

# CLOSED CIRCUIT

Official Publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN • ENERGY SMART • COMMUNITY INVESTED

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## Frank Attends 2016 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

**A**DELINE FRANK, WINNER OF THIS year's Clarke Electric Cooperative Youth Tour contest, was among 34 high school students from across Iowa to attend the 2016 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour June 10-16.

While there, Adeline participated in leadership training, engaged in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jumpstarted a national peer network, learned about electric cooperatives and toured Washington, D.C. A total of more than 1,600 students from across the country attend the event each year.

Adeline will be a senior at Central Decatur High School this year. She says taking government class is what sparked her interest in visiting our country's capital and is intrigued with the law-making process.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C. for the past 50 years. Students apply and are selected for this program by their local electric cooperative.

For more information, visit [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop).



## The Cooperative Difference: Report of the Nominating Committee

**T**HE NOMINATING COMMITTEE OF CLARKE ELECTRIC Cooperative met to select qualified director candidates to run for the board seats in Districts 2, 4 and 5.

The committee is pictured below, from left to right: Alan Shields, Randy Barnard, Frank Riley, Marianne Lester and Tom Carson.



## Summer Employees

**H**UNTER MCINTOSH (PICTURED AT RIGHT with John Heilman) is working at Clarke Electric as a summer intern, helping with grounds work, warehouse and general building maintenance. This is Hunter's second year helping out the cooperative. In the fall, Hunter will be a junior at Murray High School.

Kyleigh Sheridan (pictured at right with Joyce Neal) is also helping out as an intern in the CEO office. She will be a senior at Interstate 35 High School this fall. Kyleigh is eager to learn more about the cooperative business model after applying for the Youth Tour contest last spring.



**Attending Farm Progress Show?**  
Stop by the Rural Electric Cooperatives of Iowa booth to enter in prize drawings and learn about electric safety and energy efficiency!  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

**AUG 30 - SEPT 1**  
**BOONE IOWA**

A photograph of a booth at a fair or show, featuring a large sign and various displays.

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.



**CLARKE**  
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative The logo for Touchstone Energy, featuring a stylized sun and wave design.

# Two Directors Say Goodbye in September

## CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARD PRESIDENT

Frank Riley and Vice President Tom Carson will step down from their board positions Sept. 12, having reached the 15-year term.

Both were elected to the board at CEC's 61st Annual Meeting of the Membership in September 2001.

"Fifteen years goes by really fast," Frank said. "There have been lots of changes at Clarke Electric in that time, but one thing hasn't changed: CEC has lots of good people working there. They all do a very good job working together as a team to get things done. There have been lots of good times and maybe a few not-so-good times, but in the end, Clarke Electric Cooperative employees and the Board made things work."

One thing is for sure, both Tom and Frank agree they had no idea how much time serving on the board would involve.

"I think that part of the job description may have been glossed over a bit," Tom joked.

Frank has served as the president of the Board of Directors for 11 of his fifteen years. He has also served on the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative's Board (IAEC) for 6 years and the Hawkeye Board for 12 years.

Tom has served as the vice president of the Board of Directors for five years and for 11 years on the Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) Board of Directors.

"It was difficult at times to serve on both boards simultaneously, but I just reminded myself of my duty to represent the members of Clarke Electric Cooperative when it came time to make important

decisions," Tom added. "Training was the key to making those decisions about complex issues impacting the membership."

Tom remembers his father serving on the board for Clarke Electric more than 35 years ago. When the nominating committee approached him to serve as a director candidate, he decided the timing was right and he wanted to continue down the same path as his father all those years ago. He's glad he had the opportunity to serve the cooperative.

The two men share many interesting stories regarding their tenure on the board. They hired three general managers, supported the reclamation program, the Department of Energy Smart Grid project, the ice storm FEMA rebuilding process, each requiring some extended meetings and extensive knowledge.

"Once during a Board meeting, when I was still in the Director of Finance position, I presented a very confusing and complicated graph," said Clarke General Manager David Opie. "The more I tried to explain it, the less it made sense. In a fun way, both Frank and Tom gave me a hard time about this graph. It was truly a learning experience for me and it is still a running joke between us."

"There was never a shortage of work to be done," Frank said. "I feel positive about my contributions over the years. And I'm confident the board will continue to face issues head-on for the benefit of the membership." 42-03-04-02



Tom Carson



Frank Riley

## Coming Soon...

### ...NEW CONVENIENT PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR YOU TO PAY YOUR ELECTRIC BILL. CLARKE ELECTRIC

Cooperative is pleased to announce that we will soon be offering you additional options to pay your electric bill. The new features are: SmartHub, (replaces our current E-bill on-line payment option), Pay Now (on-line payment but no registration or password required) and Pay-By-Phone (automated through our phone system). In addition, we will have the ability to take your credit/debit card information electronically with our new VeriFone scanner at our Osceola office. All of these options will provide more resourceful and secure ways to pay your electric bill in the future!

Watch for these new payment options later this year. More information about the billing changes will be included in our newsletters, on our website, at our annual meeting on September 12, and on flyers available in our office. Clarke Electric Cooperative will continue to offer our existing payments options, which include: automatic bill payments (ACH), the drop box located at our Osceola office location, by U.S. mail and in person at our front counter.



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Visit the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa booth at this year's Iowa State Fair to learn more and register to win a Nest Smart Thermostat!

  
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## Energy Smart: Efficiency for Iowa's Climate



**Jason Gibbs**

**IOWA'S WEATHER IS KNOWN FOR EXPERIENCING ALL** extremes. And, the summers are no different. One thing that is guaranteed is Iowa's humidity during the hot months of July and August. A 95°F day in Iowa feels very different than the same temperature in Arizona. Dry heat and humid heat feel different and affect the strategy for creating an energy efficient home.

Generally speaking, when there is more moisture in the air, the temperature feels hotter than it actually is because moist air is closer to saturation than dry air. On a humid day, when the air is saturated with water, evaporation is much slower. Simply put, high humidity will make the air feel hotter while low humidity will make the temperature feel cooler. In warm climates, the majority of energy used to make the home feel comfortable is spent on home air conditioning and cooling. The first priority is heat reduction. However, in humid areas, moisture reduction is nearly as important as lowering the indoor air temperature. If a home has too much moisture, indoor air quality can be compromised and mold and mildew problems can develop.

"Making energy efficiency adjustments to your home related to Iowa's humid summers can reduce your electric bill," said Jason Gibbs, CEC manager of member services.

Clarke Electric recommends that you properly insulate and seal your home to keep the heat and humidity from getting inside while running the A/C. Leaky ducts, windows and doors can cause energy loss, making the HVAC system work much harder to wring moisture out of the air. Homes that are "sealed tight" are easier to keep cool and dry. Next, make sure your HVAC system is the right size. If your unit is too big, you will pay higher energy bills, and you won't get the efficiency level or comfort you want and expect.

There are some basic steps you can take to lower the humidity in your home to help make it feel cooler and more comfortable. Start by reducing the humidity you are already producing. The kitchen and bathrooms are the biggest contributors to higher humidity levels. Check to ensure that your range hood is ducted to the outside. In the bathroom, run the vent fan when bathing or showering. Keep the fan on up to 30 minutes after you finish in order to eliminate the residual moisture in the air. If you can reduce the indoor humidity level, you may be able to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature with a higher thermostat setting and ceiling fans. Finally, check gutters and downspouts for leaks or blockage. If rainwater leaks out and saturates the ground surrounding your home, some of the moisture can eventually migrate into your house.

If you would like more information about how to save energy, contact Jason Gibbs, manager of member services at (641) 342-2173 or [jsgibbs@cecnet.net](mailto:jsgibbs@cecnet.net).



## Community Minded: Supporting Rural Development



*Clarke Electric Cooperative Manager of Member Services Jason Gibbs presents a check to Susan Hontz, Executive Director of Wayne County Development.*

**CLARKE ELECTRIC REMAINS** committed to the welfare of the communities it serves and supports local economic development efforts. CEC and its energy provider, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), gave a combined donation of \$1,000 to help fund a Laborshed Study.

A Laborshed Study can provide a lot of very useful information. For instance, businesses are able to identify the area from which they are most likely to draw their workforce, the wages and benefits that workers desire, the kinds of jobs the people within the region want, and whether there is a condition of unemployment or underemployment.

Community and business leaders rely heavily on this type of information to promote their communities, plan for business opportunities and plan for the future.

### May Outages

- Maintenance – 1
- Equipment/Maintenance failure – 6
- Lightning – 3
- Animal/bird – 10
- Customer caused – 3
- Motor vehicle – 3
- Unknown – 2





## CEC Cares For Your Safety: *Electrical Safety for the Summer*

**A**S THE TEMPERATURES PUSH HIGHER, AND MORE people enjoy the weather, Clarke Electric wishes to remind everyone to use caution and care around outdoor electrical equipment. Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous—or even deadly. 11-06-06-01

“The safety of our members is always a paramount concern for Clarke Electric,” said David Opie, general manager. “We continually strive to provide up-to-date safety information to protect the communities we serve.”

Stay safe by keeping in mind the following tips:

- Use caution around substations and transformers. Never climb a substation fence.
- Pay attention to where you place metal ladders or dig for fence posts. Before you start any project, always look up and avoid overhead power lines.
- If you are planning a project that requires digging, remember the law requires you to dial “811” first to find out if the area you will be working in is clear of underground power lines.
- Power tools should be kept away from wet surfaces, and outlets should not be overloaded.
- Children should never climb trees near power lines – always assume a wire is live.
- Fly kites and remote controlled airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines.
- Planning to take a dip in the pool? Keep all electrical devices at least 10 feet away from water sources, and outdoor electrical outlets should always be covered.

These are just a few tips to remember when you are spending time outdoors this summer with your family. For more information on electrical safety, visit [www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net).

**CORRECTION:** In the June issue of Closed Circuit, a safety article mistakenly referred to a vehicle being grounded. The correct term is “insulated.” The correct sentence is: “Since the vehicle is insulated, a driver and passengers are safest in the vehicle unless another hazard, such as a fire, exists where it would be more dangerous to remain in the vehicle.” We apologize for the error.



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## Operations Update

**R**IGHT OF WAY SPRAYING CONTINUES in the White Oak, Osceola and Medora substations. Contractors are using herbicides to keep the underbrush controlled following the cutting of trees and shrubs.



Don Lange

Pictured below and lower right are CEC crews working at Arbor Valley Lake development pulling underground wire through conduit.



Photos, clockwise from top: Doug Reasoner and Kyle Halls pull underground wire through conduit; Eric Page assists with unwinding the wire to go underground; Adam McCuddin (in bucket) and Eric Page (on pole) repair a damaged pole and cross arm on the 3 phase feeder in the Medora substation.

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David Opie, General Manager

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