



'OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME'

CLARK ELECTRIC STUDENT LOOKS BACK ON HIS YEAR AS A YOUTH BOARD MEMBER

**Clark Electric Cooperative**Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

One of Clark Electric Cooperative's youth programs is the Youth Leadership Conference held at UW-Stout every summer. The goal of this event is to teach leadership skills and educate participants on the roles, principles, types, and benefits of the cooperative business model. One of the highlights of this conference is for participants to have a chance to compete for a seat on the Youth Leadership Board, which then allows for a trip to Washington, D.C., as part of NRECA's Youth Tour to learn more about our federal government. Jonah Vircks (pictured at right) was selected to the Youth Board (2023–2024) and attended the trip to Washington, D.C. Mr. Vircks' article about his experience with the program is highlighted below.



The Importance of Youth Experience Within Co-ops

Hello, my name is Jonah Vircks. I am a current junior at Loyal High School, and I have been fortunate enough to participate in local, statewide, and national cooperative youth programs. I learned about an opportunity to participate in the WECA Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) at UW-Stout from my school guidance counselor, an event where I would represent none other than Clark Electric Cooperative. I thought the trip would be a one-time learning experience, but I wasn't prepared for everything YLC led to. We had some full group meetings where I learned what the conference was all about: co-ops. I didn't know what a co-op was before, but I was moved after a quick read-through of the co-ops 101 manual. The way that a co-op conducts business appealed to me, the seven co-op principles were common sense practices I could see followed, and the impact a co-op had on the community at large was simply moving.

Throughout these programs, I have learned leadership skills, met hundreds of my peers, and have had the opportunities of a lifetime. I was thrust into the world of co-ops and how they help our communities. All of the opportunities I was shown in the vast cooperative world inspired me to run for the Youth Board, the planners and leaders of the next year's YLC. One of the former Wisconsin National Youth Board representatives inspired me to give a speech, convincing the other 50 or more people at YLC to elect me to the Youth Board. I was elected to be the alternate on the Youth Board, but the duties of every board member were the same. We had monthly Instagram posts relating to co-op topics, were responsible for answering questions about co-ops, and had a general duty to represent our sponsoring co-ops (mine being Clark Electric).

Over the year I was elected, I completed my tasks as needed, mostly. I was content with finishing my year out and closing the chapter that I thought my co-op life was until those two fateful emails came in. One email described how a group

of local Wisconsinites was headed to D.C. and the other was about becoming the next Wisconsin representative for the National Youth Leadership Board. The opportunities described in the email about the National Youth Leadership Board changed my attitude about what co-op life looked like for me, so I applied for the position.

Over the next few months, I continued to learn about co-ops, post on the Youth Board's Instagram, and even volunteer for the Clark Electric Member Appreciation Breakfast through my FBLA chapter. I continued posting, learning, and getting involved in leadership throughout high school as a sophomore, all while maintaining my commitment to the Youth Board. Our Wisconsin group at Washington, D.C., consisted of 23 high school students from every corner of the state. I ended the week with lots of new friends, a profound sense of community, a renewed love for my country, and a deeper understanding of the ins and outs of co-ops.

I reached out about the National Youth Board position I had applied for a few months previous, awaiting a return anxiously. I received an email the next day letting me know I got the opportunity to represent the Wisconsin cooperatives as the National Youth Board Representative at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting.

Without the exposure to a conference like YLC, I might not have known what other awesome opportunities were out there for students like me. Without educating youth like me on the importance and benefits co-ops have to offer, how can we ensure that co-ops continue to thrive?

Please keep supporting youth co-op programs because they change lives and benefit our communities. Thank you so much for your continued support of me, and others like me. Your generosity does not go unnoticed and truly makes a difference in the lives of youth.

SUNSHINE AND SMILES AT THE MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

A beautiful Saturday morning began with members of Clark Electric Cooperative and River Country Co-op gathered at the Clark Electric headquarters for the Annual Member Appreciation Day Pancake Breakfast/Kick Off to Co-op Month event. The breakfast included pancakes, eggs, sausage, fresh cheese curds, milk, and coffee. Approximately 800 members were served breakfast, which was just the beginning of the many activities that were available for members of all ages. The kids enjoyed inflatables, pumpkin crafts, and picture frame crafting (including their own pictures to put in it).

Marshfield Medical Center – Neillsville and Clark County Health Department participated with child safety information, including door prizes for the kids. They also provided health-screening information for the adults.

Greenwood EMS and Fire Department were on hand with their

equipment on display and performed free blood-pressure checks. The Clark County Sheriff's Department was present to do a "Drug Take Back" event, which was very successful.

A Food Drive for the local food pantry was included in the events and provided a great way to demonstrate the 7th Cooperative Principle, Concern for Community.

Students from the Loyal school district volunteered to assist with the kids' activities. PowerPac from Marshfield provided a side-by-side to assist members to and from their vehicles if needed.

CEO Tim Stewart and several directors were on hand to answer questions about the all-electric vehicle and visit with members as they enjoyed the morning.

Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite was there with information on products offered through their department.

Congratulations to the door prize winners!



Kids 12 and under were asked to guess the weight of a huge pumpkin. The actual weight was 110 pounds. Alyssa Martin from Greenwood, who guessed the weight for the second year in a row, and Nelson Shirk from Withee each received a gift card as winners of the kid's door prize for having the closest guess.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's event, and we hope to see you again next year!



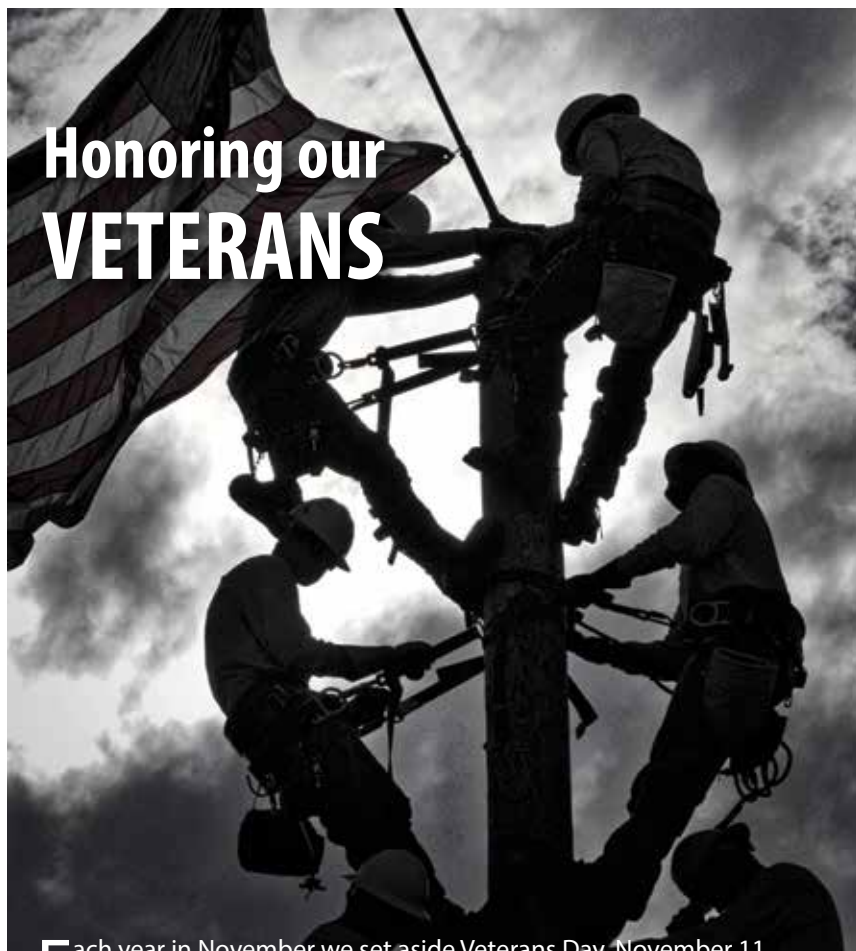
Above: CEC Directors Charles Lindner (left) and Herman Seebandt (right) as well as Pat Susa prepare scrambled eggs. Right: Members check out CEC's electric vehicle.



There was plenty for the youngest members to do at Member Appreciation breakfast, including a pumpkin-decorating activity (left), presided over by CEC youth representatives Jonah Vircks (back row left) and Jarrett Rueth (back row, right).



Honoring our VETERANS



Each year in November we set aside Veterans Day, November 11, to honor all the men and women who have served our country in uniform. We are especially thankful for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us in this great country of ours.

We are proud to serve veterans and their families within our local community. In addition to providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy, we care for the veteran community and show our appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to them and their families.

We also partner with local charitable and business organizations in our service territory that support veterans and their families, such as the Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville. The memorial was built as a tribute to fallen veterans and as an honor to the surviving military personnel.

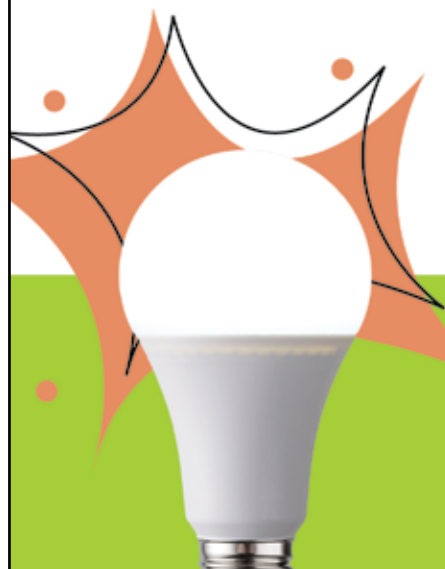
We are not alone in our efforts to honor and serve veterans. Clark Electric is part of a network of more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country that support and honor our nation's veterans. As part of our national association of electric cooperatives, spanning 48 states and serving 13% of U.S. consumers, there are countless programs that our family of electric co-ops has initiated.

Clark Electric is proud to be a part of the electric cooperative network that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks, and branches of the military. Please join us in taking a moment to show your appreciation to a veteran—not just this month, but every month.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs, and gaming consoles.



LOAD MANAGEMENT TEST SET FOR NOVEMBER 20

The Load Management 2024 Winter Preparedness Event for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) accounts is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, beginning at 6:55 a.m. This load control test is performed in advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence and to ensure that backup heating systems have been validated for proper function. An approximate timeline for the event will be:

Time	Event Status
Evening prior to event	Event notifications issued to Everbridge and Messenger contacts
6:55 a.m.	Event start time – loads will begin to be interrupted
7:00 a.m.	All loads will be interrupted (2,2W,4B)
10:00 a.m.	Class 2, 2W, and 4B will begin diversified restoral
10:30 a.m.	Class 4B loads will be fully restored
11:00 a.m.	Class 2 and 2W loads will be fully restored

If you experience any problems during this test, or if you have questions, please contact Clark Electric Cooperative at 715-267-6188 or 1-800-272-6188.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 3

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 back one hour as Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 3. It is important that your time clocks are reset 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, contact our office or visit our website at www.ccecoop.com.

Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

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Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.