



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Volume No. 77 No. 9 | September 2017



Clarke Welcomes Two New Apprentice Linemen to our Team

THE COOPERATIVE RECENTLY HIRED TWO NEW apprentice linemen. Lee Frerichs (pictured above, right) is a native of Allison, Iowa, graduating from North Butler High School and Northwest Iowa Community College. Lee and his wife, Courtney, live in Osceola and are looking to purchase a home in the community. They are expecting their first child in November. Lee likes to hunt and fish in his spare time. He enjoys working outside and running the large equipment and realizes that being a lineman is a career and not just a job.

Joel Noelting (pictured above, left) is a native of Greene, Iowa, and a graduate of Hampton DuMont High School and Northwest Iowa Community College. Joel and his wife, Kayla, and their children Eli (2) and Emberleigh (1) moved to Murray while finding a home to purchase. Joel enjoys motorcycles, especially Harley Davidsons, hunting and spending time with his family. He enjoys his new linemen duties because it allows him to work outdoors and with his hands.

Welcome, Lee and Joel!

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

Watch Your Mail for Survey

A PORTION OF OUR MEMBERS have been randomly selected to participate in a survey about their home and energy use. The information collected provides insights into energy use and changes over time, and is valuable for us and our power

supplier to plan for the future. If you receive a survey in September, we ask that you complete the questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided. Thank you in advance for your assistance!



Questions or Complaints?

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE STRIVES TO PROVIDE you with the best service at the lowest possible cost. 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, (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 complaint 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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps will be here soon! No matter what kind of heating system you have in your home, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Electricity Rates to Increase

WOW HOW TIME FLIES. IT WAS JUST FIVE YEARS AGO when a huge tsunami hit Japan and destroyed one of their Nuclear Generation plants. Instagram was a brand-new app. Also in 2012, a huge electrical blackout hit the northeast part of the United States and 50 million American citizens were affected. The BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill happened and the Oprah Winfrey show ended after 25 years.

It was five years ago that Clarke Electric Cooperative had our last rate increase, which was three percent. In the five years since that time, we have watched as most of our operating expenses have increased. You, as a consumer can also relate to increased costs as you notice daily necessities (gas, food, insurance) to name a few, have increased in the last five years as well.

Clarke Electric works hard to manage those expense increases while at the same time, we do not want our distribution system to degrade or the service we provide to you, our members, to decline.

We are anticipating a modest rate increase this fall. We believe that with this small increase and diligent management of our continually rising expenses, we can continue to maintain and improve our distribution system to provide you safe and affordable power.

What has not changed over the last five years is the commitment Clarke Electric Cooperative and its employees make to our members. Our staff is committed to finding solutions for our members' needs and making sure the power is there when the light switch is flipped on.

Clarke Electric Cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable and reasonably priced power to our members. Not for just the next five years, but for generations to come.



DAVID OPIE
GENERAL MANAGER

The Cooperative Difference: 2017-2018 Iowa Home Energy Assistance Program

THE 2017-2018 LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60+) and/or disabled: October 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018
- All other households: November 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of Income (for all household members age 19+)
- Check stubs from the previous 30 days, award letter from Social Security or 2016 tax return
- Social Security numbers for all household members (documentation required)
- Recent heat bill
- Recent electric bill
- If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.

PROOF OF INCOME:

- Wage Earners: Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.
- Fixed Income: This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions.

Income Maximums		
Household Size	One Month Gross Income	Annual Gross Income
1	\$1,759	\$21,105
2	\$2,368	\$28,420
3	\$2,978	\$35,735
4	\$3,588	\$43,050
5	\$4,197	\$50,365
6	\$4,807	\$57,680
7	\$5,416	\$64,995
8	\$6,026	\$72,310

For households with more than eight members, add \$610/\$7,315 for each additional member.

Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

- Self-Employed/Farmers: Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.
- FIP Recipients: Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

If you are not sure where to apply, please write to:

LIHEAP
Iowa Department of Human Rights - Bureau of Energy Assistance
Lucas State Office Building
321 E. 12th St., 2nd Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319
<https://humanrights.iowa.gov>

You can also contact South Central Iowa Community Action Program, 116 Fillmore, Osceola, IA 50213; (641) 342-2101; clarke@iowatelecom.net, www.scicap.org

WAYS TO PAY YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

- 1 Call Toll-Free: (844) 241-0266
- 2 Smart Hub (online @ www.cecnet.net)
- 3 Pay Now (online @ www.cecnet.net)
- 4 Automatic Payment Plans
- 5 Mail (allow 10 days for post office)
- 6 In-person at the Osceola office
- 7 Overnight Depository (Osceola office)
- 8 Budget Billing



Energy Smart: Pull the Plug

UPDATED APPLIANCES ARE ENERGY HOGS, DRIVING up your monthly bill. Wouldn't you rather make money from them? Sign up to have them picked up for recycling via Pull the Plug.



Thank you for saving energy!

Complete the form on our website or call (800) 362-2154 for more information. The unit must be in working condition to be eligible for the program.

- Refrigerators - \$35 each
- Freezers - \$25 each
- Window air conditioners - \$25 each

Complete the form on our



Community Invested: Lineman Tim Lupkes Receives Good Farm Neighbor Award



ONE OF CLARKE ELECTRIC'S OWN RECEIVED THE Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award at the Truro Community Center Aug. 21.

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey presented the award to the Tim Lupkes family. Tim is a fourth-generation farmer who planted his farming roots in rural Clarke County back in 2001. He exemplifies the same team effort at Clarke Electric Cooperative where he works as a Journeyman Lineman.

Tim began his lineman career in 2001 when he and his wife Beva and their three children bought a farm and continued his family's farming tradition raising hogs, a few cows and some row crop. He has been a part of the Clarke County community as a pork producer and cattleman.

Clarke Electric is very proud of the Lupkes family and their investment in the farming community.

Pictured: Tim Lupkes, right, says a few words after receiving the award from Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, left. At center is Tim's wife, Beva.

Safety Driven: Harvest Safety Reminders

HARVEST SEASON IS FLURRY OF ACTIVITY FOR IOWA farmers. It's also an important time to keep key safety tips in mind. Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps. Clarke Electric wants to ensure that everyone follows important safety tips during harvest season and throughout the year.

"Clarke Electric is committed to working with our members regarding harvest and general electrical safety issues," stated Chad McIntosh, Manager of Operations.

In order to stay safe on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment, extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance from electric lines.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads

continued on pg. 4



5 Simple Words Can Keep Our Linemen Safe

IF YOU'RE DRIVING ON IOWA ROADWAYS, WHAT SHOULD you do if you approach a utility vehicle stopped on the shoulder with its flashing lights activated? According to the state's Move Over or Slow Down law, motorists must slow down or move over, or you could be fined \$100 for not complying.

Iowa has had a "Move Over or Slow Down" law on the books since 2002; the law simply states that a motorist must change lanes or slow down when approaching a stationary emergency, tow or maintenance vehicle that has its flashing lights activated. Earlier this year, additional legislation was unanimously approved by the Iowa house and senate and signed into law by Governor Branstad which further defined utility maintenance vehicles to include bucket trucks, garbage trucks, tow trucks, and the like. With House File 314 now in effect as of July 1, Clarke Electric Cooperative's utility maintenance vehicles are now clearly covered by Iowa's Move Over or Slow Down law.

To help spread this important safety message and to protect our linemen from serious injury or death, Iowa's electric cooperatives have partnered with other utility groups in the state to take an online pledge to obey Iowa's Move Over or Slow Down law at www.MoveOverIowa.com.



Operations: Wayne Co. Fair Safety Demonstrations

SCOTT MEINEKE AND JOHN DVORAK WITH THE IOWA Association of Electric Cooperatives, helped Clarke Electric conduct a safety demonstration at the Wayne County Fair in July. Clarke lineman Eric Page and Manager of Operations Chad McIntosh helped Scott and John.

To request a safety demonstration for a group of people, contact Jason Gibbs at jsgibbs@cecnet.net or call (800) 362-2154.

Harvest Safety...continued from pg. 3

to prevent contact with overhead power lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.

- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact Clarke Electric.

If contact is made with a power line, stay on the equipment. Make sure to warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not leave until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

We are committed to supporting electrical safety measures for our members. For more information on important safety tips visit our web site at www.cecnet.net.

July Outages

- Equipment/maintenance failure – 5
- Motor vehicle – 1
- Construction – 1
- Lightning – 1
- Animal/bird – 4
- Customer caused – 2
- Unknown – 4
- Maintenance – 1
- Fire – 1
- Trees – 2

Looking Out for You



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

Randy Gaumer, Murray

Larry Jackson, Clio

Larry Keller, Osceola

Kyle Kelso, Weldon

Randy Rouse, Corydon

Ed White, Osceola

Bill Willis, New Virginia

Lydda Youmans, Indianola