



By Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

KICK OFF TO CO-OP MONTH CELEBRATION A HUGE SUCCESS

Cooperative Members of Clark Electric Cooperative and River Country Co-op gathered the morning of Saturday, September 23, at the Clark Electric headquarters for the Annual Member Appreciation Day Pancake Breakfast/Kick Off to Co-op Month event. The breakfast included pancakes, eggs, sausage, fresh cheese curds, milk, and coffee. Eight hundred and eighty-six members were served breakfast, which was just the beginning of the many activities that were available for members of all ages.

The kids enjoyed inflatables, pumpkin crafts, and picture frame craft (including their own pictures to put in it) and a barrel train ride sponsored by Tractors for Autism. Marshfield Medical Center – Neillsville and Clark County Health Department participated with child safety information, which included door prizes for the kids. They also provided health-screening information for the adults.

Greenwood EMS and Fire Department were on hand with their equipment on display and performed free blood-pressure checks. The Clark County Sheriff’s Department was present to do a “Drug Take Back” event, which was very successful.

A Food Drive for the local food pantry was included in the events and provided a great way to include the 7th Cooperative Principle, Concern for Community, into this cooperative event.

Nine students from the Greenwood and Loyal school districts volunteered to assist with the kids’ activities. The PowerPac provided a side by side vehicle to assist people to and from their vehicles.

CEO Tim Stewart and several directors were on hand to answer questions regarding the all-electric vehicle and to visit with members while they enjoyed the morning.

Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite was there with information on products offered through their department.

Kids 12 and under were asked to guess the weight of a huge pumpkin. The actual weight was 142 pounds. Alyssa Martin from Greenwood and Weston Slipek from Abbotsford each received a gift card for having the closest guess.

**Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year’s event.
We hope to see you again next year!**



FIVE WAYS TO SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME THIS WINTER

As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.



1 **Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly.** If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.

2 **Inspect electrical cords.** We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords, or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip. Speaking of power strips...



3 **Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips.** When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

4 **Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency.** There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.



5 **Practice safety in the kitchen.** As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces, and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

Clark Electric Cooperative wants you and your family to stay safe during the winter season. Visit safeelectricity.org for additional safety tips.



CLARK ELECTRIC RECOGNIZED FOR SAFETY

Clark Electric Cooperative was recognized with a 2022 No Lost Time Accident Award in September 2023. In recognition of its management and employees for their outstanding achievement of an accident-free record of 508,332 employee-hours since September 29, 2013.

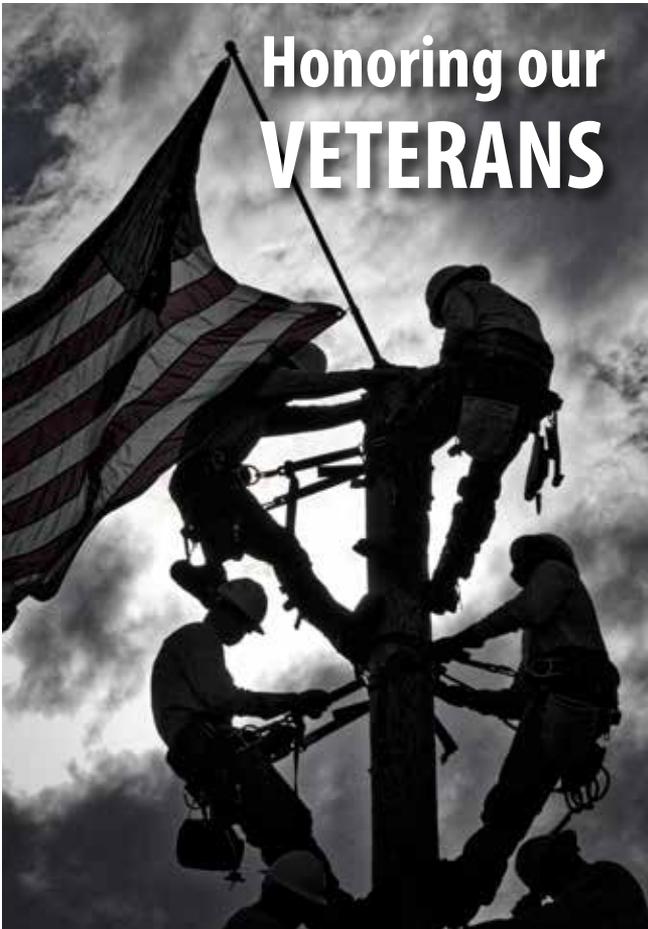
Chad Knutson, senior safety and loss prevention consultant at Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, congratulated Clark Electric Cooperative on receiving the award, noting “The award is significant, and that Clark Electric’s organization is to be commended. Clark’s record is an achievement that they should be proud of.”



Senior Safety and Loss Prevention Consultant Chad Knutson, left, presents a No Lost-Time Accident award to Clark Electric CEO Tim Stewart.



Honoring our VETERANS



Each year in November we set aside Veterans Day, November 11, to honor all the men and women who have served our country in uniform. We are especially thankful for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us in this great country of ours.

We are proud to serve veterans and their families within our local community. In addition to providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy, we care for the veteran community and show our appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to them and their families.

We also partner with local charitable and business organizations in our service territory that support veterans and their families, such as the Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville. The memorial was built as a tribute to fallen veterans and as an honor to the surviving military personnel.

We are not alone in our efforts to honor and serve veterans. Clark Electric is part of a network of more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country that support and honor our nation’s veterans. As part of our national association of electric cooperatives, spanning 48 states and serving 13% of U.S. consumers, there are countless programs that our family of electric co-ops has initiated.

Clark Electric is proud to be a part of the electric cooperative network that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks, and branches of the military. Please join us in taking a moment to show your appreciation to a veteran—not just this month, but every month.

LOAD MANAGEMENT TEST SET FOR NOVEMBER 15

The 2023 Winter Preparedness Test for interruptible heat (dual fuel) accounts is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 15, beginning at 7 a.m. This annual load control test is performed in advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence and to ensure that backup heating systems have been validated for proper function. During the test, residential Interruptible Heat load classes (2, 2W, 4B) will be controlled:

- 7 a.m. – control start
- 7:05 a.m. – all loads interrupted (2, 2W, 4B)
- 10:30 a.m. – Class 4B loads restored
- 11 a.m. – Class 2, 2W loads begin restoral
- 12 p.m. – Class 2, 2W loads fully restored

If you experience any problems during this test, or if you have questions, please contact Clark Electric Cooperative, 715-267-6188 or 800-272-6188.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 5

If you are on our Time-of-Day Rate, you probably have a time clock controlling devices. Remember to switch the time clock on these devices back one hour as Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 5. It is important that your time clocks are reset to avoid using electricity during peak times, resulting in a higher-than-normal electric bill.

Clark Electric Cooperative's Time-of-Day Rate can save you money on your electric bill; however, you must be willing and able to shift your electric usage around so that you can utilize the lower cost of electricity. For more information, contact our office or visit our website at www.cecoop.com.



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Get a notification by text and/or email that your bill is available to view in SmartHub rather than get a paper bill in the mail.

If you would like to have your payment drafted from your checking/savings account or credit card every month, sign up for the Auto-Pay program on SmartHub.

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Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.