



Tim Stewart,  
CEO/Manager

## THE ADVANCEMENT OF METER TECHNOLOGY

Most people have likely heard of the “smart grid.” This phrase is being used to describe the computerization of America’s electrical infrastructure. The purpose of this computerization is to improve the reliability, efficiency, resiliency, and

security of the electric grid in terms of generation, transmission, and distribution functions.

One component of smart grid is advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), as it is known in the utility world. AMI systems utilize digital meters as well as computer technology to measure electrical use as well as line conditions. The digital meters communicate via radio or existing power lines. This AMI technology offers a host of advantages including improved efficiency, improved reliability, ability to provide more information about energy consumption so you can make wise decisions about how you use energy, quicker outage restoration, and system voltage surveys, to name just a few.

Starting next year, Clark Electric Cooperative will begin replacing our current Automated Meter Reading (AMR) system with a new one that requires the installation of different meters (AMI). Once the project gets

underway, we hope to have it completed in 12–18 months. You may ask why a new system is needed because your current meter works just fine. The answer is simple: Technology is changing so rapidly that our current system is outdated and will no longer be supported by the manufacturer. Remember cassette tapes, 8 tracks, beta, VCRs, land line telephones, and a host of other things? They were state-of-the-art when introduced, but now have been replaced by better, more advanced technology. The same thing is happening to your meter.

When the current meters were installed in 2005, they replaced the old mechanical meters that were either read by the members themselves or by meter readers. Those old mechanical meters were workhorses and the technology lasted many decades. The first and second generation of digital meters, which many of you have now, typically transmit energy usage information over the power lines.

The new AMI system will collect energy consumption and power quality data and quickly transfer that information to the cooperative via radio frequency communication. So while our current system is facing manufacturer obsolescence, we do look

forward to continuing to help modernize the grid so we can maintain a reliable, robust power distribution system that our members have come to expect and deserve.



## Clark Electric Recognized for Safety



Clark Electric Cooperative was recognized with a No Lost Time Accident Award in September 2018. Chad Knutson, senior safety and loss prevention consultant at Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, congratulated Clark Electric Cooperative on receiving the award, noting “The award is significant and Clark Electric’s organization is to be commended. Clark’s record of over 226,040 hours since the last lost time accident in 2013 is an achievement that they should be proud of.”



Mike Ruff, director of operations, presents Kevin with the lineman statue at the September safety meeting.

## HAPPY RETIREMENT, KEVIN

Congratulations to Kevin Sterland on his retirement from Clark Electric after 26 years with the cooperative.

Kevin began his career at Clark Electric Cooperative on March 2, 1992, as an apprentice lineman. He achieved his journeyman lineman status in 1996. In March of 2005 Kevin was promoted to assistant line superintendent.

Throughout his career Kevin 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 many elementary schools, helping to promote safety awareness to the students and community organizations. Beyond his normal duties as a lineman and assistant line superintendent, Kevin volunteered six times to assist other cooperatives through Restoration of Power (ROPE), a Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association program.

Kevin began working with the members on new services and service upgrades when he became the assistant line superintendent. Many times he was the first contact with the member. His dedication to the members was evident in the many positive comments received from members.

Kevin's departure 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.

## WELCOME, NEW EMPLOYEES

Clark Electric Cooperative and Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite, Inc. welcomes new employees to our Operations and Appliance & Satellite departments.

**Operations Department** Mark Brux, journeyman lineman, lives in Willard. Mark graduated from CVTC in Eau Claire with a technical degree in Electrical Power Distribution. He has over 30 years of experience working in the electric industry. Mark worked as a 1,000 hour employee since June 2018 and was hired full time on October 1, 2018.

Jake Waldhart, apprentice lineman from Greenwood, graduated from CVTC in Eau Claire with a technical degree in Electrical Power Distribution in March 2018. He worked as a 1,000 hour employee for the cooperative since May 2018 and was hired full time in October 2018.

Jesse Knitter, apprentice lineman from Stanley, graduated from CVTC in Eau Claire with a technical degree in Electrical Power Distribution in March 2018. He worked as a 1,000 hour employee for the cooperative since May 2018 and was hired full time in October 2018.



Left to right: Mark Brux, Kim Bogdonovich, Jake Waldhardt and Jesse Knitter

### Appliance and Satellite Department

Kim Bogdonovich, from Loyal, has joined Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite as a customer service representative. Kim will be assisting customers in many of our offerings, including appliance sales, high-speed internet sales, and FirstCall medical monitoring.

Please join us in welcoming these new employees.

**Other Employee Changes** Michelle Walde has recently become a customer service representative for Clark Electric

Cooperative. Michelle has spent the last 23 years as the assistant manager of sales for Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite Inc.

Bobbi Toburen was recently promoted to billing supervisor. She previously was a customer service representative for the past 25 years with the cooperative.

Amber Reddy was recently promoted to director of administrative services. Amber will be replacing Linda McAley, who will be retiring after 45 years of service. Amber has been with the cooperative for 22 years.

## Clark Electric Cooperative GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

*Need ideas about what to get that special someone for the holidays?*

We all have someone on our shopping list who seems to have everything. How about giving them the gift of energy with a gift certificate from Clark Electric Cooperative? If they receive electric service from Clark Electric Cooperative, contact our Billing Department at 715-267-6188 or 1-800-272-6188 to obtain a gift certificate.



## Holiday LIGHTING Safety

Use only holiday lights that have been safety tested and have the **UL** label.



Before using, **check each strand** for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs.

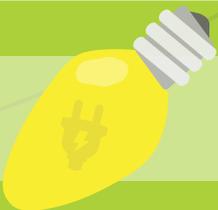
Don't string together more than **three** standard-sized incandescent sets of lights or you could **overload the circuit**.



**Don't throw lights** over tree branches that are **near power lines** and service connections.



**Always unplug lights** before leaving your home or going to bed; a timer can help with this.



Learn more at



## Happy Holidays

The holiday season brings to mind all sorts of memories about experiences and days gone by, such as decorating and lighting the Christmas tree, anticipating the aroma of home-baked Christmas cookies, or sharing together with our families and friends.

Whatever your memories are, this is the time of year when our actions can become part of warm memories for others and ourselves in the future. All of us at Clark Electric Cooperative hope you and your family has a safe and a very joyful holiday season.

Our office will be closed Tuesday, December 25, and Tuesday, January 1, for the holidays.

Come join us at  
Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite  
for our open house

**December 10-14**

Register for prizes while you shop our store

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Appliances on sale

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Sign up for ViaSat high-speed satellite internet!

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Check out our first call medical alert monitoring system

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Enjoy coffee – apple cider – cookies

Our way of saying thank you for your business!  
It is our pleasure to be of service to you.



# WINTER IS HERE

## Be alert for peak alerts

Winter is upon us, and with that comes the time for peak alerts for cooperative members. A peak alert is likely to occur on colder days during the winter months. On these days, the demand for electricity is highest, which also brings the need to conserve energy use whenever possible. The level of demand determines a large portion of the cooperative's energy costs during this time. Reducing or delaying your electrical usage during a peak alert helps lower this cost.

The key is to reduce your consumption between the hours of 4 and 9 p.m. on these coldest winter days. This helps Clark Electric save on our wholesale power bill, and this savings is passed along to the members. By turning off unneeded lighting and appliances, you can help us save a substantial amount.

On these days, the peak-alert messages will be broadcasted on the local radio stations. You can also look up the status on our website at [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com). Go to the Operations Tab, Load Management Program and click on the load management status link.

Whether you hear the peak-alert message or not, please help us control our costs by reducing the amount of electricity you use during these winter days between 4 and 9 p.m.

## CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Don't forget about our Member Photo Contest! If you've got a favorite snapshot capturing rural Wisconsin, please share it with us. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters, cooperative publications, or displayed at the Clark Electric office. **All entries for the month will be entered into a random drawing for a chance to win a \$25 energy credit to be applied to the electric bill!**



For more information, contact CEC, 866-279-6544 or [info@cecoop.com](mailto:info@cecoop.com).



### THE HEATING SEASON IS HERE!

## GEO THERMAL

*When COMFORT Matters*

Looking for an efficient, cost effective and environmentally friendly heating and cooling system? A geothermal heat pump is the greenest system available. Geothermal systems don't emit carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide or other greenhouse gases that can be harmful to the environment or, more importantly, your family. Save money and rest easy knowing your family will be comfortable and safe.



Check out our heating maintenance programs **SPECIAL PRICING FOR A LIMITED TIME**




[tthergeo.com](http://tthergeo.com)

**Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc.**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Call for all of your alternative heating needs today!

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