

CLOSED CIRCUIT

Official Publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN • ENERGY SMART • COMMUNITY INVESTED

Volume 76 No. 10 | October 2016

76th Annual Meeting: Weathering the Storms

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH, AND Clarke Electric is joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate the benefits and values that cooperatives bring to our members and communities. One of the ways we celebrate is by hosting our annual meeting event.

Clarke Electric Cooperative members gathered Sept. 12 to support their electric cooperative by attending our annual meeting while also enjoying a beautiful evening with great weather, catching up with neighbors over a free meal, voting for board directors and registering for prizes.



As members arrived at the event center, they were met with the sight of bucket trucks proudly displaying the American flag over the entrance to the Clarke County Fairgrounds. Golf cart shuttles were made available to assist guests to the door where they could cast a ballot for the director election.

Like all co-ops, members have the opportunity to use their voice and vote for who will represent them on the board.

President of the Board **Frank Riley** called the meeting to order following a meal provided by the **Madison County Pork Producers** and great entertainment by **Pat Meade**. Those in attendance heard reports of the cooperative, conducted director elections and heard from our Youth Tour Representative, **Adeline Frank**.



Frank Riley

Members were invited to complete a survey and provide feedback about the annual meeting process and the cooperative's communication practices for a chance to win a \$200 energy credit. Survey results and



the winner will be announced in the November *Closed Circuit* newsletter.

General Manager **David Opie** focused on the cooperative's ability to "weather the storms" in his report.

He praised the efforts made by management, directors and employees to keep the cooperative operationally strong while maintaining the organization's integrity during management transitions in 2015. Being "Storm Ready," whether it is weather related, financial, political or a regulatory storm is key to keeping the lights on for our members. The cooperative continues to make short- and long-range plans to provide our members with safe,

continued on pg. 2



Raffle winners

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.



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Smart: Maintain Heat Source for Savings

HEATING YOUR HOME USES MORE ENERGY THAN ANY other system in your home – typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov

Annual Meeting ...continued from pg. 1

affordable, reliable power and excellent service.

Even though our cooperative membership numbers have remained relatively flat with approximately 5,300 connected meters, it is imperative that construction and maintenance programs continue in order to provide reliable service. One way CEC does this is to remove idle services to decrease maintenance costs.

Manager of Operations **Don Lange** spoke about the cooperative's efforts to manage vegetation and reclaim the right-of-way along CEC's 1,800 miles of line. He reported the cooperative has removed trees and underbrush from all of our 11 substations and continues to supplement the right-of-way program with chemical treatments to further inhibit growth of underbrush. This improves overall safety and reliability to our members. 45-16-04-01

Brad Wilson, Manager of Engineering, reported on the current construction of the Clarke Solar Farm on Highway 69. (See article)

CIPCO Director **Tom Carson** gave a report on CIPCO's generation portfolio. He described the work that goes into building and maintaining a complex generation and transmission system today, while members reap the benefits with a simple flip of the switch.

Board elections were held and the ballots counted to nominate three directors with the highest votes in their districts to serve a term of three years. Directors elected to the board were:

- District 2: **Randy Barnard**
- District 4: **Lydda Youmans** (incumbent)
- District 5: **Ed White**

President Riley then raffled off 10 cash prizes worth \$50 each and five worth \$100 each; two children's bikes and several electric prizes donated by **Coddington Tree Services**.

After the meeting, the directors met to elect officers as follows:

- President: **Kyle Kelso**
- Vice-President: **Randy Gaumer**
- Secretary: **Randy Rouse**
- Treasurer: **Larry Keller**
- Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: **Lydda Youmans**



Construction Begins on Clarke Solar Farm

CONSTRUCTION ON THE CLARKE SOLAR FARM IS NOW underway! Clarke Electric Cooperative is working with our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) to build one of five sites included in Iowa's first-ever utility-scale solar project.

Located north of Osceola on Highway 69 and east on Leann Drive, the Clarke Solar Farm will generate 636,780 kWh of electricity for CEC its first year, enough to power up to 63 homes! Combined with four other sites in the CIPCO member system, Clarke Solar Farm will contribute to a combined generation capacity of 5.5MW when complete.

The project is the first phase in CIPCO's long-term plan to incorporate solar into its generation portfolio, which already has nearly 60 percent of its energy provided by emissions and carbon-free resources.*



Clarke Solar Farm will contain 1,584 solar panels and 44 racking tables and is expected to be completed in November.

To see the progress on the solar farm visit www.cecnet.net and click on the picture of the farm to view time-lapse camera footage of the construction progress.

*All or some of the renewable energy credits associated with this generation may have been sold or may be sold in the future, to other parties, or may be used to comply with future regulatory requirements.



Beginning Nov. 1: SmartHub Replaces E-Bill (Online Bill Pay)

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS EXCITED TO OFFER the latest technology to help you manage your electric account 24/7 by computer, tablet or smartphone with a FREE online application called SmartHub.

What is SmartHub?

SmartHub is a quick, convenient way to pay your electric bill and manage your account and electric usage information online. Beginning Nov. 1, 2016, SmartHub will replace the current E-Bill (Online Bill Pay) option available at www.cecnet.net. From your iOS or Android mobile device, with SmartHub you can:

- Make a payment
- Access payment history
- View your bill
- Update your account or contact information
- Communicate directly with Clarke Electric Cooperative

How do I sign up for SmartHub?

Just visit www.cecnet.net after Nov. 1 to find a link to SmartHub to get you started. If you already use E-Bill, you can log in to SmartHub using the same e-mail address and password. As a new user, you will be required to enter your account number, last name or business name, and your e-mail address. SmartHub is compatible with iOS 8.0 and above (iPhone and/or iPad); and Android 4.1 (Jellybean) and above (smartphone or tablet). Amazon Kindle devices are not supported.

Is the app secure?

Yes! All critical information is encrypted and no personal information is stored on your mobile device. However, most mobile devices offer storing your login information on the device; if you choose this option, please be mindful that anyone who has access to your mobile device can have access to your account.



How do I get the app?

Simply search for "SmartHub" in the Apple Store or the Google Play store. Make sure you're

selecting the SmartHub associated with our partner, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). When you open the app for the first time you will need to select and confirm Clarke Electric Cooperative as your electric provider. You can then log in using your existing E-Bill username and password, or create an account by following the prompts on the screen.

Do I have to change the way I pay my bill in order to use SmartHub?

No. You can use all the features of SmartHub and still continue to pay your bill as you currently do: by phone, by mail, or in person.

I have multiple accounts. Can I see them all in the app and on the Web?

Yes, the SmartHub home page will show you all of your accounts with the amounts due and links to other, more detailed information. You can make payments on one or more accounts.

How current is the account information I see in the app or on the Web?

The information is shown in real time. If you keep your app or the web version open for an extended time, you should refresh the page in order to ensure the most up-to-date information.

How do I sign up for notifications?

Notifications can only be managed on the Web site via the "Notifications" tab. Simply select your preferred method which includes text, mobile push notification or e-mail.

What about outages?

Once you have signed up for SmartHub, Clarke Electric will be able to notify you when an outage affects you. We will also be able to notify you of planned outages as we work on repairs or upgrades to the electrical distribution lines.

PayNow (powered by SmartHub) via www.cecnet.net provides a quick, convenient and streamlined way to pay your bill online. It does not contain all the functionality of SmartHub, but does offer an easy way for you to pay your bill online. You will be required to enter your account number and name. No registration or password is required.

For questions or technical help, call Clarke Electric Cooperative at (800) 362-2154.





The Cooperative Difference: Members Win!



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE members Beth and Joel Petty of Corydon for being the winners of this year's grand prize drawing from the Iowa State Fair.

Each year, Clarke Electric joins other Iowa electric cooperatives to staff the Touchstone Energy® booth in the 4-H Building during the Iowa State Fair. Visitors to the booth have the opportunity to enter a drawing with a grand prize provided by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. 14-11-01-06

Pictured is CEC General Manager David Opie presenting the prize – a Nest Learning Thermostat – to Beth and Joel Petty. These thermostats have remote programming features with smart technology that learn your heating and cooling habits for better home temperature control and efficiency.

August Outages

- Equipment/maintenance failure – 7
- Trees - 3
- Lightning – 11
- Wind - 1
- Animal/Birds – 5
- Fire - 1
- Unknown - 2

Looking Out for You



CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



CEC Cares For Your Safety: Overhead Power Lines

CONTACT WITH OVERHEAD POWER LINES IS THE LEADING cause of electrical fatalities for agricultural workers. Of the 1,001 reported power line contact incidents from 2003-2009, nearly 70 percent resulted in death. Luckily, these fatalities can be prevented by following these simple steps while on the job.

- 1** Locate all overhead power lines.
- 2** Keep self and equipment 10 feet away from all overhead power lines.
- 3** Do not touch anything that is in contact with the power line.
- 4** Beware of fencing near power lines.
- 5** Carry ladders and other equipment horizontally.
- 6** Lower equipment apparatus before driving.
- 7** Never spray near power lines with irrigation systems.
- 8** Stay at least 10 feet away from fallen power lines.

Source: Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.

Board of Directors

- Randy Barnard, New Virginia
- Randy Gaumer, Murray
- Larry Jackson, Clío
- Larry Keller, Osceola
- Kyle Kelso, Weldon
- Randy Rouse, Corydon
- Ed White, Osceola
- Bill Willis, New Virginia
- Lydda Youmans, Indianola

David Opie, General Manager
 Office Hours: Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 4 pm
 Outside Depository Available 24 Hours
641.342.2173 | 800.362.2154

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

www.cecnet.net