



# CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

**SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED** **Volume No. 78 No. 10 | October 2018**

**THANK YOU VETERANS**

The Clarke Electric office will be closed Monday, Nov. 12 in observance of Veterans Day.



## Energy Efficiency



### Tip of the Month

Cold temps are right around the corner and there's nothing worse than being caught off guard if your furnace fails. Is your

home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency. *Source: energy.gov*



## Looking Out for You: August Outages

- Equipment/maintenance failure: 13
- Maintenance: 1
- Trees: 2
- Lightning: 11
- Wind: 4
- Animal/Birds: 9
- Motor vehicle: 1
- Other: 1
- Unknown: 17



**CLARKE**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.  
*Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested*  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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## Incumbent Candidates Retain Board Seats

**CLARKE ELECTRIC BOARD**  
Incumbents retained their seats following the election at the Clarke Annual Meeting. District 6 representative Kyle Kelso and At-Large representatives Larry Keller and Randy Rouse will each serve another three-year term.

Following the Annual Meeting, the directors met to elect officers as follows:

- President: Kyle Kelso
- Vice President: Randy Rouse
- Secretary: Larry Keller
- Treasurer: Lydda Youmans
- Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: Randy Barnard.

The proposal to increase the number of terms directors could serve from five to seven three-year terms did not pass. Term limits will remain the same at five three-year terms for a total of 15 years per board member.

### PRIZE WINNERS

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Leighanna Bundt  | Marianne Lester |
| Hanna Bedwell    | Susan Kingsbury |
| Marlene Mogle    | Cliff Doner     |
| Dennis Stearns   | Marlow Peterson |
| Raymond Johnston | Dennis Chaney   |
| Jack Chandler    | J.J. Clingman   |
| Rodney Hitt      | Sherry Shields  |
| Waneta Lewis     | Larry Biggs     |
| Gene Braddock    | Doris Russell   |
| David Brennecke  | Linda Comstock  |
| Ed Vonnahme      | Tom Pollard     |
| Donna Neil       | Merrill Dorland |
| Venita Escher    | John Carson     |

*Prizes included \$50 cash (10); \$100 cash (5), a TV, bicycle and electronic tablet.*



*More annual meeting photos inside >>*

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

# It's a New World

## IT IS A NEW WORLD AT CLARKE

Electric Cooperative! While we are led by the traditions of 78 years, we continue to be progressive by embracing change and technology.

We haven't forgotten our roots buried six feet into the ground with each of our 38,000 poles that make up our 1,800 miles of distribution line. Many of you experienced, or knew a family that experienced the day electricity came to rural America—the day the lights came on.

In this new world, our younger members are probably not aware of that monumental time when the lights came on. But what everyone knows is electricity allows rural lowans to enjoy the same benefits as in urban areas. For those who are moving into existing family homes, or building new homes, farms and businesses in our rural territory, you know and can appreciate the value of electricity.

In this new world, everyone's expectations of safe, constant, affordable electricity, continues to grow. Increased dependence on the internet and the almost limitless communication options are all driven in

some way by electricity. To meet these expectations and demands, we continue to invest in technologies and infrastructure that will improve our reliability and reduce the number and length of outages.

Even though it is a new world at Clarke Electric Cooperative, we believe more than ever that uninterrupted power means an uninterrupted life for our members. That is our mission!

### So, what is on the horizon in our new world?

Our office and warehouse buildings have been part of our history since the early 1950s. Unfortunately, many aspects of our facilities are worn out or we have outgrown them. Our plumbing, heating and lighting needs replaced. Our trucks no longer fit in the truck bays. Our security needs to be upgraded to protect our pole yards and buildings. To increase efficiency, we will be doing some remodeling over the next few years.

Also, in our new world, programs and software are being deployed to help our members better understand their electric usage and data history. Safe, secure and

convenient payment options for members continue to be added and improved.

Tools, equipment, machinery and trucks continue to be upgraded and improved upon for safety and efficiency. Aging equipment on our lines is being updated and incorporating more technology. Transformers and substation equipment are being replaced and bolstered to handle bigger loads and provide better reliability. New line construction is designed to reduce outages due to weather, animals and lightning. Right-of-way clearing procedures are modified, improved and monitored for effectiveness to reduce tree related outages.

All of these things I have mentioned are important to you, because you want and deserve uninterrupted power. To provide this level of service, we need to continue to make updates and improvements. As we work to improve the cooperative assets, we will continue to keep you informed. Welcome to our new world!



**DAVE OPIE**  
General Manager

## Summer Storm Cause of Multiple Outages

**A** SUMMER STORM, WHICH INCLUDED RAIN, WIND AND A MIGHTY display of lightning, caused Clarke Electric Cooperative members multiple interruptions and line crews to go without sleep several nights in a row.

If your power goes out, please check that your neighbors' power is also out, then call in the outage. It helps your cooperative determine how widespread the outage is and how many linemen to dispatch.

If your lights blinked before you lost power, then the equipment on the power lines is doing its job. Usually, blinking lights are a result of momentary outages that occur when something such as an animal, tree, tree branch, or lightning, comes in contact with an energized power line.

If the short circuit is temporary, which is usually the case, a device called a recloser permits power to continue flowing through the line with only a brief interruption of service, causing your lights to blink.

If the short circuit continues, the recloser will cut power to that section of line to isolate the trouble before it causes further problems. Without reclosers, every outage would last until the cooperative sends out a line crew to restore service. Usually, these reclosers will engage three times before stopping the flow of electricity and causing an outage. This helps protect the lines from damage.

If you were affected by the lightning and wind caused outages – we thank you for your patience while our linemen worked tirelessly to restore power.



*What a recloser looks like on a 3-phase power line.*

# CEC Welcomes New Employee Dylan Bragg

## PLEASE JOIN CLARKE ELECTRIC

Cooperative in welcoming our newest Apprentice Lineman Dylan Bragg! 11-30-06-05

Following graduation from Davis County Community High School in Bloomfield, Dylan attended the Northwest Iowa Community College's Powerline Technology/Lineman Program. He graduated from there in the summer of 2018.

"When I was a sophomore in high school someone from NWICC came and spoke to my class," Dylan said. "That's when I

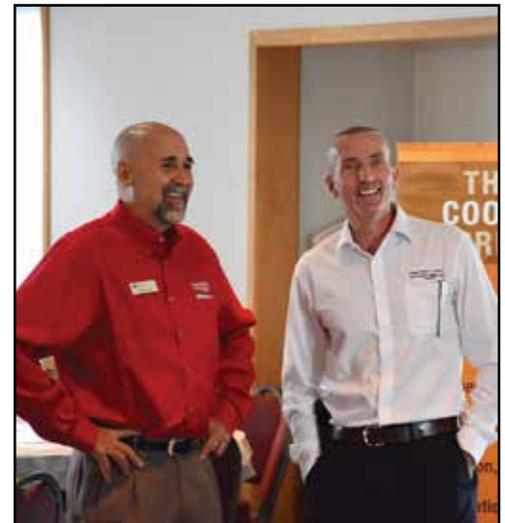
decided I wanted to be a lineman. I signed up at the beginning of my junior year, and began taking classes right after graduation."

Dylan played football and tennis in high school and his hobbies include hunting and fishing.

Welcome, Dylan!



# Annual Meeting



## Energy Smart: Pull the Plug on Old Appliances

PLANNING TO USE ONE OF THESE nice fall weekends to clean out the garage or basement? How about freeing up some space by unloading an old refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioner?

Clarke Electric Cooperative offers the Pull the Plug program for its members. This pick-up service is available for refrigerators, freezers and window A/C units in working condition. CEC offers a rebate of \$35 per refrigerator or freezer, and \$25 for a window air conditioner. All appliances must be operational.

Call (855) 838-7817 to schedule a pick-up of your old appliances. Qualifying appliances will be recycled.



# SHARE THE ROAD

According to the National Safety Council, about 1/3 of fatal tractor accidents occur on public roads. Know the rules:

- Slow down
- Watch for hand signals when it's OK to pass
- Pass cautiously
- Watch for flashing amber lights
- Remember, ag operators have a right to be on the road, too



CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MEMBER OF THE CLARKE GROUP

*Pictured on pg. 1, left: CEC Board Member Larry Jackson visits with State Rep. Joel Fry. Pg.1, top right: Customer Service Engineer Nick Gannon helps a young guest with a lineman demonstration. Pg. 1, bottom right: Meter Technician Scott Davis chats with a member. Pictured, top: Paul Erickson, Central Iowa Power Cooperative, left, talks about the electric vehicle on display. Middle: longtime CEC board attorney John Ward receives recognition for his service from board member Randy Rouse. Bottom: CEC General Manager Dave Opie, left, takes a minute to talk to Farmers Electric Cooperative General Manager Charlie Dunn.*

## **+** Safety Driven: Pole Top Rescue

**A**PPRENTICE LINEMAN DYLAN Bragg practices pole top rescue, a vital skill all linemen must have and 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. 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.



## Cooperatives See the Future

**O**CTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique.

### Co-ops are community-led.

Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their members.

"Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve," said Dave Opie, CEC general manager. "This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving consumer expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people we serve." 36-25-02-00

### Co-ops are a catalyst for good.

Electric cooperatives, like CEC, are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops engage their members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 80 years ago when electric cooperatives brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible. Today, it means the Washington D.C. Youth Tour, the scholarship program, school safety presentations, multiple bill pay options and more.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members' best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve, now and in the future.

### 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

## ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE



COMMUNITY  
BORN

COMMUNITY  
LED

FOCUSED ON  
YOU

## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME WILL

end at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 4. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed! It's also a great time to use the hour you gain by testing your smoke alarms and replacing the batteries if needed.



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