



RICK SUDA RETIRES AFTER 38 YEARS WITH CLARK ELECTRIC

Congratulations to Rick Suda on his retirement from Clark Electric after 38 years with the cooperative.

Rick began his career at Clark Electric Cooperative on May 18, 1981, as an apprentice lineman. He achieved his journeyman lineman status in 1987. After many years on the line crew, he was promoted to assistant line superintendent and then later to line superintendent.

Throughout his career Rick worked on construction and performed maintenance on distribution lines in his everyday duties as a lineman. He was also involved in performing safety demonstrations that the cooperative presented at area elementary schools, helping to promote safety awareness to the students and community organizations. Beyond his normal duties, Rick volunteered four times to help other cooperatives that called for assistance through the Restoration of Power in an Emergency (ROPE) program.

Rick began working with the members on new services, service upgrades, and line engineering when he became the as-



sistant line superintendent. He was most often the first contact with the member. His dedication to the members was evident in the many positive comments received from members.

Rick's retirement will leave a space in the cooperative family that will be noticed for a long time to come. He plans to spend time with his family and enjoy his hobbies in his retirement.

We wish Rick a happy and long 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.

INCENTIVES FOR 2020

Each year Clark Electric Cooperative issues thousands of dollars to our members for the purchase of energy efficient products and services. Go to our website at www.cecoop.com, Billing and Rate Information Tab, Rebates/Incentives.

When you make a purchase, promptly submit the rebate form and supporting documents to become eligible to receive your rebate.

Incentives Include:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Energy Star Appliances | Air Source Heat Pumps |
| Appliance Recycling | Agricultural |
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Submit your rebate form and documentation not later than three months after the date of purchase. Visit our website for rebate forms or call the office at 1-800-272-6188 for more information. Also, don't forget to check out the Focus on Energy website for even more savings.



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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Clark Electric Cooperative is once again offering a scholarship opportunity to graduating students from participating high schools in our service area. One \$750 scholarship will be available for a student from each school or group of schools in our service area.



To be considered for the scholarship, the student's parent or legal guardian must be a member of Clark Electric Cooperative and currently receive electric service from Clark Electric Cooperative.

The Clark Electric Cooperative scholarship program began in 1995, and since its inception we have provided more than \$230,000 in scholarships to area students. An independent scholarship committee judges the applicants based upon merit.

Giving back to the community is one of the cooperative principals; furthering the education of our area youth is another. Clark Electric is proud to help these fine young people meet their educational goals.

Applications are available from your high school counselor, online at www.cecoop.com, and at our office located at 1209 W Dall-Berg Rd., Greenwood.

All applications must be returned to the cooperative office by 5 p.m. Monday, March 2, 2020

Schools Eligible for Scholarship Consideration

Abbotsford High School, Colby High School, Granton High School, Greenwood High School, Loyal High School, Neillsville High School, Owen-Withee High School, Spencer High School, Thorp High School, Stanley High School.

One Scholarship Between These Grouped Schools:

Group 1

Stratford High School, Columbus High School, Osseo-Fairchild High School, Abbotsford Christian Academy.

Group 2

Marshfield Senior High School, Medford High School, Gilman High School, Pittsville High School, Home School Student

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, at 715-267-7958 or 1-800-272-6188.

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.



EMPLOYEE CHANGES

Kent Weigel (left) has recently been promoted to line superintendent. Kent was hired in May 2006 as a lineman. He was promoted to assistant line superintendent in August 2018 and most recently was promoted to line superintendent.

Josh Burns (right) was recently promoted to assistant line superintendent. He was previously a journeyman lineman for the past 18 years with the cooperative.

We wish them both well in their new positions.

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CLEARING THE WAY FOR SAFETY

Clark Electric's Vegetation Management Program

Have you ever noticed bucket trucks or machines clearing brush by the power lines? They do the important job of helping keep the lights on long before a storm rolls in. In the battle against power outages, Vegetation Management is the Clark Electric Cooperative's most effective weapon.

We often receive questions about how the co-op handles the removal of brush. Below we've provided answers to the most asked questions, in an effort to explain CEC's Vegetation Management program.

What is a Vegetation Management Program? Our Vegetation Management Program is the process we use to clear trees/vegetation using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers, and mowers to keep our rights-of-way clear.

What are rights-of-way? A right-of-way is a corridor or pathway of land that CEC's electric lines follow. These rights-of-way provide CEC an operational safety zone between the wires and trees, buildings, or other objects. When they are kept clear they also provide safe access for line crews to maintain, repair, or improve the lines and poles. CEC uses a Vegetation Management Program to keep the rights-of-way clear of undesirable vegetation.

Why do we clear rights-of-way? We clear rights-of-way to maintain reliability and shorten the length of outages, and to provide for public safety and the safety of the workers who need to work on the utility lines.

Who does the clearing? Tree contractors that work on CEC's electric distribution system are qualified and insured to do this work.

What is the Hazard Tree Program? CEC has a Hazard Tree Program that identifies trees outside of the 30-foot right-of-way (15 feet on either side of the line) and removes them if they are deemed a threat to fall on power lines.

What is an Integrated Vegetation Management Program? Two years after cutting and trimming, a contractor will survey for possible selective herbicide application. Not all areas that are cut are appropriate for herbicide application. CEC uses herbicides to control the amount of brush that sprouts from hardwood species that were cut. Once a single stem has been cut, it may sprout into as many as 15 new stems that grow rapidly. The selective herbicide application targets these species.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Clark Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

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email us at info@cecoop.com or tnelson01@cecoop.com
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