



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED Volume No. 79 No. 1 | January 2019

Energy Efficiency



Tip of the Month

Just like insulating your walls or roof, insulating your hot water tank is an easy and inexpensive way to improve energy efficiency and save you money. If your water tank is new, it is likely already insulated.

If you have an older hot water tank, check to see if it has insulation with an R-value of at least 24. If not, consider insulating your water tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 25-45% and save you about 7-16% in water heating costs. It should pay for itself in about a year! You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$20. *Source: energy.gov*



Looking Out for You: November Outages

- Equipment failure: 4 Lightning: 1
- Unknown: 3 Maintenance: 1
- Animal/bird: 2 Motor vehicle: 1
- Customer caused: 2 Trees: 1
- Fire: 1



Get Your News by E-Mail

If you would like to receive "Headlines" by email, just let us know. You can call or email us at Clarke@cecnet.net. Newsletters are issued at the beginning of each month.



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

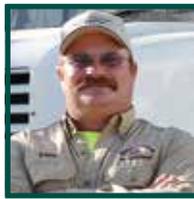
P.O. Box 161 1103 N. Main
Osceola, IA 50213-0161
www.cecnet.net

Celebrating Our Team: 2018 Service Awards

Every year, the Clarke Electric Cooperative family comes together to recognize employees and board members who have achieved a longevity milestone. The following staff and board members were recognized for their years of service to the cooperative:



5 YEARS
Brad Wilson
Manager of Engineering



15 YEARS
Doug Reasoner
Journeyman Lineman



15 YEARS
Jason Gibbs
Mgr., Member Services



20 YEARS
Rob McCoy
Line Foreman



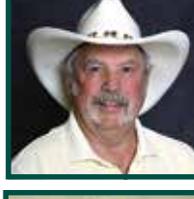
20 YEARS
Chad McIntosh
Mgr., Operations



25 YEARS
John Heilman
Warehouseman



30 YEARS
Marcella Welsch
Corporate Accountant



1st TERM
Larry Keller
Board Secretary



2nd TERM
Randy Rouse
Board Vice President



4th TERM
Kyle Kelso
Board President



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

CEC Board Approves 2019 Budget & Business Plan

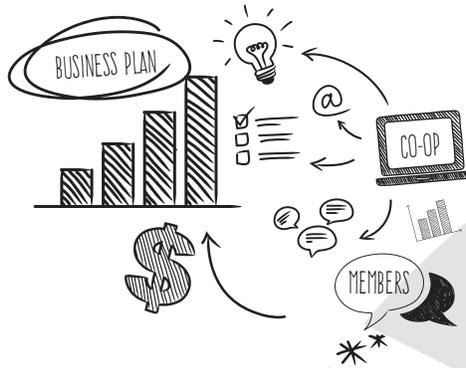
CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S Board of Directors approved the 2019 budget during the December Board of Directors meeting. Each year the Board of Directors provide oversight for the workplan and recommendations made by the cooperative's management staff. They do this with a focus on providing reliable electric service to you, the member, while maintaining the financial integrity of the cooperative.

The management staff at Clarke Electric submit their workplans and needs for the coming year to the board for approval. This information is compiled to generate the cooperative's budget which serves as the guideline for operations in the coming year.

The projects and improvements budgeted for 2019 reinforce the cooperative's commitment to service reliability and safety.

For 2019, these projects will include:

- Purchase a new Altec AN55E-OC Bucket Truck



- Purchase a 3-Phase Meter Tester/Analyzer
- Loop Upgrades
- Continuing with pole replacements
- Right of Way Clearing (ROW) – Tree Clearing Substation improvements
- Derby south feeder cable replacement
- Murray cable replacement
- 8A line replacement projects (10 miles)
- White Oak South feeder upgrade

Also noteworthy are the results of our Cost of Service Study (COSS) recently conducted by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC). According to the study, CEC rate classes are performing

as expected with no individual class subsidizing another. However, the power cost adjustment (PCA) has not been adjusted since 2006. The PCA is a fluctuating monthly cost of wholesale power over or under the established kWh rate. This calculation can go up or down dependent upon the true cost of wholesale power purchased from our energy supplier, CIPCO. The cooperative offers an all-electric heat rate available to cooperative member-consumers who have an all-electric home. This rate will be adjusted at the same time the PCA is adjusted. The staff at Clarke Electric Cooperative will continue to study the PCA and heat rate and make necessary adjustments. All information regarding the adjustments will be communicated to you in this newsletter.

As member-consumers, your support and loyal patronage is essential to the success of this cooperative as we continue efforts to provide you safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Community Invested: Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders

T MAY ONLY BE JANUARY, BUT YOUR cooperative is already making plans for summer vacation, and you should be too!

The 2019 Youth Tour will be June 14-20, 2019 in Washington, D.C. Each year, Clarke Electric Cooperative sponsors one high



school junior to attend the all-expenses paid trip. CEC joins hundreds of electric co-ops from across the country in sending high school students to Washington for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

The Youth Tour program was established

with one thought in mind – to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will

stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Students must apply for the opportunity to be selected for the trip. Applications will be available at www.cecnet.net. You can also contact me at (641) 342-2173 or (800) 362-2154 if you have any questions about the selection process or the trip itself.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students repeatedly share that this experience helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skillset of what it takes to be leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community.

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour experience with a promising student!



The Cooperative Difference: Grassroots Efforts are Vital to Cooperatives and Rural America



REPRESENTATIVES FROM CLARKE

Electric Cooperative, Southwest Iowa REC (Corning/Mt Ayr/Stanton), Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Greenfield), and Guthrie County REC (Guthrie Center) hosted a Legislative Night in Creston Dec. 3, 2018. Representatives Cecil Dolecheck, Tom Moore, David Sieck, and Representative-elect Ray (Bubba) Sorensen, along with Senators Tom Shipley and Amy Sinclair met with about 30 attendees from these area cooperatives.

The event gives cooperative leaders a chance to discuss key issues in detail with their area representatives and for the legislators to discuss what they expect to work on in the upcoming legislative session. The biggest influence on lawmakers is their own voters and their expressed concerns. Whether you are a co-op member, director, manager or employee, you can play an important role

in this process. If we don't tell them about our issues and concerns, they won't know we care.

Your cooperative's future can be directly related to your active participation in the political process. There is a great deal of power behind grassroots activities and how they can effectively influence the outcome of legislative, political and community decisions. We are there to get the best deal for Iowa's RECs and YOU, our members.

You can help in this effort. We encourage all of you to participate in Iowa's politics.

Pictured left to right: Phil Kinser, CEO/General Manager, Southwest Iowa REC; Representative-elect Ray Sorensen; Charlie Dunn, CEO, Farmers Electric Cooperative; Sens. Tom Shipley and Amy Sinclair; Reps. Tom Moore, Cecil Dolecheck, and David Sieck; Cozy Nelsen, CEO, Guthrie County REC; and Dave Opie, general manager, Clarke Electric Cooperative. 14-21-02-08



Toys for Christmas!

CLARKE ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES adopted a family to provide gifts and food for the Christmas holiday by working with the Clarke County Toys For Christmas program. The cooperative also donated pop can money to the program.

Each year since 1969, volunteers have made this a successful program for the community. In 2017, 115 low-income families were served by the program, including nearly 350 children ages 0-15.

Clarke Electric is proud to support local charitable giving to help those who need it most!

Pictured above, from left: Marcella Welsch, Cori Smith, Stephanie Moore, Joyce Neal and Kim Griffin.

Your furnace might be burning money.



SAVINGS WITH STAYING POWER

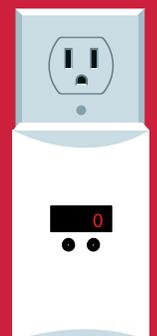
EFFICIENT | CLEAN | SAFE | ELECTRIC

Visit www.cecnet.net to see available equipment rebates and calculate how much you could save by going electric.

+ Safety Driven: Carbon Monoxide Safety Reminders

Known as the "silent killer," carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that often goes undetected, striking victims caught off guard or in their sleep. More than 400 Americans die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Here are a few tips to keep your family safe from the dangers of CO poisoning.

- Install CO alarms on every floor of your home and outside each sleeping area.
- Test CO alarms monthly.
- Replace CO alarm batteries at least annually.
- Make sure your family knows the difference between CO and smoke alarm sounds.
- If your CO alarm sounds, go outdoors immediately.





Energy Smart: You Are Your Own Best Guardian of Your Electric Usage

RECENTLY I HAD A LENGTHY conversation with a member who was confused about how their electric bill could be so different from other members.

As I visited with them, it occurred to me that we have not covered this subject for some time in this newsletter. So let's look at what makes up your bill.

The data the cooperative receives on your electric usage only tells us the amount used, not what it is used for. While it's likely you are using electricity for cooking, cleaning, water heating, cooling/freezing and keeping your home at a comfortable temperature, the cooperative doesn't have access to that information, nor do we need



An energy audit of your home may include a blower door test like this one to determine how much air is filtering out of your house.

to. For farm buildings, the usage is also very specific to you and what your needs are for your own operation. You are the only one who knows what your electricity is used for.

Everyone's usage is different. Comparing electric bills is unfair to you because you don't use electricity the same way as everyone else. It is determined by the amount of people in your household using the electricity on a daily basis, the types of appliances you use and how often you use them, etc. Your comfort level for heating and cooling the space in your home is determined by you, and the age and efficiency of your system and the insulation and windows in your house factor into that comfort and ultimately determine the amount of energy you use, and therefore what your individual monthly bill will be.

The weather plays a huge role in how much electricity you use, and in Iowa, we have the full range of temperatures. When it's freezing cold, you'll run your furnace more, and that's true whether you have a gas or electric furnace. Gas furnaces heat with propane, but also use an electric fan to circulate the warm air, which adds to your usage, just not as much an electric furnace/heat pump would. And of course, the warmer it is outside, the more likely you are to run your air conditioning and fans to keep cool.

Clarke Electric offers free energy audits if you want to know more about how you're using electricity. We also have brochures that demonstrate how much electricity it takes to run each of your appliances. The best way for you to understand your usage is to write down what electricity you used during the day, and then look at how much electricity it required. Remember, you can log on to www.cecnet.net to easily see and

track your daily, weekly and monthly electric use to further understand how your bill is figured.

You are your own best guardian of your electric usage – the more you know about how you use it, the more efficient you can be, and the more money you can save. It's a win-win-win!



JASON GIBBS

Statewide Newspaper Features Story About CEC Board Member

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Board Member Cody Miller was featured in a December 4th *Des Moines Register* article about an area program that works with wounded veterans.

Miller, of rural Murray, spent 10 years in the U.S. Army, with a portion of that time in the Kherwar District of Afghanistan. Upon arriving home, Miller was receiving counseling through Veterans Affairs, where he learned of a program that pairs wounded veterans with horses.



Wildwood Hills Ranch in St. Charles allows veterans to participate in "equine assisted therapy," a process through which a connection with a horse – mentally and physically – aid in overcoming some of the more challenging components while adjusting back into civilian life.

It's that connection that has allowed Miller to work through his stress and anxiety and find peace.

Board of Directors

- Randy Barnard, New Virginia
- Larry Jackson, Clío
- 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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www.cecnet.net