



# CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

**SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED** **Volume No. 79 No. 5 | May 2019**



## Office Closed May 27

The Clarke Electric Cooperative office will be closed Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day. We wish all our members a safe holiday weekend!



## Energy Efficiency



### Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat.

The thermostat sense heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Looking Out for You: March Outages

- Animal/bird: 1
- Equipment/maintenance: 1
- Lightning: 2
- Unknown: 6



**CLARKE**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested  
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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## The Cooperative Difference: Cooperation Among Cooperatives

**T**HE LAST OF THE 2019 WINTER storm season dumped ice and snow and brought blizzard conditions to parts of northern Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota. The storm caused many rural electric cooperatives in the storm's path to sustain a large number of broken poles, downed lines and extensive damage throughout their service territories, leaving



co-op members without power over several days.

Despite the devastation and uncertain restoration times, electric cooperatives knew that amid

the chaos, their mutual aid request would be answered almost immediately. Rural electric cooperatives are guided by seven principles, one of which is "Cooperation Among Cooperatives." When one REC is in trouble and needs additional help, they know they can call on neighboring co-ops for help or "mutual aid." On April 12, four of Clarke Electric Cooperative's linemen answered the call and volunteered to travel to Albert Lea, Minnesota, to assist Freeborn Mower Cooperative. Doug Reasoner, Cory Dommer, Adam McCuddin and Joel Noelting took trucks, track machines and many other pieces of equipment with them to help rebuild approximately 500 poles and restore service to 3,700 Freeborn Mower accounts.

*continued on pg. 4*

## A Quarter Century Marks the End of a Career



**S**AYING "YES" TO A CLARKE ELECTRIC electrician's assistant position on May 2, 1994, is the best memory John Heilman's has of his 25-year co-op career. Now, John's saying "yes" to retirement. His last day with the cooperative will be May 17.

"I knew many of the employees at Clarke Electric and

*continued on pg. 2*

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

# Heilman Retirement...from pg. 1

heard it was a great place to work," he said. "I was hoping I would have an opportunity to work for the cooperative and luckily, I got the chance and never looked back."

John was hired to help the resident electrician Merrill Burrell as a direct result of a strategic planning objective to enhance the member service department and bring much needed services to our members.

After a few years, the cooperative began offering heating and cooling services to the membership, with an emphasis on adding energy efficient geothermal heating systems. 18-27-01-02

As Manager of Consumer Services, John really enjoyed growing the HVAC business and helping members identify energy efficient solutions. Throughout our history, Clarke Electric has been focused on providing our members with services that were missing or not readily available.

By 2012, the HVAC market had many qualified vendors offering those services and the cooperative made the strategic decision to close the department. John then became the warehouseman and his duties include pulling materials, unloading trucks, procuring bids to vendors, inventory control and maintaining the cooperative grounds and warehouse.

John and his wife, Barb, plan to do some traveling after his retirement. They have a son and grandchildren in Texas they plan to visit. After that they would like to go east to see some of the country's historical sites and to see the life size Noah's Ark in Kentucky. After that, John says he would like to catch up on some things on the farm.

The community is invited to a Retirement Open House honoring John Heilman on Friday, May 17, from 2:30-4 p.m.



Former U.S. Airforce Aircraft Electrician John Heilman, right, and cooperative employees Jason Gibbs and Dave Opie observe the Red Shirt Friday to show support for our servicemen and servicewomen.



## Are you Planning to Upgrade or Build a New Service? Call Clarke Electric First

### IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT

upgrading an existing service or requesting a new service, there are some key items that a new customer will need to gather in order to help Clarke Electric Cooperative meet their electrical needs. To help you along with your planning, we have prepared a list.

Please take a moment to answer the questions below before your first phone call to us, and have the answers ready when you call:

- Where is the new property located?
  - Address
  - Township, range, section number.
- Is the new home, building staked out on the property?
  - Is the driveway also staked or laid out?
- What type of heating and appliances will be utilized?
  - Electric Furnace or Geothermal?
  - What kW size is the unit of the heating unit?
    - Gas
    - Wood (heat)
  - Are there any other outbuildings being constructed or will there be in the future?

If you are not building a new service, you might need to upgrade. Here are a few reasons that you may want to consider upgrading your

existing electric service. Consult both your electrical contractor and Clarke Electric Cooperative as you plan your project so that we can work together to meet your expectations.

- Building a new home to replace your existing home
- Adding onto your current home
- Build a new outbuilding/shop
- Adding a grain bin or large motor load to your existing service
- Updating your panel size in your home

It is important for us to know any additional electric load you plan to add to your existing service. If you are not sure of the size of your service don't hesitate to call in and request that information. This will assure that Clarke Electric continues to provide you with proper and reliable electrical service.



**NICK GANNON**



# Director Election Time

**YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS** is elected by and from the membership of Clarke Electric Cooperative. Being a director for Clarke Electric is a great opportunity to learn more about your cooperative, work with local legislators and give back to your community. A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings, other special meetings and educational seminars designed to keep directors informed about the cooperative and utility industry.

Three seats are up for election this year at the Annual Meeting Sept. 16. You can exercise your right to vote by mailing in a ballot or voting in-person during the Annual Meeting, enjoying a free meal. If you are interested in serving as a board member, call 800-362-2154.

Districts up for election this year are:

- **District 2 – Randy Barnard**
- **District 4 – Lydda Youmans**
- **District 5 – Ed White**

The following are excerpts from the Cooperative Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation regarding director elections.

**Article III, Section 2: Qualifications and Tenure.** From and after the annual meeting in 2014, "No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative, whose primary residence is not served by the Cooperative, or who is in any way employed by or who is married

to an employee of the Cooperative within the past three years or who is financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative."

## Article III, Section 3: Nomination and Election of Directors.

(a) **Nomination of Directors.** It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 60 days and not more than 90 days before the date for the meeting of members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations. Said committee shall consist of two members from each of the districts where the terms are to expire following the annual meeting. A director of the Cooperative, who is ineligible to be a candidate because of tenure, may be appointed to the nominating committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative, at least 45 days before the meeting a list of the nominees for directors. The committee shall be encouraged, but shall not be required, to nominate not less than two candidates for each district for which a director is to be elected.

Any fifteen or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition not less than 45 days prior to the meeting and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by



Clarke Electric serves portions of Clarke, Decatur, Linn, Madison, Ringgold, Union, Warren and Wayne counties.

the committee is posted, providing that said nominations made by petition shall be limited to members from the district for which a director is to be elected and the petitioners must also be from said district.

(b) **Election of Directors.** Election of directors shall be by printed ballot. The ballot shall list the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations and by petition, if any, arranged by the districts. The secretary shall mail a ballot marked, "Ballot for Election of Directors" and a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee and by petition. The statement shall also contain and inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail for directors as provided in this section.

The annual meeting will be Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Clarke County Event Center. 42-15-01-02



May is Electrical Safety Month.  
Safety Starts with You.



#electricalsafetymonth



## Community Invested: Smith Earns Youth Tour Trip to Washington, D.C.

**CLARKE ELECTRIC MANAGER OF** Member Services, Jason Gibbs, congratulates Jamie Smith, who was selected as Clarke Electric's representative on the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. Jamie is a junior at I-35 Schools and is the son of Barbara and Jayme Smith. She will travel to the nation's capital June 13-20 with 40 other Iowa students and more than a thousand students from across the country.



Congratulations Jamie!

## Warehouse Construction Project

**WHEN THE WINTER WEATHER** proves to be too much of a safety risk, Clarke Electric linemen have what we refer to as "down time." Unless they are needed to repair outages, the linemen stay safely inside the cooperative building where there are plenty of maintenance projects waiting to be done. Having this time benefits the cooperative by removing the need to hire construction crews for smaller projects.



Employees Roger Phillips and Dylan Bragg help remove the warehouse loft to make more room for materials.

Currently, our cooperative plans to renovate and update our headquarters and warehouse, which haven't changed since the 1980s. These improvements are needed to replace worn out office equipment, furniture and materials, and update and modernize the building with newer, more efficient technology.

When the weather wasn't cooperating, the linemen tore down a loft in the warehouse to make room for materials to be transferred from the adjacent warehouse to the attached warehouse. This way, larger trucks will be parked together in the adjacent warehouse, and materials will

all be in one location for better loading, sorting and inventory control.

Serving our members is what the cooperative is all about. Taking care of the physical buildings and equipment also serves our members in a responsible manner. More headquarter updates are coming. Continue to read the newsletter to keep up with the next project.

## Lending Hand...from pg. 1

Our linemen safely returned home to their cooperative and family April 17.

Clarke Electric was in a similar situation in December 2007 when an ice storm wreaked havoc across our service territory. Although the storm was more than 12 years ago, it is still very fresh in our minds.

"When you sustain damages of that magnitude, the memory remains with you for a long time," says Chad McIntosh, manager of operations. "We were glad we could pay it forward for another cooperative family."

## + Safety Driven: 5 Shocking Facts About Electrical Safety

- 1 51,000:** Estimated number of home electrical fires each year causing nearly 500 deaths, more than 1,400 injuries and \$1.3 billion in property damage.
- 2 2,400:** Number of children in the U.S. who are treated each year for injuries caused by electrical outlets that are not child-proofed with TRRs (Tamper Resistant Receptacles).
- 3 70:** Percentage of electrocutions that occur each year in the home that could have been prevented by the installation of Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs).
- 4 65:** Percentage of annual home fire deaths as a result of no working smoke detectors.
- 5 50:** Number of people killed each year in home fires originating from overheated extension cords.

\*Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI)



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