



# TORNADOS AND STRONG WINDS CAUSE WIDESPREAD OUTAGES DECEMBER 15, 2021



**Clark Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



**Tim Stewart,  
CEO/Manager**

The extreme storm events of December 2021 may have passed but they're still very much fresh in my memory. I first and foremost want to express my sincere appreciation to our members for being extremely patient and understanding in the face of a storm the like I have not experienced in my 36 years in rural electrification. The numerous notes of encouragement, expression of gratitude and appreciation received from many of our members truly did touch us all here at

Clark Electric Cooperative. Thank you!

A rare December weather event occurred on the 15th of December with eight tornadoes occurring in the west-central part of Wisconsin. The storm produced three EF-2 tornadoes, three EF-1 tornadoes, and two EF-0 tornadoes along with widespread and persistent high winds of around 60 mph. Two EF-2s touched down near Neillsville and one hit northern Clark County near Stanley. Although not unheard of, tornadoes are rare in Wisconsin in December. These were the first to occur in Wisconsin in December since the 1970s. According to the Enhanced Fujita Scale tornadoes are scaled by wind speed.

EF – 0	65-85 MPH
EF – 1	86-110 MPH
EF – 2	111 – 135 MPH
EF – 3	136-165 MPH
EF – 4	166-200 MPH
EF – 5	200+ MPH

**The Response** The first outage was reported at 9:11 p.m., and by mid-night of December 15 approximately 3,450 meters were without power. As the tornadoes and high winds continued throughout our six-county service area, extensive damage and widespread outages continued to build. In addition to the distribution network, we

Continued on following page





also experienced several transmission outages. (Transmission is what feeds our distribution substations). All totaled, approximately 7,000 meters were affected throughout the storm, with all power being restored by late Saturday night.

### Restoration of Power in an Emergency (ROPE) Initiated

Restoration of Power in an Emergency is a unique program of cooperatives helping cooperatives. When a major storm rolls through a cooperative's service territory and causes extensive damage to the distribution system, the cooperative can request mutual aid and activate the ROPE program. Needed personnel and equipment from unaffected cooperatives travel to the affected area to help restore power to members. Clark Electric Cooperative has sent crews to a number of other cooperatives in recent

years such as Central Wisconsin Electric, Oconto Electric, Eau Claire Energy, Clay Electric in Florida, Bayfield Electric, Barron Electric, Jump River Electric, and Washington St. Tammany in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

This time, it was our turn. The tornados and winds that came through our system in mid-December necessitated the need for Clark Electric Cooperative to put out a mutual aid request to other cooperatives and initiate the ROPE protocols. Crews from four electric cooperatives located in Wisconsin—Polk Burnett Electric Cooperative in Centuria, Barron Electric Cooperative in Barron, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative in Eau Claire, and Taylor Electric Cooperative in Medford—responded to our request. Zielies Tree Service also responded to help in tree and road clearing. Together with our crews, we were able to restore

power to all members in approximately three days.

I am truly grateful to all of our personnel, along with the ROPE crews, who were able to get power back on as quickly and safely as they did. Local newspaper headlines talk of devastation and havoc caused by the storms. As you browse some of the storm pictures, I think you can see the herculean task of getting the lights back on. Again, thank you for your patience.

**Damage** Damage was extensive throughout our service area with approximately 80% of our membership being affected at one point or another. We had over 157 outages, 52 broken poles, and numerous trees and downed lines. As of this writing we are expecting approximately \$200,000–\$225,000 in damage to the system.

## EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE



Clark Electric Cooperative recently recognized six employees for their years of service. Pictured left to right: Jeff Block, 35 years; Konner Kitzhaber, 5 years; Jared Jensen, 5 years; Kent Weigel, 15 years; Amber Reddy, 25 years; and Tracy Nelson, 35 years. Congratulations for reaching these employment milestones, and thank you for your dedicated service.

**Reminder to High School Seniors**



Scholarship applications must be received in our office by **Monday, March 7, 2022**

Applications are available at your school's guidance counselor's office or online at [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com)



# ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JUNE 15, 2022

Clark Electric Cooperative’s Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2022 at the Loyal Legion, 302 N. Union St., Loyal, Wisconsin, starting at 9:30 a.m.

The Annual Meeting is an important event for the cooperative. Members will hear reports about the cooperative and the electric industry, review financials, conduct business, and elect their representatives to serve on the board of directors.

As you may recall, last year the cooperative members approved a number of bylaw amendments including amendments that addressed the governance process. The new process is summarized below and is not intended to replace the detail found in the bylaws.

## Nominations by Petition

- Effective with the 2022 annual meeting of the members, candidates for director shall be nominated exclusively by petition. For a candidate to be validly nominated, the petition shall contain the signatures of no less than ten (10) members. The signature of either or both members holding a joint membership shall constitute the signature of one (1) member. To be valid, a petition must be received by the cooperative not less than 60 days prior to the annual meeting (in 2022 that date is April 16, 2022).

## Voting in person or by absentee ballot

- If there is only one (1) nominee for a seat, election may be by unanimous consent or by voice vote or similar process at the annual meeting, without the need to cast written ballots. Where there is more than one (1) nominee, the election will be by ballot. Members may vote in person or by absentee signed ballot. Absentee ballots shall be provided to all members. To be counted, absentee ballots must be received by the cooperative or designee not later than noon on the last business day preceding the day of the annual meeting.

## Director Districts

- Director district boundaries are intended to balance the number of members in the respective districts while endeavoring not to split towns, villages, or cities between districts. See map of director districts at right.
- The cooperative has seven (7) directors, two of which serve from each district and one (1) serving in an at-large position.

This year members will be asked to elect two directors for a three-year term: one position from District 2 and one from District 3. These seats are currently held by Chuck Lindner, town of Eaton (District 2), and Allen Jicinsky, town of Spencer

(District 3). These directors are eligible for re-election.

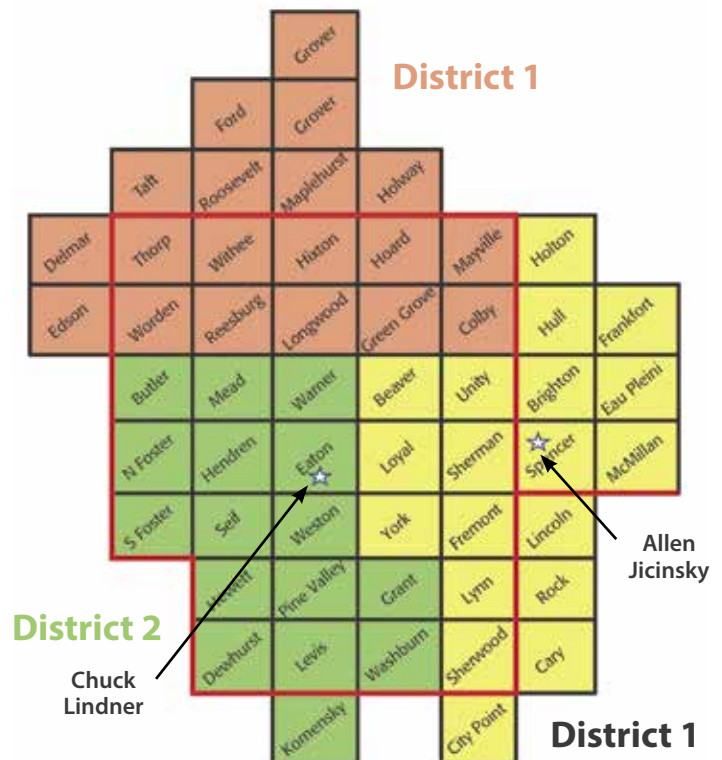
Any advisory resolutions must be received by the cooperative at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting

The cooperative’s bylaws establish the minimum qualifications for being a director as well as broader detail on the election process. A copy of the bylaws is available on the cooperative’s website at [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com) or by contacting the business office at 715-267-6188. If you have any additional questions about becoming a director, please contact Tim Stewart, CEO/GM, at the business office.

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. Directors will spend approximately 20 to 35 days a year in performance of their duties.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the annual meeting, enjoy a nice chicken dinner, register for door prizes, and help conduct the business of your electric utility. Member involvement is critically important to the success of your cooperative.

Watch for more information regarding this important event.



# CONGRATULATIONS, WARREN, ON YOUR RETIREMENT



**C**ongratulations to Warren Luedtke on his retirement from Clark Electric after 32 years with the cooperative.

Warren began his career at Clark Electric Cooperative on May 18, 1990, as an apprentice lineman. He achieved his journeyman lineman status in April of 1993. Early in his career he spent most of his time working on installing new services and doing service upgrades, system improvements, and system line rebuilds.

After many years working on the line crew, he was promoted to construction foreman. As foreman he was typically in charge of overseeing large system line rebuild projects. Warren worked and fulfilled his position as foreman for approximately 15 years. In most recent years he worked in the power quality department, where he worked with cooperative members, system engineers, and distribution equipment manufacturers to install and maintain system equipment as well as troubleshoot power quality-related issues.

Beyond his normal duties, Warren volunteered five times to assist other cooperatives that called for assistance through the R.O.P.E. program (Restoration of Power in an Emergency). Warren demonstrated his dedication to his job in many ways. He was always willing to do whatever was asked of him, and he made himself available for after-hours calls as much as possible. Warren was a self-motivated employee who would simply take care of things that needed to be done.

There have been many changes in Warren's time with the cooperative. Everything from equipment to technology and anything in between, Warren's knowledge of the system and hard work over the past 32 years will truly be missed. We wish him well in his retirement.

A crew from the early years. Back row, l-r: Jim Rust, Dick Braun, Arnie Kappus. Front row, l-r: Rick Suda, Warren Luedtke.



## WELCOME, LINDSEY

**W**e would like to welcome our newest Clark Electric employee, Lindsey Naedler. Lindsey graduated from Granton High School. She worked in the retail, quality control, environmental services, and medical field before joining us as a member services representative. Lindsey will assist our members with their billing questions, account changes, and other administrative duties as needed.



We are happy to welcome Lindsey to the Clark Electric Cooperative family and wish her well in her future career with us.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

**Sunday, March 13**

Remember to turn your clocks back Saturday, March 12 before you go to bed.



**Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager**

1209 West Dall-Berg Road, P.O. Box 190, Greenwood, WI 54437  
email us at [info@cecoop.com](mailto:info@cecoop.com) or [tnelson01@cecoop.com](mailto:tnelson01@cecoop.com)  
[www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com)



**Clark Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner