



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED **Volume No. 78 No. 7 | July 2018**

Save the Date: Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars now to attend Clarke Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting Sept. 10. The event will be at the Clarke County Event Center located on the Clarke County Fairgrounds. We'll start at 5 p.m. with free pork sandwiches by the Madison County Pork Producers. The business session will begin at 6:30 p.m. Golf carts will be available to shuttle attendees from the parking lot to the door. Watch for more information in the August newsletter!



Energy Efficiency



Tip of the Month

Save energy when you cook indoors this summer. When possible, keep a lid on your pots and pans to keep the heat in, allowing you to use less energy to cook your meal.



Looking Out for You: May Outages

- Equipment/Maintenance failure – 10
- Maintenance - 4
- Lightning – 6
- House/road move - 1
- Animal/bird - 5
- Customer caused – 7
- Motor vehicle – 1
- Unknown – 6
- Public cut trees - 1



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

P.O. Box 161 1103 N. Main
Osceola, IA 50213-0161
www.cecnet.net

Kerns Set to Retire After 27 Years

LONG-TIME EMPLOYEE JULIE KERNS decided it's time for something new. At the end of July, she will end her 27-year career at the cooperative and join her husband Bill in retirement. However, Julie is quick to point out she will keep busy with camping, fishing, traveling and enjoying her grandchildren.

Julie began her career in February 1991 as the billing assistant. Several years later she moved into the billing supervisor position, where she spent most of her career serving Clarke Electric members. Julie's smile is quick to put people at ease while her genuine helping attitude has served many members well over the years.

Improvements to technology made Julie's work process more efficient, she said. When she began, the bills were printed, stuffed and mailed from the cooperative. It took about a week out of each month just to complete the billing duties. And, meter readers had to physically drive to

You're Invited...
to celebrate the retirement of
JULIE KERNS

Friday, July 27, 2018
2:30-4 PM
Clarke Electric Cooperative office
1103 N. Main, Osceola



each meter location, take the reading, then return the books to Julie and her team to enter each one manually into the computer. Now, CEC's automated metering infrastructure puts the readings into the computer system at the same time each month, making the readings timelier.

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The Cooperative Difference: Nominating Committee

THE CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the CEC Board. The board election will be held Sept. 10 during the CEC Annual Meeting.

Each year, a nominating committee comes together to find candidates who are interested and willing to serve on the CEC Board. They are tasked with selecting at least one candidate to run again the incumbent when possible.

If you are interested in serving as director, please contact the cooperative.



Pictured, left to right: Steve Smith, Jason Boyer, Mike Henrichs, Gary Alley and Doug Goben.

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

CEC Looks to Increase Term Limits

AS A MEMBER-OWNED, NOT-FOR-profit electric cooperative, Clarke Electric relies on the knowledge and leadership of its board members to guide the course of business. Elected by and from the membership, CEC board members are tasked with representing all co-op members and doing what's best for the membership. They provide strategic direction, and have oversight of policies, procedures and bylaws. They also hire the general manager to run the day-to-day operations.

At the Clarke Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting in September, the cooperative will place an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation on the ballot requesting that director term limits be extended from five three-year terms (15 years) to seven three-year terms (21 years).

Director terms are staggered on a three-year rotating basis. This allows the membership to make a change to the board if and when

they feel the need to make a change.

Retaining directors for a longer period of time maximizes the investment in time and money for each director. It allows board members the time to develop networks with individuals on a regional, statewide and national level, thereby increasing their knowledge on legislative issues, technology and energy efficiency trends. Increasing retention of directors also ensures continuity in oversight and direction of the cooperative and fosters familiarity with management and employees which promotes consistency with loyal and engaged members.

As a voting member of a national organization that represents more than 900 electric co-ops in 47 states and delivers electricity to more than 19 million American homes, Clarke Electric has an impact on vital issues that continue to change the electricity industry.

For Clarke Electric, this requires commitment and dedication from the directors and an investment from the membership to educate the board and allow them to be informed. They must make time to attend important meetings and learn to advocate on behalf of the membership on important issues that could impact the cooperative.

The nine-member board is elected by and from the membership. We want and need our elected directors to be educated and engaged in the utility industry. By exercising your right to vote during the CEC Annual Meeting, you can have a voice in the election process. 6-10-03-00

Take the time to vote on this important change to the Articles of Incorporation. Your annual meeting information and ballots will be mailed in August.



DAVID OPIE

Operations Update: New Transformer Aids Reliability

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE PUT A NEW TRANSFORMER into service as part of the construction work plan for 2018 system improvements.

The transformer, located at the White Oak substation, is necessary to provide capacity for future growth and system redundancy. The installation took about three and a half hours to complete and called for a large planned outage on June 4.

Eight linemen, two engineering employees and three CIPCO employees ensured the smooth installation of the new transformer. *Pictured, bottom center, is Journeyman Roger Phillips replacing high voltage fuses.*

While the members and businesses served by the White Oak substation were without power, a second line crew seized the opportunity to also replace a rotted power pole. *Pictured, bottom left: Eric Page and Adam*

McCuddin change out hardware to ready the new pole placement.

The existing transformer from the White Oak substation was then moved to the Medora substation to increase capacity for future growth and improve reliability. The former Medora transformers were removed and decommissioned.

Each system improvement is designed to increase safety, reduce the number of outages, improve system reliability and increase capacity. At both subs lightning arresters and cover-ups were installed to reduce exposure to animal and equipment related outages.

Pictured, bottom right: CIPCO linemen change bushings on the new transformer.



CHAD MCINTOSH



Operation Round-Up Launches Oct. 1

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, CLARKE Electric Cooperative will begin rounding each member's bill to the next whole dollar, unless the member has notified us that he/she does not want to participate in the program.

The money collected will go into an account that will be used for philanthropic purposes to support projects in each of the eight counties served by the cooperative.

Members who want to participate do not need to do anything. The cooperative will round up your bill to the next highest dollar amount each month. The minimum we will collect from a person each month is \$0.01 and the maximum is \$0.99. On average, a member will contribute \$6 annually.

Ways to opt out of the program:

- You may call us at 800-362-2154.
- You may email us at clarke@cecnet.net.
- You may cut out and mail the opt-out form at right.

In September, we will mail a postcard to each of our members describing our

Operation Round-Up program and will offer a variety of ways our members can opt out.

Note: You only need to notify us once that you do not want to participate in the program.

What if I have multiple accounts, will each of my accounts be rounded up?

Answer: No, only a member's primary account will be rounded.

Will I be able to opt out after October 1, 2018?

Answer: YES, by calling or emailing us, mailing us a letter, or by stopping by to see us.

You only need to opt out once. After that, your account will indicate you are not participating and you will not be charged.

NO, I do not wish to participate in Clarke Electric Cooperative's Operation Round-UP program.

NAME _____

SERVICE ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ACCOUNT # _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Welcome Kim Griffin



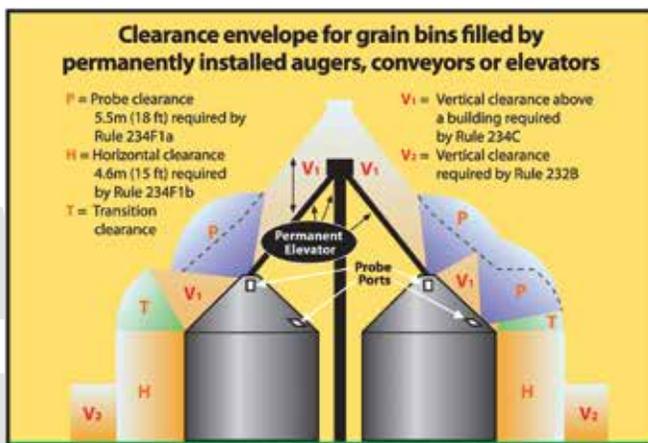
CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE welcomes Kim Griffin as our new billing specialist. Kim replaces Stephanie Moore since Stephanie moved to the operations and engineering administrative assistant position.

Kim joins the cooperative after working for Blue Cross and Blue Shield for more than 16 years. She and her husband, Wes, are members of Clarke Electric and live in the Grand River area. They have two children, Gus, 4, and Grace, 2. She enjoys cooking

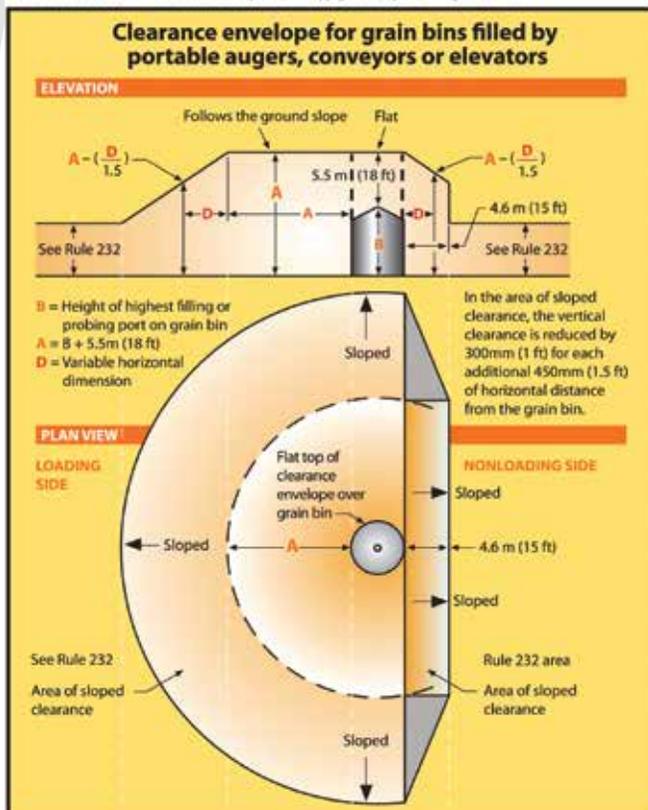
for her family in her spare time. She is a graduate of Murray Schools and Southwestern Community College.

Kim is excited to work for the cooperative; she knows first-hand what a great place the cooperative is and the family culture it offers because Kim's mother, Julie Kerns, will retire after a 27-year career with the cooperative.

Welcome Kim!



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Kerns...from pg. 1

In 2011, Julie added to her duties by serving as the operations administrative assistant. In her role she works directly with the linemen, helping with mapping, work orders, materials and outage dispatching among other things.

"Julie is a one-of-a-kind employee," said David Opie, CEC General Manager. "She sincerely cares about the members and the employees; she's the first to volunteer for a task and the last to leave. It will be hard to replace that willingness to serve."

When she thinks back to memorable moments, Julie remembers the major ice storm that crippled Clarke's service territory for days during December, 2007.

"When I think about what we came in to that morning, the word 'chaotic' comes to mind," she said. "We were worried about the length of time some of our members might be without power and the cold temperatures and treacherous roads made restoration efforts even more difficult. Our guys were challenged to work in the cold, icy conditions for extended hours and days, making sure our members and employees were safe. The dedication of our team is what makes us a family, that's what you see when faced with a catastrophe like that."

"I've met a lot of people and enjoyed helping our members over the years," she continued. "Over my career, the cooperative offered many different services to its members, each one promoting a better quality of life. That's what a cooperative is all about: bringing services to our members who might not otherwise have them. That's why I've stayed – because I enjoy helping people. I will miss the members and employees. When you work somewhere for 27 years, you become family and this family has been a pleasure to work with."

SunRun 2018

TEAM PRISUM, THE IOWA STATE University student organization that designs, fabricates and races a solar car every two years, made a stop at the Clarke County Fairgrounds June 18.

Sponsored by Altec, the local stop was part of SunRun 2018, an annual Team PrISUm event in which the students drive the solar car across the state to promote STEM education. While there, Clarke Electric Cooperative and its power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) displayed a 2017 Chevy Bolt Premier, a 100 percent electric vehicle. Visitors were able to view both vehicles up close and get a better understanding of how they work. 34-19-02-01



ISU also had its mobile learning FLEx Lab and other booths exploring science, technology, engineering and math at the event. *Bottom photo, pictured from left: David Opie, Jason Gibbs and Brad Wilson.*



Community Minded: Vonnahme Returns from Youth Tour

AFTER A WEEK-LONG, WHIRLWIND tour of Washington, D.C., Max Vonnahme is back home from the 2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Max and 36 other high school students from Iowa joined more than 1,800 other students from across the U.S. for the annual tour. Each year, students are invited to apply to earn the all-expenses paid trip courtesy of Clarke Electric. The trip takes place every June and immerses students in leadership training, one-on-one conversations with elected officials, networking, the cooperative business model and plenty of sightseeing.

"Youth Tour is the highlight of the summer for many students, and we're proud to send 37 of Iowa's best and brightest to our nation's capital this year to participate," said Chuck Soderberg, Executive Vice President of the Iowa Association of Electric

Cooperatives. "These students gained a first-hand understanding of the legislative process and made connections with other student leaders from across the country that will last a lifetime. We look forward to continuing the Youth Tour tradition for years to come."



Iowa's electric cooperatives were the first to send students to Washington, D.C., back in 1958; this year marks the 60th anniversary of the journey.

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



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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

David Opie, General Manager

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