

# COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

## Thank You For Your Help

Commitment to community comes in many different forms. At the June board meeting the Greenwood Fire and Ambulance Association stopped by to present a plaque to the cooperative to show its appreciation and say thank you for the co-op's help over the years.

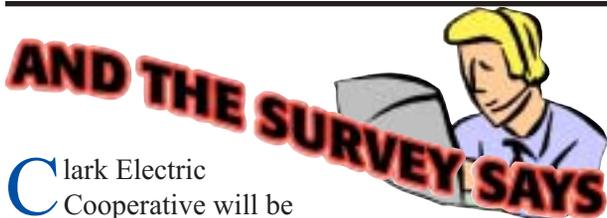
The cooperative has let employees volunteer as firefighters and EMTs to assist their neighbors. The community (all communities) has the need for volunteers of all kinds to do the many things that the local area requires. Clark Electric Cooperative employees help our community in many different ways: Dairy Days, the Dairy Breakfast, the school system, Scouts, and church activities, just to name a few.

Do you give back to your community? Do you have a talent? We are sure your community could use you in some form or another. We know your fire department or EMTs could use a few new recruits.



Clark Electric Board President Tony Jarocki receives a plaque from Chet Turnquist, president of the Greenwood Fire and Ambulance Association.

As we get ready to celebrate our independence this July 4, remember what got us here: a commitment to freedom for all. Clark Electric Cooperative is committed to its communities. Have a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July. ■



Clark Electric Cooperative will be conducting a telephone survey of our members in the next few weeks. This survey is very important to the cooperative and the members we serve. The survey should only take 10 minutes. Clark Electric never sells or gives out member information to any company or persons. If you have any questions, please give the office a call. ■

An advertisement with a background of an American flag. The text reads: "Clark Electric Cooperative and Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc. Will be Closed Monday, July 5, 2004 In observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July". At the bottom right is the logo for "Your Touchstone Energy Partner" with a stylized sun and star icon.

# MEMBERS IN ACTION

## Learning Important Facts About Clark Electric

Clark Electric Cooperative is your cooperative—that is what we tell our members. Each year we host an informational meeting for a small group of members at the cooperative office. Those who attend this meeting also participate in the tour of Dairyland Power Cooperative headquarters and one of Dairyland's power generating stations.

Do you know the history behind Clark Electric and the important role it played in bringing electricity to our rural area? Are you familiar with all the other organizations (cooperatives) that Clark Electric belongs to? Each of these is very important to your cooperative and serves different purposes: making sure laws that could affect your business are cooperative-friendly; protecting your assets through insurance; purchasing the materials needed to build, fix, and maintain the electric distribution system.

Members also hear an explanation of the cooperative's financial status. We look at how rates, capital credits, and the operations all play into the cooperative's bottom line. One of the most important things members learn at this meeting is what their directors do for them. Directors put in many hours each month making sure they understand what is best for the cooperative. Director qualifications and responsibilities are explained during the presentation.

To further enhance their cooperative experience, members are



*Director of Member Services John Knox explains various parts of the cooperative and how the cooperative operates at the member meeting.*

invited to tour Dairyland; approximately 50 people attended this year's tour. A Burnett Motor Coach picks up the members in various locations on its trip to La Crosse. Members who participate in the tour learn about Dairyland and its importance to Clark Electric Cooperative. Dairyland is a cooperative, of which Clark Electric is a member-owner, along with 24 other electric cooperatives. On the tour, Dairyland personnel explain the transmission system and the operations center in detail, leaving members with opportunities to ask questions. The printing and mail operation is another area of interest; members learn how the bills are sent to Dairyland, printed, and mailed out in a very cost-effective way. And finally, members tour one of Dairyland's power stations. This year, participants toured the Alma generating site and learned how electricity is generated and transmitted to members.

At the next annual meeting we hope you will sign up for this opportunity to learn about your cooperative. ■



*Members listen to Dairyland Power Cooperative employees explain how the transmission system, which delivers power to the cooperative and its distribution systems, works. Members visit Dairyland and one of Dairyland's power stations on our yearly tour.*

# FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

## Employees Training for the Unexpected

Safety is one of the most important aspects of a lineman's job. Working around electricity, as a lineman, was once considered one of the most dangerous occupations. That has changed, and while working around electricity is still dangerous, safety improvements in work habits and equipment have made a big difference.

The employees at Clark Electric Cooperative make safety a high priority through monthly safety meetings, daily safety checks of equipment, and routine maintenance and testing of important equipment.

A lineman's job requires working in the bucket trucks to fix or maintain the electric lines. The basket gets pretty high off the ground—30-plus feet. Most trucks are equipped with emergency controls that let someone on the ground operate the basket and bring it to the ground. If you know Murphy's Law, you know things usually break down, so linemen practice getting out of the bucket and performing a self-rescue by rappelling down a rope from the basket.

Clark Electric's safety meetings are not just for line personnel; all the employees attend one portion or another, depending on the subject. It might be a first-aid refresher, or it could be a wellness program on how to protect your back. These safety meetings are very important; it's always good to refresh your memory on safety topics to remember an important skill so you will be able to recall it.

All this safety training also results in fewer accidents and better

insurance rates. Every three years the cooperative goes through a very rigorous safety accreditation process.

This process involves a lot of paperwork and teamwork by all employees. This year Clark Electric Cooperative once again passed. We not only passed, but we scored the highest we ever have, with 96 out of 100 points. Accreditation is an important award and a well-deserved one. Congratulations to all the Clark Electric Cooperative employees on a job well done. ■

**Right:** Journeyman Lineman Warren Luedtke trains to get out of a bucket by rappelling down it. This maneuver is only used in an emergency when there is a total bucket failure.

**Below:** Clark Electric linemen gather around Doug Lewis, safety coordinator from Dairyland Power, to discuss self-rescue techniques and rescue of co-workers.



# SAFE WATER

## It's Yours By WATER-RIGHT

Safe, clean water is always a concern of those members with well water. Even those who have municipal water may wonder what has been put in or taken out of it. Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc., now has the answer for your concerns.

We are selling, servicing, and installing Water-Right water-conditioning equipment. Our employees have been trained to analyze your water sample and make recommendations for your situation. We chose Water-Right because it is a Wisconsin-based company with a proven track record, and the company stands behind its product, just like Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc.

The first step is to bring in a water sample so your water can be properly analyzed to determine your needs. Next, decide what you want to do. Do you want the entire water system to be conditioned or just a single point source, such as the kitchen sink? There are two types of systems. The Sanitizer System, which conditions a house's entire water system, is the only multi-purpose water treatment system that effectively removes hardness, iron, and manganese. It also raises the pH level, reduces unpleasant tastes and odors, and disinfects itself automatically during regeneration. This system will provide clean water to all faucets, so water is safe for drinking, cooking, bathing, and washing.

The other type of system is the Reverse Osmosis System. During the reverse osmosis treatment, water is filtered four times before it ever reaches your glass. The four-stage system utilizes a dual sediment pre-filter, which removes dirt, sediment, and other particles that can cause cloudy, unappealing water. This method also removes chlorine and other elements that cause bad-tasting water.

The Water-Right water-conditioning system is just another one of the quality-of-life products that Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc., provides to our members and other customers. Stop in with your water sample today. ■



*Water-Right offers various models to provide the solution you need for safe, clean drinking water. Contact Clark Appliance & Satellite, Inc., for more information on Water-Right products.*



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