



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Volume 83, No. 10 | October 2023

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

We Are Co-op Strong



Dave Opie chats with a guest in the drive thru line.

Clarke Electric Cooperative employees and the Board of Directors proudly hosted the 83rd annual meeting Sept. 11. This year, the co-op recorded a whopping 250 sign up for a carry out meal. Thank you to everyone who came!

Community Strong

During the business meeting portion, General Manager David Opie reported on each department's achievements for the year. Included are excerpts from these reports.

- Awarded local Afton business, The Roost, with a low-interest Revolving Loan Fund Loan (RLF).
- Awarded \$9,000 in scholarships to 17 local graduating seniors.
- Granted Operation Round-Up funds to: City of Murray, South Central Iowa Theatre in Leon, Little River Scenic Pathway in Leon, and the Clarke County Hospital in Osceola.

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CEC Shines the Light on Volunteers

Clarke Electric Cooperative recently recognized four local individuals for their volunteer contributions to their communities. Each of the four were nominated for the 2023 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa Shine the Light contest held in June. Although they were not selected as contest winners, CEC wanted to thank and acknowledge them for their service by donating \$250 each to the charity of their choice. 36-11-05-07

Dianne Riley, Osceola Nominated by Joan Peterson

For more than 20 years, Dianne has been at the helm of the Clarke County Toys for Christmas program. Each year, Dianne applies for grants, gathers sponsorships and organizes volunteers to make sure those local families in need can have a merry Christmas. In 2022, Dianne coordinated 27 adult volunteers and 17 high school student volunteers as they purchased, wrapped, and delivered toys and needed clothing to a total of 144 area families (388 children).



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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.

Jackson Bids Farewell



Larry Jackson helps serve dinners during the 2023 Annual Meeting.

(NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership and Director Gold certificates. The Director Gold Certificate is the highest achievement for board directors through the national association and is a testament to Larry's commitment to advancing his knowledge and performing his fiduciary duty to the best of his ability.

Larry will continue to stay active in the community as a member of the New Salem Baptist Church in Decatur and volunteer for both the Clio Festival and the Prairie Trails Museum. He and his wife, Jean, also have grandchildren and great-grandchildren to spoil.

"As a director, I've had the chance to meet a lot of nice people and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with co-op employees and my fellow directors," Larry said.

Watch for an article about the CEC Board's newest member, Zach Robinson, in the next issue of Headlines.



CO-OPS GROW COMMUNITIES

Clarke Electric joins co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month in October.

As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.

Volunteers...from pg. 1

Sandy and Mike Ralya, Afton Nominated by Laura Tallmon

Relatively new to Afton, Sandy and Mike Ralya moved in 2016 from Omaha, and immediately jumped in with both feet

to make a positive impact on their community. On the south side of the town square is a pocket park Mike and Sandy spent countless hours planting flowers and plants and tending to them all season long. They also decorate the square with Christmas decorations each year. They have raised money and planted flowers along the walking paths. They are excellent examples of taking pride in their community and it shows.



Jena Wiley, Chariton Nominated by Tami Adams

The Lucas County Animal Shelter unexpectedly closed several years ago leaving the building that housed it needing much

improvement. Taking the reins, Jena created a non-profit, got more volunteers to serve as board members and over many months has been raising money to improve the facility enough to open the doors once again. She and her crew have spent many long days cleaning, painting, nailing and screwing things together to bring the building back to its original glory. The new name is Almost Home Animal Rescue.



Randy Dunfee, Murray Nominated by Venita Escher

Randy has spent hundreds of hours volunteering his time to grill burgers and dogs at local town celebrations, cook at fundraisers for community projects,

build the Freedom Rock shelter, and volunteer at the annual Hopeville Music Reunion among his activities. Recently, Randy was part of the crew to build a new fellowship hall for the Murray Church of Christ. You name the community project or neighbor that may need a helping hand, it's likely Randy who'll be helping out one way or another.



84th Annual Meeting...from pg. 1

Board Strong!

Highlights from the board were:

- Board Treasurer Lydda Youmans earned the NRECA Board Leadership Certificate;
- A heartfelt thank you to Larry Jackson for his 15 years of service to the cooperative; and
- Board approved allocation of \$634,672 back to the membership in patronage dividends on a 20-year rotation schedule.

Incumbents Natalie Rydl and Cody Miller were re-elected; Zach Robinson was elected to serve district 7. 14-36-02-01



Dave Opie provides updates on co-op business in 2022.

Operations Strong

- The challenges of long lead times for materials and equipment continued to plague the cooperative, while prices for critical equipment continued to increase. Employees became very resourceful meeting these challenges,

however, while minimizing the effect to co-op members.

- Reliability improvements included equipment maintenance in the Murray, I-35 and Hopeville substations.
- Installed new equipment including three phase regulator banks to improve power quality.
- Between the use of contractors and our linemen's hard work, we built three phase lines servicing new hog confinements and other commercial businesses. We completed line improvements to the tie-lines connecting our Derby and Humeston substations. We continued right-of-way tree clearing and tree and brush spraying to help reduce outages and power line loss.
- In 2022, our cooperative began researching a new metering system as electric service has become more advanced and complicated. We have committed to a new Honeywell (cellular) metering system that will help us provide better electric service to our members and we will be eliminating the metering radio system. Deployment of new meters will start in late 2023 and finish in 2024.

- Storms in 2022 also threw us a few curve balls: tornados swept through our service territory in March and strong winds, storms, and weather-related damage throughout the rest of the year.

Of course, there were occasional outages caused by animals, vehicles, agricultural equipment, and fires.

- We experienced our first potential power-grid curtailment warning due to high energy demand in the summer of 2022. This warning event led to many hours of planning in preparation for events of this nature. Potential power curtailment warnings and risks will continue to be part



Attendees listen in on business reports.

of our lives, as our power grid evolves away from dependable fossil-fuel base generation to intermittent renewable resources as our power demand has increased.

Our commitment to you in this coming year and beyond is to continue to work efficiently and resourcefully so we may provide you with safe, affordable, reliable electricity.

We strive to be Cooperative Strong!



CEC Directors take orders from members picking up a free meal during the 2023 CEC Annual Meeting Sept. 11.

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

Working for You

One type of project Clarke Electric Cooperative has little control over, but must build into our work plan, is county road construction projects.

As part of its project to upgrade a bridge north of New Virginia, Warren County contacted CEC to temporarily relocate our lines in that area while work was underway. Thankfully, the co-op can redirect power from other circuits to serve our members in the affected area. After four months of construction, co-op crews were called back to the bridge area to move the lines back following completion of the bridge project.



CEC crews move lines back into place following a county bridge upgrade project north of New Virginia.

VETERANS DAY

The Clarke Electric office will be closed
Friday, Nov. 10

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.



Looking Out for You:

August Outages

Unknown: 9	No cause code: 3
Animal/birds: 6	Motor vehicle: 1
Lightning: 4	Trees: 1
Equipment/maintenance failure: 3	



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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
Marni Kelso
Cody Miller
Zach Robinson
Natalie Rydl

GENERAL MANAGER

David Opie

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