



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

# Clinton County Connection

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Mike Johnson

## Our "E-Business Solution" is OPEN 4 BUSINESS!

We have been talking to the membership about this day all year. Our "E-Business Solution" is up and running and ready for you to conduct business. This solution is a key component of our 2010 Initiative to "Enhance our Member Communications" and we hope the membership will take advantage of the opportunity to access their account information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Question:** How do I sign up, and what information do I need to have available?

**Answer:** Simply go to our website, at [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com), click on the button in the top left hand corner entitled, "E-Business Solution" then select "if you are a new user" link. You will need your account number, valid email address and know the exact last name on the account, then click "Submit" and you are on your way.

**Question:** I have more than one account, will this be an issue?

**Answer:** I won't say it is an issue, but you will have to sign up each account individually. Many of our members have multiple accounts for business reasons, one for the farm, one for the home and maybe another one for the "out buildings" and different entities are responsible for the payment of those individual accounts. The account will be "married" to the individual email address.

**Question:** Once I am signed up, what does the site provide me?

**Answer:** A wealth of information. You can review your last 36 months of usage, review payments that you have made, change address, initiate a service order, review graphs of your consumption and make a payment on your account at your leisure, you no longer have to call into the office during our office hours.

**Question:** You mentioned being able to make payments. What payment devices do you accept?

**Answer:** We accept checking/saving account payments; we also accept personal debit/credit cards issued by MasterCard, VISA and Discover.

**Question:** I have experienced "fees" at other businesses when paying over the internet. Will Clinton County Electric charge me extra for making a payment over the internet?

**Answer:** NO, we believe that would be counterproductive. We really want to encourage the membership to use this solution as much as possible.

**Question:** Are there any restrictions on making payments?

**Answer:** A few but not too many, please review the table on page 16b.

*(Continued on page 16b)*

(Continued from page 16a)

Class/Rate of Service	e-Checking/e-Savings	Debit/Credit Cards
Residential & Farm	Min: None Max: No Limit	Min: \$5./transaction Max: \$5,000./transaction*
Commercial	Min: None Max: No Limit	Min: \$5./transaction Max: \$5,000./transaction*

\*You may process more than one \$5,000 transaction/month

Please log on and give this a try, I think you will enjoy the ease of use. If you experience any difficulties, please call the office and we will work through any situation. Remember, all initiatives we embark on always have our members' best interests in mind.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article, and as always if you have any questions, concerns or comments please call me at 526-7282 or email me at johnson@cceci.com.

## CCEC continues infrastructure improvements

As mentioned in previous Illinois Country Living Magazine articles, CCEC will begin to inventory its entire electrical distribution system using GPS. The GIS (Geographical Information System) that will be formed using this information will include computerized mapping of the electric system, connectivity diagrams and an improved system model to assist with planning power line improvements and other construction projects. This project is expected to run from Sept., 2010 through March, 2011 and will be performed by Global Mapping Solutions.

Also, the second phase of our pole inspection program will begin in September as well. Osmose, Inc. will be inspecting roughly 5,500 poles on our Old State (area north of Breese), Ferrin and Bartelso substations. This project should be completed before the end of 2010.

For both of these projects, you may see some people going pole-to-pole by truck or ATV. Please do not be alarmed when they pass through your area. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns about the crews, or their locations.

## Touchstone Energy classroom empowerment grants return!



# Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>

*The power of human connections*

Once again, CCEC will be funding Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants for the 2010-2011 school year. All that is needed for the application is:

- A description of the project and what it will accomplish.
- The estimated cost of the project.
- An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to complete the project.
- Whether funding options have been pursued, and if so, how.
- When the project will be completed.
- The number of people affected by the project.

- Whether the project's goals are measurable, and if so, how.
- How the project ties in Touchstone Energy's four core values: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and Commitment to community.

Although electric-oriented projects aren't required, extra consideration will be given to projects that are electric-oriented. More information and applications will be mailed to all schools in the CCEC service area this month. Please contact your school administrators for additional information and grant applications, or contact Ahren Langhauser at Langhauser@cceci.com.

# Clinton County Electric Cooperative's Open House, held on July 17th



To say that the weather was hot and sticky might be a tad of an understatement but thankfully there was a nice breeze to make it relatively bearable. I am sure the weather, along with other activities happening in the area, might have influenced the lower than anticipated turnout.

The Open House, which is another component of our 2010 Initiative to "Enhance our Member Communications," featured (1) an opportunity to discuss individual service situations with employees and board members, (2) the apparatus and equipment used to ensure reliable power supply, (3) exhibits concerning energy efficiency, (4) child identification program sponsored by the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, (5) a Live Line Demonstration, that explains power line

safety, (5) Bucket Truck rides for all ages, (6) and of course food and drink. I understand you can't have an event in Clinton County without serving some kind of food. I believe everyone who attended the Open House learned something new and enjoyed the activities.

I would like to personally thank Ahren Langhauser for coordinating the event and all the other employees of Clinton County Electric Cooperative for their hard work to ensure a successful event.

OOPS! I would also like to thank the crews of the City of Breese Utilities for their quick response and restoration of power to our facilities, when we inadvertently caused an outage during the Live Line Demonstration.



## Clinton County Electric Eliminates current Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)

At the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on July 26, 2010, the Trustees voted unanimously to eliminate the current PCA of \$0.003/kWh effective with bills rendered in early August. This will effectively be a 2.6 percent rate reduction for our typical residential member.

The current PCA of \$0.003/kWh was implemented in January of 2010 with the goal of "breaking even" on our purchased power costs for 2010. The purchased power costs were estimated using several different sources of information. Our results for the first six months of 2010, have been better than expected. The actual fuel costs from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) have been lower than originally budgeted, our load factor (measurement of how efficient we are using the Transmission and Generation assets) has been higher than budgeted, plus due to the weather we have sold more kWh than expected. All three factors have contributed to this elimination of the PCA for the balance of 2010.

As of today we do not know if a rate adjustment or a PCA will be needed in 2011. We will study and evaluate that question during the upcoming months and let you know as soon as possible if either is warranted.

## Spotlight On Lineman Mike Faust

This month we are spotlighting lineman Mike Faust. Mike grew up on the family farm just outside of Aviston and is the youngest of eight kids.

He attended Kaskaskia College and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville with an interest in environmental sciences.

He was employed at the Aviston Water Plant for several years before joining the Cooperative family



Mike Faust

in 2001 as the mechanic. In 2006 he transferred to Apprentice Linemen program and “busted out” as Journeyman Lineman this past January.

Mike and his wife Coral reside in Breese and spend their spare time boating, fishing and hunting. Mike is also a member of the Faust Racing crew.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR



### CCECI Area Meetings

District #1-Carlyle VFW	Wednesday, October 27, 2010	Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.
District #2-Breese K OF C	Wednesday, October 27, 2010	Registration begins at 12:30 p.m.
District #3-Albers Legion	Thursday, October 28, 2010	Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.

*Please come & meet the employees and directors of your cooperative.*



## OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

In observance of Labor Day, the office will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, Sept. 6, 2010.**