



CLARKE REC Headlines

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The Cooperative Difference: Clarke Electric Reaches Out to Lawmakers

OVER 150 DIRECTORS, managers and staff members from Iowa's electric cooperatives discussed priorities with state legislators Jan. 10 during the annual Welcome Back Legislative Reception in downtown Des Moines. Other guests of honor included: Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds, Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, Secretary of State Paul Pate, Iowa Utilities Board Member Nick Wagner and Iowa Department of Economic Development Director Debi Durham. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives, the Iowa Communications Alliance and the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Stores of Iowa, hosted the annual reception.



From left, David Opie, CEC General Manager; Iowa Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds; and Jason Gibbs, CEC Manager of Member Services.

"This annual event brings together the seasoned and the new legislators to discuss issues of importance with cooperative leaders. I can't think of a better way to start the legislative session," said Dave Opie, General Manager of Clarke Electric Cooperative.

Important issues for rural electric cooperatives this session are:

- line personnel safety;
- state programs that complement federal rural economic development programs;

continued on pg. 4

Seeking Leaders for Youth Tour '17

EVERY YEAR, CLARKE ELECTRIC Cooperative offers one high school junior in our service territory the chance to attend Youth Tour, a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. It's a wonderful opportunity for our youth to be immersed in the history and governance of the cooperative business model, hear from Iowa Congressional leaders, network with students from across the country and visit national monuments, museums and more.



JASON GIBBS
Manager of
Member Services

In order for students to get a jump start on what they would be learning more about during Youth Tour, Clarke Electric asks them to write an essay on a topic related to electric cooperatives. This year's essay question is: "Of the seven cooperative principles, which two do you feel are the most important, and why?"

Essays should be typed on one side of an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper, no more than 500 words and two pages long. Below is a list of other important dates to remember:

Application Deadline: March 3

Essay Deadline: March 17

Youth Tour Judging: March 29

Trip Dates: June 9-15

If you have any questions about the process, feel free to drop me a line at jasgibbs@cecnet.net or (641) 342-2173 / (800) 362-2154 or visit www.cecnet.net.

Get Your Membership Newsletter by Email

If you would like to receive our newsletter via email, let us know. You can call or email us at Clarke@cecnet.net. We will send it at the beginning of each month.



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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

News from the Engineering Department

THE CLARKE ELECTRIC ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT HAS been hard at work this winter getting ready for upcoming construction projects. The projects that have been identified in our current construction work plan will make for an aggressive 2017-2018 construction season.

Customer Service Engineer Nick Gannon leads the charge to assure construction projects are accurately designed, proposed facilities are surveyed in the field, material lists are generated, and all of the necessary permitting and easements are in place. Below are highlights of the upcoming projects that are currently being prepared for construction:

I-35 (South) to Osceola (South) Circuit Tie – This 3-mile overhead line construction project will create a new tie-line between the Osceola and I-35 substations. It will allow for transferring load, reducing voltage drop and conductor loading, and providing alternate feeds for construction purposes thereby increasing system reliability.

Osceola (Northwest) Circuit Upgrade – This 3-mile overhead line construction project will upgrade an existing overhead line to increase capacity, improve reliability, and reduce line loss.

White Oak (South) Circuit Replacement – This 4-mile overhead

line construction project will replace an aged and deteriorating underground tie-line to improve reliability and maintain a critical circuit tie between substations.

Lacona (North) Circuit Replacement –

This 2.7-mile overhead line construction project will replace one mile of aged and deteriorating residential underground cable from private right-of-way where access and reliability have been a problem.

Clio East Circuit (south of Allerton) – This 1.5-mile overhead tie-line construction project is an amendment to the construction work plan that will improve reliability, line losses, and prevent poor power quality.

The Clarke Electric Engineering Department is eager to work with our members who require new electric service, service upgrades or any construction on their property that might affect existing electric facilities. Please call us in advance so we can coordinate efforts to move your

projects forward safely and on schedule.

We are here, working for you!



BRAD WILSON
CEC Engineer

The construction work plan helps the cooperative develop a systematic approach to upgrading our aging infrastructure which inherently increases safety and reliability to the system and our members.

Clarke Solar Farm Energized



Employees with Central Iowa Power Cooperative and Clarke Electric work together to energize the Clarke Solar Farm. The farm was fully energized Dec. 16, 2016. CEC will host a special event in the spring.



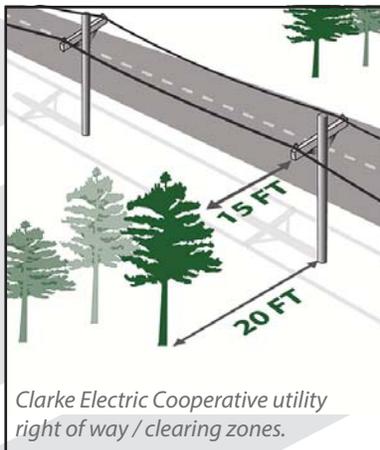
Statement of Non Discrimination

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. IS THE RECIPIENT of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities. 49-05-01-01

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is David A. Opie, general manager of Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and /or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-1510; or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Working for You: Right of Way Clearing 2017

CLARKE ELECTRIC continues the Right of Way clearing schedule for 2017. Coddington's Inc. will work in the Clio and Grand River substations this year to remove growth and underbrush under, and near the power lines in these substations.



Clarke Electric Cooperative utility right of way / clearing zones.

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.

By the Numbers: 2016 Operations

THE NUMBERS ARE IN AFTER another year of construction and maintenance on Clarke Electric Cooperative's 1,800 miles of line. In 2016, Clarke Electric built services for:



Don Lange

- 39 new homes
- 28 ag buildings
- 1 solar

52: Number of system improvements

50: Number of leased lights installed

48: Number of meter loops updated

158: Number of leased lights repaired

42: Number of idle services removed

268: Number of poles replaced

2.06: Number of miles of line taken out of service

In comparison to previous years:

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
New Services	68	50	57	66	60	58
Services Removed	42	68	84	61	89	88



Energy Efficiency

A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill! Caulk around the fireplace hearth and keep the damper closed when a fire is not burning. Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Safety Driven: Fire Extinguisher Training

ALL EMPLOYEES ARE TRAINED IN FIRE EXTINGUISHER safety as part of the cooperative's mission to be "Safety Driven-Energy Smart-Community Invested." Conducted annually by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, our safety program trains our personnel in the safe use of fire extinguishers and all the employees are able to practice putting out a live fire in demonstration. Pictured is Billing Clerk **Stephanie Moore** practicing extinguishing the fire.



TYLER MCDANEL IS AN apprentice lineman who has recently completed his Powerline Technician Program at the Marshalltown Community College. As an apprentice lineman, Tyler will be required to complete competency tests as he progresses to the next level of an eight-step apprenticeship program. Pictured is Tyler demonstrating his ability to safely and competently perform the pole climbing requirements of his job.



Questions or Complaints

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE STRIVES TO PROVIDE you with the best service at the lowest possible cost. But sometimes you may have questions regarding your electrical service or billing, or possibly a complaint.

If you have a complaint about Clarke Electric's service rather than its rates, you can reach a representative of the cooperative by contacting us during normal business hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at 641-342-2173 or 800-362-2154 or clarke@cecnet.net. You can also write to: Member Advocate, Clarke Electric Cooperative, 1103 N. Main Street, Osceola, IA 50213.

If your complain is not resolved, you may ask for help from the Iowa Utilities Board, Customer Service, 1375 E. Court Ave., Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; 877-565-4450 or customer@iub.iowa.gov.



Community Invested: Local Linemen Student Job Shadowing at Clarke



ZACH STEWART SPENT his Christmas break from Northwest Iowa Community College helping out Clarke Electric line crews. Zach is currently enrolled in the Powerline Program at NWICC. He is a New Virginia native and a 2015 graduate from Interstate 35 High School.

Welcome Back...from pg. 1

- geothermal property tax exemption;
- Duane Arnold Energy Center (nuclear power plant) machinery and equipment tax exemption; and
- review and revision of energy programs. 18-19-06-01

Every year, the Iowa General Assembly addresses many issues, including energy-related items central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, the directors, managers and staff will be important advocates for a balanced approach to energy issues that allows for Iowa's member-owned rural electric cooperatives to continue providing affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans.

Electric cooperative representatives from all parts of the state will visit Des Moines for REC Day on the Hill March 22, where they will be able to visit with their legislators once again.

December Outages
 Maintenance – 2
 Equipment/maintenance failure - 3
 Animal/Bird – 2
 Customer Caused - 1
 Unknown – 2

Looking Out for You

Are you Prepared?
 Nearly half of U.S. adults do **NOT** have the resources and plans in place in the event of an emergency.

- Store at least a **3-day supply** of non perishable, easy to prepare food.
- Store a **3-day supply** of water: one gallon per person, per day.
- 48%** of Americans do **NOT** have emergency supplies.
- 44%** of Americans do **NOT** have first aid kits.
- 20%** of Americans use social media for alerts and warnings. Make sure to keep a charger handy in an emergency.
- 20%** of Americans get emergency info from mobile apps. Keep a charger handy in an emergency.
- 52%** of Americans do **NOT** have copies of crucial personal documents.
- Don't forget your pets! You need a **3-day supply** of food and water per pet.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



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