



# Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. • cceci@cceci.com • www.cceci.com

## Liberty and a Better Life for All

Every July, we as Americans take time to reflect on our country's history and remember how the actions of a few helped shape the way we live today. I think back on the rich history of the electric cooperative movement and how a small group of determined individuals were able to improve their quality of life and the quality of life for all those who would come after them.

Every day, Clinton County Electric Cooperative members and employees pay homage to the legacy of our cooperative founders. And, because we are a part of an electric cooperative, we know we have the power to impact our present and shape the future, just like those who came before us.

Through grassroots advocacy efforts, we help influence policy decisions that will affect our communities now and for years to come. We are the catalyst for change in our communities. We leverage our collective power to get things done.

We work together, partnering with other cooperatives, local businesses and community organizers to achieve economic development goals. Creating better opportunities and increasing the quality of life for our families and communities –just as our founding cooperative members did.



We understand the decisions we make at Clinton County Electric today affect the membership for many, many years to come. That is why we continue to make investments in our electrical system to ensure reliability for today and the future.

Cooperatives are helping to build the next generation of leadership through our Youth Tour Programs, sending high school students to Washington, D.C. to meet with law makers and get an up-close view of how our government functions. Youth Tour participants leave our nation's capital feeling energized. It inspires them to make a difference in their communities and gives them a new perspective. Youth Tour provides young people from our communities with an opportunity they may otherwise have never known.

All of these things, plus so much more, are what make up the

cooperative difference. This Fourth of July, as we think about the future of electric cooperatives and how we will continue to shape our country and our society, Clinton County Electric remembers what it took to bring power to our communities and let the determination of those who came before us, guide us.

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.

*Portions of this article were written by Meghan Evans of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*



*Mike Johnson*

## Farewell Dale



Over the past 30 years, Dale Nordike has become a permanent fixture at Clinton County Electric Cooperative. However, all of that will be coming to an end on July 24, 2015 when Dale retires from the Cooperative. Dale started as a mechanic and worked his way up to Field Representative. Through his work as a Field Rep., Dale has

come to know every inch of CCECI's Service Territory and has even earned a couple of nicknames along the way. When asked what he will do when he retires, Dale responded by saying he will "do whatever he wants to do." We will not only miss Dale's dedication, but also all of his fascinating stories and his unique adventures. We all wish Dale good luck in his retirement while he is doing "whatever he wants to do."

## Welcome Mike



Mike Korte began his career with Clinton County Electric Cooperative on May 5, 2015. He

came to us from Wissehr Electric where he worked as a Foreman Wireman. Over the past couple of months he has been working with Dale Nordike learning the ins and outs of the CCECI service territory as our Field Services Technician.

Mike, his wife Janae, and their children reside in Germantown. In his free time he enjoys doing a little bit of everything including deer hunting and farming. We are happy to have Mike as part of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative family.

## CCECI Sparks Learning



On April 24, 2015 Linemen Brian Taylor and Craig Benhoff along with Foreman Gary "Goober" Albers were invited by the Corp. of Engineers to present a Live Line Safety Demonstration at the Earth Day celebration at Carlyle Lake. The linemen spent the day educating approximately 410 grade school students from across Clinton County on electrical safety.



# Wellness is in the Air

This year, Clinton County Electric Cooperative challenged its employees to participate in a “Biggest Loser” contest. Those who were willing to accept the challenge paid \$20 to enter and the winner would take the pot plus an additional \$100 gift card. The initial weigh-in was on January 5, 2015 and eight employees were ready to work their way to a healthier lifestyle. Seventeen weeks later, Ahren Langhauser proved to be the victor with a whopping 37 lb. weight loss. Overall, the Clinton County Electric employees shed a combined total of 122 lbs. Now comes the real challenge, keeping off the weight that was lost.

In keeping with the wellness spirit, CCECI was not only a Bronze Sponsor for the local annual Community Link Buddy Walk, but we also had representation. CCECI employees Ralph Kuhl, Brian Taylor, Brenda Knolhoff, Carrie Trame and Mike Johnson were able to participate in the day’s events which started with a 5k walk/run. The money raised at this event helps fund local programs and supports individuals in the community

with developmental disabilities and other difficulties. Another portion goes to the National Down Syndrome Society to fund national advocacy initiatives that benefit all individuals with Down Syndrome.

Brenda Knolhoff, Carrie Trame and Mike Johnson also participated in the Tour De Vern, a 42-mile bike ride hosted annually by Clinton County Electric Board Chairman Vernon Mohesky and his wife Ann. The CCECI crew opted for the 25 mile route, but hopes to do the whole 42 in future years. Riders on the Tour De Vern range in age from eight all the way up to 70 (that would be Vernon). Though there have been many surprises during the ride over the past 13 years including flooded roads, flat tires, bee swarms, marriage proposals and visitors from as far away as Canada, there are some things that are always consistent. Time with family and friends, fresh air, beautiful countryside, exercise and good food are always present on this ride.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative always has the best



CCECI employees, from left to right, Ralph Kuhl, Brian Taylor, Carrie Trame, Brenda Knolhoff and Mike Johnson participated in the Community Link Buddy Walk on May 2, 2015.

interest in mind for not only its employees, but also its members. We encourage everyone to stay active and reap the benefits of being healthy.



The 13th Annual Tour De Vern was hosted on May 16, 2015 by Trustee Vernon Mohesky and his wife Ann.

# CCECI Board Member Randy Renth Recognized as a Friend of Education

**Randy D. Renth, CPA, CGMA**, was recognized as a “Friend of Education” at the May Illinois Education Association meeting held in Okawville on May 6, 2015 at the Roland Barkau Memorial Golf Course.

Mrs. Rhonda Ross, Mascoutah Middle School teacher and delegate for Region 4 Illinois Education Association presented Mr. Renth with the “Friend of



Education” award. Mrs. Ross stated, “You have been a Mascoutah School District Board Member for 14 years and it has become evident to the Mascoutah teachers that you truly have the best interest of the students

of Mascoutah Community School District at heart. He has been bold enough to ask the hard questions and not vote the status quo on issues

that he feels would be detrimental to the school community. He is committed to assuring that a quality education is available to all students. He is continually interacting with the community to hear concerns and tries to act upon them with his position on the board and he truly lives by his personal motto “trust but verify” and when it comes to fulfilling his duties to the school, students, staff and community you could not ask for a better board member.”

## Sons and daughters of CCECI members awarded scholarships

Each year Clinton County Electric Cooperative proudly offers two \$500 scholarships to senior students from Carlyle, Central, Christ Our Rock Lutheran, Mascoutah, Mater Dei and Wesclin High Schools. The following sons and daughters of Cooperative members were awarded \$500 scholarships this past May on behalf of Clinton County Electric Cooperative:

### Carlyle High School:

**Danielle Brinkmann**, daughter of *Darryl & Jean Brinkmann*;

**Whitney Scott**, daughter of *Gregg & Linda Scott*

### Central High School:

**Courtney Fisher**, daughter of *Matt & Sherry Fisher*;

**Michelle Fuehne**, daughter of *Marvin & Donna Fuehne*

### Mascoutah High School:

**Joshua Elmore**, son of *Mark & Mary Elmore*;

**Kelsey Thouvenin**, daughter of *John & Lisa Thouvenin*

### Mater Dei Catholic High School:

**Katie Foppe**, daughter of *Bill & Denise Foppe*;

**Brianne Hellmann**, daughter of *Larry & Jan Hellmann*

### Wesclin High School:

**Garrett Becherer**, son of *Terry & Angie Becherer*;

**Carmen Drees**, daughter of *Jerome & Susan Drees*

**Reid Michael** from Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School was one of nine recipients of a \$1500 Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship program is designed to assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” This scholarship is a way for individuals to honor deceased members of the cooperative family through memorial gifts.

Reid competed with 272 other students from across the state of Illinois. Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

**Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School:**

**Caleb Boehne**, son of *Craig & Tina Boehne*;  
**Reid Michael**, son of *Noel & Christie Michael*



*Reid Michael from Christ Our Rock Lutheran High was awarded a \$500 CCECI Scholarship as well as a \$1500 Thomas H. Moore Memorial Scholarship.*

Congratulations to all of the sons and daughters of CCECI members who were awarded scholarships in 2015.