




# Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Mike Johnson



*Applications are still being accepted for the 2010-2011 IEC Memorial Scholarship Program. For an application and other information visit [www.cceci.com/youthprograms](http://www.cceci.com/youthprograms). The deadline to apply is Jan 1, 2011.*

On behalf of the board of trustees and the employees of Clinton County Electric Cooperative, I want to thank all of you who took time out of your busy schedule to attend the Area Meetings held the last week of October. Many topics were discussed including the new E-Business option on our website ([www.CCECI.com](http://www.CCECI.com)) which allows members to pay their bills online and review their account history. Infrastructure improvements, political updates, and the rate impacts of Prairie State Generating Campus coming online in late 2011 and the summer of 2012 were discussed as well. Members enjoyed a light lunch at the conclusion of each meeting. All recieved an attendace prize but three lucky members were also awarded bill credits at each meeting. Congratulations to all of our winners and again, a big thank you to all who attended.

Please remember, all initiatives we embark upon 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](mailto:Johnson@cceci.com).

## Area Meeting Bill Credit Winners



*Robert Langenborst - \$50, Gene Rehkemper - \$150, and Otto Koerber - \$100*



*Carol Billhartz - \$50, James Huelsmann - \$100, Rusty Renth - \$150*

## LITE 4 BITE

*In our continuing efforts to provide our members and communities with superior services, CCEC is sponsoring a Lite 4 Bite program that began last month. Exchange 2 or more canned or other non-perishable food items in our office for a CFL Light bulb! A maximum of 4 bulbs will be given to each membership, while supplies last (1500 available). The food collected will be distributed to several food banks throughout the CCEC service area. Please help us help others!*



*David & Florence Huelsmann - \$50, Bill & Evelyn Smothers - \$100, Ben Brueggemann - \$150*

# Bylaws specify nomination procedure

Section 4.06. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to appoint, more than ninety (90) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which Board trustees are to be elected, a committee on election and credentials consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than nine (9) members with at least one (1) member from each district from which a trustee is to be elected. No employee, trustee, Officer, known candidate, or close relative (as hereinafter defined) of any of the above may serve on such committee. The purpose of the committee is to review the qualifications of petitioning nominees and to conduct the election of trustees. To be nominated by petition, a candidate for trustee must file a petition for nomination signed by at least twenty-five (25) members, but not more than fifty (50) members. Signatures may come from the entire Cooperative membership. A joint membership constitutes only one member. Nominations by petition must be picked up and filed not more than ninety (90) days or less than forty-five (45) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected. The Election and Credentials Committee, or subcommittee of same must meet to determine if the candidates meet the qualifications for trustee. Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee for trustee lacks eligibility under these Bylaws, it shall be the duty of the Election and Credentials Committee to disqualify such nominee. If there are no nominations by Petition for trustee in any district in which a trustee is to be elected, it is the duty of the Board of trustees to appoint a member to serve in that position. At least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of members, the Election and Credentials Committee shall certify a list of nominees for trustee to the secretary. The secretary shall then post at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of members, a list of the nominations for trustee to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each trustee district. The secretary shall also be responsible for mailing, with the Notice of Meeting or separately, but at least five (5) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the nominees. No nominations may be made from the floor. Nominees' names from the same district may be rotated on the ballot so that each nominee's name is on the ballot in the same position as equal number of times as possible. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this

section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of trustee. The Election and Credentials Committee shall elect its own chairman and secretary at its initial meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to establish or approve the manner of conducting any ballot or other voting, to pass upon all questions that may arise with respect to registration of members in person, to count all ballots or other votes cast in any election or in any other manner, to rule upon the effect of any ballots or other votes irregularly or indecisively marked or cast, to rule upon all questions that may arise relating to member voting in the election of trustees and to pass upon any protest filed with respect to election or to conduct affecting the result of the election. In exercising the responsibility, the committee shall have available to it the advice of counsel provided by the Cooperative. In the event a protest or objection is filed concerning any election, such protest or objection must be filed not more than three (3) business days following the adjournment of the meeting in which the voting is conducted. The committee shall thereupon be reconvened, upon notice from its chairman, not less than seven (7) days after such protest or objection is filed. The committee shall hear such evidence as is presented by the protestor(s) or objector(s), who may be heard in person, by counsel, or both, and any opposing evidence; and the committee, by a vote of a majority of those present and voting, shall, within a reasonable time but not later than thirty (30) days after such hearing, render its decision, the result of which may be to affirm the election, to change the outcome thereof, or to set aside. The committee's decision (as reflected by a majority of those actually present and voting) on all matters covered by this Section shall be final. The committee may not affirmatively act on any matter unless a majority of the committee is present.

**For a list of Election and Credentials Committee members, date of meeting, a petition or any other information concerning the nominations procedure, please contact: Mike Johnson, President, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 N. Main Street, Breese, IL 62230, (618) 526-7282.**

# Minutes from the 72nd Annual Meeting of Members

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Breese, Illinois held Thursday, March 18th, 2010

The 72nd Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the Central High School gymnasium, Route 50 West, Breese, Illinois on Thursday, March 18th, 2010, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Joseph Voss, Chairman of the Cooperative, at 7:30 p.m.

Ronald L. Becker, Secretary-Treasurer of the Cooperative, acted as secretary and kept the minutes thereof.

Chairman Voss reported there was a quorum present.

The invocation was given by Vernon Mohesky, a trustee from District No. 2.

As in the past, Robert's Rules of Order governed the meeting.

Chairman Voss then introduced special guests present at the Annual Meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Becker read the official notice of the meeting and informed the members that proof of mailing of the meeting notices and number of members is evidenced by receipt of mailing from the U.S. Postal Service.

Upon motion by Richard Grueter, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the minutes of the 71st Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. were approved as they appeared in the December 2009 issue of the Cooperative newsletter, Clinton County Connections.

Chairman Voss then addressed the membership thanking everyone for attending the 2010 Annual Meeting of Members. He commented on the Capital Credit checks given out at this year's meeting and on the financial condition of the Cooperative stating that the co-op had a very good year financially, with sales up about 3 percent over last year. Voss also commented on the system upgrades done in 2009 and told the members in attendance that because of the upgrades done last year and in the past Clinton County Electric enjoyed one of the lowest outage-hours for the system in many years. Voss also announced that looking ahead to 2010 the cooperative does not plan on a rate increase for this year. In summing up, President Voss thanked the dedicated employees and his fellow-board members and the Advisory Committee and also thanked the members for their continued support of the cooperative. Secretary-Treasurer Ron Becker then presented the annual financial report of the Cooperative, ending December 31st, 2009. Becker told the membership that approximately 70 cents out of every dollar paid to the Cooperative goes for the electricity we distribute to the members; 9 cents is for operation and maintenance of the system; 5 cents for depreciation, amortization and taxes; 5 cents for administration expenses; 4 cents for interest; 4 cents for patronage capital and operating margins and the remaining 3 cents for accounting, collecting, information and sales expense. Becker informed the members in attendance that three of the Co-op's biggest financial threats were: government imposed regulations concerning climate change/global warming; actions taken by EPA; and the weather (especially extreme weather conditions resulting from heat, cold, wind and ice). In conclusion, Becker assured the members that "when it comes to your cooperative's finances, the future plans are to continue the careful, wise and

prudent handling of the funds that you send us each month when you pay your electric bill."

Chairman Voss then introduced the President/COO of the Cooperative, Mike Johnson. Johnson explained that the Cooperative has developed two initiatives for 2010, the first is to Enhance Our Member Communications. To do this, Johnson said CCECI would be re-establishing our Area Meetings and Open House. The second part of this initiative is to provide each member with a paid subscription to the Illinois Country Living magazine, with the first publication coming out in May, 2010. This magazine will devote 4 pages to just Clinton County Electric news and the rest of the magazine is full of articles dealing with safety, energy efficiency, health etc. Johnson also announced that on or about Labor Day 2010 CCEC will be employing an "e-business" solution, in which our members will be able to go to our website and transact business with us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Members will have the ability to pay your bill online, look up your electrical consumption, review past billing and see other kinds of information.

The 2nd initiative is concentration on Infrastructure Improvements. Johnson described this phase as SRC. S is for safety – safety for the general public, members and employees. Johnson stated that the co-op has hired a firm to do pole inspections and this pole inspection/pole replacement program has made us a safer/more reliable electrical system. The co-op is also committed to ensuring that our linemen have all the equipment/tools/training and clothing that is needed to operate in a SAFE manner. Johnson reminded the members that the co-op will do public safety demonstrations. R represents Reliability, the simple basics of "keeping your lights on." Johnson stated that we cannot control the weather, but we can control, to some degree, the strength of the system to be able to sustain certain adverse weather conditions and we can certainly control, to some degree, the restoration process. Two large contractor projects and 4 large projects to be done by the Co-op's line crews are on tap for 2010 capital improvements. Another project planned is the Copper Replacement Program, with the plan to replace a significant amount of old copper wire. We are also starting this year the project of GPS/GIS our entire system. By the summer/fall of 2011 our crews will have electronic maps on hand-held laptops that will provide up-to-date accurate information to allow for quicker restoration in the event of an outage. And the C stands for Cost. Johnson stressed that if CCEC does a tremendous job in regards to Safety and Reliability, long run Costs will be lower, which should translate to minimized or less frequent rate increases to You our member/owners.

Johnson thanked the employees for their dedication to the cooperative and also thanked Jim Riddle for 21 years of service to Clinton County Electric. Johnson concluded his report by informing the membership in attendance that the Clinton County Electric Board Members have taken leadership roles in regional, state and even national associations: Retiring director Richard Timmermann was past chairman of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative; Joe Voss is secretary/treasurer of SIPC (our G&T provider); Cary Dickinson is the treasurer of our Statewide association, AIEC;

and Randy Renth is a director on NRUCFC Board – NRUCFC is our national cooperative bank, where we borrow long-term funds that are needed for capital improvements.

Upon motion by Norman Conrad, seconded and a vote taken thereon, all of the reports given by the officers and president thus far were accepted.

At this time, Duane Noland, President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, spoke to the membership about "Our Energy, Our Future." He also addressed the current state of "Climate Change Legislation" and the latest "Grass Roots Campaign."

Next on the agenda, President Voss introduced Scott Ramsey, President/CEO of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative and he discussed SIPC and the Prairie States Generating Campus.

Next, Chairman Voss informed the members that, per Article 4, Section 4.06 of the Cooperative ByLaws, an Election and Credentials Committee was appointed by the Board of Trustees at their regular monthly board meeting in November 2009. He then called upon Ron Becker, Secretary of the Cooperative, to give the report of the Election and Credentials Committee.

Becker reported that the Election & Credentials Committee met on February 1, 2010. He informed the members attending that, since there were no contests for trustees in any of the districts, those trustees nominated may be elected by acclamation, if desired.

Upon motion by Dan Haselhorst, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the following trustees were elected by acclamation to serve three year terms beginning on March 18th, 2010: Cary Dickinson from District #1; Joseph Voss from District #2; and Stephen Kalmer from District #3.

President Voss then thanked retiring board member Rich Timmermann of District #3 for his 24 years of dedicated service to the membership.

President Voss then introduced Phil Carson, a director from Tri-County Electric in Mt. Vernon and the current chairman of the Board for SIPC, who thanked retiring director Rich Timmermann for his dedication to the SIPC board.

Service Awards were given to Harry Buller, Manager of Operations, for 35 years of service; and Doug Vonder Haar, line foreman, for 20 years of service.

There being no further business to come before the 72nd Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., upon motion by Daniel Ribbing, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM by Chairman Voss.

Following adjournment, four cash prizes were awarded: Jason Bergmann, \$100; Emil Rensing, \$50; Alex Schrage, \$50; and Darrell Stricker, \$50.

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Ronald L. Becker, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Joseph A. Voss, Chairman

# Applications are being accepted for 2011 Youth Day and Youth Tour

Clinton County Electric will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores or juniors on a day in Springfield to be held on April 6, 2011 sponsored by the co-op and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Of these 12, two will be selected to go to Washington DC in June 2011 for an all-expense paid tour.

## Who may enter?

Youth Day in Springfield and Youth Tour to Washington DC are open to high school sophomores and juniors that are children of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members. Children of Clinton County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors or employees are not eligible.

## Youth to Springfield

A panel of judges will choose up to 12 students who will participate with more than 125 other youth from other Illinois electric cooperatives in Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield set for Wednesday, April 6, 2011. The day's activities in Springfield will include touring the state Capitol complex, visiting with legislators and a luncheon. The two Washington tour winners will be selected from these 12 students.

## Washington Tour

The two local winners will join some 50 other Illinois students, winners of similar contests sponsored by other Illinois electric cooperatives, at Springfield on June 10. They

will travel on air-conditioned buses, returning June 17. While in Washington, they will visit such attractions as the White House, U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Monument and many other national monuments and places of interest.

Applications are available at [www.cceci.com/youthprograms](http://www.cceci.com/youthprograms). Completed applications need to be returned to the co-op no later than January 31, 2011. Feel free to contact Ahren Langhauser at [Langhauser@cceci.com](mailto:Langhauser@cceci.com) with any additional questions.

**This program may be suspended at any time due to inadequate funding or participation. As noted above, there will be a maximum number of 12 participants chosen. Notifications will only be made to those chosen to participate in the program.**

The Trustees and Employees of Clinton County Electric wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



Ronald Becker



Cary Dickinson



Tim Hanke



Stephen Kalmer



Kevin Kampwerth



Randy Renth



Vernon Mohesky



Joseph Voss



John White



Gary Albers



Craig Benhoff



Harry Buller



Ron Deien



Allan Deiters



Mike Faust



Mike Johnson



Brenda Knolhoff



Tyler Koerckenmeier



Bob Kroeger



Ralph Kuhl



Ahren Langhauser



Sue Laux



Cathy Markus



Dale Nordike



Mary Jane Richter



Adam Robke



Brian Taylor



Doug Vonder Haar