

OUR TOP PRIORITY

Providing Safe, Reliable, and Dependable Electric Service at an Affordable Cost



Tim Stewart
CEO / General Manager

During the fourth quarter of each year, the cooperative's management and staff prepare a series of planning documents that will provide the tools for financial planning for the cooperative in the upcoming year. The board of directors met with the cooperative's management and staff to review various department activities and the 2007 Business Plan.

Besides providing short-term goals and objectives, the Business Plan must also be consistent with the cooperative's long-rang planning studies and document. It is vital that short-term goals and objectives are established to reach long-term objectives such as equity management plans, Rural Utilities Service (RUS) requirements, and the member needs and service requirements.

The board of directors and management are aware of the need for constantly analyzing costs to maximize the value of each expenditure and containing costs where appropriate and feasible.

One of the key goals of Clark Electric Cooperative is to provide our membership with safe, reliable, and dependable electric service at an affordable cost. I am pleased to note that in 2006, outage hours per consumer decreased from 2005 and are at the second lowest level in the previous five-year period, and they're considerably below the RUS threshold level. While we can't control Mother Nature, we

can undertake various maintenance programs to help minimize reliability concerns. This year the cooperative will be performing the following maintenance programs to help maintain our continuity of service:

- **Pole Testing and Replacement**
(Longwood Substation Area)
- **Reclosure Maintenance**
(Loyal and Willard Substation Area)
- **Tree Trimming**
(Sherwood and Willard Substation Area)
- **URD Inspection**
(Loyal, Longwood, and Eidsvold Substation Area)
- **OH Inspection**
(Spencer and Willard Substation Area)
- **Brush Spraying**
(Colby, Lublin, Longwood, Eidsvold, and Willard Substation Area)

(Continued on page 29 ►)

Participate In Your Electric Cooperative

Clark Electric Cooperative
Annual Meeting Notice
Wednesday, April 18, 2007
Beginning at 9:30 a.m. This Year
at The Loyal American Legion Hall



Congratulations

Apprentices Are Now Journeymen

It has been a long journey for two of Clark Electric's apprentice linemen who have now achieved journeyman lineman status. Mike Hackle and Josh Burns were recently awarded their certificate of completion at the Wisconsin Line Superintendent's Conference.

Mike Ruff, Clark Electric's director of operations, attended the ceremony honoring Hackel and Burns.

"These are two hard-working individuals who have a great work ethic and are a tremendous asset to our team at Clark Electric," stated Ruff.

Congratulations on your tremendous achievement! ■



Clark Electric Cooperative Journeymen Linemen Mike Hackel and Josh Burns.

Representing your cooperative and your fellow members at various meetings is a task that we ask of our members every year. Your cooperative has an important meeting coming up at which we need member representation. This is the Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting.

By participating in cooperative meetings, and most importantly, by attending your annual meeting, you help keep Clark Electric Cooperative strong and prosperous.

If you would like to represent Clark Electric Cooperative at this meeting, please contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, by Monday, March 19, 2007. Tracy can be reached by calling the cooperative offices at 715-267-6188 or at 800-272-6188.

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

**Dairyland Power Cooperative
Annual Meeting**

11 Delegates and 4 Alternates needed



Federated Youth Foundation Scholarship Award

**Apply For A Clark Electric Scholarship
Deadline: Postmarked by March 9, 2007**

**Applications are available
at your schools**

or

Online at WWW.CECOOP.COM



**Clark Electric Cooperative
Greenwood, Wisconsin**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Copper Thefts Can Kill

Reward Offered for Information



Live electric wires left behind by copper thieves are not only dangerous to the thieves, but also to innocent victims, including children. Thefts of copper wire from electric substations, power lines, and transformers are on the rise locally and nationwide. Many copper thefts have led to extremely serious injuries and even death.

Ignorant of the serious dangers involved, local copper thieves came within inches of severe injury or even death when they cut copper lines on Clark Electric's distribution system recently. Thieves may not understand that they are risking their

Clark Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of cooperative vandalism and theft, including the theft of copper. If you have any pertinent information, please contact your local police department. It is imperative that we protect the public, especially our children, against these dangers.

Clark Electric Cooperative urges you to follow these guidelines to guard against electrical dangers and prevent copper theft.

- ✦ **Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.**
- ✦ **Teach children never to play on or around electric transformers and power poles.**
- ✦ **If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, or hanging wire, contact your electric co-op or local law enforcement agency immediately.**
- ✦ **If you see anyone around electric substations or electric facilities other than utility personnel or contractors, call the police immediately.**
- ✦ **Install motion-sensor lights on the outside of your house and business to deter possible thieves.**
- ✦ **Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location. Never leave them out while you are away.**
- ✦ **If you work in construction, do not leave any wires unattended or leave loose wire at the job site, especially overnight.**
- ✦ **Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper or aluminum.**

lives as well as those of innocent victims by attempting to remove copper wire out of utility equipment. All power lines have a potentially deadly charge.

Soaring metal prices have been blamed for the increase in thefts of copper and aluminum, the primary components of electric distribution lines. Recent thefts of copper wire and equipment from electric utilities across the nation have been responsible for power outages, additional maintenance, added expenses, the diminished system reliability, as well

as serious injuries and deaths.

Burglars have become bolder in their actions and will even climb power poles, scale fences, and break into buildings and substations in order to steal the copper.

"Theft of copper wire may seem like a quick way to make a buck," said Tim Stewart, CEO/general manager of Clark Electric Cooperative, "but it's extremely dangerous. These thieves are not only endangering their own lives by undertaking such action, but are endangering the lives of the public as well." ■

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

System maintenance is a major part of the operations budget. As a member, you expect exceptional service. Clark Electric Cooperative strives to provide that service to our members.

Each year our crews, along with contractors, perform scheduled maintenance on certain parts of the distribution system. That maintenance helps to ensure the lights stay on. Tree trimming is one of the most



important aspects of the maintenance program, and unfortunately it's also one of the most costly.

Having a regular trimming schedule that rotates around the system helps us to stay ahead of growth. Trees account for a large number of outages and the aggravating blinking lights that we sometimes experience.

Pole testing is another part of the maintenance schedule that is performed regularly. Pole testers move around the system and test a certain number of poles to determine their strength. This determines which poles need to be replaced.

All of the maintenance programs have one common purpose—to provide you, the member, with reliable, dependable, and affordable electricity. The employees of Clark

Electric Cooperative strive to give you the services that you need and want. ■



Maintenance Programs

(Continued from page 4)

In addition to the various maintenance programs, the cooperative will be constructing approximately 12 miles of distribution line throughout our service area to meet member needs.

I would like to remind you again to mark your calendars for Clark Electric Cooperative's 70th Annual Meeting of the Members. This is an important meeting where members will hear reports and elect directors. So come, enjoy a nice meal, register for door prizes, and help conduct the business of your electric utility. I hope to see you April 18, 2007, at the Legion Hall in Loyal. ■

Tim Stewart
CEO / General Manager

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Clark Electric Cooperative is a recipient of Federal Financial Assistance from the Rural Electrification Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Timothy E. Stewart, CEO/General Manager, Clark Electric Cooperative. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D. C. 20250.

Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

 **Tim Stewart, CEO / Manager**
John J. Knox, Editor
124 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 190
Greenwood, WI 54437

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

e-mail us at info@cecoop.com or at jknox@cecoop.com
WWW.CECCOP.COM