



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED **Volume No. 78 No. 4 | April 2018**



**Lights,
Heat/AC,
Clean Clothes,
Internet.**

**There's power
in numbers.
#ThankALineworker**

A S APRIL ARRIVES, IT BRINGS THE BEGINNING OF A potentially stormy season that can include power outages for Clarke Electric members. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst: co-op linemen.

Every year, we take the time to thank our extraordinary linemen who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Without them, our world would be dark. Clarke Electric Cooperative is proud to recognize the work our linemen do every day. But on April 9, we join electric co-ops across the country to celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day, a day set aside to "thank a lineman."

One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, linemen sometimes must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., linemen perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe on the job, linemen wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times, including special fire-resistant clothing. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more difficult.

continued on pg. 3

You Know He's a Lineman

*You know he's a lineman when you shake his hand
From years of working out on the land
A grip built from stringing wire over long spans
You know he's a lineman when you shake his hand*

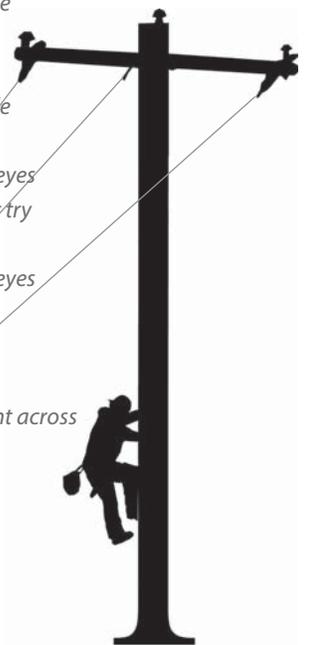
*You know he's a lineman when you see his smile
He builds and repairs line mile after mile
But he can be ornery every once in a while
You know he's a lineman when you see his smile*

*You know he's a lineman when you look in his eyes
He never backs down and always gives his best try
He doesn't look away and he never lies
You know he's a lineman when you look in his eyes*

*You know he's a lineman by the way he talks
He'll tell you the honest truth and never balks
He doesn't have to raise his voice to get his point across
You know he's a lineman by the way he walks*

*You know he's a lineman by the way he lives
Hard work and long hours is what he gives
Yet he still makes time for his kids
You know he's a lineman by the way he lives*

You know he's a lineman when you shake his hand



-By David Opie

Reading pays! We have hidden two of our members' account numbers in this issue. If you find your member location number, call during April 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



The Cooperative Difference: Helping Others Makes Cents

A S A CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER-owner, you will have a unique opportunity this fall to support Operation Round-Up®, a program that provides financial support to organizations and individuals within the communities we serve. And all that is required is the “rounding up” of your power bill.

What is Operation Round-Up?

Operation Round-Up is a program that allows Clarke Electric Cooperative member-owners make a difference in their own communities. The optional program lets members “round up” their monthly electric bills and donate the difference to a charitable fund to be used in Clarke Electric’s service territory. The minimum amount you contribute each month is \$0.01, and maximum is \$0.99.



How does Operation Round-Up work?

If you choose to participate, your electric bill will be rounded up to the next highest dollar each month. For example, if your electric bill is \$152.71, an additional balance of 29 cents will be added, making your bill an even \$153.00.

How will the funds be used?

Operation Round-Up donations are given to non-profit organizations and individuals in need and also for family emergency disasters. In order to qualify, they must submit an application to be reviewed by a local board of CEC members. Applications will be available at the CEC office and on our web site once the program is launched. This program has been successfully implemented in more than 200 electric cooperatives across the nation.

By joining with other Clarke Electric Cooperative members, your small monthly donation can make a bigger impact. It’s what a cooperative is all about.

This is a voluntary program; however, you need to let us know if you do not want to participate. If you do not want to be a part of CEC’s Operation Round-Up program, please fill out this form and return it to our office: Clarke Electric Cooperative, PO Box 161, Osceola, Iowa 50213. You may also email jasgibbs@cecnet.net or call (800) 362-2154.

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

NAME: _____

SERVICE ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

ACCOUNT #: _____



Grassroots Efforts in Action

EVERY SPRING, REC DAY ON THE HILL BRINGS MORE than 200 electric co-op representatives to the Iowa State Capitol. This year on March 14, Clarke Electric joined with 38 RECs on behalf of their members to visit with legislators about regulation and bills that affect the utility industry. With the proposed Energy Omnibus Bill working its way through the House, co-ops met with legislators to discuss regulatory fairness and clarity to maintain affordable rates. Iowa’s electric co-ops support efficiency programs that are cost-effective. The co-ops also strongly support a utility’s ability to recover fixed costs associated with providing safe, reliable service, ensuring that all co-op members pay equitably to use and maintain the electric grid. 62.18.01.03

The electric co-op advocates first gathered for a briefing on state legislative issues, then met with their local elected officials during a dessert social on the first-floor rotunda of the Capitol. Legislators and visitors were able to view dozens of booths which were on display around the rotunda, sharing various ways Iowa’s electric co-ops work to keep electricity safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible for the member-owners they serve.

Pictured, left to right: Nick Gannon, Kyle Kelso, Larry Jackson, David Opie, Randy Barnard, Cody Miller, Larry Keller and Tim Lupkes.

Save the Date: Annual Meeting Sept. 10

A COOPERATIVE FUNCTIONS MOST EFFECTIVELY with strong leadership. Your board of directors is democratically elected from the membership to represent your interests and to provide long-term vision and directions. Mark your calendar to attend your cooperative’s annual meeting **Monday, September 10, at the Clarke County Event Center.** Board directors serve three-year terms and represent all cooperative members at monthly meetings. Three seats will be up for election: one in District 6 and two At-Large.

In May, a committee from those districts will be selected to nominate members to run for the seats. For a district map, visit www.cecnet.net. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, please call (641) 342-2173.

Federal Geothermal Tax Credits Make a Comeback

IN 2016 THE FEDERAL TAX CREDITS FOR GEOTHERMAL heat pumps were set to expire. However, with help from the geothermal industry, tax credits have been reinstated.

On February 9, 2018, a bill was passed and signed by President Trump to reinstate the geothermal heat pump tax credits retroactive to January 1, 2017 and extend to January 1, 2022. Language also changes important consideration for commercial geothermal heat pumps making them eligible if purchased by January 1, 2022 and would not have to be placed in service.

This tax credit is retroactive. Homeowners who bought a geothermal heating, cooling, and hot water system from January 1, 2017 through 2019 qualify for the 30 percent credit. Check with your tax advisor for details.

Tax Credit Amount

- From January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2019 – 30%
- From January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020 – 26%
- From January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021 – 22%

February Outages
Maintenance – 1
Construction – 1
Equipment/maintenance failure – 1
Animal/bird – 1
Customer caused – 2

Looking Out for You

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Streaming media? Make the simple choice to do it smarter. When streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming through game consoles that use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

ENERGY STAR® certified products that enable streaming such as modems/routers, set top boxes (such as Roku or Chromecast), digital media players, computers, laptops, TVs and smart TVs, are 25 percent more energy efficient. Source: energy.gov



Community Invested: Show Your Care with RECare

AS A COOPERATIVE, CLARKE ELECTRIC TAKES PRIDE in being able to help our neighbors in need, and we encourage others to do the same. One easy way to make a difference is through the Clarke Electric RECare program.

What is RECare?

RECare is a voluntary program that distributes funds to community action agencies to help low income members pay heating bills or cover the cost of winterizing their homes.

Where does my money go?

Your contribution stays in your community. The area community action agencies distribute funds to qualifying families.

How can I help?

Please consider filling out the participation form below and send it to the Cooperative.

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

Lineman Appreciation Day...from pg. 1

Today, their job goes far beyond climbing a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their iPads and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. Ten Clarke Electric linemen are responsible for keeping more than 1,800 miles of lines working in portions of Clarke, Decatur, Madison, Lucas, Ringgold, Union, Warren and Wayne counties. They bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

Being a lineman is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. During ice and snow storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. So during the month of April, if you see a lineman, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions. 31.18.03.00

You Can Count On Us

PROVIDING YOU WITH RELIABLE ELECTRIC SERVICE TO keep your lights on and swift power restoration is one of Clarke Electric Cooperative's most rewarding challenges! To measure the impact of our reliability improvement initiatives, we annually report key metrics which are submitted to your local board of directors and the Iowa Utilities Board. These metrics, when trended and compared against similarly situated electric utilities, guide us in our short and long-term plans. We execute the plans and measure our strategy for continuous electric reliability improvement.

One of our primary indices that we measure is the System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI). This metric is an indicator of the average number of outage events a member would expect to experience in a year. The charts illustrate a favorable trend which can be credited to concentrated efforts to clear right-of-way vegetation, harden infrastructure, install animal guards, increase lightning protection, perform effective inspections, and improve system protection schemes.

Another index we measure is the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI). SAIDI is the average number of minutes annually that the average member is without power. Although weather can impact system reliability, we improve this metric through technology initiatives such as remotely-operated devices, outage prediction engines, and engineering analyses. Maintaining and safeguarding 1,800 miles of rural electric distribution system comes with many challenges; however, your cooperative knows that reliable electric service is important to you and we are driven to continuously work toward improving your experience!



If your contact information has changed, please call us at (641) 342-2173 or send an email to: smarthub@cecnet.net

Sign Up for Automatic Bill Pay!



Enjoy the easy, reliable, and secure way of using Clarke Electric's Automatic Payment Plan (ACH). Having your payment deducted automatically from your checking/savings account or a credit/debit card can save you time and money. This service is FREE to our members. To sign-up visit us online at www.cecnet.net and click on Smart Hub or call us!



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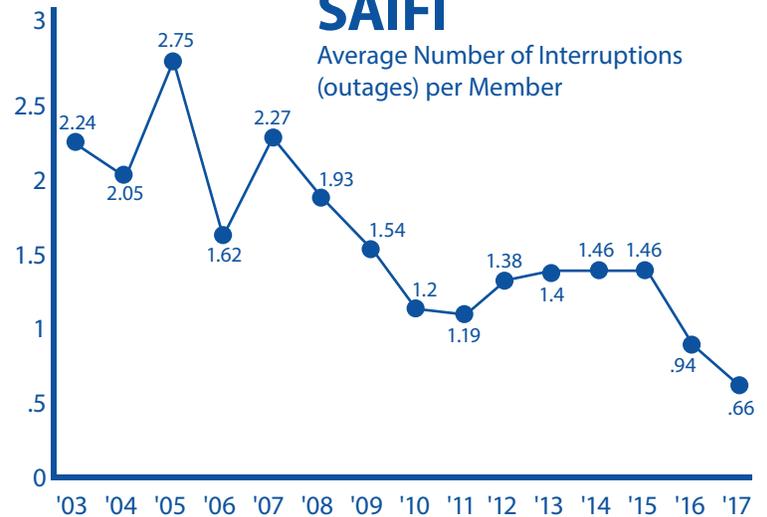
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

www.cecnet.net

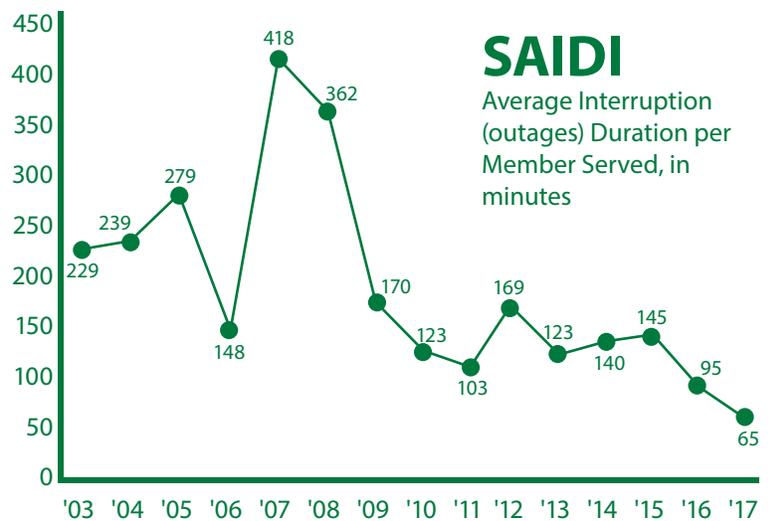
SAIFI

Average Number of Interruptions (outages) per Member



SAIDI

Average Interruption (outages) Duration per Member Served, in minutes



There's more than one football field's length of buried utilities for every man, woman and child in the U.S.

There are more than 100 billion feet of underground utilities in the United States, according to data compiled by Common Ground Alliance from various industry groups.



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

David Opie, General Manager

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 4 pm

Outside Depository Available 24 Hours

641.342.2173 | 800.362.2154