

Electric Cooperatives Rise to the Occasion

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving and other holiday celebrations, our electric cooperative colleagues in the South are still figuring the toll of Hurricane Katrina's devastating blow to the Gulf Coast. During that horrendous time, we witnessed Mother Nature at its worst—and human nature at its best.

Nowhere was the spirit of giving, sacrifice, and cooperation more evident than in the community of electric cooperatives that responded to virtually unprecedented destruction.

Clark Electric was one of 13 electric co-ops in Wisconsin to send lineworkers to Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative in Franklinton, Louisiana, to help rebuild the system after Hurricane Katrina ravaged its more than 5,400 miles of line and left almost all of the approximately 47,000 members in the dark. Other Wisconsin electric co-ops responded by transporting materials and supplies and raising funds to help rebuild the devastated area.

They demonstrated what cooperatives are capable of doing during times of great need—offering assistance where it is needed, not only near their own communities but to communities hundreds of miles away. Never mind that diesel prices skyrocketed in the days following the hurricane, or that the crews headed into unfamiliar territory with nothing but a huge tent to house them.

This wasn't the first time electric co-ops rose to the



Linemen Jeff Block, Ken Martini, Scott Bailen, Mike Hackel, and Troy Bauer volunteered to go work in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina and help restore electric service to thousands of people.

occasion in a time of great need. Through floods, tornadoes, wildfires, and ice storms, we've demonstrated time and time again that we have more resources than even the biggest power companies when it comes to recovering from disasters.

Electric cooperatives' standard engineering design plays an important role in recovery efforts, but our greatest resource is the dedicated people who drop everything to answer the call for help. We show that the cooperative spirit cannot be dimmed; it shines brightly even in the face of darkness and despair, and for that, we are truly thankful. ■



Happy Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed on Thursday, November 24, and Friday November 25, to observe Thanksgiving with our families. Our offices will be open regular business hours on Saturday November 26.

If you have an outage or emergency, please call our after-hours number to get service.

1-800-927-5707



Working for You

Clark Electric Cooperative participated in the recent National Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Region V meeting held in Dubuque, Iowa. The purpose of the meeting is to update rural electric cooperative leaders on federal legislative issues and other related issues affecting the energy marketplace. The theme of the conference centered upon the challenges and opportunities facing the electric utility industry. Discussion centered upon future power supply (generation needs), renewable energy, new technology, the future role of the Rural Utilities Service, the state of the national transmission grid, and the impact of rail transportation, and the delivery of coal to coal-fired stations.

In addition to participating in good discussion, Clark Electric was recognized by the national Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) for our support of the political action organization. Clark Electric Cooperative had 100 percent board and management participation during the ACRE year that ended in August 2005.

Two of your directors, Chuck Bena and Howard Schultz, recently earned their Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate. The CCD represents director dedication to professional development and indicates a willingness to increase industry knowledge in a rapidly changing environment. Directors must complete a number of required and elective classes to earn the certificate. ■



Clark Electric CEO and General Manager Tim Stewart meets with other Wisconsin electric co-op managers at the Region V meeting to discuss the line crew rotations for the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort.



Board President Anthony Jarocki, left, presents Director Howard Schultz with his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate.



Clark Electric Director Chuck Bena, right, was presented with a Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate at the NRECA Region V meeting in Dubuque. Presenting the certificate is NRECA CEO Glenn English.



Tim Stewart, CEO / Manager
John J. Knox, Editor
 124 N. Main Street
 P.O. Box 190
 Greenwood, WI 54437

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e-mail us at info@cecoop.com or at jknox@cecoop.com
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Training is an Ongoing Practice

Clark Electric Cooperative places an emphasis on safety. All cooperative personnel participate in monthly safety meetings to review such topics as DOT updates, forklift training, bloodborne pathogens, underground and excavation safety, rubber gloving review, grounding procedures, material safety data sheets, and hearing conservation.

Cooperative crews recently received re-certification training in pole top and basket rescue. This is a technique in which qualified personnel can perform a rescue in case of emergency. Personnel also received CPR/first aid/defibrillator training. Clark Electric Cooperative has defibrillators on all aerial devices as well as in our office buildings. ■

Pictured at left: Linemen Warren Luedtke lowers the training mannequin down from a pole-top rescue earlier this fall.



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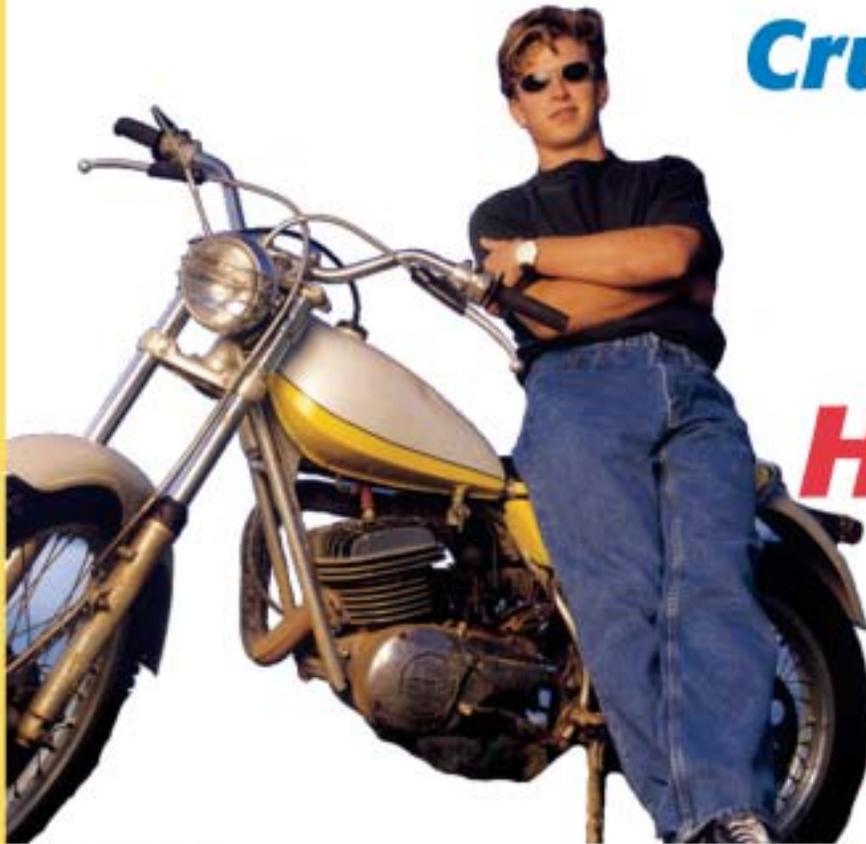
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