



Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Annual Meeting Address

*As reported to the members at the
2001 Annual Meeting*

Good morning again!

Last year in my report I indicated we were considering an Automated Meter Reading System, where members would no longer read their own meters; the meter would send the reading directly to our computers. We are still analyzing cost, but it looks like we will begin this year with part of our system. Those members using Time of Day (T.O.D.) rates

where there is a double reading each month will probably be the first installed. Because of the large number of T.O.D. users (most of any electric cooperative in Wisconsin), we need to focus on those first, and another system for all other meters. We have more effort in the T.O.D. meter readings and adjustments each month, so it would make good sense to do those first. Following those, we will consider the costs associated with the rest of the system. Preliminary costs for dual system of AMR is between \$700,000 and \$900,000, or about \$100 per meter.

We are continuing talks with our central Wisconsin CENEX cooperative managers on a possible alliance in the propane business. Many cooperatives nationwide are agreeing to alliances to enhance both types of cooperative's revenue base. With the advent of the fuel cell, powered by LP gas, we stand to lose electric sales. With a combination of selling fuel cells and the LP gas, hopefully we will be able to retain our revenue levels. Fuel cells, as mentioned in Mr. Jarocki's report, will hopefully be available in late 2001 and will still be somewhat experimental and high priced. In the next few years as they are perfected and mass

produced, you will see them become very economical, of course depending on the price of L.P. gas.

Our Appliance and Satellite subsidiary continues to do very well. Satellite TV sales have begun to level off, but the programming is very popular, with a whole new world of entertainment, information, and education. We are also looking forward to increased sales of ground source heating systems. Heating fuels were again very high this past winter, but not electric-

sourced units. It was definitely a colder winter than we've had the past few winters, so electric bills were higher because of increased usage, not the rates.

I need to comment on the Commitment to Community surcharge on your electric billings. Again, this was mandated by the state legislature about two years ago to take effect last fall. The total charge is \$1.33 per month, of which we use \$0.67 for our load management systems to help move energy used to lower priced times. The other \$0.66 that appears on the bill goes to help supplement payment of electric bills to low-income members. Eligibility is established through the area Department of Social Services, and our credit is determined based on the

Wisconsin payment for energy/heating. So far we have applied about \$25,000 to low-income members to help them through the winter, a very worthy gesture to those less fortunate or in temporary hardship situations.

Our line crews continue to build and rebuild our electric system. Work with many area dairy farmers on stray voltage problems continues, and our new wiring inspection/loan program is catching on. There have



Dick Adler, General Manager / CEO of Clark Electric Cooperative addressing the members during his report on the cooperative.

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Annual Meeting Highlights

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been many inspections requested, but only one loan applied for so far. We encourage any farmer to use this service to determine the condition of their electric system. No one is forced to make any of the recommended changes unless a life-threatening situation may be found, and then I'm sure they would want that fixed as soon as possible. There is no charge for this service as it is provided to help



Bruce Staples, Vice President of Transmission of Dairyland Power Cooperative, talks about and answers questions concerning deregulation and the problems experienced in California.

supplement our stray voltage work to make sure everything is up to code on the farm side. A couple of other cooperatives have, or are developing, similar programs using ours as a model.

The board of directors will be studying various options of long-term financing for our system. It has been almost 20 years since we had long-term loan funds available, and with the declining interest rates, it looks like 2001 will be the year. We have been using short-term loans to carry us but these need to be transferred to long term. Whether we go with Rural Utilities Service (RUS), formerly REA, or with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp. (CFC) or a combination thereof remains to be seen. We have been trying to keep rates low so we don't have extra cash to continue building facilities and refund capital credits.

Dairyland Power Cooperative is working very hard to keep our lights on all the time, without the California-type blackouts. We have come very close in the past couple of years, but so far the system has performed. Bruce Staples from Dairyland Power Cooperative will be reporting later on their operations.

If anyone has any questions at this time I'll try to answer them. Otherwise we have a question box available, write it down and we'll answer it before adjournment.

64TH Annual Meeting

Members kept abreast of its cooperative activities



Members registering for some of the many prizes to be given away this day. Early bird winners received a complete satellite system from Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc.

More than 500 members and guests of the cooperative were on hand at the Loyal American Legion Hall on Tuesday, April 3, 2001, for the 64th Annual Meeting of the cooperative. Members were there early to be eligible for the early bird prize drawings. The members heard from President Anthony "Tony" Jarocki, who talked about the cooperative and what is happening. General Manager Dick Adler also addressed the members on the financial status of the cooperative, reminding all of those in attendance that "it's your cooperative."

Awards were given out to cooperative employees (see story next page), and all employees were introduced to the membership. A tremendous lunch was enjoyed by all. The winners were selected for the annual tour of the Dairyland Power Cooperative headquarters, to be held on June 13, 2001. And finally, the prize winners were announced and presented with their winnings. If you didn't make it to the annual meeting this year, plan on attending next year.

Employees receive recognition

75 years of service between them

Two employees of Clark Electric Cooperative were presented with special "years of service awards:" Donna Abel with 40 years and Harry Johnson with 35 years of service to Clark Electric Cooperative. Both employees have seen lots of changes over the years, Donna with changes in the way the office operates and Harry with changes in bringing power to the members.

Donna Abel, office manager for the cooperative, was presented with a beautiful desk lamp that has a working electric meter as its base. When Board President Tony Jarocki presented it to her, she was in shock and filled with tears of Joy.

Donna started working at the cooperative as an office clerk, doing such work as typing, filing, and helping wherever needed. She eventually worked her way to the position of bookkeeper. In 1985, she was promoted to her current position of office manager. Donna remembers how everything was done by hand, such as the keeping of the records. Now everything is done by the computer, which is a lot faster and enables the co-op to keep track of thousands of members quickly and efficiently. Donna enjoys having members come in to talk, and many members have praised how Donna helps them and works with them to take care of their electric accounts when times are tough.

Harry Johnson, who has also seen a lot of changes over the years, is well known by our members. Harry currently is our line superintendent, a position he has held since 1988. Harry started his career at Clark Electric as an apprentice lineman, working his way to a lineman. He eventually became the operations aide and then the assistant line superintendent. Harry's usually the first person you may meet at Clark Electric. He goes out and investigates for new hookups and changes that a member may need. Harry also sends the crews out on their daily assignments.

Harry Johnson is also well known for his community involvement. He is a member of the Clark County Men's Choir and the Greenwood Lions Club, for which he has held many offices. He's also quite a softball player and is very active in the men's softball association here in Greenwood.

Congratulations to both Donna and Harry for being such an important part of the cooperative



Donna Abel receives a meter lamp from Board President Tony Jarocki signifying her 40 years of service to Clark Electric Cooperative.



Tony Jarocki, president, presents a plaque to Harry Johnson for his years of service. Harry has been with the cooperative for 35 years.

The Clark Electric Scholarship



Benjamin Leiby

**Abbotsford
High School**

Son of
Sharon & Lester Leiby
UW-River Falls
Agri-business



Joseph Esselman

Colby High School

Son of
Deborah & Donald
Esselman
UW-Marshfield
Engineering



Jason Fredrickson

**Gilman
Area School**

Son of
Tamara & James Sayles
UW-River Falls
Accounting



Christopher Kastern

**Granton
High School**

Son of
Mary & William Kastern
UW-Stout
Construction



Hanna Ewoldt

**Greenwood
High School**

Daughter of
Nancy & Gary Ewoldt
Winona State University
Nursing



Daniel Bloom

**Loyal
High School**

Son of
Karen & David Bloom
UW-Madison
Bio-Medical Engineering



*Clark Electric Cooperative and
congratulate this year's winners
scholarships, funded through the
Each winner will receive*

2001 Cooperative p Winners

K'Andrea Friemoth

**Neillsville
High School**

Daughter of
Gwen & Don Friemoth
St. Cloud University
Meterology



Angelia Reinwand

**Marshfield
High School**

Daughter of
Kathleen & Gordon
Reinwand
UW-Marshfield
Pharmacy

Lynette Ryba

**Owen-Withee
High School**

Daughter of
Shari & Jerome Ryba
UW-Marshfield
Special Education



Brooke Pribbernow

**Spencer
High School**

Daughter of
Susan & Larry Pribbernow
Northcentral
Technical College
Architecture



Jennifer Abramczak

**Stanley-Boyd
High School**

Daughter of
Janet & Richard Abramczak
UW-Eau Claire
Kinesiology



Chad Landwehr

**Stratford
High School**

Son of
Mark Landwehr &
Diane Varsho
UW-Marshfield
Architecture



January Jacks

**Thorp
High School**

Daughter of
Mary & Jerome Jacks
University of Minnesota
Architecture



*and its members would like to
of the Clark Electric Cooperative
the Federated Youth Foundation.
ve a \$500 scholarship.*

Directors re-elected to board

Two directors dedicate themselves to the cooperative for another term of three years!

Each year we need to elect or re-elect directors to represent the membership on the Clark Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. This is a very important appointment for a person as these directors are entrusted to oversee your electric cooperative and make sure that it is run properly and to keep the cooperative principles in place.

This year, directors Ron Schmidt from the Colby/Spencer area and Clarence Hoesly from the Granton area were up for re-election to the board. During the annual meeting, the membership unanimously re-elected these two directors to another three-year term each to represent the membership.

Clarence and Ron bring a lot to the board. Both are farmers and have plenty to offer on the current trends in farming and are also able to give information and insight concerning electric use and problems associated with farming. Their input has been very valuable over the last several years. We're lucky that these two individuals are devoted to the cooperative, as well as the other five directors who put in numerous hours pursuing cooperative interests and business.



Directors Clarence Hoesly from the Granton area and Ron Schmidt from the Colby/Spencer area were re-elected to another three-year term to Clark Electric's Board of Directors.



Board President Tony Jarocki, Director of Member Services John Knox and State Assemblyman Scott Suder discuss issues concerning the members and Clark Electric Cooperative at the annual meeting.

Attention Farmers

For information on Clark Electric Cooperative's Dairy Farm Wiring Program & Loan Program with free wiring inspections by a licensed state electrical inspector,

Contact John Knox
Director of Member Services
715-267-6188 • 800-272-6188



Dick Adler, Manager
John J. Knox, Editor

124 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 190
Greenwood, WI 54437

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

e-mail us at info@cecoop.com or at jknox@cecoop.com

WWW.CECCOOP.COM

Be energy smart this summer

Everyone must do their share when called on

We have been listening to the stories of energy shortages in California during the winter months, and we have been warned that we need to be careful with our energy usage during the upcoming summer months.

We don't expect anything like what California has experienced, but if the right conditions occur, we could see ourselves in an energy pinch. If you remember, two summers ago we did come very close to having an energy emergency in our area. The conditions were several days of above-90-degree weather and several power plants off-line due to problems. To keep from having blackouts and from having major catastrophic problems, we and other cooperatives and utilities used our load management systems to their fullest and then asked our customers to help by keeping their usage down until the peak period went down. You did it! Everything worked out and we avoided a major energy emergency.

Well, as we head into this summer, people all across the nation are watching what the energy markets are doing, and are going to do, this summer. We are already feeling the price of gasoline going up, making it costly to drive our cars. Many people are also concerned about the availability of electricity to the region, as they should be. As we have pointed out before, there is still a need for more power plants and for additional transmission lines in our region. Both

of these are an important part of the equation in making sure that our region has reliable power available at all times, especially when it is in high demand. Our electric demand as a system and region is very critical during the summer months, and it's growing each year.

What can you do? As a member of the cooperative, you can participate in our load management program. Have a water heater control device connected to your water heater and receive \$48 dollars a year credit on your electric bill. This device will help the cooperative, Dairyland Power Cooperative, and the regional system tremendously during a high peak time. You should not notice any inconvenience when the device controls your water heater; it's all automatic.

Other important things you can do during high peak times when energy is getting tight (we'll let you know by radio messages) is put off doing things until later in the night, set the thermostat on the air conditioner a few degrees higher, or better yet, turn it off and open the windows and use some fans.

We believe that we should get through this summer without any problems, as long as we don't have many extended days of 90-plus temperatures and all the power plants in the region stay on-line. But you can do your part. Participate in our load management program and be ready to help in other ways.



Jim Schemensky, lineman and power-quality specialist, installs a load control receiver on a house. This member will receive \$48/year off his electric bill by allowing this device to be hooked up to their water heater.

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

- *Turning the thermostat up a degree or two this summer will save you money in cooling. Also, make sure that the filter is changed regularly. It's just as important to do in the summer as in the winter.*
- *Keep the shades closed during the day. This will help keep the heat out and help in cooling your house.*
- *Use ceiling fans or box fans to circulate the air, especially when air conditioning.*
- *Plant trees around the house to give yourself shade (this will take a few years). This will help reduce the direct sunlight and heating of the house. When planting shrubs and trees, please do not locate them near our power lines.*

System Improvements

A distribution system made better for years and years to come

Clark Electric is in the process of performing another system improvement on the distribution system. System improvements are planned upgrades that help to increase the reliability of the system or help in the growth of the system by adding on a new customer. This spring, our crews started a four-mile improvement, upgrading an existing three-phase to handle the growth of the system. The upgrade is located just north of Unity in Marathon County.

This improvement utilizes steel poles again, which will add to the life of the line and provide increased reliability to the system. Bob Moseley, director of operations says, "We are finding that we can build and replace the lines and poles quicker and more efficiently by using the steel poles. Wood poles will still have their place throughout the system, but the large jobs can benefit by using the steel."



Linemen Kevin Sterland, Dick Braun, and Kenny Martini get a temporary pole ready to set in-line. In the background is Lineman Warren Luedtke getting the hole for the pole ready. System improvements like this play a major role in reliability. Also, remember that when you're out and you see orange signs indicating utility work ahead, please slow down—help keep our workers safe.

Underground equipment to get maintenance

All equipment needs maintenance, especially if you want it to last and work properly. To keep our system working properly, we continually do maintenance, from rebuilding and upgrading electric lines to OCR maintenance. Even our tree trimming and spraying is considered maintenance.

This year, we will once again be working on our underground transformers and pedestals. The work being performed will include checking all the connections on the inside of the transformer and pedestals, and removing debris that has accumulated from animals burrowing underneath and up. After the clean-up phase has been done, the equipment will be cleaned and readied for a new coat of paint and new warning stickers will be applied.

This year's



An underground transformer that has had animals living inside of it. Also, the case is rusted and paint is chipping and peeling.

contractor doing the work will be Utility Inspection Services from Neillsville. They will have Clark Electric Cooperative Contractor signs for their vehicles. This year, they will be working on the Eidsvold, Longwood, and Lublin sub-circuits. If you have any questions, please call our office at 267-6188 or 800-272-6188 and go to our operations department. They will be able to answer any questions that you may have.



The same transformer cleaned out inside with all the connections tested and in good working order. In the next step the transformer will be repainted and have new stickers applied.