



Tim Stewart,
CEO/Manager

84th ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

August 5, 2021



**Clark Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Ever since the creation of Clark Electric Cooperative back in 1937, the cooperative has held an annual meeting. The annual meeting was a time for members to come together to learn more about their organization, conduct business, enjoy a nice meal, and socialize with their friends and neighbors. For many, it is an event that members look forward to year after year.

As you know, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, last year we did not receive a quorum to be able to conduct the business at that meeting. The bylaws provide that the number of members to constitute a quorum at a meeting of members shall be fifty (50). This year, as we returned to a more routine meeting, we did receive a quorum so business necessities could be conducted. The following is a recap of the day's events.

President Seebandt's Report

The following is an excerpt from President Herman Seebandt's report to the members.

Clark Electric Cooperative's Community Solar Project:

President Seebandt began his presentation by discussing Clark Electric Cooperative's community solar garden. The community solar garden is a 53.3 kW solar array designed for members who are interested in an affordable option to purchase renewable solar energy but don't have the site or the budget to install solar panels of their own. By utilizing a solar garden approach, issues such as inadequate space for solar panels near your home, too many trees that would block the sun at your residence, cost of a small PV array, installing panels on your rooftop, insurance, interconnection to the grid,

and unsightly panels at your residence all go away.

Clark Electric Cooperative/Greenwood FFA Program:

President Seebandt discussed our newest youth program, which partners with the Greenwood FFA and FFA Alumni. This program allows the Greenwood FFA students real hands-on experience in managing crop land which is located adjacent to the cooperative's headquarters. The students learn about cooperatives, the Seven Cooperative Principles, and the not-for-profit business model that makes cooperatives unique.

CEO/General Managers' Report

The following is an excerpt from CEO/GM Tim Stewart's report to the members.

Covid-19: Manager Stewart reviewed COVID-19 protocol that the cooperative has undertaken to protect critical infrastructure while helping keep employees and members safe. In addition, Mr. Stewart indicated that the cooperative retired in excess of \$1 million in capital credits during 2020, provided over \$600,000 in bill credits over the last seven months of 2020, and retired in excess of \$1.2 million in January of 2021.

Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite discontinued the appliance product line, a business that the cooperative had been engaged in since 1951. The primary driver was due to difficulty in receiving merchandise during the pandemic, the ability to continue to service appliances after the sale, and declining margins due to increasing cost as well as declining sales.

2020 Financial Review: Clark Electric Cooperative continues to report solid financial performance. Total kWh sales set a new all-time high in 2020, eclipsing the previous



Members were greeted by the Touchstone Energy balloon and smiling staff members as they entered the Clark Electric headquarters to register for the annual meeting. Above: Members were treated to lunch from Smith Brothers.



high set in 2018 by 0.12% and the 2019 level by 0.60%.

The total cost of providing electric service decreased 2.51% over last year, resulting in operating margins of \$1,307,492, up from the 2019 level. Wholesale power cost decreased 3.25% from last year. Our debt ratio was 26.48% for 2020 while equity was 67.36%. Assets and liabilities, as well as various operating statistics, were reviewed. The cooperative has met and exceeded our financial metrics required by our lenders. In addition, **the cooperative has not had a change to base electric rates going on five years.**

Clark Electric Cooperative's average interruption duration index (SAIDI), a system reliability index, was 1.97, the lowest level in the past five years. That is the equivalent to 99.997% reliability.

The cooperative invested in excess of \$2.49 million in distribution plant during 2020. This represents new construction and replacement of electric lines and infrastructure, new service extensions, and member service upgrades. We will continue to strive to keep the price of electricity as low as possible while meeting our capital needs.

Other Annual Meeting Highlights

Ben Porath, Dairyland Power Cooperative's chief operating officer, discussed the February 2021 polar vortex and how that affected generation and transmission resources in Texas

(Electric Reliability Council of Texas) and in the MISO (Mid-continent Independent System Operator) power markets.

The cooperative received an advisory resolution from a member urging that the expansion of broadband in Clark County be expedited. The resolution was adopted.

Governance: The members approved the recommended Bylaw amendments that were highlighted in the Annual Report.

Director Elections: Directors Jim Hager, town of Colby, and Scott Johnson, town of Unity, were elected for a two-year term.

Directors Tom Odeen, town of Loyal, Herman Seebandt, town of Weston, and Marvin Verkuilen, town of Worden, were each elected to a three-year term.

All members in attendance enjoyed a nice meal from Smith Brothers in Colby, and door prizes.

Did you lose something at the annual meeting?

If so please contact our office at
715-267-6188 or 1-800-272-6188.

You will be asked what the item is and for a brief description. Thank you.



Clockwise, starting upper left: Dairyland Power Cooperative COO Ben Porath spoke about reliability issues related to last February's polar vortex; attorney Jessica Shrestha, Wheeler, Van Sickle & Anderson, explained the director districts prior to director elections; board President Herman Seebrandt reported on Clark Electric's solar garden and FFA project; guests from neighboring Taylor Electric Cooperative included (l-r) President/CEO Kenneth Ceaglske, Directors Brian Hallgren, Lisa Kohn, and Chuck Zenner.

CLARK ELECTRIC CREW RESPONDS TO ROPE (Restoration Of Power in an Emergency)

Clark Electric Cooperative responded to calls to assist Oconto Electric Cooperative in Oconto Falls the morning of July 28 and Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative in Rosholt the afternoon of July 29 after strong thunderstorms with high winds hit their cooperatives' service territories. Linemen Scott Bailen and Jared Jensen headed to Oconto Electric and Chad Steffen and Jesse Friedenfels headed to Central Wisconsin Electric.

ROPE (Restoration Of Power in an Emergency) is a very unique program of cooperatives helping cooperatives. When a major storm rolls through a cooperative's service territory and causes extensive damage to its distribution system, that cooperative can request mutual aid and activate the ROPE program. Needed personnel and equipment from unaffected cooperatives travel to the affected area to help restore power.

Clark Electric Cooperative has sent crews to a number of other co-ops in



(L-r) Jesse Friedenfels, Chad Steffen, Scott Bailen, and Jared Jensen.

recent years including Eau Claire Energy, Clay Electric in Keystone Heights, Florida, Bayfield Electric, Barron Electric and Washington St. Tammany Electric Cooperative in Franklinton, Louisiana, after hurricane Katrina.

While Scott, Jared, Chad, and Jesse volunteered to respond to the latest call for help, every one of our linemen at Clark Electric Cooperative stands ready to assist other cooperatives through the ROPE program.

SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS...

Safety First Always is the motto linemen live by. Linemen work in a very hazardous profession. They work around large equipment, high in the air, on and around high-voltage equipment, in all kinds of weather conditions, both day and night. In fact, according the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, utility linework is among the nation's top 10 most hazardous professions.

Clark Electric Cooperative participates in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Electric Achievement Program (RESAP) to help stress the importance of electrical safety. One of the components of the program is monthly safety meetings. These safety meetings consist of classroom training as well as hands-on training and equipment testing. At least one meeting a year is dedicated to pole-top rescue procedures.

The meetings consist of inspections of the trucks, proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), proper traffic control, proper operating procedures, and an overall inspection of tools and equipment to ensure they are in good working condition. Safety First Always is a good motto to live by for all of us.

Pictured at left is one of our linemen performing pole-top rescue using a weighted, life-sized training prop.



DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION?

Occasionally we may need to contact you with a billing question, if we need to take your electrical service out of power for a maintenance reason or we simply have a question regarding your account.

We have a few phone numbers that bounce back as disconnected, changed, or are the incorrect number on file. We list your phone number that is on file on the bottom third of your electric bill.

We also have an option to have your email connected to your account as a contact source.

Please take a moment to verify that the phone number we have is still the best contact number at which to reach you. If it is not correct, you can correct it on the stub and mail it in with your monthly payment or you can always call the office at 715-267-6188 or 800-272-6188 to notify us of a change or to add your email to your account.





LOOK UP AND STAY SAFE DURING HARVEST SEASON

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is



When practicing farm safety, consider all equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.—Photo courtesy of Lance Cheung, USDA

de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.

- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes, and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

September 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week, but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.





Clark Electric
Appliance & Satellite, Inc.

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Seeking HVAC Technician to work in Residential HVAC Installation & Service

Competitive Wages & Outstanding Benefit Package

Send resume to Michelle Walde, Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite Inc., P.O. Box 220, Greenwood, WI 54437 or email mwalde@cecoop.com

Clark Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

1209 West Dall-Berg Road, P.O. Box 190, Greenwood, WI 54437
email us at info@cecoop.com or tnelson01@cecoop.com
www.cecoop.com



Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 