



**CLARKE**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Volume 83, No. 12 | December 2023

# HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

## 2023 Service Awards

Thank you to CEC staff and director who have achieved service milestones in 2023.

We appreciate the time they spend serving our co-op and our member-consumers!



**35 YEARS**  
**Marcella Welsch**  
*Corp. Accountant*



**25 YEARS**  
**Rob McCoy**  
*Foreman*



**25 YEARS**  
**Chad McIntosh**  
*Operations Mgr.*



**20 YEARS**  
**Doug Reasoner**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**20 YEARS**  
**Jason Gibbs**  
*Mgr. Member Services*



**10 YEARS**  
**Brad Wilson**  
*Mgr. Engineering*



**5 YEARS**  
**Kim Griffin**  
*Billing*



**5 YEARS**  
**Cori Smith**  
*Customer Care*



**5 YEARS**  
**Sam Walkup**  
*Mgr. Finance*



**2 YEARS**  
**Hunter Koehn**  
*Apprentice Lineman*



**2 YEARS**  
**Jarad Taylor**  
*Apprentice Lineman*



**2 TERMS**  
**Cody Miller**  
*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  
Dec. 25-26 Christmas, and Jan. 1 for  
New Year's so our employees may  
enjoy the holidays with their families.**

**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.

# We Wish You A Merry & Bright Holiday Season

As we embrace the joyous spirit of the season, we extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. This Christmas, Clarke Electric Cooperative is not just illuminating your homes and businesses, we're also spreading the warmth of the holiday to each member of our cooperative family.

The holiday season is a time to reflect on the year gone by, and we are grateful for the trust and support you've placed in us. As your electric cooperative, we've worked tirelessly to ensure reliable power and sustainable energy solutions throughout

the year. We look forward to continuing this commitment in the coming year.

As we celebrate this season of togetherness, may your homes be filled with the warmth of love and the glow of festive lights. Thank you for being an integral part of the cooperative family. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with prosperity, good health, and countless moments of joy.



**DAVE OPIE**  
General Manager

## It Pays to Be a CEC 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.

If you were a member of CEC in 2005 and 2006, 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 questions about your patronage dividend.

## 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

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are wi-fi enabled and automatically adjust temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away. *Source: Dept. of Energy*



# Cooperative Trust

The other day while sitting in my office I overheard a conversation one of our employees had with one of our consumer-members and I was blown away. Have you ever heard something that made you pause to soak it in? Well, that's exactly what happened to me. Here's how it went down.

One of our consumer-members came into the office to drop off a payment in person. Jim walked straight in and laid an envelope on top of the counter, turned around, and started for the door.

As he was walking away Steph (Moore) hollered after at him, "Would you like a receipt?" Without missing a beat, Jim answered, "If you can't trust the REC, who can you trust?"

Think about that. I dropped my attention from whatever I was doing to take in what he said. Wow...just wow! We just had one of our consumer-members pay us one of the biggest compliments we could have received!

I paused and looked up the definition of trust. Here it is according to *Merriam Webster Dictionary* – Noun a: *assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something*; b: *one in which*

*confidence is placed.*

To me, trust is the foundation of every positive relationship. To me, he

is saying he believes in us. He believes we'll do the right thing. He believes we care about him enough to do the right thing. He trusts we are doing the best job we can to keep electricity safe and affordable. And, he believes we will work hard to keep the lights on for him.

Our employees spend each day doing the very best they can to serve our consumer-members. From the linemen working outside to engineering, accounting, operations, billing, and the rest of the administration and board members, we all hope we are giving you the best customer service. And we hope you can trust us the way Jim does.

I just want to say thank you Jim. You made our day! We will continue working to build trust with our new consumer-members and work hard to keep the trust of those we have served for a long time.

Merry Christmas everyone!



**JASON GIBBS**  
Manager Member Services



## 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 consumer-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 consumer-member of Clarke Electric Cooperative.
- The light must be on the meter pole, or any consumer-member-owned pole on the consumer-member's side of the meter provided the Member arranges for 120-volt electric service to the pole.
- Clarke Electric Cooperative 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 (it cannot be controlled by a switch).
- The Cooperative may remove the light at its discretion.
- These qualifications are deemed to be understood and agreed to by the consumer-member upon the consumer-member's request for installation of the leased light.

Call (800) 362-2154 for more details.

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU? @ [cecnet.net](http://cecnet.net)



Statewide  
outage map



Leased Light  
Program



SmartHUB



Rebates &  
Online Forms



Operation  
Round-UP



Call Before  
You Dig



Email  
newsletters



RECare



# Community Commitment



*Pictured left to right: Jason Gibbs, Clarke Electric Cooperative; Austin Taylor and Randy Dunbar, Clarke County Board of Supervisors; Marla Shifflett and Norm Lust, Clarke County Conservation Board; Scott Kent, Director, Clarke County Conservation; Larry Keller and Sharon Dunfee, Clarke County Conservation Board; Dean Robins, Clarke County Board of Supervisors; and Morgan Heaberlin, Park Tech, Clarke County Conservation.*

A new community center planned for East Lake County Park has received a financial boost from Clarke Electric Cooperative to help make it a reality.

Through its USDA Revolving Loan Fund, Clarke Electric will provide a 0%, \$300,000 loan to the Clarke County Conservation Board (CCCB) to help meet the \$1.1 million price tag to erect the new building. Located on the east side of the park, the Community Center and Instruction Building will be available to rent for wedding receptions, family reunions, community events and more.

The CCCB took charge of the park in 1975 from the city of Osceola, who used the lake as its municipal water source. Over the years, the board and park staff have completed many repairs and made huge improvements, often leveraging federal grants and using local matching money.

The 168-acre park accommodates fishing, kayaking, boating or canoeing as well as game courts, and amphitheater, overlook tower and hiking trails. Recently, a 25-site RV park and modern bathrooms were added.

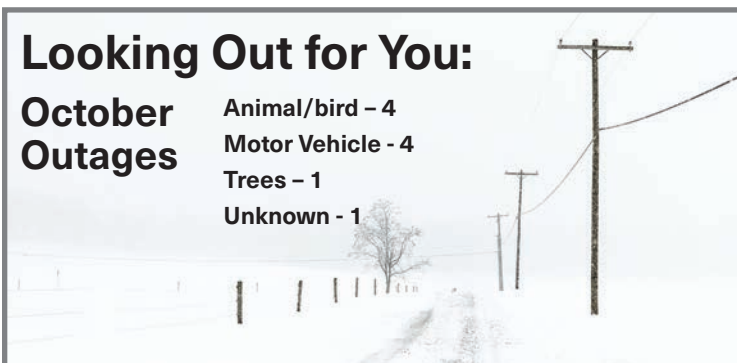
## 5 Ways to Safeguard Your Home This Winter

- 1** Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly.
- 2** Inspect electrical cords and replace any that are frayed or cracked.
- 3** Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips.
- 4** Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency.
- 5** Be mindful of safety in the kitchen when cooking.

## Looking Out for You:

### October Outages

Animal/bird – 4  
Motor Vehicle - 4  
Trees – 1  
Unknown - 1



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(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:** Marni Kelso  
**Treasurer:** Lydda Youmans  
**Asst. Sec./Treasurer:** Randy Barnard

**Directors**  
Larry Keller  
Cody Miller  
Zach Robinson  
Natalie Rydl

### GENERAL MANAGER

David Opie

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*