



# CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

**SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED** **Volume No. 77 No. 11 | November 2017**

## Willis Earns Director Gold Training Certificate

**C**ONGRATULATIONS TO CEC BOARD MEMBER BILL Willis for earning his Director Gold Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in September.

The Director Gold credential recognizes directors who have earned their Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Certificate and are committed to continuing their education throughout their service on the board. It is the highest credential a board member can receive from the NRECA and is the hallmark of a committed electric cooperative director. The recognition helps drive professional self-confidence, demonstrates commitment to members, regulators and electric officials of the director's commitment to continuing education.

Willis will be required to maintain his Director Gold status by earning credits for ongoing educational opportunities through NRECA.



CEC General Manager Dave Opie, right, presents Director Bill Willis with his Director Gold certificate.

## Member Leased Light Program

**W**ITH THE ONSET OF shorter daylight hours, you might want to consider leasing a light from Clarke Electric so when you come home and it is dark outside, you won't have to worry about how to get to the door. Clarke Electric offers the leased light program to our members without the hassle of repairs or maintenance.

For a low monthly fee of \$7.50, we

*continued on pg. 3*



**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING  
DAY**



**T**he Clarke Electric office will be closed Nov. 23-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday. From the board of directors, general manager and employees, we hope your Thanksgiving holiday is an enjoyable one. We thank you for your support, and we pledge to do our best each day to serve you.

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



**CLARKE**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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

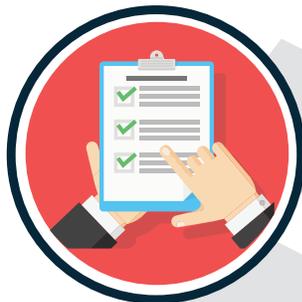
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# Planning is Key to Keeping the Power On

**T**HIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN WE ARE KNEE-DEEP in number crunching, planning and looking at the big picture to make sure we hit our strategic mark. The 2018 business plan, or budget, begins as soon as the previous year's budget is approved by the local board of directors. In August, each department completes its overall objectives for the upcoming year. Any new projects, key initiatives or ongoing jobs are outlined with timelines and dollars to make sure they are completed. Each department – operations, engineering, member services, communications, human resources, technology and finance – are included in the planning process.

Your local board of directors, along with co-op staff, review the programs, services and initiatives that ensure the cooperative has adequate resources to keep the power flowing to you, our members. The overall success of the cooperative depends on having a plan for maintaining and upgrading the infrastructure in order for that to happen.

Short-term and long term-plans are made to replace old lines. We work with our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative, to look at the growth of our system. The safety and integrity of the power grid is factored into those plans as well. New regulations are always being reviewed and mandated.



We strive to hire and keep a knowledgeable and dedicated workforce that promotes a safe environment. We know that happy and engaged employees are one of the keys to a successful workforce. They are committed to the cooperative and the cooperative way of life, answering the call no matter when it comes.



**TIM MARIENAU**  
MANAGER OF FINANCE  
AND OFFICE SERVICES

We must communicate to our members what is happening with their cooperative; environmental, regulatory and safety issues that might impact how your power is delivered. We look for programs and services that fit with the cooperative business model and impact our members' lives in a positive way. As we compile our 2018 business plan, all of these important pieces are carefully and methodically included. The business plan will be presented to the board at its November meeting. The board will carefully review the plan and make sure the necessary resources are available while remaining financial sound.

Your cooperative is dedicated to bringing you the power you need to be comfortable in your home and businesses.

## Energy Smart: Programmable Thermostats

**W**ITH A LITTLE SAVVY CONSUMER SHOPPING AND research, choosing and correctly using programmable thermostats can be easy to do.

There are plenty of brands and types to suit your home and lifestyle. But one thing you won't find today is a programmable thermostat that carries the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) familiar blue ENERGY STAR® seal. The EPA dropped the label from these products in 2009. Why?



Programmable thermostats can potentially save buyers up to \$180 a year on heating and cooling costs, according to ENERGYSTAR.gov, but many customers miss out on savings by failing to correctly install their new

thermostats. This led to poor EPA consumer survey feedback and the loss of the ENERGY STAR seal for most products.

Enter smart thermostats that come with motion sensors to help do

the work of detecting and setting the temperature in your home. Nest is one such brand of thermostats.

Sensors will start to turn the thermostat up or down, depending on the season. Within a few days of installing the device, the system will begin to learn your schedule, automatically dialing your thermostat back when you're not home. 47-31-02-01

The addition of smart phone and iPad apps allow consumers to use other smart thermostat features, helping to make temperature control easy.

## September Outages

- Equipment failure – 10
- Maintenance - 2
- Trees – 2
- Customer caused – 2
- Lightning - 2
- Motor Vehicle – 1
- Unknown - 2

Looking Out  
for You



# Pole Climbing and Pole Top Rescue



**N**EWLY-HIRED APPRENTICE LINEMEN LEE FRERICHS (left, above) and Joel Noelting (right, above) practice pole top climbing, a vital skill all linemen must be able to perform.

Time counts in an emergency situation and linemen know from practice, the safest and most practical way to rescue their partner if contact is made. Linemen work in pairs for many reasons not the least of which is the important task of watching their partner while he is working on or near energized lines. 25-09-05-00

Proficiency in pole climbing and pole top rescue is tested annually at the cooperative with the assistance of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative's (IAEC) Safety and Loss Control Instructors.

## Leased Light...from pg. 1

will install and maintain a high-pressure sodium light on your property and make repairs when needed. Sodium light bulbs are an extremely efficient, long lasting light source. All you do is pay for the electricity and the monthly fee; it's just that simple.

Qualifications for our leased light program:

- You must be a member.
- The light must be on the meter pole, or any member-owned pole on the member's side of the meter provided the member arranges for 120-volt electric service to the pole.
- Clarke Electric Cooperative will furnish, install and maintain the light and fixture during normal cooperative working hours.
- The light will be turned on and off using a dusk-to-dawn photo cell (cannot be controlled by a switch).
- The Cooperative may remove the light at its discretion.
- These qualifications must be understood and agreed to by the member upon the member's request for installation of the leased light.

Call for more details. 1-800-362-2154



## The Cooperative Difference: Patronage Dividends

**O**NE OF THE BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER OF CLARKE Electric Cooperative is receiving money back after all expenses have been paid. Since Clarke Electric is a not-for-profit, any money left over after expenses are paid is given back to the members.

In the June issue of this newsletter, we announced that the board approved an allocation of \$458,022 back to the members as 2016 patronage capital. The board strives to retire the margin back to the membership using a 20-year cycle.



That means if you are a long-time member, you will receive a patronage dividend credit on your electric bill in December. If you left the system before the 20-year rotation, you will receive the money as a check mailed to your last known address. Patronage dividends returned in December will be for the years 1998-99 and part of 2000.

Remember to keep your address updated with the cooperative so you can receive your patronage dividend.



## Community Invested: Show Your Care with RECare

**R**ECARE IS A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO ALL members of Clarke Electric Cooperative. Members may choose to make a one-time donation or a monthly donation in an amount that is added to your electric bill each month. Every year, the funds are distributed to community action agencies in our area for the purpose of helping low income members pay their heating bills or cover the cost of winterizing their homes.

Your contribution stays in the community and is distributed to qualifying families by the area community action agencies. In 2016, CEC members donated \$961 to RECare.

Simply fill out the participation form shown here and send it to CEC with your bill. Thank you for your donation!

### Member Authorization Form

*Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members through the RECare program.*

Enclosed is a check with a one-time donation.

I would like to make a monthly donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: RECare, c/o Clarke Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 161, Osceola, Iowa 50213



# Forklift Safety

*Safety Driven* is one of our mission statement directives. It is carried out every day, everywhere, all the time. Safety is something we take very seriously. We spend a lot of time in safety training and as you can see from the above pictures, even our management team is included in safety training. Forklift training is one of the training programs we review annually. We have many truck deliveries daily and the training keeps our employees aware of how to safely perform the job of unloading freight. At left, General Manager David Opie learns the basics of forklift operation; at right, Foreman Rob McCoy navigates an obstacle course with the forklift.

## Safety Driven: Space Heater Safety

**ESFi** Heat Your Home Safely  
Make Sure to Follow These Important Tips Before You Plug In

- PLACE** space heaters on a flat, level surface, away from high-traffic areas.
- PLUG** a space heater directly into an outlet and avoid using an extension cord.
- NEVER LEAVE** space heaters unattended.
- ONLY USE** space heaters with the certification label of a nationally recognized testing lab.
- DON'T USE** a space heater if the plug is broken or the cord is frayed, worn or damaged.

www.esfi.org | facebook.com/ESFi.org | twitter.com/ESFIdotorg

## 4 Home Heating Tips to Live By

- 1** KEEP ANYTHING THAT CAN BURN at least three feet away from a heating source. **3ft**
- 2** HAVE YOUR HEATING SYSTEM inspected annually. 
- 3** KEEP VENTS CLEAR of dust and debris. 
- 4** INSTALL CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. 



**CLARKE**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

**www.cecnet.net**

### Board of Directors

Randy Barnard, New Virginia  
Larry Jackson, Clio  
Larry Keller, Osceola  
Kyle Kelso, Weldon  
Cody Miller, Thayer  
Randy Rouse, Corydon  
Ed White, Osceola  
Bill Willis, New Virginia  
Lydda Youmans, Indianola