

# CLOSED Circuit

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**CLARKE**

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Reading Pays:

### ► Your account number is valuable

Look for your hidden account number in this issue and call during February to have \$10 deducted from your monthly energy account.

## CIPCO Adds More Wind Energy

Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), Iowa's largest cooperative energy provider, announced the signing of a 20-year power purchase agreement to buy the entire output from the Elk Wind Farm. The project will produce approximately 41 megawatts of electricity or enough energy for about 14,000 typical Iowa homes.

"This agreement is a significant step in CIPCO's expanded use of Iowa's abundant wind energy resource and a commitment to enhance the local economy," stated Dennis Murdock, CEO and Executive Vice President of Central Iowa Power Cooperative. "This project is located in Delaware County which is served by Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative. Benefits to the local community will include new jobs during construction, a number of permanent positions once operational, and enhanced tax revenue for the county."

"At a time when growth in the wind energy industry has slowed considerably in Iowa, we are proud to commit to a new wind project with a local developer," added Murdock. "Elk Wind is another way we are adding value for CIPCO's member owners by supplying a clean, renewable source of Iowa-based electricity."

## CEC Partners with DOE on Groundbreaking "Smart Grid" Research Program

Clarke Electric Cooperative (CEC) is receiving \$3 million in matching funds from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to partner with the Cooperative Research Network (CRN) and nineteen other cooperatives on a nationwide project to evaluate the benefits of "smart" technologies for consumer members.

CEC will begin by deploying automated metering infrastructure (AMI) in all eleven substations in



*The Elk Wind Farm, being developed by RPM Access, is the first wind energy project in Delaware County. Spread over 3,200 acres of open farmland, it uses approximately 12 acres for the wind farm facilities. Construction of the substation is underway, and the Elk Wind project is expected to start producing electricity as early as October of 2011.*

our eight-county service territory. AMI will enable two-way communications between the meter and the cooperative, allowing real-time information to be collected and analyzed.

Additional smart technology will be installed over the next three years. A backhaul communications system (SCADA) and distribution automation

**SMART  
Energy**

*Continued on page 2*

## "Smart Grid" Research

*Continued from page 1*

will give CEC the flexibility to control some system switches remotely to improve the notification of and response to outages. Power quality and reliability can also be measured with the new technology.

A sampling of CEC members will be selected to participate in a pilot program using Internet energy-usage portals and consumer in-home energy displays that will provide real-time energy-usage information to the member. Participants will be asked to provide feedback on design, operation, and functionality. This kind of smart technology allows members to maximize their efficiency and enjoy energy savings.

Authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, smart grid research grants, together with the \$3.4 billion in smart grid investment grants, are part of a federal initiative to identify and develop new and more effective smart grid technologies.

"Cooperatives lead the industry in the deployment of smart meter infrastructure and can help drive the effort to modernize the nation's electrical system using new technologies," said National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Glenn English.

Electric distribution cooperatives, which range in size from a few hundred to more than 200,000 meters, will evaluate potential benefits of new technologies that could help increase operational efficiencies and improve service. On the other side of the meter, co-ops will also test new programs that help consumers manage electric bills.

Since not-for-profit cooperatives are owned by their consumer-

**"Smart Grid technology will help CEC monitor and control the flow of electricity to improve reliability and outage management. Members will be empowered to lower energy usage and ultimately control their costs," said General Manager Bill Freeman. "This could help delay building costly power plants and control some of our costs while giving our members a more reliable and dependable system."**

members, the new technologies will be evaluated using a simple test: **Do they help the cooperative in its mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to consumer-members?**

In addition, the project enhances the inter-operability of distribution automation and communications equipment by increasing the number of software applications that comply with the MultiSpeak® specification. At the same time, the co-ops will work with cyber security experts to develop workable cyber security best practices. 31-01-02-01

Clarke Electric will continue to keep you informed on the progress of the project through the Closed Circuit, our monthly newsletter.

## Director Education/Grassroots Activities Vital to Cooperatives

Several of your Board of Directors attended a two-day workshop for Iowa directors hosted by the



Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC). The workshop covered key topics that are affecting Iowa cooperatives, such as the Clean Air Act, renewable energy, safety, and

Iowa's Energy Independence Plan.

The directors also attended a Welcome Back Legislative Reception to

meet and talk with Iowa representatives who are back in session for 2011. This was another opportunity for directors and cooperative leaders to share their concerns.

### Power PCA Cost Adjustment

The power cost adjustment (PCA) is exactly that—a way to adjust the fluctuating monthly cost of wholesale power over or under the established kWh rate.

The increase or decrease in power from the base kWh rate from Clarke Electric's power provider (CIPCO) is passed on to the member/consumer through the PCA.

Technically the PCA is not a rate increase, but it has the same results. However, when the cost of power decreases, that savings is passed on to member/consumers as well. Clarke Electric is vigilant in trying to keep the rates as stable as possible while meeting financial obligations.

## Questions or Complaints

If you have a complaint about Clarke Electric's service rather than rates, you can reach a representative of the cooperative by contacting us during normal business hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 641-342-2173 or at 800-362-2154.

Or you can write to: Member Advocate, Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc., 1103 N. Main Street, Osceola, Iowa 50213.

If you have a complaint related to Clarke Electric's service rather than its rates, and your complaint is not resolved, you may ask for help from: Utilities Division, Department of Commerce, 1375 E. Court Ave., Room 69, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069, 877-565-4450.

# 53 Years of Youth Tours

by Jason Gibbs

## 1958 Contest Entrants

- Connie Hunt—contest winner (Mr. and Mrs. Leland Hunt, Lacelle)
- Alice Adams (Mr. and Mrs. Dale Adams, Weldon)
- Janet Boyd (Mr. and Mrs. Warren Boyd, Humeston)
- Karolyn Edwards, (Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Edwards, Osceola)
- Terry Hiltabidle (Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hiltabidle, Allerton)
- Pat Lukenbill (Mrs. Helen Bassett, Leon)
- Larry McDowell—alternate representative (Mr. and Mrs. Dean McDowell, Lineville)
- Mary Miller (Mr. and Mrs. Wilton Miller, Weldon)
- Glenn Mitchell (Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Mitchell, Garden Grove)
- Janet Mullins (Mr. And Mrs. Vernie Mullins, Chariton)
- Wayne Oxenreider (Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Oxenreider, Indianola)
- Linda Ramsey, (Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Ramsey, Weldon)
- Sherry Reynolds (Mr. and Mrs. Fayne Reynolds, Osceola)
- Karen Wallace (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wallace, Weldon)

In 1957, while Texas Senator Lyndon Johnson was delivering a speech at the NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) annual meeting in Chicago, the Senator declared, “If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.”

As a result, some Texas cooperatives sent a group of young people to Senator Johnson’s office in Washington D.C. to learn more about government in action. The following year Iowa REC’s and REC’s across the nation began sending high school aged students to D.C. on the Annual NRECA Youth Tour.

In 1958, Clarke Electric Cooperative held its first Youth Tour Contest. There were 14 participants in that inaugural contest. They were asked to write an essay titled “What a Rural Electric Cooperative Means to Me and My Community.” Winners of the essay contest were invited to the co-op to meet with judges who selected the winner. Connie Hunt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leland Hunt from Lacelle, was the very first winner of the contest.

The trip has evolved into a week-long trip for approximately 1,400 students from across the nation. They visit all of the historic sights, witness government in action, and make lasting friendships.

In this 53<sup>rd</sup> year of Clarke Electric’s Washington, D.C. Youth Tour contest, the topic of the essay will be the same one used way back in 1958: “What a Rural Electric Cooperative Means to Me and My Community.”

## Essay Topic

**What a Rural Electric Cooperative Means to Me and My Community?**

## Essay Guidelines

**Entries should be typed on one side of 8.5 X 11 in. paper.**

**Entries should be no more than 500 words and a minimum of two pages.**

## Application Deadline

**March 7**

## Essay Deadline

**March 21st**

## Youth Tour Judging

**March 30th**

## Trip Dates

**June 11 to June 16**

For more information check out [www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net)

**The contest is open to all 11th graders. To enter the contest, simply, call Jason at Clarke Electric Cooperative 641-342-2173 or e-mail him at [jasgibbs@cecnet.net](mailto:jasgibbs@cecnet.net). Applications must be received by March 7, 2011.**

## E-Bill Payment Option Is Convenient

The E-Bill payment option a great way to pay your bill whenever you want.

- Go to [www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net)
- click on the e-Bill link to pay your bill
- You can also view usage reports and outage reports.

Thank you to the 10,000 users who have already begun using the newest technology available to them.

## Construction and Maintenance Review

*Operations Update by Don Lange*

The chart below shows our members how construction work in 2010 compares to previous years. The slump in the economy and increased costs of fuel, materials, and equipment have impacted the growth of our system. If the clouds have a silver lining, it is that we have been able to dedicate our crews to the 2007 storm-rebuilding process, which should be wrapped up by the end of 2011.

	2010	2009	2008	2007
New services built.....	52	54	73	91
Services removed.....	155	150	130	52

## Notice!

Effective January 1, 2011, Clarke Electric Cooperative no longer is an agent for the long-distance phone service Power-Net Global.

Your current service from PNG will be unchanged, however, Clarke Electric, will no longer be involved. All customer service inquiries should be directed to Power Net Global at 1-800-860-9495.

## 71 years of answering the call



### December Outages

Animals/birds – 1      Motor vehicle – 1      Trees – 1  
Equipment failure – 7      Wind – 2

## Keep them close, but not too close

### Electric Blanket

- If more than 10 years old, replace.
- Always turn off when not in use.
- Don't use more than one at a time. The combined heat can cause burns.
- Don't plug into outlet controlled by a light switch; the blanket could be switched on accidentally.
- Unplug if you smell smoke or if scorching is evident; discoloration may indicate that it is burning internally.
- Don't pile anything or sit on top of blanket or tuck underneath mattresses as this may damage internal coils and expose the heating element to combustible fabric.
- Never ball up an electric blanket and leave it on; excessive heat may cause blanket to ignite.
- Never wash or dry clean an electric blanket.
- Store flat to protect the internal coils.
- Replace if embedded heating wires are displaced or damaged. Check by holding up to light; wires should be evenly spaced and not touch.

### Space Heater

- Space heaters do have to be energized to work, but use common sense and safety practices.
- When buying, look for heater that has been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing facility.
- Keep at least three feet away from drapes, furniture, or anything that might catch fire.
- If extension cord is required, ensure that it is a heavy duty cord marked with a power rating at least as high as the heater.
- Never leave a space heater unattended or running while you sleep.
- Safe Electricity is a program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety and energy efficiency, and supported by a coalition of hundreds of organizations, including electric utilities, educators and other entities committed to promoting safe use of electricity

[www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org)

## 20-Year License Renewal

The Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) near Palo, Iowa, received a 20-year license extension from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The current 40-year operating license was set to expire in 2014.

“License renewal of DAEC is a big win for our state because this facility is a clean and reliable source of affordable electricity for Iowans. CIPCO is proud to be one of the original co-owners,” said Dennis Murdock, CEO and executive vice president of Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO). “With this extension, DAEC will continue as a significant source of economic activity for Eastern Iowa and a sizable piece of CIPCO’s more than 40 percent carbon-free portfolio for another 20 years.” 55-25-01-0

The 625-megawatt nuclear facility is jointly owned by NextEra Energy Resources (70%), Central Iowa Power Cooperative (20%), and Corn Belt Power Cooperative (10%). The relicensing process began over two years ago and included environmental and safety reviews as well as on-site inspections of the power plant and several public meetings.

DAEC has a track record of safe and reliable operations since it began commercial operation in 1974. DAEC is a significant local economic driver with over \$3 million in annual property taxes and tens of

millions more in purchases of local services and supplies for ongoing plant operations and maintenance.



*The Duane Arnold Energy Center employs over 600 Iowans with an annual payroll of \$73.4 million and has the capacity to serve roughly 500,000 homes.*



### Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc., exists to professionally serve our members' changing needs, enhancing quality of life through leadership in community development and providing service excellence for our members' energy requirements.

P.O. Box 161, Osceola IA 50213 • 641-342-2173 • 1-800-362-2154

Our Web Site: [www.cecnet.net](http://www.cecnet.net)

*Board of Directors: Tom Carson, Osceola; Ralph Evans, Decatur; Randy Gaumer, Murray; Larry Jackson, Clio; Paul Keller, New Virginia; Kyle Kelso, Weldon; Marilyn Marsh, Lucas; Frank Riley, Osceola; Bill Willis, New Virginia.*

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Don Lange, Manager of Operations and Engineering

Dave Opie, Manager of Finance

Jodee Eckels, Editor

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