

CLOSEDCIRCUIT

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NEW FACES AT CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

General Manager David Opie

ON JANUARY 18, DAVID OPIE walked into the cooperative's back door and down the familiar hallway to his new office. Everything about the place was familiar except where his office is located and what his role has become.

In 2009, Dave was hired as the manager of finance and office services for the cooperative. That was his first experience with the cooperative business model and one he came to really enjoy. Family obligations took him back to Des Moines in 2014, closer to his home. When he learned the Clarke Electric Cooperative general manager's position was available, he was immediately excited for the opportunity to return to the cooperative, the friends and acquaintances he met previously.

Dave has a diverse background with layers of experience in several fields, making him a qualified candidate for the General Manager position. His educational background is in business management, accounting and computer programming. He has 25 years of hands-on experience with financial management and human resources. He worked as the Finance Director for United Way of Central Iowa, VP of Finance and Operations for Vision Point Productions Inc., and Director of Finance for Advanced Network Technologies.

Dave and his wife, Lee Anne, currently live in West Des Moines but are eager to move to the area. They have three grown children, a son, daughter and soon-to-be son-in-law living in Des Moines, and one son and daughter-in-law living in South Carolina. They enjoy camping and hiking together when they can. He and his son, Jim,



continued on pg. 2

Billing Clerk Stephanie Moore

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE has a new face around the office these days. Stephanie Moore joined the team in mid-December as Billing Clerk in the Customer Service Department.

Stephanie graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Business Management. She went on to spend 10 years in the hospitality industry and, most recently, spent the last six years at Key Impact, a food broker.

"I've always been drawn to the 'people' industry," Stephanie said. "I enjoy the interaction and challenge of helping people. I look forward to getting to know our CEC members and trying to help them have a better day in any way I can."

Stephanie and her husband, Trevor, live on an acreage with their two children, Drake, nine and Josephine, eight, along with a multitude of animals. She likes to garden, read, do crafts and travel when she is not at work. 37-21-05-00

Stop by and say hello and welcome to Stephanie at Clarke Electric!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries – and an ENERGY STAR charger for them – which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.

Source: energy.gov

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



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

PO Box 161, 1103 N Main, Osceola, IA 50213-0161

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Smart: A Quick History of the EPA and the Clean Air Act

WHEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY acts, people seem to have a strong opinion about it one way or the other. But what exactly is EPA's role in government? In a nutshell, the EPA is an agency of the U.S. federal government which was established in 1970 to protect human health and the environment by creating and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress. The EPA administrator reports directly to the president of the United States. Today, EPA manages more than a hundred programs that uphold a dozen major laws or statutes.

One of the major laws the EPA enforces is the Clean Air Act, which was designed to control air pollution on a national level. The original Clean Air Act of 1963 established funding for monitoring and controlling air pollution through the U.S. Public Health Service. The 1970 Clean Air Act amendments greatly expanded the federal mandate, requiring comprehensive federal and state regulations for both stationary (industrial) pollution sources and mobile sources. It also significantly expanded federal enforcement, including the creation of the EPA. In 1990, Congress dramatically revised and expanded the Clean Air Act, providing EPA even broader authority to implement and enforce regulations reducing air pollutant emissions.

What does all of this have to do with your local electric cooperative? In August of 2015, President Obama announced the Clean Power Plan mandates which gives EPA authority to regulate and enforce carbon emissions from existing power plants under section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. The Clean Power Plan aims to reduce the nation's carbon emissions from fossil-fueled power plants 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, which has ignited fierce debate over the legal authority of EPA.

Twenty-seven states and many industry groups (including the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) have filed more than 15 separate cases against the Clean Power Plan mandates,

making it the most heavily litigated environmental regulation ever. On the other side, 18 states and several cities plan to support the Clean Power Plan and defend EPA in court along with a number of environmental groups. The lawsuits have been consolidated into one case and oral arguments will be heard at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on June 2. A decision may not come until late 2016 or early 2017. Should the case eventually reach the Supreme Court (and many expect it will), the high court may not rule on the case until 2018.

As events unfold, it's important to remember that Clean Power Plan litigation and regulation will be a marathon, not a sprint. Iowa's electric cooperatives are actively working with other industry stakeholders to draft a state implementation plan to comply with EPA's Clean Power Plan mandates while

we continue to advocate for reliable, affordable electricity that is environmentally responsible for our member-owners. Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), the generation and transmission cooperative which supplies power to Clarke Electric Cooperative has increased their emission and carbon-free generation capacity by nearly 196 MWs over the last decade. Ninety-five percent of the increase is due to wind generated electricity. 04-35-01-02

Central Iowa Power Cooperative is Iowa's largest and a state-of-the-art energy provider, with a balanced generation portfolio comprised of a diverse fuel mix of coal, nuclear, hydro, wind, natural gas, landfill gas, and oil resources. The power CIPCO generates is more than 54 percent emissions and carbon-free.



Opie Takes the Helm...from pg. 1

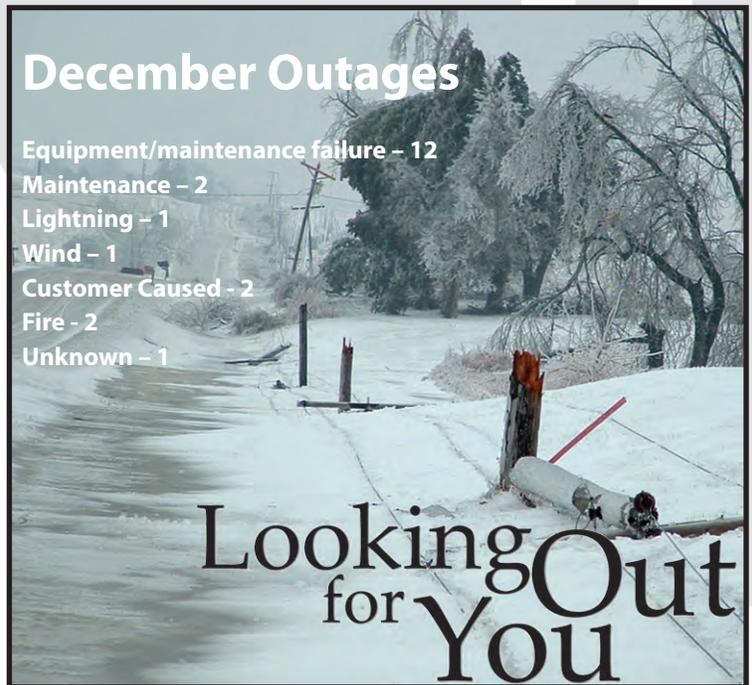
like to ride dirt bikes together.

Dave sees many good things are still happening at the cooperative. However, he has noticed the absence of a few faces who retired while he was away.

"I want to get reacquainted with the employees and our members, take some time to listen to their ideas on how we can continue delivering safe, affordable, reliable service," Dave said.

December Outages

- Equipment/maintenance failure - 12
- Maintenance - 2
- Lightning - 1
- Wind - 1
- Customer Caused - 2
- Fire - 2
- Unknown - 1





Community Minded: Youth Tour Contest

WIN AN ALL EXPENSE PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C. Visit the war memorials, National Monuments, Holocaust Museum, dance on the Potomac River, and much, much more!

2016 Trip Dates: **June 10-16**

Application Deadline: **Friday, March 4**

Applicants will then be given material and asked to write a short essay. Application can be found at <http://www.cecnet.net/content/2016-youth-tour>.



Essay Deadline: **Friday, March 18**

Judging Contest: **Wednesday, March 30.** The top three essay winners are invited to an interview where the trip winner will be selected.

Contest Eligibility: Juniors in high school – CEC members and non-members.

For complete details contact Jason Gibbs at (641) 342-2173 or email him at jsgibbs@cecnet.net.



CEC Welcomes Back Legislators

STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS OF CLARKE ELECTRIC Cooperative attended a Welcome Back Legislative reception last month in Des Moines. The annual statewide event drew more than 175 people from cooperatives across Iowa to meet with nearly 100 state legislators.

Important issues for Iowa's rural electric cooperatives this session include: state programs that complement federal rural economic development programs; legislative encouraging utility-owned solar; line personnel safety; and policies supporting a skilled workforce in the state.

Pictured, left-right: Jason Gibbs, CEC Member Services Manager; CEC Board Member Randy Gaumer, Rep. Joel Fry, CEC Board Member Larry Jackson and Jean Jackson.

By the Numbers: 2015 Operations

THE NUMBERS ARE IN AFTER ANOTHER YEAR OF construction and maintenance on Clarke Electric Cooperative's 1,800 miles of line. In 2015, Clarke Electric built services for:



Don Lange

- 37 new homes
- 8 ag buildings
- 1 grain bin
- 1 hog confinement
- 1 commercial lighting
- 1 temp service
- 2 railroad services

47: Number of system improvements

72: Number of leased lights installed

60: Number of meter loops uprated

180: Number of leased lights repaired

68: Number of idle services removed

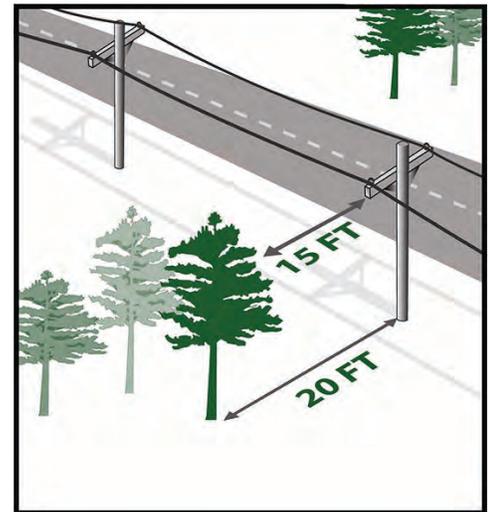
237: Number of poles replaced

2.87: Number of miles of line taken out of service

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
New Services	50	57	66	60	58	52	54
Services Removed	68	84	61	89	88	155	150

Right-of-Way Clearing

Right of Way clearing is a key part of safety and reliability. We will finish the reclamation progress this year with Coddington's working in the Osceola and Lacona substations. The purpose of right-of-way clearing is to increase the reliability of our system and to protect the safety of our linemen. We follow a program that encompasses all substation areas on cycle of tree and brush pruning, and chemical treatment.



Get Your Membership Newsletter by Email

If you would like to receive *Closed Circuit* via email, just let us know. You can call or e-mail us at Clarke@cecnet.net and make sure we're on your Safe Senders list. Each issue is sent at the beginning of each month.



5 Years of Energy Efficiency Efforts

EVERY FIVE YEARS, CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is required to set energy efficiency goals, develop programs to achieve those goals, then file our five-year-plan with the Iowa Utilities Board and the Iowa Attorney General's Office of Consumer Advocate.

Clarke Electric recently completed our first 5-year plan covering the years 2010-2014 and filed the results through our statewide association. Over those five years, CEC has invested **\$754,473** towards energy efficiency, which will result in savings totaling **71,527,509 kWh** over the lifetime of those measures installed. And we couldn't have done it without participation from our member-owners.

Collectively, Iowa's electric co-ops invested almost \$76.7 million from 2010-2014 and the energy savings are expected to total over 3.7 billion kWh over the life of the measures installed, which represents enough electricity to power more than 347,000 homes for a full year.

You may be wondering why an electric company would offer incentives for their customers to use LESS of their product. Clarke Electric Cooperative is different from most businesses; we're a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by those we serve. We are committed to helping you use energy wisely as we work to provide power that is affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally responsible.

It's important to note that these energy efficiency programs only work if member-owners like you participate in them. We encourage you to visit our website at www.cecnet.net or contact our Member Services department at (641) 342-2173 to check your eligibility. And if you've participated in our energy efficiency programs previously, thank you! You've contributed to the cooperative cause by saving energy and money for your home or business. Search through our list of current programs to see if there are more ways to save in the years ahead.

CEC Cares For Your Safety: Generators



- ✓ **NEVER** connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system.
- ✓ For a portable generator, plug your appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
- ✓ Set up and run in a well-ventilated area **OUTSIDE** your home.
- ✓ Start the generator **BEFORE** connecting appliances.
- ✓ Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Be SAFE when using a generator!

All of our lines are service lines.



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David Opie, General Manager

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