



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Clinton County Connection

45

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



Mike Johnson

Visit our website at www.cceci.com

2012 Rates are still a Mystery

As part of our commitment to keeping the membership well informed, I will update you on our potential/probable rate increase for 2012.

Chairman Dickinson started the rate increase dialogue at our March 17, 2011 Annual Meeting. As you know, SIPC (Southern Illinois Power Cooperative) is our wholesale power supplier. Mr. Dickinson discussed three factors concerning SIPC that will drive our need for an increase in electric rates. First, is the commercialization of the newly constructed Prairie States Generating Station located in Lively Grove, Ill. SIPC owns approximately 8 percent of Prairie States, and we are confident Prairie States will provide SIPC reasonably priced and reliable energy for many years to come, proving to be a wise and prudent investment. But, in turn, SIPC will need to raise its rates to Clinton County Electric (and other cooperative members of SIPC) in order to cover costs at Prairie States.

The second factor affecting electric rates actually involves working in favor of lowering rates. SIPC implemented a fuel plan a few

years ago and we are experiencing substantial savings from that plan and SIPC plans to continue to enhance that plan as time goes on with the expectation of future savings.

Environmental Compliance is the third factor – our “900 lb Gorilla.” Currently, environmental compliance accounts for about 20 percent of our power bill from SIPC. With the impending EPA regulations and potential Carbon Emission legislation, potential Coal Ash legislation and Clean Air Transport Rules, that number will undoubtedly go up.

SIPC recently contracted with an outside firm to produce a Cost of Service (COS)/ Revenue Requirement Study. This study looks at a period of time and tries to establish the billing determinates that will ensure long-term financial integrity of the cooperative. Early results of that study indicate that SIPC will need to raise rates to Clinton County Electric by around 15 to 20 percent or possibly slightly more. Please note, this is only an estimate and is likely to change over the next few months. Remember, power costs make

(Continued on page 16b)

**In observance of Labor Day,
the office will be CLOSED on
Monday, September 5th**



Been on vacation? Then why isn't your bill lower?

You were gone two weeks on vacation. And when you got your electric bill you found that it wasn't any lower, or not much anyway, than the month before. Why?

There are many reasons for this and here are just a few:

1. Major appliances – If you did not adjust your water heater before you left, it would have continued to run to keep your water hot, even with no one home. The same holds true for your refrigerators or freezers. They have to continue to run to keep things cold even when you aren't there. Also, did you turn your air conditioner off?
2. Split billing periods – the time that you were gone may have been split between two billing periods. So, even if there would be some reduction in electrical usage, it may be split between two billing periods, making the reduction less noticeable.
3. Extra electrical use before & after the trip – this usage might include

things like extra laundry on your return home or turning down the air conditioner to cool the house back down if you had turned down your thermostat during your time away.

We want you to enjoy your vacation, but remember, the electricity is working for you even while you are away.



President's letter (Continued from page 16a)

up about two-thirds of our total costs.

Here at Clinton County Electric, we are in the process of evaluating all of our non-power cost expenditures to make sure we keep them as low as possible while maintaining reliable service to you, the member-owner.

As members themselves, your Board of Trustees understands today's troubling economy and the effects it is having upon the membership. The board has the responsibility of delicately balancing the financial requirements of the cooperative and the needs of the membership. In keeping with our commitment to communication, we will continually update you

when information is known.

I would expect the rate increase analysis to be completed in mid to late September. This will be the main topic of conversation at our Area Meetings on October 19th and 20th. (Please see important dates section for times and locations of these scheduled meetings on page 16d.)

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the membership to visit our website, www.cceci.com. You will have the opportunity to sign up for E-Business; the button is on the upper left of our home page. All you will need is a Cooperative billing statement and a valid e-mail address.

Once you are signed in, you will have the opportunity to view your personal account and the option to pay your bill via our website using debit card, credit card or checking account information.

Please remember, all initiatives we embark on always have our members' best interest in mind. Providing our members with affordable electricity and excellent service will continue to be our goal in the future. As always, if you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at johnson@cceci.com.

Three Clinton County Youth attend "Youth to Washington"

At the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957, Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson addressed the crowd stating, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents." Soon thereafter, Illinois sent a busload of young people to Washington. By 1964, approximately 400 students from 12 states made the trip to DC. The word of the program continued to spread, and today over 1,500 students and their chaperones participate in the Youth Tour every year.

The program is stronger than ever and Clinton County Electric Cooperative was proudly represented by three outstanding youth on this year's "Youth to Washington" Tour held from June 10 – 17. Adam Eggerman, Nicole Hanke, and Sawyer Magnus, all children of CCECI members, loaded a motor coach in Mt. Vernon early Friday morning, June 10, and started what was an eye-opening experience by seeing numerous D.C. area attractions and monuments, learning more about electric cooperatives and creating countless friendships which will last for many years to come.

More than 1,500 youth from all over the United States gathered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel one morning for the Youth Day assembly to hear phenomenal speakers. Former Nebraska State Senator David Landis provided a vibrant historical portrayal of US Senator George W Norris. Senator Norris saw the need for the enactment of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), which gave rise to the rural electric cooperatives and public power. The students were also privileged to hear Keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, who delivered an inspiring message from his wheelchair. Mr. Schlappi was accidentally



Sawyer Magnus, Nicole Hanke and Adam Eggerman with Rep. Shimkus.

shot at age 14 and doctors told him he would never walk again. Prior to his accident, he was dreaming of a career as a top American athlete. In his message he stated, "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out." His message was inspiring for the young and old.

The week in Washington DC was action-packed with 76 students and eight chaperones representing Cooperatives from the entire state of Illinois. They all traveled together to visit such sites as the Capitol Building, Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the US Holocaust Museum, the WW II Memorial, memorial to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington, and Roosevelt, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum and numerous other historical locations. A highlight of the trip was the opportunity to meet our United States Representatives and Senators. Adam, Nicole and Sawyer were able to personally meet with US Representative John Shimkus along with other

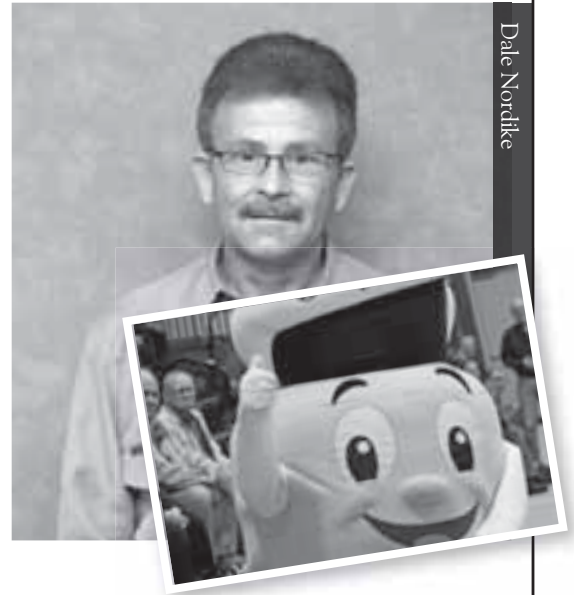
United States Representatives and Senators.

The Youth Program allows today's students to experience government first-hand by visiting Capitol Hill and seeing the historical sites in Washington DC. Adam, Nicole and Sawyer, along with all of the Illinois students who attended, did not want this awesome week to end. They made long-lasting friendships and will remember their week of learning more about our wonderful Nation for a very long time.

Children of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members are eligible to apply to participate in this all-expense paid "Youth to Washington" Tour. The program is kicked off each year in February with "Youth Day" in Springfield and followed by the trip to Washington DC in June. Information about next year's trip will be available in the December issue of our newsletter or can be found on our website at www.ccec.com under the Youth Programs' tab. See page 9 of this publication for photos from this year's "Youth to Washington" Tour.

Spotlight on Dale

This month we are spotlighting employee Dale Nordike. Dale grew up in the Carlyle area and graduated from Carlyle High School. Soon after graduation, he was drafted into the United States Army and spent 13 months overseas in Korea working as a communications specialist, attaining the rank of Corporal. After completing his 2-year term in the Army, Dale was employed by Gebke Farm Supply in Carlyle for 12 years. In 1984, Dale started working for the cooperative. He worked as a mechanic for the first 6 years, and then later began working with both the underground and overhead line crews. Currently he serves as our Field Services Representative. You will likely see Dale near your property occasionally because he is responsible for maintenance of all right-of-ways and meter maintenance. Dale is also responsible for collections each month, the least favorite part of his job. If you attended the CCECI Annual Meeting in March, you were graced with Dale's presence when



Dale Nordike

he debuted as "CFL Charlie." Hopefully everyone enjoyed being entertained by "Charlie" and thanks to Dale for being such a great sport. Dale resides in Carlyle and is the father of three grown children, two daughters and one son. He is also the proud grandfather of two grandsons and four granddaughters.

Mark your calendar



2011 Fall Area Meetings

Date	Location	Registration Begins	Meeting Begins
Wednesday, October 19	Breese KC Hall	12:30 PM	01:00 PM
Wednesday, October 19	Carlyle VFW	06:30 PM	07:00 PM
Thursday, October 20	Albers Legion	06:30 PM	07:00 PM

Please plan to attend the fall area meetings for the latest on your 2012 electric rates. Also, take the opportunity to meet many of the cooperative employees and board of trustee members.