



# Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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## Your 2015 Annual Meeting

Members in attendance at Clinton County Electric Cooperative's 77th Annual Meeting, held Thursday, March 19, at Central Community High School in Breese, elected Robert Gerstenecker to the Board of Trustees as the new representative for District 1. Gerstenecker replaces John White who retired after more than 20 years of dedicated service to the membership. The members re-elected Vernon Mohesky of District 2 and Ron Becker of District 3. Members also learned of the successes of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative's (SIPC) generating stations, continued improvements of Prairie State Generating Campus' units, the cooperative's financial condition, improvements made for electric system reliability and electric rates.

Upon motion by Dennis Horstmann, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the minutes from last year's annual meeting were approved. Upon motion by Jim Tebbe, seconded and a vote taken thereon, Vernon Mohesky was elected by Acclamation.

Before Chairman Cary Dickinson started his speech, Illinois State Senator Kyle McCarter who was in attendance, spoke briefly to the crowd.



*During their 77th annual meeting, members of Clinton County Electric Cooperative re-elected (left) Ronald Becker of Trenton and (right) Vernon Mohesky of Breese. Robert Gerstenecker (middle) of Carlyle was elected to the Board of Trustees as the new representative for District 1.*

Dickinson then talked about SIPC's flawless performance in 2014 and in the early months of 2015. He went on to talk about SIPC hitting new system peaks in January of 2015 and how the Marion units are operating at a best in class standard. Dickinson then mentioned improvements made at PSGC saying "For the year 2014, Prairie State Unit 1 was available 64.67% of the time. While those are not as strong as the exceptional performance we've experienced at Marion, there has been significant improvement

over the past couple of years." He concluded his portion of the evening by reminding everyone of key

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*Mike Johnson*

## Annual Meeting continued from 16a

management changes at PSGC with a new CEO and COO.

According to Treasurer Ronald Becker, 2014 brought in revenue of almost \$16,500,000, with expenses of almost \$15,900,000 and an operating margin of slightly more than \$600,000. Clinton County Electric experienced a slightly higher margin than expected due to an Ameren overcharge refunded to the cooperative's power supplier Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), who passed \$238,000 of that refund along to Clinton County Electric Cooperative.

Clean air and water regulations continue to be a major concern for SIPC and its member cooperatives. The generation and transmission cooperative is subject to increasing and stricter state and federal EPA regulations. In 2014, EPA rules added 18 percent to the cost of generating electricity, or \$103,000 for every day of the year. Clinton County Electric's share of it was \$2,060,000. Becker explained, "The cost for environmental compliance at our power supplier is certain to increase for 2015 and appears will increase again in 2016. All methods to minimize these costs have been, are being, and will be employed."

Members who attended this year's meeting received a \$10.00 credit on their April bill. Capital credit checks were also issued to those who were members of the cooperative in 1990. Becker said, "Returning capital credit is not required by law, but certainly reflects the cooperative way of doing business. And remember these capital credit payments differentiate us from an investor-owned utility where a person must purchase shares of stock to be eligible for dividends."

The cooperative has spent the past six years conducting an aggressive vegetation management



*Chairman Dickinson (right) recognizes Trustee Joe Voss (left) for completing an amazing 30 years of dedicated service to the membership.*



*Trustee John White (left) retired with over 20 years of dedicated service to the membership. Chairman Dickinson (right) can be seen here congratulating Mr. White.*



*Chairman Dickinson (right) recognizes Trustee Tim Hanke (left) for his 15 years of dedicated service to the membership.*



program and a pole inspection and treatment program. During the first four years of the pole inspection and treatment program, the cooperative replaced over 1,600 poles and brought right-of-way clearing and tree trimming to an optimum level. President Johnson said, "Our goal is to provide you, the member, with reliable power. No one likes it when their power goes off. Our goal at Clinton County Electric is to have an average of less than one member hour of outages per year. By industry standards, that is a pretty lofty goal. However, in 2014 we were able to accomplish that for the first time and hope to continue doing so in the future."



In 2014, Clinton County Electric implemented an outage management system. The first phase of the system now enables members to visit the cooperative's website and see outage locations and the geographic extent of an outage on a map. In 2016, a second phase of the system will provide enhanced communication via text messaging between the cooperative and members providing immediate information about planned or unplanned outages and outage restoration.



President/COO Mike Johnson provided an update on the rate changes implemented by the cooperative during the past five years. While each member's facility charge has increased by \$23.00 since 2009, the energy charge has decreased \$10.19 for the average member. The facility charge is a basic customer charge that partially recovers the fixed cost of poles, wires, transformers and other distribution grid facilities. Johnson said, "What we have done over the past five years or so, is transfer the recovery of dollars from energy revenue to facility charge revenue."

Upon motion by Jim Endres,

**Continued on 16d ▶**

## Annual Meeting continued from 16c

seconded and a vote taken thereon, all the reports given by the officers and the president were approved.

President Johnson gave an update on the employees of Clinton County Electric. Dale Nordike, will be retiring this year in July with over thirty years of dedicated service. Ralph Kuhl has completed 15 years of dedicated service and Ahren Langhauser 10 years of dedicated service. Mary Jane Richter retired after 45 years of dedicated service and in anticipation of Mary Jane's retirement, Katy Singler was hired as a Customer Service Representative in October of 2014. With the expected retirement of 3 long term operations employees in the near future, the cooperative hired Jason Deering, an apprentice lineman, in February of 2015.

The meeting drew to a close with President Johnson giving an update on the Trustees. John White retired from the Board of Trustees with over 20 years of dedicated service. Joe Voss was

recognized for completing an amazing 30 years of dedicated service and Tim Hanke for 15 years of dedicated service.

There being no further business to come before the 77th Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. upon motion by Jim Tebbe, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Dickinson.

Following adjournment, four cash prizes were awarded:

Allen Pichon, \$100; Leo Frerker, \$50; Ralph Holtmann, \$50; Georgieann Gebke, \$50.

Please remember, all initiatives we embark upon always have our members' best interest in mind. Providing our members with safe, reliable, reasonably priced electricity while providing excellent service will continue to be our goal. As always, if you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [Johnson@cceci.com](mailto:Johnson@cceci.com).

## Did you get your Capital Credit check?

If you were a member of Clinton County Electric in 1990, you probably received a Capital Credit check. This year's checks were distributed at Clinton County Electric's 77th Annual Meeting on March 19. Those checks not picked up at the meeting were mailed on April 1, 2015. You should have yours by now. If you haven't received your check, please call the office at 618-526-7282 or email us at [billing@cceci.com](mailto:billing@cceci.com).



## Mark your calendar

The Cooperative office will be CLOSED on Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day and Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day.