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

Volume 85, No. 7 | July 2025

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Meeting Sept. 9

All co-op members are invited to join us Tuesday, Sept. 9 at the co-op headquarters for our 2025 Annual Meeting!

Members are invited to drive through to pick up their free chicken dinner from Cater 2U2 from 3:30-5:30 p.m., then stay for the business meeting at 5:30.

Please register in advance so we know how much food to order. You can register by calling the cooperative at (641) 342-2173, emailing clarke@cecnet.net or online by scanning the QR code above with your smart phone.

Every member who attends will receive a gift and a chance to win cash prizes during the business meeting (must be present to win).

Board Briefs

Nominating Committee selected for Districts 2, 4 and 5;

Management working with the Union to finalize contract;

NISC cybersecurity practices discussed;

New rates in effect;

Strategic planning set for 2027;

Sullivan & Ward selected to hire new General Manager in 2026; and

Reviewed financials, debt/operating note, checks/payments, cashflow.

Meet Our Summer Intern

TIFFANY BORTELL

We have a new face around the co-op office! Tiffany Bortell will spend the summer helping to verify idle services and whether the landowner wishes to keep their electric service active.

The Iowa Utilities Commission requires electric cooperatives to maintain all services in a state of readiness. Idle services increase CEC's expenses and risk service reliability as they still require us to maintain the right-of-way, meters, conductors and transformers even when no one is using the service.

Tiffany owns Tiffany's Star Dancers studio in New Virginia, where she lives with her husband, John, and three children.

Welcome, Tiffany!

See You at the Iowa State Fair

AUG. 7-17 2025

Visit our booth in the 4-H Exhibits Building. We'll hand out plastic hard hats and suckers *(while supplies last)*. Snap a pic in our co-op safety selfie station!

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa

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

CIPCO: Member Driven. Reliability Focused.

The reliable and affordable power we benefit from today is the result of careful planning and prudent investments that occurred decades ago. To be sure, when Clarke Electric Cooperative was founded in 1940, the energy landscape looked quite different than it does today. Once in its infancy, our bulk electric system has now matured with the assistance of diversified power generation sources and improved technology.

As your representative on the Central Iowa Power Cooperative Board of Directors, I am committed to the critical work of continuing the stewardship of your electric service that began all those years ago. Decisions made then, and decisions made now will determine our future path to success. To get there, we need to keep our eyes focused on the horizon.

For that reason, the CIPCO Board of Directors began 2024 by refreshing our strategic plan. Safety and security, reliability, strategic partnerships and financial strength were the pillars upon which we weighed every action we took on behalf of our Member-owner electric cooperatives. We mindfully and conservatively deliberated plans for much-needed new power generation, fortified by the findings of an updated Integrated Resource Plan, which clearly asserted the demand for electricity shows no signs of slowing down. Basically, the sooner we have new generation up and running, the better.

Rising demand for electricity across our region stems from industrial expansion of manufacturing facilities, data centers, mining cryptocurrency, small businesses and ongoing residential growth and general electrification. While it certainly presents an opportunity, it is not risk-free. Today's complex regulatory environment complicates our business and has threatened the affordability and reliability of the generation we need to serve these large loads. Our ongoing partnership with fellow CIPCO Member-owners to mitigate some of these risks through innovative rates and contract structures has prepared us to welcome new businesses and industries and expand existing ones.

As a CIPCO Board member, I am excited about what the future holds for CIPCO, and Clarke Electric, as we pursue opportunities to bolster our balanced and diverse portfolio with reliable energy and capacity that will consistently serve us for decades to come. The planning for the development and construction of new generation assets in 2024 will be remembered as the launch of the latest capacity expansion for CIPCO.

CIPCO's positive financial standing is due to the long-term support of its Member-owners like Clarke Electric Cooperative. For 2024, CIPCO realized a net margin of $30.4 million, well ahead of budget. Throughout the year, CIPCO maintained stable rates, returned patronage capital to our cooperative, and strengthened the balance sheet as we planned for major capital additions.

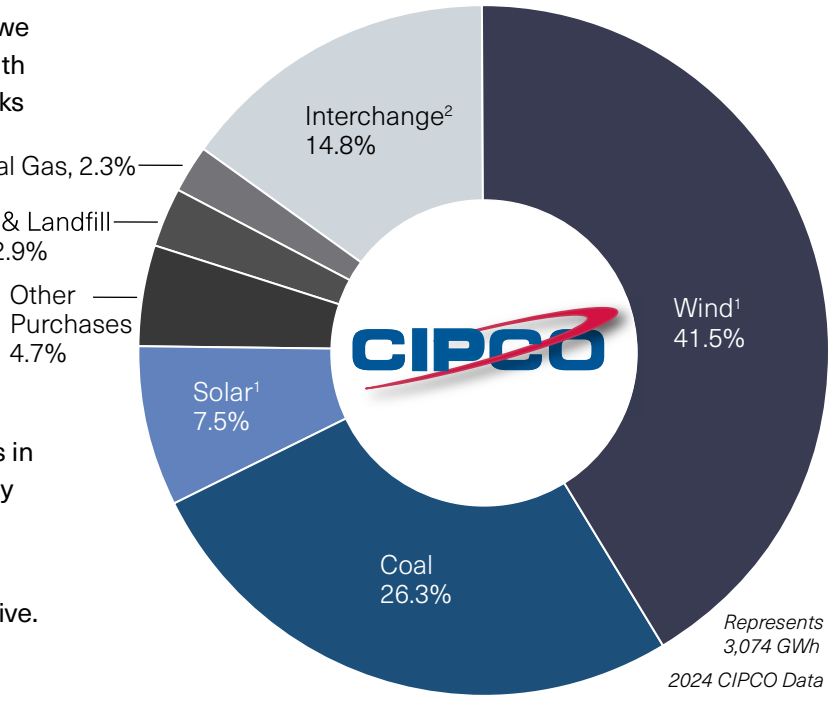
RANDY ROUSE
Representative on the CIPCO Board of Directors

Despite May 2024 tornado outbreak that caused widespread damage across the CIPCO system, CIPCO maintained an overall outage rate of 0.84 hours per consumer, still under the target of 1.00 hour per consumer. For 2024, CEC's was 0.30 hours per member-consumer.

Financially, in 2024, both Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings again maintained CIPCO's 'A' ratings which confirm CIPCO's financial strength. This was echoed in the sound financial practices that allowed margins to be returned to CIPCO Member-owners in the form of patronage, a key component of the cooperative business model. In 2024, CIPCO returned patronage totaling $454,418 to Clarke Electric.

CIPCO was created for one reason: to serve its Member-owner cooperatives. Its transmission system remains reliable, and its growing power supply resources enhance the value of membership. We are proud of our accomplishments and remain confident that the path ahead will bring continued reliability and opportunities for Clarke Electric.

A Diverse Blend of Energy Sources



Represents 3,074 GWh

2024 CIPCO Data

Turning Spare Change into Community Change

At Clarke Electric Cooperative, we believe in the power of small acts to create big results. Through Operation Round-Up, our members have generously contributed $112,529 just by rounding up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar.

The program funds critical projects led by local nonprofits, civic groups, and emergency services, and it helps families recover from devastating events.

That loose change has gone a long way:

- $86,096 invested back into local communities
- 40 grants awarded across Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Union, Wayne, and Warren counties
- $36,240 ready to support future needs

Community projects funded:

- Forklift for Cross Ministries
- Playground at Little River
- Concession stands in Allerton & Murray
- Security door for a local daycare
- CPR dummies for the Woodburn Fire Department
- Protective gear for Clarke County EMTs
- Splashpad in Chariton

Member Families Supported:

- 3 families recovering from house fires
- 3 families affected by serious accidents

Thanks to you—our participating members—this program continues to make a lasting impact. Without your support, none of this would be possible.

Want to learn more or get involved? Visit www.cecnet.net or email us at clarke@cecnet.net.

Pictured, clockwise from top left: Jason Gibbs, manager of Member Services, presents checks to representatives with the Warren County Fair, Wayne County Fair, and Clarke County Fair Board. Funds are distributed to local families and organizations thanks to donations from CEC members to Operation Round-Up. 35-26-02-05

Gannon Attends Youth Tour

Nolan Gannon stands in front of the White House during this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in June. Nolan is the son of Tish and Nick Gannon of rural Murray.

[1]CIPCO invests in the development of renewable energy projects in several ways. We operate six small-scale solar arrays near communities we serve and retain the renewable energy certificates associated with each. We also contract with energy producers for the electricity output from wind, solar, hydro, and methane gas from a landfill (converted into electricity). CIPCO cannot claim these resources as renewable within our supply portfolio as we have either sold to third parties or do not receive the renewable attributes associated with the electricity produced from these renewable power sources. By selling these attributes (RECs), we not only support other organizations in meeting their renewable energy goals, we also generate revenue to help us lower our wholesale power rate to our 12 Member-owner distribution cooperatives and 15 municipalities.

[2]A percentage of market purchases exist within the portfolio to meet additional supply needs not covered by existing contracts or CIPCO-produced generation. Weather volatility and unplanned operational events at power plants may also impact market purchases.

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

Co-op Upgrades Radio Communication System

At Clarke Electric Cooperative, safety is more than a practice, it's a promise. That's why we're proud to announce the implementation of a new, advanced radio communication system across all service trucks and offices. 60-31-01-20

This upgrade marks a major improvement in how our line crews and office staff coordinate while working in the field. The new system ensures clear, reliable communication during critical moments, especially when energizing or de-energizing high-voltage lines.

Crews can now confirm one another's locations and activities in real-time, drastically reducing the risk of miscommunication in hazardous situations.

Imagine the stakes: A crew is working on one end of a line, unaware that a teammate is making changes at the other. Without dependable communication, lives could be at risk. This new system helps us eliminate that danger.

DAVE OPIE
General Manager

Over time, our previous radio system had lost effectiveness—its hardware aged, and its signal couldn't consistently reach where it was needed. The new radios solve these problems with expanded range, greater clarity, and enhanced reliability.

This investment reinforces our unwavering commitment to protecting our employees and serving our members safely and effectively—today and well into the future.

Looking Out for You: May Outages

Equipment/Maintenance failure: 7
Customer caused -6
Lightning: 4
Animal/bird – 4
Trees: 4
Unknown: 3
Motor vehicle – 2
Fire – 1
Other -1

National Safety Award

Clarke Electric General Manager David Opie, left, and Manager of Operations Chad McIntosh, right, accept the "No Lost Time Award" from Troy Dahl, safety and loss prevention consultant with Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.

The award recognizes electric cooperatives that have exceeded industry safety standards and achieved three years without a lost-time accident.

Clarke Electric Cooperative takes safety very seriously when it comes to our employees and their families to ensure everyone makes it home at the end of the day.

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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

Summer Hours (May 5-August 21)
Mon.-Thurs. 7 AM-4 PM, closed Friday
Phones answered Mon.-Thurs. 7 AM-4 PM
and Fri. 7:30-11:30 AM locally
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.