



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative



SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED Volume No. 81 No. 7 | July 2021

Drive Through Annual Meeting Sept. 13



Stop by our headquarters any time from 9 a.m. - noon Sept. 13 and drive through our warehouse to receive your free gift, register for cash prize giveaways and drop off your election ballot. See full article on pg. 2.

Energy Efficiency



Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat – like clothes dryers and dishwashers – during the evening hours when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and save your air conditioning from working overtime.

Looking Out for You: May Outages

- Equipment/maintenance failure: 5
- Unknown: 5
- Construction – 3
- Motor Vehicle - 1
- Trees – 1



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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

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Osceola, IA 50213-0161
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The Cooperative Difference: Report of the Nominating Committee

THIS YEAR'S NOMINATING committee met Tuesday, June 22 to select director candidates to run against incumbent directors in this year's annual board of directors' election.



Six Clarke Electric member-consumers served on the committee:

District 6 – **Jason Boyer** and **Kyle Kelso**

At Large Districts – **Gary Alley** and **Tom Carson**; **Steve Reynolds** and **Frank Riley**

The nominating committee reviews the member-consumers in the affected districts to find a candidate who is interested in serving on the board and able to make the time commitment. The committee then follows the guidelines set forth in the cooperative by-laws to select at least one

candidate to run against the incumbent when possible. If there is no incumbent, the committee will select two candidates when possible. If you have an interest in serving as a board member, please contact the cooperative.

Members of the nominating committee are selected by the board members who serve those areas that are part of the election.

Kelso Reaches Term Limit; Bids Farewell

BOARD PRESIDENT **KYLE KELSO** WILL COMPLETE 15 years of service to CEC and its member-consumers in September and will not be on the ballot for this year's election. According to the co-op's Articles of Incorporation, Kyle has served the maximum five terms and is not eligible for another term.



Kyle has a long history with the cooperative, beginning when he was selected to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour trip in 1988. Following that experience, Kyle said he became more interested in cooperatives and how they are organized to serve

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 July to have \$10 deducted from your monthly energy account.

2020 Central Iowa Power Cooperative Power Supply Report

2020 WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED as the year of the coronavirus – a pandemic that became the center of our world. We watched the effects unfold country by country, then coast to coast in the U.S. We wondered when and how it would affect our members, employees, family, and friends. After battling fear and a lack of information initially, it didn't take long to feel the impact on our communities.

Despite the pandemic, CIPCO had planned an ambitious year including the continued repowering of the Summit Lake plant, CIPCO's largest construction project in the history of the cooperative. Wapello Solar, LLC was under construction by Clēnera with an anticipated early 2021 completion date. With the planned closure of the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC), CIPCO worked to identify the right, cost-effective generation resources through power purchase agreements and market buys to fill anticipated gaps in the resource plan.

While the pandemic tested our strength in 2020 as a whole, the massive derecho that swept across the state in August with hurricane force winds tested our systems, but it also demonstrated the power of cooperation. CIPCO received overwhelming support from Dairyland Power Cooperative, Northwest Iowa Power

Cooperative, Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative with exhaustive restoration activities for critical transmission lines. Unfortunately, the derecho brought an additional casualty; the early loss of DAEC due to catastrophic storm damage.

Despite unexpected challenges such as derecho costs topping \$5 million, and lower energy sales, CIPCO's financial results reflect another year of stability and competitive rates. It was the fifth consecutive year of declining rates and the lowest rate in more than 10 years. Even with the challenges of 2020, we successfully executed on the long term strategy of re-investing in the system to maintain and improve reliability. Capital expenditures for the year were more than \$93 million, one of the largest capital additions in CIPCO's history. This included significant work on Summit Lake. 44-15-15-03

Clarke Electric Cooperative and CIPCO strive to provide safe, affordable, and reliable power to our member-consumers across the system. Despite the attention given to high-profile issues and events in 2020, other projects are crucial to the successful operation of the CIPCO system. Throughout the year, a number of substation projects were completed. And despite the

disruption of the derecho, CIPCO finalized work on more than 32 miles of line. CIPCO's commitment to reliability led to a system-wide outage rate of 0.34 hours per consumer without the derecho, and 23.19 with the derecho included. Without the derecho, this would be the ninth consecutive year in which CIPCO's average outage total was below the target of 1.00 hours per consumer.

Returning patronage capital is a fundamental component of the cooperative business model. CIPCO remains dedicated to

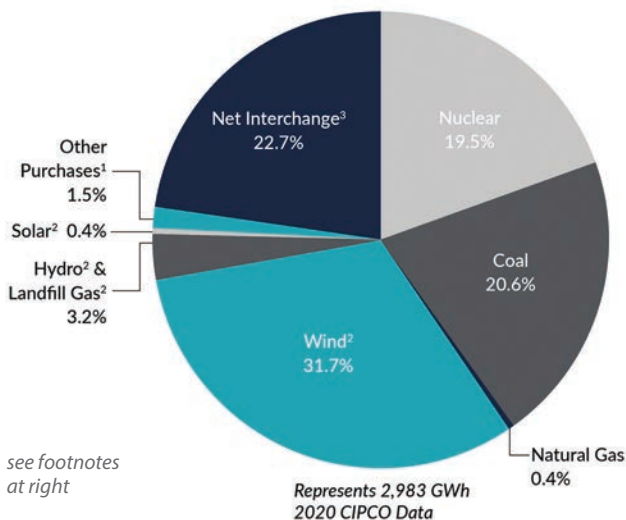
sound financial practices that allow margins to be returned to its members in the form of patronage. During 2020, CIPCO returned patronage totaling \$408,611 to Clarke Electric Cooperative.

I'm proud of the actions taken in 2020 to sustain and grow our connections within the rural electric industry during a tumultuous year. Our actions have strengthened CIPCO's mission to provide Member-owners with wholesale power and services in a safe, reliable, and cost-effective manner. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your representative on both the local board of directors and the CIPCO board of directors. I am proud to say, as a result of decisions made and actions taken in 2020, Clarke Electric Cooperative's member-consumers, as well as the entire CIPCO system, are well-served now and into the future.



RANDY ROUSE
CIPCO Board of Directors

A balanced portfolio of energy sources



1 CIPCO's purchase power agreement for Wapello Solar LLC locks in stable, long-term pricing and avoids the risks associated with rising fuel costs. Renewable energy credits (RECs) are not included in this agreement.

2 CIPCO invests in the development of renewable energy projects in several ways. We operate six small-scale solar arrays near communities we serve and retain the renewable energy credits associated with each. We also contract with energy producers for the electricity output from wind, hydro, and methane gas from a landfill (converted into electricity). CIPCO cannot claim these resources as renewable within our supply portfolio as we have either sold to third parties or do not receive the renewable attributes associated with the electricity produced from these renewable power sources. By selling these attributes (RECs), we not only support other organizations in meeting their renewable energy goals, we also generate revenue to help us lower our wholesale power rate to our 12 Member-owner distribution cooperatives and 15 municipalities.

3 A percentage of market purchases exist within the portfolio to meet additional supply needs not covered by existing contracts or CIPCO-produced generation. Weather volatility and unplanned operational events at power plants may also impact market purchases.

Kelso...from pg. 1

their member-consumers. In 2006, he was approached by the CEC nominating committee to consider running for a board seat. Kyle's father, who was service oriented and a member of several local boards, was the person who instilled in him a sense of community service and Kyle was eager to follow in his father's footsteps.

During his tenure, Kyle earned the NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate, the Board Leadership Certificate and completed the Director Gold Credential program, the highest designation provided for electric co-op board members. He has served as the board president since 2016.

"We will really miss Kyle's strong leadership," said Dave Opie, general manager. "He was a huge advocate for the cooperative employees, making sure they had a safe working environment. He was fair and impartial when it came to the members and how policies might impact them."

"I will miss the friends I met while attending cooperative functions," Kyle added. "And the cooperative employees became like family, so I will also miss seeing them regularly."

New Venue for 2021 Cooperative Annual Meeting

A **GAIN THIS YEAR, CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WILL NOT HOLD A** traditional annual meeting event. Instead, plan to come to our headquarters Monday, Sept. 13 any time between 9 a.m. and noon to drive through our new warehouse. Guests will be able to see some of the improvements from the remodel, receive an attendance prize, enter a drawing for a chance to win \$1,000 in cash giveaways, and drop off their completed board election ballot.

Due to limited parking, an open house will be held later to further showcase improvements to the existing co-op headquarters. The meeting, abbreviated reports and election results will be recorded and available for viewing on our web site, www.cecnet.net, following the annual meeting.

Member-consumers may vote by mail or drop off their ballots at the cooperative headquarters as in the past years. Reports and director candidate information will be included in the August *Clarke REC Headlines* newsletter, and the official notice sent to all members in August.

We apologize that our friends and member-consumers will not have the opportunity to gather and share time together this year. Please understand that we are committed to keeping you, our member-consumers safe.



Watch your mail for more information on the annual meeting and a ballot to vote in this year's election.

+ Safety Driven: We Live Safety Daily



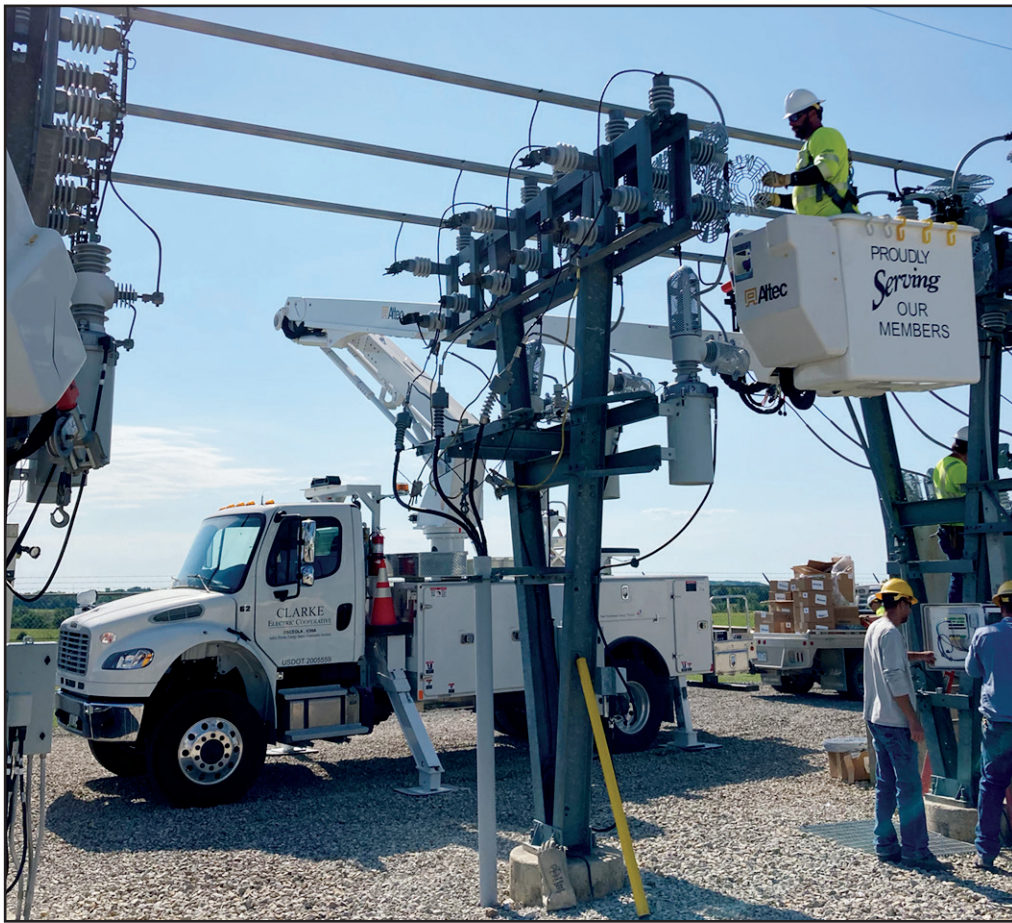
S **AFETY DRIVEN IS POWERED BY** all Clarke Electric Cooperative employees who live their safety training each and every day. It is vital to our member-consumers to keep co-op employees trained to think about safety at all times to ensure their safe return home to their families at the end of the day.

One way your cooperative does this is to hold monthly safety meetings on various topics required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and other topics designed to promote safe working conditions specific to Clarke Electric. Not only are the linemen and operations employees in attendance, but also support system team members. All employees are required to attend monthly and annual training workshops.

Pictured at left is newly hired Apprentice Lineman, Hunter Koehn, demonstrating his climbing proficiency skills recently at cooperative headquarters.

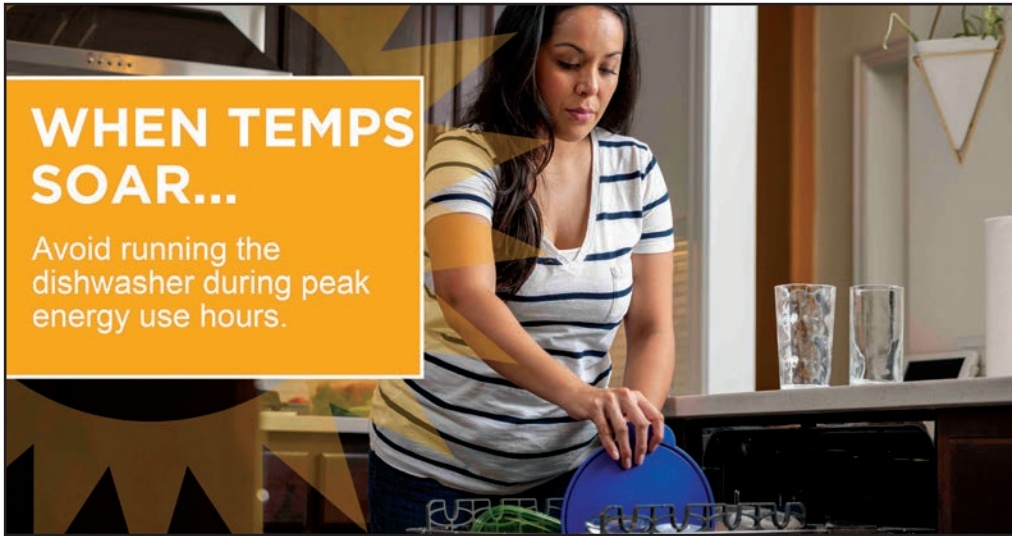
The most challenging aspect of linework is learning to climb poles and work safely in an elevated position. Additionally, linemen are tested on pole top rescue skills, which are critical in the event of any emergency.

Jason Thorson, Job Training & Safety Instructor for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC), conducts the trainings. All linemen are tested annually on climbing and pole top rescue skills to be an active lineman.



New Truck in Service

Clarke Electric upgraded its fleet with the purchase of a new 2020 Freightliner two-man insulated 55-foot basket truck. The cooperative retired a 47-foot two-man bucket truck. The new truck will be flexible in the day-to-day construction and maintenance work. Pictured is Journeyman Lineman Eric Page giving the new truck a workout in the Grand River substation installing cover ups. This helps to reduce outages caused by birds and animals in the substation increasing the reliability of service for our member-consumers who receive power from that substation.



WHEN TEMPS SOAR...

Avoid running the dishwasher during peak energy use hours.



Food Safety Tips for Picnic Month

JULY IS PICNIC MONTH, WHICH means it's a great time to talk about food safety. According to the CDC, every year, one in six Americans gets sick after consuming a contaminated food or beverage. These illnesses are largely preventable with proper food safety.

- **Use the "two hour rule":** Don't eat potentially hazardous foods (dairy, meat, fish, rice, or chopped/sliced fruits and vegetables) that have sat at room temperature for more than two hours.
- **Make it a "one hour rule" if the outside temp is more than 90 degrees.** Hot temps are just right for allowing bacteria to grow to numbers that can make people sick. 9-20-05-01
- **Use ice.** Pack coolers with enough ice to keep the food below 40 degrees.
- **Label and describe food items.** This will help keep everyone from smelling or touching the food with their hands, or even taking a taste to see what it is.
- **Finally, don't take leftovers home.** This could be risky. Not only has the food sat out at room temperature or higher for a long time, but if you have shared dishes with other picnickers, there is potential contamination from the many people you've picnicked with.



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