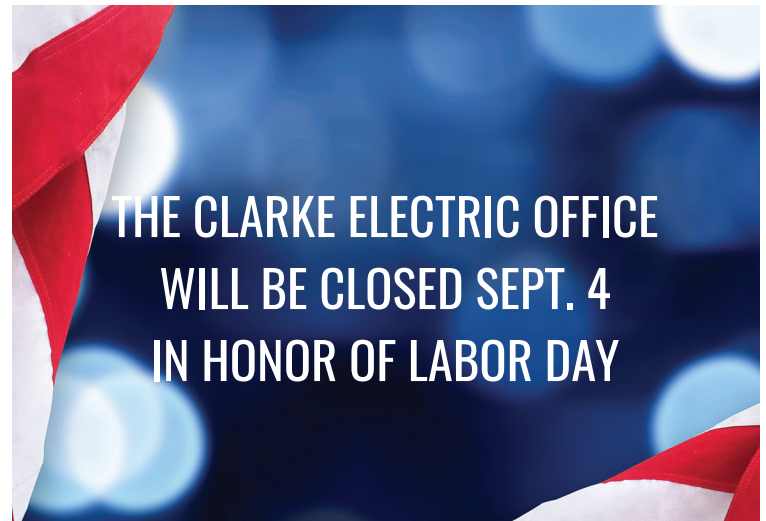
Our cooperative began researching a new metering system as electric service becomes more advanced and complicated. It will eliminate the radio frequency system and utilize a more reliable cellular system. Installation of new meters is slated for late 2023 or early 2024.

We also had a few curve balls in 2022. In March, we endured tornadoes that swept through our service territory. We also weathered strong winds and storms that caused damage to our system periodically throughout the rest of the year. There were additional outages caused by vehicles, agricultural equipment, and fires.

As the summer months approached, we prepared for our first potential power-grid curtailment due to expected high demand. These types of warnings are, unfortunately, likely to be more prevalent as federal directives support closure of dependable fossil-fuel based generation for intermittent renewable energy generation.

So, fasten your seatbelts because although 2022 is in our rearview mirrors, 2023 is racing ahead with no signs of slowing down. Our team will continue to work efficiently and resourcefully so that we can provide you with the safe, affordable and reliable power you need. 34-15-02-02

Before you know it, I will be sending you an invitation to next year's annual meeting. In the meantime, please vote for board representation and if your schedule allows, plan to attend our drive-through annual meeting Sept. 11.



Treasurer's Report

Clarke Electric Cooperative's financial records for 2022 were audited by FORVIS, 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, 2022, 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 FORVIS, LLP presented the audited financials to the Clarke Electric Cooperative board, in a written and oral presentation. 12-20-06-11

As you can see from the statement of operations below, 2022 year-end margin was \$634,672, which was lower than 2021 at \$975,645. Clarke Electric had higher costs of power in 2022 due to higher costs of power generation. Supply chains for materials and equipment continued to be an issue for the cooperative in 2022. Like

all sectors of the economy this has led to higher costs. The increase in the power cost and increases in materials and equipment for Clarke Electric lead to the May 2023 increase in the availability rate for all members.

The charts below show you the revenue classes where the cooperative's revenue is generated, "Where the Money Comes From." Residential is the largest class at 69% with the next class being small commercial at 24%. As you can see, the cost of power remains the largest cost Clarke Electric has, with 53%, in "Where the Money Goes." The cost of power was 50% of expenses and operating margins in 2021. Operations and maintenance expenses come in at 16%.

As directed by the board of directors, \$350,000 was paid back to the member owners in 2022 for the service years 2004 and a portion of 2005.



SAM WALKUP
Mgr. of Finance



LYDDA YOUMANS
Board Treasurer

2022-2021 Financial Stats

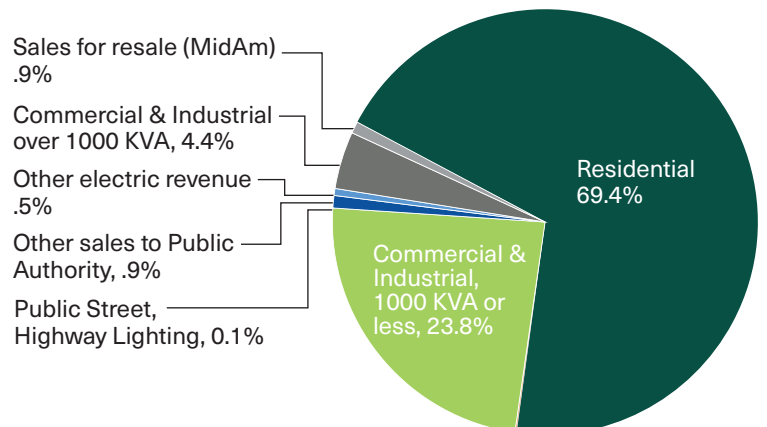
Assets	2022	2021
Total Utility Plant	\$53,613,273	\$50,628,423
Less Depreciation	(16,882,940)	(15,804,652)
Net Utility Plant	36,730,333	34,823,771
Patronage Capital	3,209,773	3,315,435
Investments	991,715	1,245,397
Cash/Temp. Investments	1,145,020	1,128,122
Accounts Receivable	1,512,606	1,031,331
Other	1,067,556	503,486
Total	\$44,657,003	\$42,047,542

Liabilities	2022	2021
Memberships	\$23,475	\$23,325
Member Patronage	5,664,174	5,396,447
Other Margins/Equity	13,145,825	13,124,057
Long Term Debt	21,493,355	20,791,357
Notes/Accounts Payable	1,846,139	885,474
Consumer Deposits	78,696	82,261
Other Liabilities	2,405,339	1,744,621
Total	\$44,657,003	\$42,047,542

Revenue & Expenses	2022	2021
Total Revenue	\$14,360,509	\$13,105,242
Power Cost	7,540,095	6,485,367
Operations/Maintenance	2,297,982	2,124,194
Consumer Accounts	324,470	297,162
Customer Service/Sales	223,280	152,033
Administration/General	1,114,842	1,229,824
Depreciation	1,661,464	1,499,617
Interest on Long Term Debt	818,230	779,310
Other Expenses	35,012	23,682
Total Expenses	\$14,015,375	\$12,591,189

Margins	2022	2021
Operating Margins	\$345,134	\$514,053
Non-Operating Margins	32,183	28,486
G & T Co-op Capital Credits	153,810	338,740
Other Org. Capital Credits	103,545	94,366
Net Margins	\$634,672	\$975,645

Where the Money Comes From Year-End 2022



\$53,613,273 Total Utility Plant

42.17%
Equity

99.97%
Average Service Availability Index

2022 Meeting Minutes

from pg. 3

received by mail.

Copies of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members of September 16, 2019, September 14, 2020, and September 13, 2021 had been previously distributed to each of the members. Absent additions or corrections, they were thereupon declared to be approved and were ordered to be filed in the records of the Cooperative.

The Annual Reports of President Ed White and Treasurer Lydda Youmans were printed in the Annual Meeting Edition of the Cooperative newsletter. The Annual Report of the General Manager was then presented by General Manager David Opie and ordered to be filed in the records of the Cooperative.

The Certificate of the Inspectors of Election was then presented and read by attorney Puckett, 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 their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

Three-Year Term (Three to be Elected)

District No. 2: Randy Barnard

District No. 4: Lydda Youmans

District No. 5: Ed White

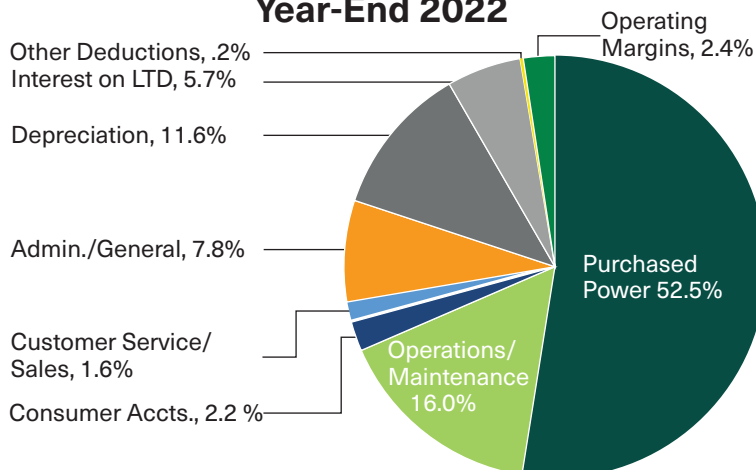
One-Year Term (One to be Elected)

District No. 1: Natalie Rydle

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

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

Where the Money Goes Year-End 2022



2023 Board Candidates

Names listed alphabetically by district

District 1 Candidates

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. She is an account manager at Workspace, Inc., in Des Moines and has been with the company for 25 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 member of CEC for 15 years.



SYLVIA VILLANUEVA

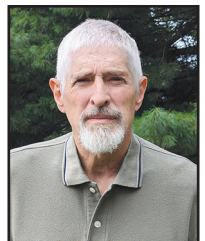
Sylvia is a candidate for district 1. She and her husband, Ricardo live in Squaw Creek Township of Warren County. They have four adult children and eight grandchildren. Sylvia received her education at Hamilton Business College, earning a Computer & Accounting Certificate. She has worked for 10 years for Nationwide Insurance as a claims processor. She enjoys canning, gardening, baking, reading and spending time with her grandkids and taking trips. Sylvia has been a member of Clarke Electric for 18 years.



District 3 Candidates

STAN GRAY

Stan is a candidate for district 3. He and his wife, Deb, have three grown children and eight grandchildren. They live in Troy Township of Clarke County. Stan graduated with a BS in Engineering Operations from ISU. He was an Industrial/Manufacturing Engineer for four different southern Iowa companies. He retired from Miller Products in 2020. Following retirement, he worked for the Murray School District and the U.S. Census Bureau. He has served on the Murray Church of Christ Board and is the current treasurer of the Murray Lions Club. His hobbies include sports and woodworking. He has been a member of Clarke Electric Cooperative for 33 years.



CODY MILLER

Cody is the incumbent candidate for district 3. He and his wife, Lacey, have two sons and live in Jones Township of Union

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District 3 Candidates

continued from pg. 5

County. Cody is a 13-year U.S. Army Veteran Intelligence Officer and currently farms. He is a Legion Commander for the Fred N. Davis American Legion Post 96 in Lorimor. Cody enjoys spending time with his family, working with horses, hunting and fishing. He earned the Cooperative Credential Director, Board Leadership and Director Gold certificates and enjoys serving on the Clarke Electric board. He has been a member of Clarke Electric for nine years.



BY THE NUMBERS

Facebook Fans

 **286 448**
Dec 2022 Current

Construction and Maintenance in 2022

1907 Miles of Line

104 New services built

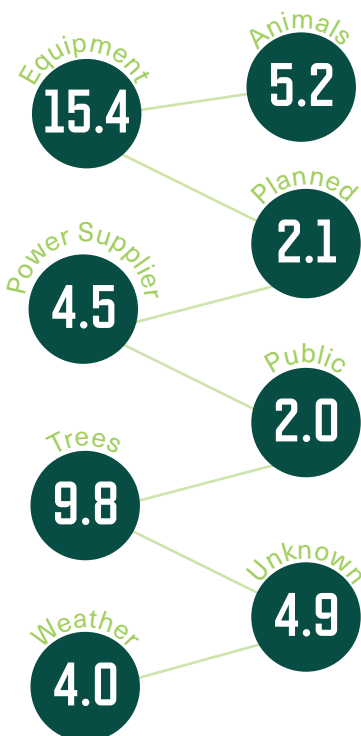
858 Service orders closed

2206 Poles inspected

Kilowatt Hours Sold



Average Outage Minutes per Consumer by Cause



48 total outage minutes per CEC consumer in 2022

GIVING BACK

\$1,198
RECare

\$29,710
in Rebates to 76 Members

District 7 Candidates

ZACHARY ROBINSON

Zachary is a candidate for district 7. He and his wife, Sheena, along with their three children, live in Jefferson Township of Wayne County. He is a graduate of Lineville-Clio Community High School. Zachary farms with his father and wife raising row crops, managing a cow/calf operation and custom harvesting and haying. They also have skid loaders and dozers. He is a member of the Lineville Volunteer Fire Department and serves on the Jefferson Township Board. He enjoys supporting local events and following his children's activities. Zachary has been a member of Clarke Electric for 16 years.



WILLIAM SHOUP

William is a candidate for district 7. He and his wife, Ruth, live in Warren Township of Wayne County. They have three adult children. He currently farms, but previously worked for Allerton Gas Company for 20 years, and Wayne County Hospital as a paramedic and dialysis tech after attending Mercy College of Health Sciences for EMS training. He retired from the hospital in January 2023. William was the President of the Allerton First Responders, and the Captain and Assistant Chief of the Corydon Fire Department, from which he retired a few years ago. He enjoys antique tractors and Civil War history. William has been a member of Clarke Electric for 46 years.



CLARKE
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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.