

Time to Move On

Great Memories of a Great Cooperative



*John Knox
Director of Member Services*

I've had 12 wonderful years working at Clark Electric, but it's time to move on to my next challenge. On February 1, I will be taking over as the next CEO/general manager of KEM Electric Cooperative, which is located in Linton, North Dakota. I have had the opportunity to work under two wonderful general managers here at Clark Electric Cooperative: Dick Adler, who brought me to Greenwood, and Tim Stewart, who has really given me the ability and the tools to improve myself and to continuously improve Clark Electric Cooperative. It's been with Tim Stewart's guidance and leadership that this transition has been possible. Clark Electric is lucky to have a manager like Tim overlooking your cooperative.

On my desk is a great little wooden box for business cards and pens, and if you ask Cindy (my wife), she'll tell you I have a passion for wooden trinket boxes. The top of this box has been carved with the words "Clark County – Where Memories are Made." Upon reflection, I find this to be very true. My family and I have great memories of Greenwood and Clark County that will always be a treasure to us.

Over the years, while working as director of member services, I've been lucky to work with our youth through the Youth Leadership Program and our Scholarship Program, two programs that give the youth of our communities the ability to learn leadership skills and obtain educational success.

Three other events make me very proud and stand out to me in my memories of working for Clark Electric Cooperative. The first is working with the wonderful

As I sit down pondering what to write and how to express myself, I find for once I'm having trouble getting the right words out. Here goes... It's time to say good bye to the membership and all the wonderful people who are part of the Clark Electric Cooperative family.

people at Our Lady of Victory Hospital in Stanley. When the new hospital was built, we were able to show them the benefits of being a cooperative member, and because of this, we were chosen to be their electric supplier. Our Lady of Victory Hospital is a vital and important community asset for Clark County and the surrounding counties.

The second is the transformation of our Member Appreciation Day, which is held in the beginning of October, celebrating Cooperative Month. We were able to transform the event from a Friday afternoon of brats for 100 to 150 members to a fun family event for all members. We have been serving a wonderful pancake breakfast to between 800 and 900 people over the last several years. The event includes information on health care, as well as heating and cooling products from our Appliance & Satellite Store. The giant inflatables, with the face and pumpkin painting, have been big hits with our kids. I don't want to forget my firefighters and EMTs from Greenwood, who brought fire trucks and checked blood pressures and talked about fire safety with our members and the kids.

The third is our partnership with Norm-E-Lane Farms and their manure digester system. It was a long, hard road getting the digester built, but in the end it is the cornerstone of a great renewable energy project that benefits the members and the farming communities that we serve.

(Continued on page 28 ►)

73rd Annual Meeting of Clark Electric Cooperative

Saturday, April 10, 2010
Starting at 9:30 a.m.

Loyal American Legion Hall

Happy Retirement, Kenny

After 38 years at Clark Electric Cooperative, Journeyman Lineman Kenny Martini is hanging up his hard hat and climbing hooks. Kenny has been a hard-working employee over his 38 years at Clark Electric Cooperative, said Director of Operations Mike Ruff.

Kenny talked recently about the changes he's seen over the last 38 years as a lineman for Clark Electric.



Kenny performs a pole-top rescue during a safety training meeting.

One of the biggest changes has been the type of equipment used to build and maintain the distribution system.

“At the beginning, very little ‘hot work’ was done, and we did a lot of climbing,” he said. “Management would make an announcement on the radio that a certain area would be out of power due to repairs, then we would de-energize the line and make the repairs, with a lot of climbing up and down the poles.”

Kenny said as the years went on linemen started working out of digger derrick/bucket trucks, which meant they could perform “hot work” while making the repairs.

“This allowed pole testing and replacements to take place while doing the repairs energized,” he said. “This made the system better for the members, and it helped speed up our work.”

One of the most memorable events Kenny recalls was the ice storm in October of 1991 that he went to work on. Crews from Clark Electric were called upon to help Freeborn-Mower Electric Coopera-



Kenny Martini - Journeyman Lineman

tive in rebuilding after this devastating ice storm. They spent a week and half totally rebuilding the system from east to west. Crews from all over the place came to help, Kenny told us. “It was just unbelievable—everything covered with ice and down on the ground,” he said.

Kenny plans on enjoying his retirement by spending time with his wife, kids, and grandchildren. There might even be some time for fishing on his boat. We at Clark Electric Cooperative wish Kenny the best in his retirement. ■

Years-of-Service Awards

Several Clark Electric Cooperative employees were recognized for their years of service at the January safety meeting. Those honored this year are (left to right) Stephanie Ligenza, 10 years; Jim Mertens, 5 years; Ken Martini, 38 years; Gary French, 30 years; Warren Luedtke, 20 years; and John Knox, 20 years (12 years at Clark Electric).

Clark Electric Cooperative appreciates its employees and their dedication and service to the cooperative. ■



Great Memories

(Continued from page 4)

As my wife says, one of my biggest hobbies is that of being an EMT/firefighter; as proud as I am of working for Clark Electric, I'm also proud to be an EMT/firefighter for the Greenwood Emergency Services. I have many great memories of my friendships with this group and of the many times I was able to help a member in need.

Now the hardest part will be saying good-bye to my Clark Electric family. I work with a great group of people here: the office staff, who dedicates time to helping you when you call with a question; our line workers, some of the hardest-working and dedicated crews I've worked with; and to Pat Susa, who was a true friend when I moved here 12 years ago and is always there to help—words can't express this friendship. And to the management team—Tim, Donna, and Mike—I've enjoyed working alongside all of you; we are a great team that cares about the members of Clark Electric.



"Performing hotline demonstrations for area schools and our local first responders was a fun but an important job in teaching electrical safety for the cooperative," said John Knox (left), shown here at a hotline demo with Kevin Sterland.

As you read this I will be on my last days here at Clark Electric Cooperative, remembering what I have learned here and preparing to apply that knowledge on my next cooperative journey. ■

Take Charge of Your Electric Consumption

With Kill-A-Watt

Take charge of your electric use with a Kill-A-Watt Electricity consumption monitor. It's a unit that you plug directly into the wall, and then you plug your 120-volt appliance into it. The monitor will help show you which appliances and equipment are consuming more power and draining more dollars. You can calculate your electric expenses by the day, week, month, or year. Start making decisions about your lifestyle and save on your energy bill.

Clark Electric Cooperative has some of these units in stock that you can purchase for \$32. This is a great way to see where you can save! ■





Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Federated Youth Scholarship

Scholarship Applications are to be in the cooperative office by 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 26, 2010



Scholarship are available to graduating seniors at schools listed on the applications.

Applications are available at your school guidance office or online at www.cecoop.com.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Clark Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, sex, and familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (Toll Free), (202) 260-1026 (Voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Correction

SAFETY FIRST

Grant & Loan Program for Farmers

- A loan/grant combination is available up to \$20,000, **it should read \$25,000.**
- Grants are available for 20 percent or up to \$4,000 **it should read \$5,000** from the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association.
- Loans are available for 80 percent or up to \$16,000 **it should read \$20,000** from your electric cooperative.
- Take up to 5 years to repay.
- 5 percent interest applies.


Truck Out for Bid

Clark Electric is currently taking bids on a 2001 Chevy Extended Cab, 3/4 ton 4X4 pick-up with a 6 liter V-8 engine, air conditioning, cruise control, tilt steering wheel, 203,000 miles. This truck is being sold as is with no warranty implied. All bids must be in the office no later than Wednesday, February 24, 2010, by 5 p.m. Bids must be in a sealed envelope marked "2001 Chevy pick-up bid. Attention: Mike Ruff." ■



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 jknnox@cecoop.com

WWW.CECOOP.COM