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

Volume 85, No. 5 | May 2025

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

The Power of Reliability

CHAD MCINTOSH
Manager of Operations

We recently submitted the cooperative's annual reliability report to the Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC). The report is a valuable tool that compares our performance to past years, other cooperatives and other utilities across Iowa. We use the results to further enhance the reliability of your electric service.

We are committed to minimizing service interruptions and when outages do occur, restoring power safely and as quickly as possible. Our team is available to respond to your service issues 24/7.

Some interruptions are planned. These are necessary at times to safely carry out system upgrades, construction and maintenance projects – either by us or our power supplier, CIPCO. Tracking unplanned outages due to storms, or smaller events like critters, wind, trees, member caused, or equipment malfunction helps us understand where weaknesses may be. We track how long the interruption lasts and how many people it affects in order to improve our reliability.

So, how did we stack up in 2024? The good news is that our members have power available 99.98% of the time, a strong indicator of our

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The Clarke Electric office will be closed Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day

COMMUNITY INVESTED

Gannon Earns YT Trip

Clarke Electric is thrilled to announce that the winner of this year's Youth Tour trip is Nolan Gannon! Nolan is a junior at Murray High School and is the son of Tish and Nick Gannon of rural Osceola.

Nolan will represent Clarke Electric during an all-expenses paid educational adventure in Washington, D.C. June 14-23. While there, he will join students from electric cooperatives across the U.S. to see historic sites, meet with members of Iowa's congressional delegation and learn more about the electric cooperative business model.

To earn his spot, Nolan submitted an application and essay that was judged by an independent panel before being selected. Youth Tour is an annual opportunity for local youth to experience the trip of a lifetime. Congratulations Nolan!

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

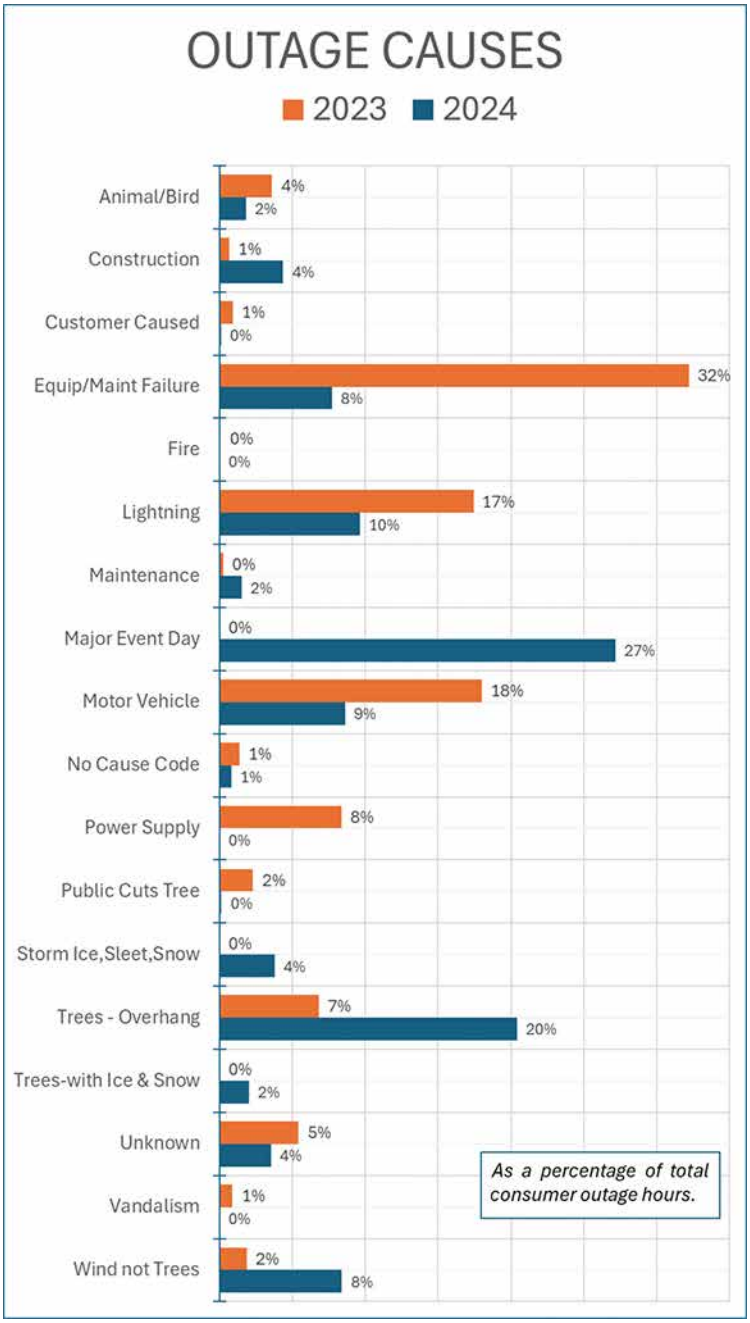
Reliability... *continued from pg. 1*

continued focus on reliability. The bad news is the number of total outages in 2024 was up slightly from 2023. As you might expect, most of our outages are caused by the weather (storms, snow, ice, wind), as highlighted in the major event category at right. In 2023, equipment and maintenance failure was our number one cause of outages. We'll use this information to determine where we will invest our time and resources for improvements for 2025.

Our ongoing right of way clearing efforts – such as tree trimming, removal and vegetation spraying – remain essential. However, we were surprised by the number of outages caused by vehicles. These include car accidents that break poles and large machinery that snags power lines.

We take your service reliability seriously and work year-round to improve it. No matter the cause – natural or manmade – you can count on us to respond quickly and safely, day or night, in all conditions.

That's our commitment to you, our members.



Celebrating Our Admins

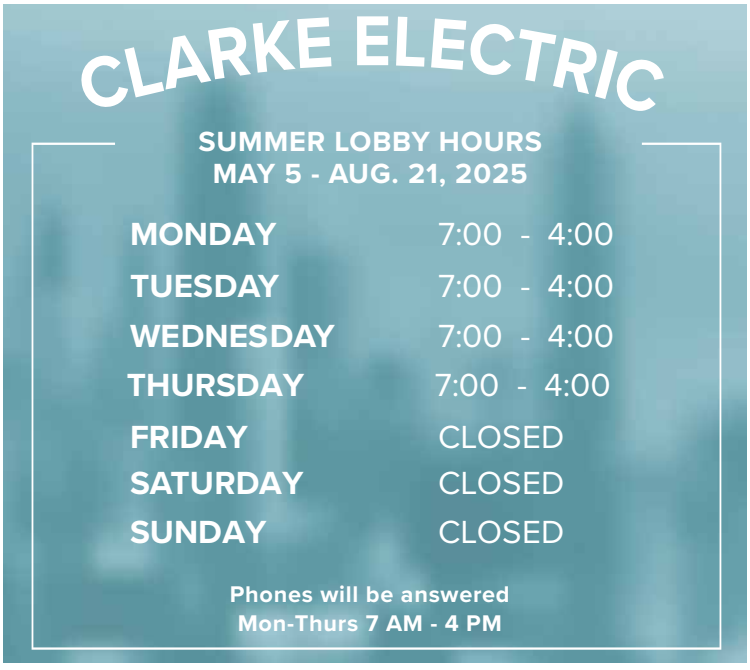
Pictured, from left: Marcella Welsch, Jodee Eckels, Kim Griffin, Stephanie Moore and Cori Smith.

Clarke Electric proudly celebrated Administrative Professionals Day April 23, a time to honor the incredible individuals who are the heartbeat of our co-op.

Our administrative professionals are the glue that keeps our teams connected. Their unwavering dedication, efficiency, and resilience shine through in everything they do, from managing bills and inquiries to coordinating meetings and supporting linemen in the field.

They juggle countless responsibilities behind the scenes, ensuring everything runs smoothly.

Thank you, Administrative Professionals, for all you do!



Director Election Time

Directors for District 2, 4 and 5 will be on the ballot during this year's annual meeting Tuesday, Sept. 9. If you reside in one of these districts, you are eligible to run for a board seat. Please reach out to our office by calling (800) 362-2154 if you are interested in being placed on the ballot.

Your Board of Directors is elected by and from the membership of Clarke Electric Cooperative. Being a director for Clarke Electric is a great opportunity to learn more about your cooperative, work with local legislators and give back to your community. A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings, other special meetings and educational seminars designed to keep directors informed about the cooperative and utility industry. 32-33-02-01

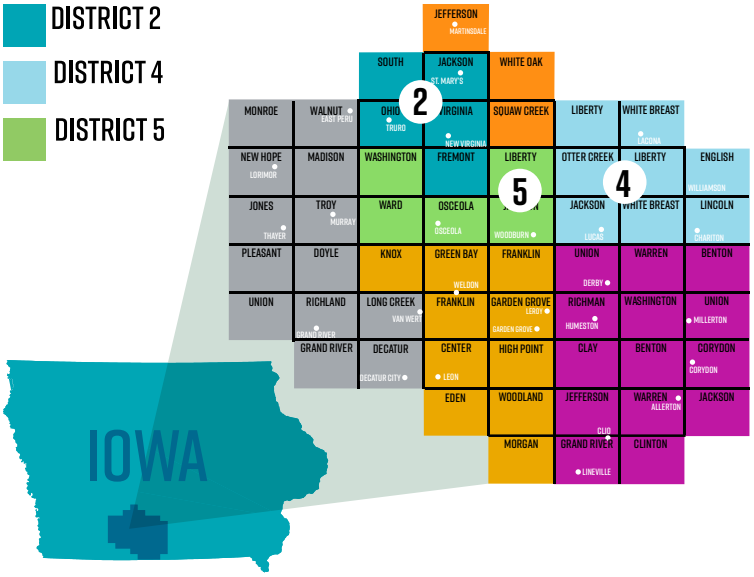
Ballots will be mailed to you ahead of the annual meeting. You can participate in the democratic process and exercise your right as a co-op member by returning your ballot and voicing your vote in the election. More annual meeting details will be made available in future newsletters.

Districts up for election this year are:

District 2 – Randy Barnard
District 4 – Lydda Youmans
District 5 – Ed White

The following are excerpts from the Cooperative Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation regarding director elections.

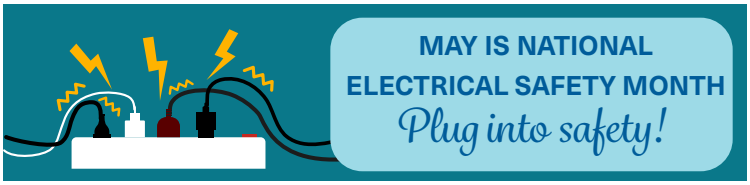
Article III Section 2, Qualifications and Tenure. *Directors from the districts where the terms have expired shall be elected by ballot by the members of the Cooperative to succeed those directors whose terms of office have expired, to serve for a term of three years or until their successors have been elected and shall have qualified. From and after the annual meeting in 2014, "No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative whose primary residence is not served by the Cooperative, or who is in any way employed by or who is married to an employee of the Cooperative or who has been an employee or married to an employee within the past three years or who is financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative. When a membership is held jointly by two or more natural persons, either one, but not both may be elected a director, provided however that neither one shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications hereinafter set forth. Nothing in this section contained shall, or shall be construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.*



Article III, Section 3, Nomination and Election of Directors. *It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 60 days and not more than 90 days before the date for the meeting of members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations... Said committee shall consist of two members from each of the districts where the terms are to expire following the annual meeting. A director of the Cooperative, who is ineligible to be a candidate because of tenure, may be appointed to the nominating committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative, at least 45 days before the meeting a list of the nominees for directors. The committee shall be encouraged, but shall not be required, to nominate not less than two candidates for each district for which a director is to be elected.*

Any fifteen or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition not less than 45 days prior to the meeting and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted, providing that said nominations made by petition shall be limited to members from the district for which a director is to be elected and the petitioners must also be from said district.

(b) Election of Directors. *Election of directors shall be by printed ballot. The ballot shall list the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations and by petition, if any, arranged by the districts. The secretary shall mail a ballot marked, "Ballot for Election of Directors" and a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee and...by petition. The statement shall also contain and inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail for directors as provided in this section.*



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

Show You Care with RECare

There are so many things to worry about nowadays, but paying for heat during Iowa's coldest months shouldn't be one of them. 54-02-01-04

As an electric cooperative, Clarke Electric is invested in helping our communities thrive, and that means supporting our low-income member-consumers, too.

RECare is a nationwide program exclusive to rural electric cooperatives that encourages fellow member-consumers to make a one-time or monthly donation that can help alleviate the stress for other member-consumers straining to pay their winter heating bills. Funds may also be used to weatherize the recipient's home to make electricity use more efficient.

And don't worry; your donation is directed to a local community action agency for distribution to low-income families in your community.

You can feel good that the dollars you donate are helping your friends and neighbors. It's an easy way to show you care!

Member Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members through the RECare program.

_____ Enclosed is a check with a one-time donation.

_____ I would like to make a monthly donation of $_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mail to: RECare, c/o Clarke Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 161 Osceola, Iowa 50213

Looking Out for You:

March Outages

Wind: 7
Equipment Failure: 6
Maintenance: 3
Lightning: 1
No cause: 1
Trees: 1

Shine the Light Contest Opens June 1

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Clarke Electric encourages our members to nominate an outstanding local volunteer for this year's statewide Shine the Light contest.

Nominations will be accepted online at iowashinethelight.com June 1-30. Three winners from across the state will each receive a $3,000 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

"We encourage our members to take advantage of this excellent opportunity to recognize those unsung heroes who work tirelessly to volunteer behind the scenes to make a positive impact on our communities," said Clarke Electric General Manager Dave Opie.

Three winners will be announced in September and featured in *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine and on social media.

Visit www.iowashinethelight.com for complete contest rules and submission guidelines or contact Clarke Electric with any questions.

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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.