

# PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

## Directors, Management, & Staff Working For You



**Tim Stewart**  
CEO / General Manager

With all the recent news of rail cost affecting the price of electricity, it may seem that all of our focus here at Clark Electric Cooperative is on the cost of electric power. While we recognize how critical the purchased power component is in relation to our total cost of providing electrical service, (purchase power accounted for over 64 percent of our total cost in 2005), this month I would like to update you on some of our internal programs.

During the fourth quarter of each year, the cooperative's management and staff prepare a series of planning documents that will provide the tools for financial planning for the cooperative in the upcoming year. The board of directors met with the cooperative's management and staff to review various department activities and the 2006 business plan. The good news is that, at this time, it appears that Clark Electric Cooperative's internal rates will not be increasing in 2006. I would like to note that Clark Electric Cooperative has not experienced a rate increase to cover our internal costs since 2003. However, increased pressure on internal costs is mounting and putting pressure on margins. The rate increases that we have discussed for the past three months are to recover increased power cost only. It is a direct pass-through from Dairyland Power Cooperative.

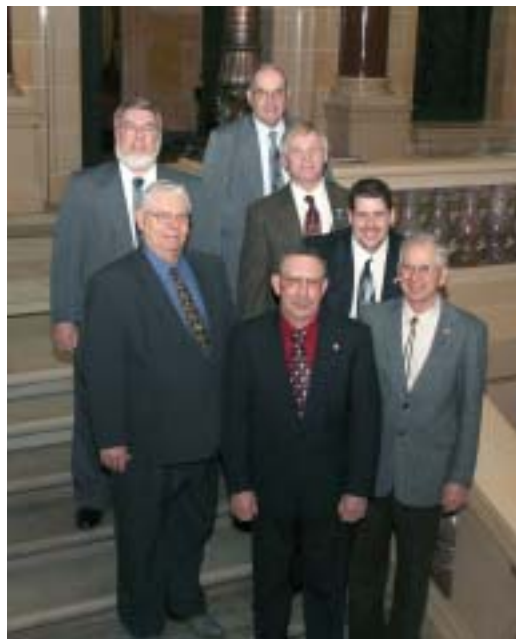
Besides providing short-term goals and objectives, the business plan must also be consistent with the cooperative's long-range planning studies and documents. It is vital that short-term goals and

objectives are established to reach long-range objectives such as equity management plans, Rural Utilities Service (RUS) requirements, and the needs and service requirements of the membership. The board of directors and management are aware of the need for constantly analyzing costs to maximize the value of each expenditure and containing costs where appropriate and feasible.

One of the key goals of Clark Electric Cooperative is to provide our membership with safe, reliable, and dependable electric service at an affordable cost. While we face extreme upward pressure on electric rates due to the influence of rail costs on our power supplier, electricity still remains a good cost option. When compared to the increases we have seen in natural gas, propane, gasoline, and other consumable goods, the percentage increase of electricity may not seem all that bad.

Other cost drivers that affect your organization are the various maintenance programs that the cooperative undertakes every year to keep our system in peak condition. This year, the cooperative will be performing the following maintenance programs to help maintain our continuity of service:

- **Pole Testing and Replacement:** We test our poles on a systematic basis and replace poles that no longer meet specifications. The Colby substation area will be inspected in 2006.
- **Reclosure Maintenance:** We test and recondition Oil Circuit Reclosures (OCRs) in two substation areas every year. This year, Longwood and Eidsvold substation areas will be inspected.
- **Tree Trimming/Brush Control:** Maintaining the cooperative's right-of-way is a very expensive and time-consuming program, but it's one of the most important in terms of providing reliable power. In



*The Clark Electric Cooperative Board of Directors gathered recently at a Co-op Rally at the State Capital, where co-op leaders discussed issues concerning cooperatives with legislators. Pictured are, from the front: Clarence Hoesly, Tony Jarocki, Wilmer Grienpentrog, Jeremy Baxter, Ron Schmidt, Chuck Bena, and Howard Schultz.*

2006, the Lublin and Eidsvold substation areas are scheduled for tree trimming activities while brush control is scheduled for Sherwood, Pine Valley, Granton, Loyal, and Spencer substation areas.

- System Inspections: Overhead Line inspections are scheduled for Colby and Longwood areas. Underground line inspections are scheduled for Pine Valley, Spencer, and Sherwood substations areas.

In addition to the various maintenance programs, the cooperative will be constructing approximately 8.6 miles of distribution line throughout our service area to meet our members' needs. Finally, we will be completing the Turtle automatic meter reading (AMR) system installations by the end of this year.

I would like to remind you again to mark your calendars for the Clark Electric Cooperative's 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Members. This is an important meeting where members hear reports, elect directors, and conduct other business that may come before the meeting. So come, enjoy a nice meal, register for door prizes, and help conduct the business of your electric cooperative. I hope to see you April 12, 2006, at the Legion Hall in Loyal. ■

CEO / General Manager  
**Tim Stewart**

**R**epresenting your cooperative at various meetings is a task we ask the members to volunteer for every year before the annual meeting. An important meeting at which representation is needed is the Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting.

By participating in cooperative meetings, and most important, by attending your annual meeting, you help to keep Clark Electric strong and prosperous.

If you would like to represent Clark Electric Cooperative at this meeting, please contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, by Monday, March 20, 2006. Tracy can be reached by calling the cooperative offices at 715-267-6188 or 800-272-6188. ■

*June 7, 2006*

**Dairyland Power Cooperative  
Annual Meeting**

*11 Delegates and 4 Alternates Needed*



## NEW JOURNEYMEN



**S**cott Bailen and Chad Steffen from Clark Electric Cooperative recently earned the designation of journeyman lineman from the Wisconsin Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards. The Journeyman Line Program provides the training required to build and maintain an electric utility distribution system. Over a four-year period, the apprenticeship program calls for 640 hours of classroom training and more than 8,000 hours of on-the-job training by a student's employer, in this case Clark Electric.

Scott and Chad were among the electric utility linemen recognized at a graduation ceremony held by the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperatives at their annual Joint Superintendents Conference in Wisconsin Dells on January 19. ■





# MORE LOCAL NEWS

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Clark Electric Cooperative is a recipient of Federal Financial Assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Timothy E. Stewart, CEO/General Manager, Clark Electric Cooperative. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization

has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D. C. 20250.

Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible. ■



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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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# Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## 2006 INCENTIVES...

### Energy-Efficiency Programs Help Save Energy

Contact the cooperative to get your 2006 incentives for these various programs.



#### Water Heater

Must be controlled with LM Device. If on T.O.D. LM Device with electric clock.

	CEC Total
50 gals	\$50
80 to 99 gals	\$200
100 gals and larger	\$3.00/gal

#### Energy-Efficient Retrofit Lighting Program

Only on refitting of lights—no new construction.

1. Electronic ballasted fluorescent fixtures	\$ 6.50/ballast
2. Metal halide fixtures	\$10.00/fixture
3. Sodium vapor fixtures	\$10.00/fixture

#### Dehumidifiers

Incentive to members only sold to member at cost.

#### Electric Thermal Storage

To replace uncontrolled electric heat with ETS.

ETS replacing uncontrolled electric heat or other installations	CEC \$25/kw of ETS units.
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#### Efficient Central Air Conditioner Program

To reduce summer peak controls – controlled.

	Total
1. Seer 14 or higher	\$60/ton
2. Commercial A/C EER 11.0 or higher	\$40/ton
3. All earth coupled heat pumps	\$160/ton
4. Heat pumps installed w/backup or T.O.D. controlled	\$60/ton