



# CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

**SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED**

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## IT'S A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO UTILIZE EMERGING

technologies used in military aviation as a way to re-think utility practices that have been in place for over 75 years. Enter the unmanned aerial vehicle (aka drone). A drone is a type of aircraft without a pilot aboard which is remotely operated by a ground-based controller. Drones originated for military applications to remotely carry out dangerous or tedious intelligence missions.

Although our purpose in the utility industry is entirely different in scope from the military, we share a commonality in our workers who are required to perform hazardous tasks such as climbing poles, operating heavy equipment, traveling unforgiving terrain, weathering storms, and working on or near high voltage powerlines and equipment. On a smaller scale, the utility industry has found increasing value in drone technology as a way to reduce job hazards and increase work time efficiency.



Clarke Electric Cooperative recently tested a readily available commercial/recreational drone to assess the practicality of this technology for line inspections, maintenance and power restoration assistance. Much to our surprise, the drone was easy to pilot and could quickly provide vantage points that would otherwise be hard to access. This

high-resolution imagery was communicated to the controller piloting the drone and was stored for download. Recent upgrades to drone technology include thermal imaging systems, which can help utilities identify potential equipment failures before they cause an outage. Other drone applications have already proven to be an incredibly effective proactive measure for the utility industry.



**BRAD WILSON**  
Manager of  
Engineering

Clarke Electric Cooperative is committed to keeping its finger on the pulse of technology aimed to increase the safety of our workers and the public as well as taking advantage of opportunities to reduce costs through greater efficiency. Soon utility workers may add "pilot" to their list of proficiencies and drones will find a home in their tool bags.

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## WIN A FREE TRIP!

### Essay Topic

Of the 7 Cooperative Principles, which 2 do you feel are most important, and why?

### Guidelines

Essay should be typed on one side of an 8.5" x 11" paper

Essay should be no more than 500 words and a maximum of two pages



**Application Deadline: March 2**

**Essay Deadline: March 16**

**Youth Tour Judging: March 28**

**Trip Dates: June 8-14**

**For more information:**

[www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net)

(641) 342-2173

[jasgibbs@cecnet.net](mailto:jasgibbs@cecnet.net)

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**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



# Clarke Electric Directors & Employees Attend Lawmaker Reception

**O**VER 150 DIRECTORS, MANAGERS AND STAFF MEMBERS from Iowa's electric cooperatives discussed priorities with state legislators and policy makers Jan. 9 during the annual Welcome Back Legislative Reception at the State Historical Building in Des Moines.

Other guests of honor included: Governor Kim Reynolds, Lt. Governor Adam Gregg, Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, Auditor of State Mary Mosiman, Attorney General Tom Miller, 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.

In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including items central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, the directors, managers, and staff will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues allowing Iowa's member-owned electric cooperatives to continue providing safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans. 29-23-02-03 Iowa's electric cooperative representatives will visit Des Moines again March 14 during the annual REC Day on the Hill at the Capitol.

*Pictured, at right top, from left: CEC Member Services Manager Jason Gibbs, CEC Board Members Larry Jackson and Kyle Kelso, Governor Kim Reynolds, CEC Manager of Communications/HR Jodee Eckels and Sen. Amy Sinclair.*

*Pictured at right, bottom, from left: Larry Jackson, Kyle Kelso, Rep. Joel Fry, CEC Board Member Cody Miller, Jason Gibbs and Jodee Eckels.*



## December Outages

- Trees - 3
- Wind - 2
- Equipment/maintenance failure - 4
- Animal/Bird - 2
- Customer Caused - 2
- Unknown - 2
- Motor Vehicle - 1

### Looking Out for You

## CIPCO Names New CEO

**C**LARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S POWER SUPPLIER, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), has hired a new Executive Vice President and CEO.

Bill Cherrier has 35 years of experience in the utility industry, most recently serving as Chief Planning and Finance Officer for Colorado Springs Utilities. Prior positions include Manager of Finance and Development at Alliant Energy Generation, and General Manager, Generation Business Operations, at IES Industries, both located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



"The needs of our member systems like Clarke Electric are what drive CIPCO to ensure the power we're supplying is reliable," Cherrier said.

Bill earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and he is a certified public accountant.

# 2018 Rebates

**P**LEASE REMEMBER!! **CLARKE ELECTRIC WILL PAY YOU** to install energy efficient equipment and lighting in your homes, businesses, and farms. For all the program details, including requirements and eligibility, please visit [www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net) > Member Benefits > Rebates.



You may submit the rebate form online. Or you can call Jason at (641) 342-2173 or stop by the cooperative office. Examples of information you may need are Brand, Model Number, Serial Number and for lighting (wattage). Also, be sure to look for the Energy Star Label when shopping. Rebate forms need to be completed within six months of installation.

## FOR YOUR HOME

Heat pump water heater	Geothermal heat pump
Solar water heaters w/ electric backup	Air-Source heat pump
Water heaters	Central air
Clothes dryer	Heat recovery ventilator
Clothes washer w/electric water heater	Insulation
LED light fixtures	Appliance recycling

## FOR YOUR FARM

Livestock waterers	LED lighting
Farrowing equipment	Ventilation fans
Heat lamps	Circulation fans

## FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Variable speed drives	Heating & cooling equipment
LED lighting	Heat recovery ventilators
Commercial kitchen equipment	ECM fan motor replacement

## Questions or Complaints?

**C**LARKE 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](mailto: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](mailto:customer@iub.iowa.gov).



## The Cooperative Difference: Out of the Darkness

**M**OST ELECTRIC CO-OPS IN IOWA FORMED IN THE LATE 1930s and in the 1940s when farmers banded together to gain access to safe, reliable, affordable power because no one else would provide it for them. Not-for-profit electric cooperatives have been owned by the members they serve since the beginning, making co-ops truly democratic organizations with local ownership and governance.

By the 1930s, there was an "electric divide" in America. Nine out of 10 urban dwellers enjoyed the benefits of electricity while nine out of 10 rural dwellers were left in the dark. And life on the farm was difficult without electricity. There was no indoor plumbing or reliable refrigeration. Kerosene lanterns provided dangerous lighting. Household chores and farm work were full of drudgery and hard labor.

The investor-owned utilities just didn't see the return on investment to build miles of power lines to electrify only a few farms, nor did they think farmers could afford the monthly electric bill if infrastructure was put in place. President Franklin D. Roosevelt believed that if private enterprise could not supply electricity to the people, then it was the duty of the government to do so. The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was created in 1935, and the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 provided official status to the REA as a lending agency to serve isolated, rural areas. With federal financing ready to go, REA representatives traveled across the country to help rural citizens band together to form not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives in order to bring electricity to their homesteads.

Truth be told, nothing has improved the lives of rural folks more than rural electrification.



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



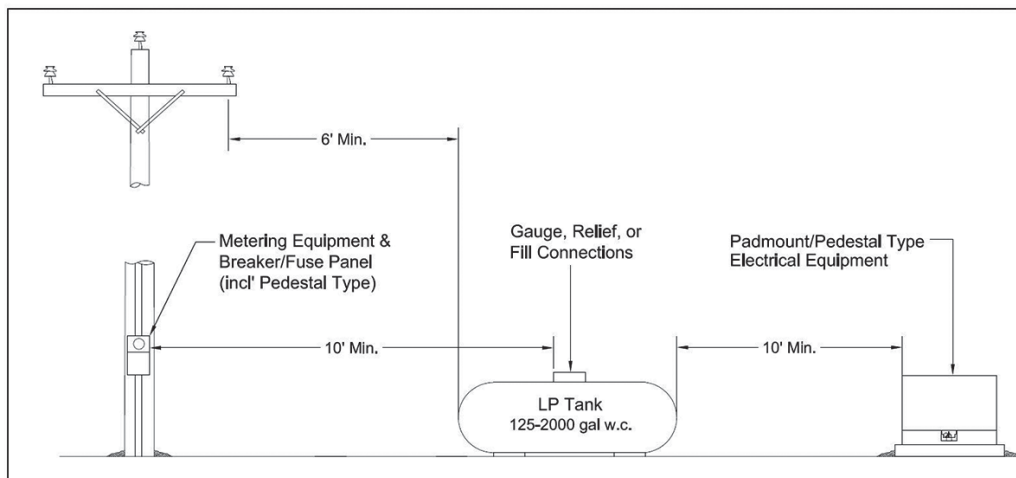




## Safety Driven: Liquid Propane Tank Clearance

**T**HE SAFETY OF OUR MEMBERS, THE GENERAL PUBLIC, and our employees is of utmost importance to Clarke Electric Cooperative.

The diagram below should be used by members, prospective builders, and installers when referencing the electric utility clearances necessary to mitigate safety hazards related to liquefied propane (LP) tanks outside of residences, farms, and businesses.



• The LP tank fill connections, relief valves, and gauge connections must be at least 10 feet from any source of ignition. This includes but is not limited to electric metering,

breaker or fuse panels, and any electric switching equipment.  
• The LP tank must be installed a minimum of six feet from a vertical plane extending down from a high voltage power line. The LP tank should not be placed directly under high voltage

power lines. 60-33-01-02

• Other sources of ignition may exist on your property such as open flames, central A/C compressors and window air conditioners. Maintain at least 10 feet of clearance from the LP fill connections, relief valves, and gauge connections.

• The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA 58) minimum code clearances must be maintained from Clarke Electric Cooperative's electrical equipment and other possible ignition sources.

## 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.

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.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

In spring and summer months, set your ceiling fans to turn in the counterclockwise direction so the air flows down and creates a cool breeze. Remember: ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room. *Source: energy.gov*



### 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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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

David Opie, General Manager  
Office Hours: Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 4 pm  
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