



It's Annual Meeting Time

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

*Tim Stewart,
CEO / General Manager*

Boy, it sure seemed that 2010 just zipped by, and here we are already in the new year with annual meeting just around the corner. Wednesday, April 13, 2011, is the date set for our 74th annual meeting, to be held at the American Legion Hall in Loyal, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Early bird prizes will be drawn at that time and winners announced following adjournment. There will be door prizes for members in attendance and a great lunch served around noon.

The annual meeting is an important event for the cooperative. Members will hear reports about the cooperative and the electric industry, review financials, and elect their representatives to serve on the board of directors. We are fortunate to have Mr. Brian Rude, vice president – external and member relations, from Dairyland Power Cooperative as our guest speaker.

The members will be asked to elect two directors for three-year terms each. Director terms expiring this year are those held by Jeremy Baxter from the Town of Holway area and Wilmer Griepentrog from the Town of Sherman area. All incumbents are eligible for re-election. Nominations are taken from the floor of the meeting. The

cooperative's bylaws establish the minimum qualifications for being a director. A copy of the bylaws are available on the cooperative's web site at www.cecoop.com or by contacting the business office at 715-267-6188.

Directors are expected to attend monthly board meetings; represent the cooperative in state, regional, and national affairs; and take advantage of NRECA educational opportunities such as classes, seminars, and workshops. Directors need to read, study, and analyze a lot of information throughout the month to keep informed on the electric industry as a whole.

In addition to the Clark Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting, members also have the opportunity to participate in the Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting held June 8, 2011. The cooperative is seeking 11 delegates and four alternates to represent Clark Electric Cooperative at the DPC meeting. If you would like to represent Clark Electric Cooperative at this meeting, please contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, by Friday, April 1, 2011.

So come, enjoy a nice meal, register for door prizes, and help conduct the business of your electric utility. Member involvement is critically important to the success of your cooperative. I hope to see you April 13, 2011, at the Legion Hall in Loyal. ■

CLARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE-FEDERATED YOUTH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS ARE DUE SOON

Scholarships Available for Graduating Seniors

Applications must be at the cooperative office by March 4, 2011.

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

These scholarships are financed through the Federated Youth Foundation Scholarship Program, which is funded from unclaimed capital credits. Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) is a non-profit charitable foundation serving cooperatives across Wisconsin.

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 13

If you are on our Time-of-Day Rate you probably have a time clock controlling devices. Remember to switch the time clock on these devices forward one hour for Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, March 13, 2011. It is important to reset your clocks to avoid using electricity during peak times, resulting in a higher-than-normal electric bill.

Clark Electric Cooperative's Time-of-Day Rate can save you money on your electric bill; however, you must be willing and able to shift your electric usage around so that you can utilize the lower cost of electricity.

For more information on incentive rates such as Time-of-Day or special heating rates, contact the cooperative office or visit our website at www.cecoop.com. ■



Move your clock forward one hour on March 13, 2011



Employees Recognized for Years of Service

Clark Electric Cooperative and Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite, Inc. recently recognized Dan Sturz, Pat Susa, Ryan Nielsen, Matt Wiese, and Michelle Walde for their years of service. Congratulations for reaching these employment milestones, and thank you for your dedicated service.

Pictured back row, left to right: Dan Sturz, 25 years of service; Pat Susa, 5; Ryan Nielsen, 10. Front row, left to right: Matt Wiese, 5 years of service; and Michelle Walde, 15.

**Wednesday,
June 8, 2011**

**Dairyland Power
Cooperative
Annual Meeting**

**11 Delegates and
4 Alternates needed**



Representing your cooperative and your fellow members at various meetings is an opportunity that we ask our members to participate in every year.

The Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 8, 2011, in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

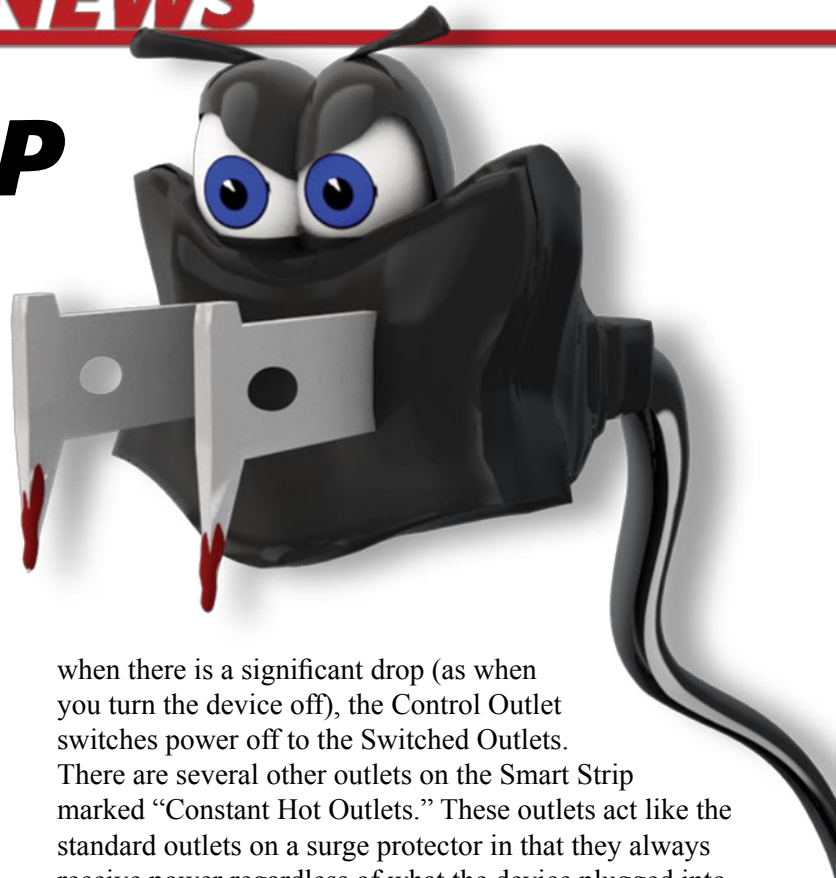
By attending this meeting and serving as a delegate for your cooperative, you help keep Clark Electric Cooperative strong and prosperous.

If you would like to represent Clark Electric Cooperative at the Dairyland annual meeting, please contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, by Friday, April 1, 2011.

Tracy can be reached by calling the cooperative office at 715-267-6188 or at 800-272-6188.

POWERED UP

Outsmarting the Vampire



Have you ever gone to unplug an AC adapter from a wall outlet or surge protector and noticed it was warm to the touch? That heat is energy and it's costing you money, even when the electronic device that's plugged into it is turned off. Devices that draw power even when they are off are said to be using "standby power." Many have dubbed them "vampires" because the plugs look like two fangs that suck electricity at night while you sleep.

The Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) (<http://standby.lbl.gov/>) estimates that a typical American home has 40 products constantly drawing power.

Although various agencies have reported energy losses from these devices, most agree that together, vampire devices amount to at least 10 percent of residential electricity use.

So what can you do to stop the vampires? Aside from garlic and a wooden stake (which don't work on this particular variety), you could always unplug the devices each time you're finished using them. However, that could be problematic because it requires a significant change in

behavior. Also, your outlets might be located in awkward places that are not easy to reach. In addition, unplugging and re-plugging devices can lead to frayed wires, causing a fire hazard.

Enter the Smart Strip! Here is a product that stops the vampires without changing the way you use your devices. It does, however, require a little bit of knowledge and planning.

A Smart Strip is basically a surge protector with some added functionality. Most are color-coded and labeled to avoid confusion. One outlet on the strip will be marked as the "Control Outlet." The Control Outlet is wired to the outlets marked "Switched Outlets." A sensor monitors the flow of electricity to the Control Outlet and

when there is a significant drop (as when you turn the device off), the Control Outlet switches power off to the Switched Outlets. There are several other outlets on the Smart Strip marked "Constant Hot Outlets." These outlets act like the standard outlets on a surge protector in that they always receive power regardless of what the device plugged into the Control Outlet is doing. Let's look at a real-world example of this:

On your desk you have a computer, a computer monitor, some speakers, a printer, and maybe some other devices. In this example, let's add a cell phone charger and a scanner.

For a setup like our example, you would plug your computer into the Control Outlet. Then, you would plug the monitor, speakers, printer, and scanner into the Switched Outlets.

Now, every time you turn your computer off, the Smart Strip stops sending power to those devices you only use when the computer is on. You don't choose to plug the cell phone charger into the switched outlet because you sometimes charge your cell phone even when your computer is off.

Smart Strips are especially effective when used in places where multiple devices are plugged in. Generally, changing to a Smart Strip is only a matter of unplugging the devices from your existing surge protector and then re-plugging into the Smart Strip. Then you can sleep in peace, knowing that your home is safe from vampires—at least the electric kind.—*Written and compiled by Ed Van-Hoose from the Association of Illinois Electric Co-ops* ■

Most agree that together, vampire devices amount to at least 10 percent of residential electricity use.



Go to www.cecoop.com for more information on available incentives, how to qualify, and the incentive forms.

- Appliances
- Appliance Recycling
- Central Air Conditioners
- Heating Units
- Water Heaters
- Motors, Fans & Other Agriculture Equipment
- Commercial Equipment
- Lighting

Check out the Focus on Energy web site at www.focusonenergy.com for even more incentives.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Check your HVAC system's air filter monthly. If it looks dirty, change it. A dirty filter makes your system work harder.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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