CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Volume 85, No. 4 | April 2025

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Honoring Linemen: The Backbone of our Power

DAVE OPIE
General Manager

Before the sun breaks the horizon, Clarke Electric Cooperative linemen are already out in the field, dressed in flame-resistant gear, safety goggles, rubber gloves, and heavy boots. They represent what it means to be dedicated to a purpose. On Lineworker Appreciation Day April 14, please join me in taking a moment to recognize their commitment and the valuable role they play in keeping the power flowing.

These men work high above the ground, facing the elements head-on. Whether it's battling thunderstorms, braving freezing temperatures, or climbing utility poles in treacherous conditions, CEC linemen possess an unmatched grit and fortitude. They ensure the lights stay on, homes remain comfortable, and businesses keep operating. In every storm, in every challenge, they don't back down. They get the job done.

CEC linemen travel across our eight-county service area as they work to maintain and repair the 1,900 miles of power lines that keep us all connected. They have the skills and experience to face any problem, ensuring our homes are powered,

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WIRED FOR SERVICE.

National Lineworker Appreciation Day
Monday, April 14, 2025

We're pleased to honor the 11 linemen who serve our members with dedication. They help make our lives easier by ensuring electricity to power our everyday lives is safe and reliable.

Front row, from left:
Doug Reasoner, serviceman/lineman
Cory Dommer, construction foreman
Hunter Koehn, apprentice lineman

Back row, from left:
Chad McIntosh, mgr. of operations
Rob McCoy, maintenance foreman
Eric Page, lineman
Zach Stewart, lineman
Jarad Taylor, apprentice lineman
Greg Kindred, warehouseman
Max Hunter, apprentice lineman

Not pictured: Matt Lucky and Matt Readout, linemen; Chris Oberbroeckling, apprentice lineman

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

Linemen... *continued from pg. 1*

businesses stay open, and emergency services can continue to operate when it matters most. When power goes out and the world seems to stop, our linemen are there, restoring order and providing reassurance.

But their dedication doesn't stop at our service territory boundary. Our crews don't hesitate to head out of state or to neighboring co-ops when an emergency strikes and extra hands are needed to restore power. They truly embody the spirit of cooperation in their work, always ready to roll up their sleeves and get the job done, no matter where they are needed.

This month, as we recognize these men who keep our lights on, let's show our respect for their hard work, sacrifice, and resilience. The next time you flip a switch or enjoy the comforts of home, remember the CEC linemen who make it all possible—those who are wired for service, committed to the work, and dedicated to illuminating our lives.

Career Day in Murray

Field Staking Engineer Nick Gannon and Manager of Operations Chad McIntosh, both seated, attended the Murray 6th-12th Grade Career and College Fair March 13. They are pictured with students who took a moment to stop by and talk about what kind of jobs are available in the electric utility industry and electric cooperatives.

Clarke Electric actively seeks to engage our youth in considering a career at an electric cooperative. By participating in local career fairs and school events, our employees can talk one-on-one with students and give them a comprehensive view of the job, its requirements and the education needed to be successful.

Clarke Electric General Manager Dave Opie, right, presents Director Cody Miller with his Director Gold Certificate from the NRECA.

Clarke Electric General Manager Dave Opie, left, presents President Ed White with his Director Gold Certificate from the NRECA.

Board Directors Recertify Gold Credential

Clarke Electric Cooperative Directors Cody Miller and Ed White have recertified their Director Gold Credential through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The Director Gold credential recognizes directors committed to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to Clarke Electric Cooperative to the best of their ability. It is the highest credential available for cooperative directors through the NRECA. To maintain the Gold credential, Cody and Ed must attend annual educational sessions.

Congratulations, Cody and Ed!

Controlled Burn Safety

As we face a dry and windy spring season, please be reminded that "controlled burns" to manage weeds and vegetation can quickly become uncontrolled ones, so take precautions before burning on your land or in a ditch.

If the area you choose to burn is near a utility pole or if it spreads more quickly and farther than you thought it might, your controlled burn could get expensive.

Fire damage to a power pole is usually evident by blackening and scorch marks, but even slight discoloration can cause serious problems. In some cases, the pole can look like it has little damage on the outside, all the while burning from the inside out.

In all cases, the result is the same: the utility pole is compromised and will most likely need to be replaced, compliments of the person who started the burn. The fees passed on to the person who caused it are substantial—usually in the thousands of dollars.

The damage could also cause a power outage or other serious service issues including energized lines falling near or on the ground, creating a potentially deadly situation. 31-15-01-12

So what can you do to

prevent burn-related damage to a power pole?

Plan your burn before you begin.

Check the forecast for weather conditions, such as wind direction and speed, as well as humidity (as a general rule, relative humidity should be 40 percent or higher).

If there are power poles in the planned burning area, clear all vegetation and weeds at least four feet around the base of the pole.

Wet the base of the pole with water before beginning your burn.

If your fire gets out of control, gets too close to a power pole, or if the pole catches on fire, call 9-1-1. Once a fire breaks out, NEVER spray water near the pole, power lines, or any other utility equipment. Electricity and water do not mix and you could cause a short circuit that could lead to serious injury or death.

What is a RED FLAG WARNING?

A Red Flag Warning is issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) when the combination of dry fuels and weather conditions support extreme fire dangers.

Criteria

- **Relative humidity less than 25%**
- **Wind speed (or frequent gusts) above 25 mph**
- **Already dry fuel (grass, leaves, brush, etc.)**

Precautions

- **Don't burn grassy areas or brush in the spring**
- **Don't burn trash (burn barrels, etc.)**
- **Carefully discard cigarette butts and matches**
- **Monitor outdoor equipment (field fires are often sparked by hot farm machinery)**

Staff Freshen CPR Skills

All Clarke Electric employees participate in monthly staff safety meetings. These meetings help everyone understand the importance of safety on the job, no matter your position.

Recently, staff brushed up on their CPR skills and were able to practice on manikins in order to become Red Cross-certified in this life-saving effort.

Pictured, from foreground to background: Sam Walkup; Jarad Taylor; Doug Reasoner; Max Hunter; Jim Wolfe, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, and Hunter Koehn.

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

REC Day on the Hill

Senator Joni Ernst took a moment to talk with Clarke Electric employees during REC Day on the Hill March 19. From left: Jason Gibbs, Hunter Koehn, Sen. Ernst, and Max Hunter.

The Clarke Electric Cooperative board of directors and staff attended the annual REC Day on the Hill advocacy event at the State Capitol March 19. Their message? Protect Iowa's defined service territory laws that support affordable rates, foster a resilient grid, and encourage rural economic development.

In Iowa, where you live determines which electric utility will serve you. In place for nearly 50 years, defined service territories provide a high degree of certainty which enable electric cooperatives to make long-term investments that best serve our members. Because of this law, electricity is available to every Iowan no matter where they choose to live, work, vacation or adventure. Any efforts to remove or weaken Iowa's defined service areas could result in higher bills and decreased reliability of electric service for Iowans. 51-02-01-04

As the legislative session progresses, your CEC directors and staff are actively engaging with lawmakers to advocate for policies that protect and strengthen rural Iowa's energy future.

The Clarke Electric Cooperative office will be closed Friday, April 18 for Good Friday. We wish all our members a happy Easter!

CLARKE ELECTRIC

SUMMER LOBBY HOURS
MAY 5 - AUG. 21, 2025

MONDAY	7:00 - 4:00
TUESDAY	7:00 - 4:00
WEDNESDAY	7:00 - 4:00
THURSDAY	7:00 - 4:00
FRIDAY	CLOSED
SATURDAY	CLOSED
SUNDAY	CLOSED

Phones will be answered
Mon-Fri 7 AM - 4 PM

Looking Out for You:

February Outages

Customer Caused: 2
Unknown: 2
Equipment/maintenance failure: 1
Motor vehicle: 1

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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: Randy Barnard
Treasurer: Lydda Youmans
Asst. Sec./Treasurer: Larry Keller

Directors
Liz Beck
Cody Miller
Zach Robinson
Natalie Rydl

GENERAL MANAGER
David Opie

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.