



# CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED Volume No. 79 No. 4 | April 2019

## Energy Efficiency



### Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.



## Looking Out for You: February Outages

- Customer caused: 1
- Equipment/maintenance failure: 1
- Maintenance: 1
- Motor vehicle: 1
- Unknown: 3



## Sign Up for Automatic Bill Payment!

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 at [www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net) and click on Smart Hub or call us!



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

## GOT POWER? THANK A LINEMAN

### National Lineman Appreciation Day April 18



**N**ATIONAL STUDIES CONSISTENTLY rank the power line industry among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Working high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and demanding profession. But electric linemen are up to the job. They are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Clarke Electric's linemen are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes courage and a mission-focused attitude to be a good lineman. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of linemen. The job requires

linemen to set aside their personal priorities to serve their local members and community.

#### Family Support System

To perform their jobs successfully, linemen depend on their years of training, experience and each other to get the job done safely.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineman's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineman may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong

*continued on pg. 3*

*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.*

# Where Is Our Ship Sailing?

**H**AVING A PLAN AND A VISION IS like the rudder on a ship: without it, you may never arrive at your destination no matter how powerful the engine. Similarly, a rural electric cooperative, like Clarke Electric, could invest in all the infrastructure, poles and wire we can afford, but if we don't know where we are headed and what we plan to achieve, we may be wasting our money and effort. Unfortunately, these days none of us get to enjoy clear sailing. Like many industries today, the seas that our cooperative is sailing has many storms and rocky shores we need to navigate.



Clarke Electric Cooperative does a formal strategic planning session every three to five years. Typically, the meeting spans over more than one day with a third-party facilitator to help run the meeting. For at

least the last six sessions, the facilitator has been provided by CFC, our financial lender and services provider. The great benefit of having a facilitator is they make sure we discuss what can sometimes be hard and awkward subjects and issues. Those are the potential storms on our seas.

Our strategic planning session covers many topics such as rates, margins, employees, equipment, poles and wire upgrades, facility improvements, patronage dividends, debt, equity and on and on. Our Board of Directors and Leadership Team work together to gain a better understanding regarding our cooperative's mission and our vision. That may sound weird, but it just means that we have a mutual understanding of what our cooperative should be providing and how we are going to make that happen.

The map from our strategic planning session includes goals, objectives and initiatives for the next three to five years. This helps us navigate the obstacles we need to avoid and guide us on the course we have chosen.

We do know in the foreseeable future, Clarke Electric Cooperative will continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric power to all of you, our members-consumers. Clarke Electric Cooperative cannot influence all those changes that will occur and affect us. But what we can do is prepare and act with the best information we have available to keep the power flowing to your home, businesses and communities. We are here to serve you!



**DAVE OPIE**  
General Manager

## Cooperative Construction Begins Again as Spring Arrives

**C**LARKE ELECTRIC'S RIGHT OF WAY contractor, Coddington, Inc., has begun working in the Medora and White Oak substations to clear trees, undergrowth and vegetation in and around the power poles. Midwest Spray Team is scheduled to spray the Clio substation as foliage begins to grow. 17-15-10-02

Linemen are clearing brush and trees in and around the White Oak substation south circuit in preparation to replace aging three-phase infrastructure identified in our construction work plan.

Contractors will begin pole testing in the Derby substation in mid-summer. Clarke Electric will begin working to replace unreliable lines south of New Virginia, in Green Bay and Knox townships of Clarke County. Approximately 140 poles are scheduled to be replaced in the Medora and Lacona substations as identified during our annual pole inspection program.

*Photo: CEC Linemen Doug Reasoner and Eric Page work to install new three phase electronic breakers. The breakers minimize outages when a fault (like a tree or animal making contact with the line) occurs. Electronic breakers are preferred on heavily loaded circuits because they can be programmed to coordinate with other fault interrupting devices. Breakers are tripped and operate to resolve the blink three times before it becomes an outage.*



**GUESS WHO DIDN'T  
CALL 811 BEFORE  
HE STARTED TO DIG?**

**Don't be like Duke!**



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

# National Lineman Appreciation Day...from pg. 1

family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

## Community Commitment

In South Central Iowa and across the country, electric co-op linemen's mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Linemen are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities and serving on local advisory boards.

## Thank You

Thursday, April 18 is National Lineman Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Clarke Electric Cooperative's linemen, both on and off the job, take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in the town, please offer them a thank you as well because without them, our world would be dark.

## You Know He's a Lineman

by Dave Opie

*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*



## Community Invested: Show Your Care with RECare

**WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE**  
A brutally cold and snowy winter season left many Clarke Electric members struggling to pay their heating bills. These expenses can't always be predicted, which is why Clarke Electric encourages its members to help their neighbors and community by participating in RECare.

A one-time or monthly contribution through the RECare program can help offset high bills for those who need it. RECare funds can also be used to weatherize the recipient's home and help make electricity usage more efficient. Your donation is directed to local community action agencies for distribution to low-income families near you.

Consider contributing to RECare and help

your neighbors and your community with high heating expenses. It's an easy way to show you care.

### 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



## The Cooperative Difference:

## Grassroots Efforts in Action



**CLARKE ELECTRIC DIRECTORS AND** employees joined more than 200 rural electric cooperatives representing 38 co-ops traveling to the Iowa State Capitol March 20 to advocate on behalf of their member-owners during their annual REC Day on the Hill event.

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 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. 41-10-03-52

*Pictured, from left: Jason Gibbs, Larry Jackson, Randy Barnard, Cody Miller, Dave Opie, Representative Scott Ourth, and Kyle Kelso.*

# ANNUAL MEETING

## SEPTEMBER

# 16

# 2019

# Consider Serving Your Cooperative As A Board Member

**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.

Board directors serve three-year terms and represent all cooperative members at monthly meetings. Three seats will be on the ballot representing districts 2, 4 and 5. In May, a nominating committee from those districts will be selected to nominate members to run for the seats.

Don't know what district you're in? Visit our website, [www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net) for a district map. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, contact the office at (641) 342-2173.



## Heat your home safely.

Efficient electric heat pumps and water heaters don't use a flame – eliminating the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning, exhaust fumes and gas leaks. Visit [www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net) to learn more about the benefits of going electric – and find rebates on new equipment.



SAVINGS WITH STAYING POWER

EFFICIENT | CLEAN | SAFE | ELECTRIC



**CLARKE**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Energy Smart: Fact or Fiction? Getting to the Bottom of Energy-Saving Claims

**W**HEN IT COMES TO SAVING energy, it can be confusing to figure out what works and what doesn't. True, technology is constantly changing and keeping up with trends can be exhausting. Here's a few common energy-saving claims that may or may not be true.



### 1. Turning lights off and on uses more energy than just leaving them on.

Not true. Turning off lights definitely reduces energy use. Turn off LED and incandescent bulbs every time you leave a room. If you use CFLs, however, turning them off can shorten the life of the bulb. A rule of thumb is to turn off CFLs if they won't be used for 15 minutes or more.

### 2. My kids claim using the dishwasher is just as efficient as washing dishes by hand. Are they right?

Yes! In fact, it's usually more efficient! Properly used, dishwashers actually use less water while doing a better job. For maximum energy savings, make sure your water heater is set to about 120 degrees and use the most efficient wash/dry settings.

### 3. Should I close vents in rooms that aren't being used?

Most experts advise against this because closing supply registers forces your furnace or A/C unit to work harder. They advise keeping all your vents and doors open. If your system supplies too much heat

to some rooms and too little to other rooms, you should talk to a heating and air conditioning professional about modifying your ductwork.

### 4. Burning wood in my fireplace should save on my heating costs, right?

Possibly, but certain conditions need to be met. The wood should

be dry and burned efficiently in a properly-installed, properly-placed, high-efficiency wood stove or fireplace insert. Otherwise, it's likely you'll lose as much heat through your chimney as you're distributing throughout the house.

### 5. Would replacing my old windows with new, more efficient ones really cut my energy use in half?

No. While replacing inefficient windows with new, energy efficient windows can cut the heat loss through windows in half (or more), windows typically account for only about 25 to 30 percent of your space heating costs. The amount of energy you use for heating and cooling is likely one third to one half of your total energy use, so replacing your old windows might only reduce your total energy costs by about 10 percent. When you consider the high cost of new windows, you may not recoup your investment for 15 or 20 years, or even longer.

#### 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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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