

# CLOSEDCIRCUIT

Official Publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN • ENERGY SMART • COMMUNITY INVESTED

Volume 76 No. 5 | May 2016

## Director Election Time; Three Board Seats Available

**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 them informed about the cooperative and utility industry.

Three seats are up for election this year and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on September 12. You can exercise your right to vote by mailing in a ballot or coming to the meeting in person, and also enjoy a free meal.

If you are interested in serving as a board member, call (800) 362-2154.

Districts up for election this year are:

District 2 – Tom Carson (term limited)

District 4 – Lydda Youmans

District 5 – Frank Riley (term limited)

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

**Article III, Section 2. QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE.** 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

*continued on pg. 3*

### New Mission Statement

*The Clarke Electric Cooperative Board of Directors have adopted the following revised mission statement:*

**Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested**

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.



### Annual Meeting

Monday, Sept. 12, 2016  
7 p.m.  
Clarke County Event Center

## Community Minded: 2016 Youth Tour Winner

**T**HE COOPERATIVE HELD ITS annual Youth Tour Contest to give away an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. Adeline Frank from Central Decatur High School was selected as the winner and will travel to the nation's capital in June with 40 other Iowa youth tour students. Congratulations to Adeline! Two other



students, Kyleigh Sheridan and Jacob Hughes from Interstate 35 High School, received an electric grill for their participation in the contest.



Clarke Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day.



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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

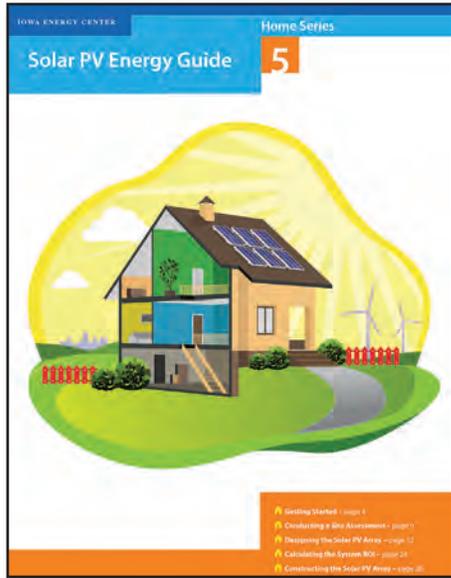


## Energy Smart: Home Series Solar Energy Guide Now Available

**M**EMBER-OWNERS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN investing in solar energy for their home or small business have a new resource to aid in making an informed decision. The Iowa Energy Center has published the *Home Series: Solar PV Energy Guide* in collaboration with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, Alliant Energy, the Iowa Association of

Municipal Utilities, and MidAmerican Energy with information from the Office of Consumer Advocate and the Iowa Utilities Board.

The guide is organized into the following important sections – *Getting Started (Doing Your Homework), Conducting a Site Assessment, Designing the Solar PV Array, Calculating the System ROI, and Constructing the Solar PV.* In addition,

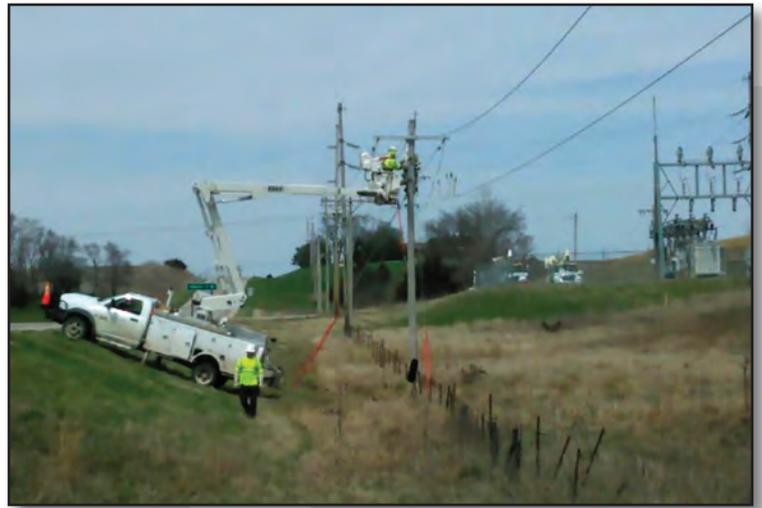


a helpful glossary is included in the publication. Whether you are exploring a turnkey system, a do-it-yourself approach, or a combination of both, the information is presented in a series of steps and important considerations in order to arrive at the best decision for your situation.

“Throughout the publication, it’s stressed that member-owners who are interested in a solar investment should talk to their co-op at the beginning of the process,” said Member Services Manager Jason Gibbs. “This is critical so that you can gain an understanding of rate structures, compensation for excess generation, interconnection requirements, and other vital facets of consumer-owned generation.”



When making a decision about a solar energy system, member-owners are reminded that you also should consider including your trusted advisors, such as accountants, attorneys, and tax professionals, in your research to provide additional expertise in the decision-making process. *The Home Series: Solar PV Energy Guide* can be used in tandem with other checklists and resources, such as the Iowa Utilities Board’s *Information Guide for On-Site Generation*. The publication is available online at [www.iowarec.org/publications/solar-resources/](http://www.iowarec.org/publications/solar-resources/). For more information, contact us at (800) 362-2154 or [jasgibbs@cecnet.net](mailto:jasgibbs@cecnet.net).



## Highway 65 Bridge Construction Requires Line Relocation

Apprentice Linemen Adam McCuddin and Eric Page are dead-ending (terminating) a three phase wire during a line relocation for bridge construction along Highway 65 near Clio. CEC crews moved the line east into private right of way to obtain a safe clearance distance for the crane equipment used for the construction on the project.



## Contractors Continue Phase Two of ROW Reclamation



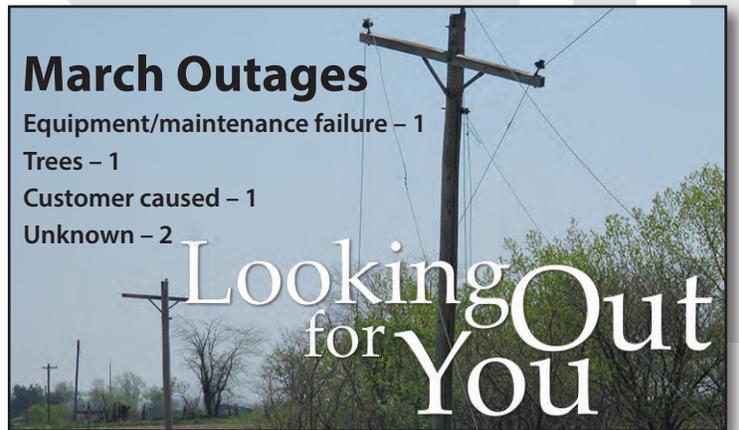
**C**ONTROLLING AND MAINTAINING the growth of brush and trees in, under, and along power lines is very important to the safety and reliability of our electric system. Overgrown trees can make contact with power lines causing faults on the lines.

Contractors will be spraying to control unwanted vegetation in the White Oak and Medora substation areas beginning this month. If you have questions or concerns please contact the cooperative at (800) 362-2154 or contact [clarke@cecnet.net](mailto:clarke@cecnet.net). 09-17-08-00

## March Outages

- Equipment/maintenance failure – 1
- Trees – 1
- Customer caused – 1
- Unknown – 2

Looking Out for You



# Grain Bin Notice

**WHEN YOU START TO PLAN FOR A NEW GRAIN BIN,** please contact Clarke Electric Cooperative.

We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

See the drawing for the specific clearances required for both scenarios, at right. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact Clarke Electric.

According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b. *An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2012 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)*

The cooperative is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please call us at (800) 362-2154.

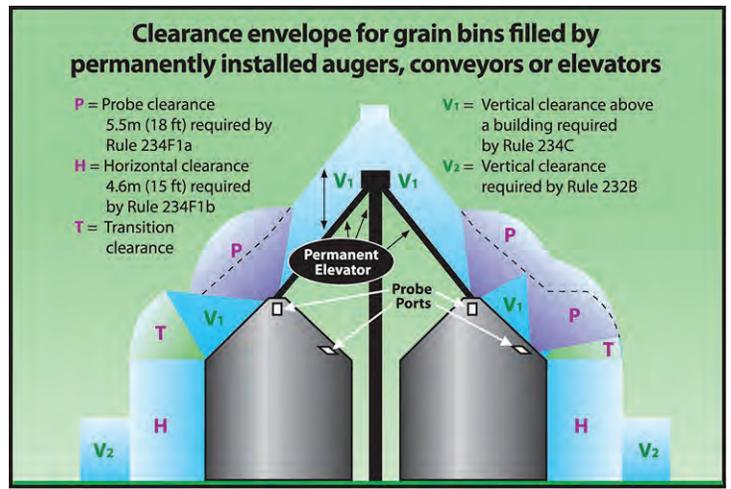
## Director Election...from pg. 1

to an employee of the Cooperative or who has been an employee or married to an employee of the Cooperative 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."

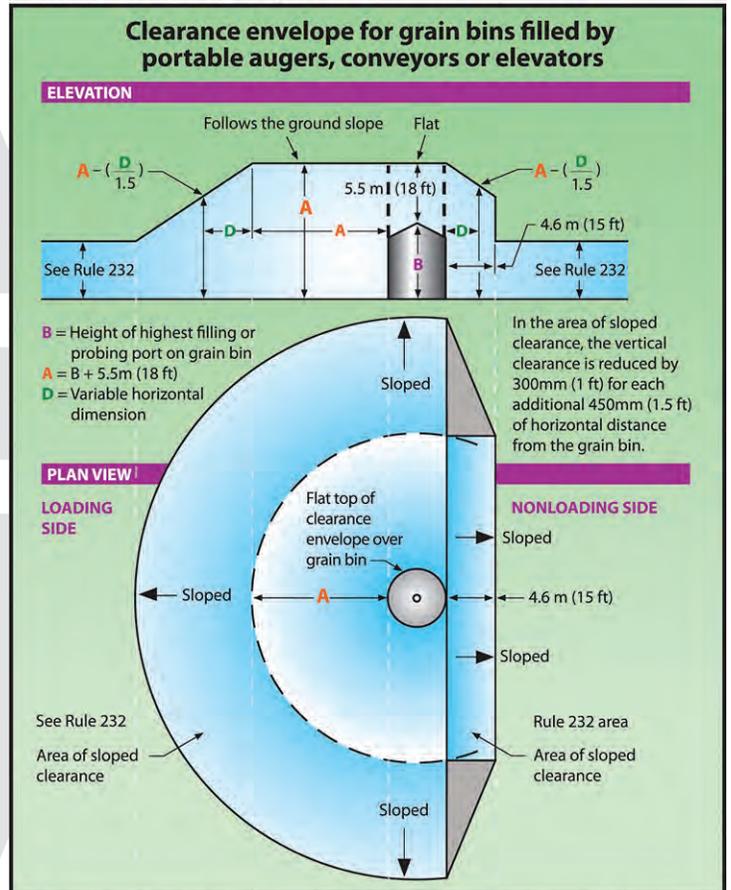
### Article III, Section 3. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

(a) Nomination 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,



From IEEE Std. C2-2012, "National Electrical Safety Code."



From IEEE Std. C2-2012, "Errata to 2012 Edition National Electrical Safety Code." ©Copyright 2013 by IEEE. All rights reserved. The IEEE disclaims any responsibility or liability resulting from the placement and use in the described manner.

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 is Load Forecast?

**W**HEN WE HEAR THE WORD "FORECAST," WE typically think of the weather. But electric cooperatives are tasked with managing a different type of forecast – a load forecast.

A load forecast is exactly what it sounds like – an estimate or prediction of how much electricity will be needed in the future. We all depend on electricity to meet our daily needs, but the amount we use varies from season to season, day to day and even hour by hour. This is why Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), Clarke Electric's power supplier, plans far in advance to make sure there is enough power available to meet electricity demands. 40-13-02-50

Believe it or not, growth in electricity demand has slowed each decade since the 1950s, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Rising demand for electric services have been offset by efficiency gains from new appliance standards and investments in energy efficient equipment. At no time in history has load forecasting been more critical to the utility industry than with the emergence of new load shifting technologies such as wind turbines, solar arrays and electric vehicles.

As demand fluctuates, Clarke Electric and CIPCO are prepared to maintain electrical loads and keep the system running efficiently. This means extensive planning – even up to 20 years in advance. Clarke Electric works with CIPCO to evaluate areas of growth and predict demand patterns for our local communities.

For example, if a new business or resident is constructed in our service territory, it's our responsibility to ensure that adequate



power supply will be provided to the members of that area. This type of growth may mean constructing new poles and upgrading electrical lines to the site or even building a new substation. Whatever the need – Clarke Electric is prepared and will continue to provide members with safe, reliable electric service.

As technology changes, we're becoming more efficient. In 2011, Clarke Electric deployed a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system allowing for electrical load monitoring on all 33 circuits. This data is continuously being stored in archives, vastly improving our understanding of our load characteristics and advancing the load forecast model.

In addition to working with Clarke Electric, CIPCO collects data from other electric co-ops in Iowa to project future demand. Planning ahead improves reliability, and ensures the best economic price for power.

At Clarke Electric, we can't predict the future, but we can be prepared for what it holds. So leave the forecasting to us, and we'll continue to provide safe, reliable electricity to power your life.



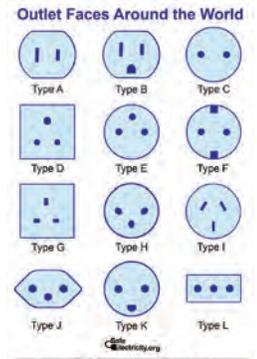
**BRAD WILSON, PE**

## **CEC Cares For Your Safety: Danger Doesn't Take a Vacation**

### **F TRAVELING ABROAD FOR VACATION**

this summer, familiarize yourself with the differences in electrical systems outside of U.S. borders. There is no universal standard for electrical voltage, with variations between 110 to 240 volts and 50 to 60 hertz common around the world.

Before plugging in your device, check that both the voltage and wattage are compatible. Remember that both converters (to convert electricity) and adaptors (to convert plug style) are for temporary use and should be unplugged when the electricity is not needed.



For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Coming Soon

Several new payment options will be offered to members of Clarke Electric Cooperative. In addition to these payment options, we will be able to provide more opportunities for online and mobile account management and usage information. Keep watching for more news on this topic in the months to come.



**CLARKE**  
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

David Opie, General Manager

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 4 pm

Outside Depository Available 24 Hours

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### **Board of Directors**

- Tom Carson, Osceola
- Randy Gaumer, Murray
- Larry Jackson, Clio
- Larry Keller, Osceola
- Kyle Kelso, Weldon
- Frank Riley, Osceola
- Randy Rouse, Corydon
- Bill Willis, New Virginia
- Lydda Youmans, Indianola