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

Volume 85, No. 10 | October 2025

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

One Team, One Goal

Thank you to those who took time out of their busy schedules to attend our annual meeting! We had 236 members pick up their free chicken dinner and many who stayed for the in-person business session. It's easy to say, our 85th annual meeting was a success!

Incumbent board directors Randy Barnard, Lydda Youmans and Ed White retained their seats in the board election. A reorganizational board meeting was held after the election with the following results: Ed White, Randy Rouse and Lydda Youmans retain their titles of president, vice president and treasurer, respectively. Cody Miller will serve as secretary and Randy Barnard was named assistant secretary/treasurer.

The following are highlights from General Manager Dave Opie's annual address to the membership. He started by reflecting on 2024 as a year marked by innovation, resilience, and community impact. He went on to highlight key achievements in co-op operations, workforce development, member services and financial stewardship.

In 2024:

— Clarke Electric successfully deployed a new cellular metering system that modernized existing infrastructure and enabled a more proactive approach to meter management. The

continued on pg. 2

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.

One Team...from pg. 1

initiative:

- Installed advanced meters for all accounts;
- Implemented new software and staff training; and
- Upgraded support systems while removing outdated equipment.

— Reliability improvements were also front and center:

- Aging poles, lines, and underground conductors were replaced.
- Major upgrades were completed at the Osceola Substation.
- Five miles of new single-phase line was added to Lacona's north circuit.
- Continued vegetation management enhanced safety and service continuity.

— Line crew members provided mutual aid during the devastating Greenfield tornado in May 2024; and volunteered to travel to South Carolina in the wake of Hurricane Helene in October 2024. Their expertise and tireless work helped restore power to communities in those affected areas as they recovered.

— The co-op prioritized investment in new talent by hiring three linemen and advancing one apprentice to journeyman lineman. These changes ensure operational strength and future continuity.

— The Member Services team delivered responsive support and launched *Messenger*, a digital billing communication tool to better serve members.

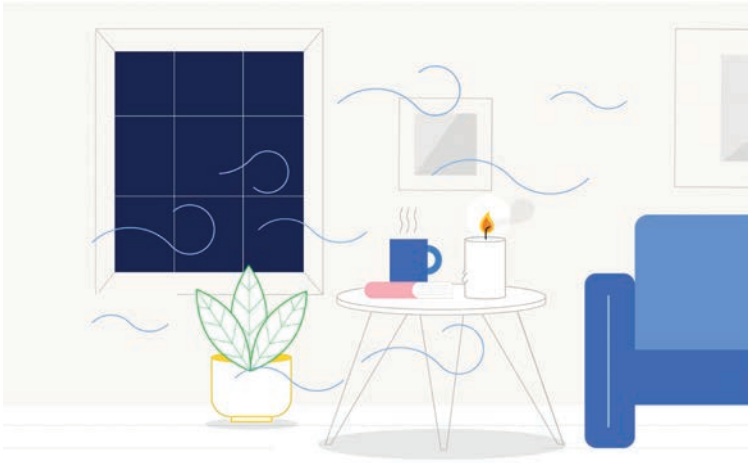
— The sponsorship of a student to attend the NRECA Youth Tour, awards of $10,000 in scholarships and donations to community groups and individuals through Operation Round-Up were just a few of the ways Clarke Electric supports the communities it serves.

— The finance team safeguarded the co-op's fiscal health and regulatory compliance by completing a Cost of Service Study that resulted in a rate increase in May 2025. The cooperative also returned $350,000 in patronage dividends to the members. 3-36-04-13

— The Board welcomed Liz Beck and conducted a full review of the co-op's tariff document and related policies. Their guidance continues to align Clarke Electric with its mission.

— Leadership transition planning began with the announcement that General Manager Dave Opie will retire in May 2026. His final Annual Meeting message emphasized confidence in the team and pride in their collective accomplishments. "The strength of Clarke Electric Cooperative lies in the dedication of its people," he said.

Thank you to all members for your continued trust and support. Here's to another year of progress, service, and unity!



sealed.com

Seal Leaks and Save

If you suspect you have air leaks, you're probably right. Most homes in the U.S. do, and according to ENERGY STAR®, air leakage is responsible for up to 40% of the energy loss in American homes. Yikes! That's a lot of home energy waste!

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs.

If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking. You may also notice drafts near doors or windows, higher than normal energy bills, cracks or gaps in your home's exterior, uneven temperatures between rooms or excessive dust. All are indicators that air is leaking.

Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. These materials are available in a variety of compounds and forms, each designed for different types of surfaces. Choose the right product and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills.

Looking Out for You:
August Outages

Cause undetermined – 6
Lightning – 6
Equipment/maintenance failure – 4
Animal/Birds – 4
Trees – 3
Customer Caused – 2

Need Help with Winter Heating Bills?

The 2025-2026 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel and type of housing.

When to apply

Elderly (60+) and/or disabled: Oct. 1, 2025-April 30, 2026. All other households: Nov. 1, 2025-April 30, 2026.

What to provide

- Proof of income for all household members 18+. Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- Social Security numbers for all household members (documentation required).
- Most recent heat bill
- Most recent electric bill

Wage earners: Please provide copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

Fixed income: This may include Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please provide copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

Self-employed/farmers: Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return. 38-07-02-00

Note: Additional countable income and/or income verification not listed may be required for eligibility determination.

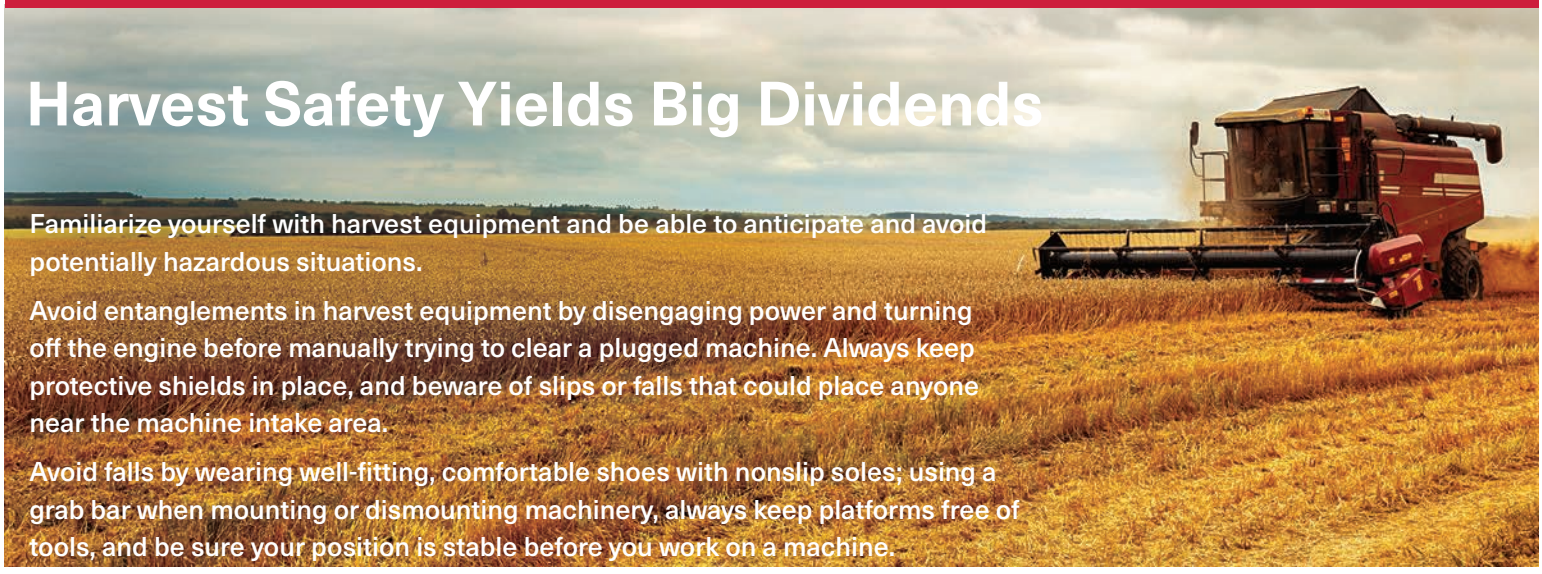
If you are not sure where to apply, call 2-1-1 or visit https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/liheap, or write to LIHEAP, Iowa Dept. of Health & Human Services, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319.

INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	$31,300
2	$42,300
3	$53,300
4	$64,300
5	$75,300
6	$86,300
7	$97,300
8	$108,300

For households with more than 8 members, add $11,000 for each additional member.

SAFETY DRIVEN



Harvest Safety Yields Big Dividends

Familiarize yourself with harvest equipment and be able to anticipate and avoid potentially hazardous situations.

Avoid entanglements in harvest equipment by disengaging power and turning off the engine before manually trying to clear a plugged machine. Always keep protective shields in place, and beware of slips or falls that could place anyone near the machine intake area.

Avoid falls by wearing well-fitting, comfortable shoes with nonslip soles; using a grab bar when mounting or dismounting machinery, always keep platforms free of tools, and be sure your position is stable before you work on a machine.

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

Photo Gallery: 85th Annual Meeting

Customer Service/Cashier Cori Smith visits with guests.

Manager of Operations Chad McIntosh hands members their attendance gift as they drive through.

Dogs also received a treat for attending the annual meeting!

Approximately 90 co-op members attended the annual business meeting Sept. 8. General Manager Dave Opie provided his report to the membership as part of the business meeting.

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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: Cody Miller
Treasurer: Lydda Youmans
Asst. Sec./Treasurer: Randy Barnard

Directors
Liz Beck
Larry Keller
Zach Robinson
Natalie Rydl

GENERAL MANAGER
David Opie

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.