




Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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



Mike Johnson



Applications are still being accepted for the 2011-2012 IEC Memorial Scholarship Program. For an application and other information visit www.cceci.com/youthprograms. The deadline to apply is December 31, 2011.



LITE 4 BITE

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

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 that were held in mid October. Three main topics were discussed: (1) using 1-800-526-7282 to report an electric outage 24 hours a day, (2) beginning on January 3, 2012 our new office hours will be 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday, and (3) most importantly our 2012 rate increase. The Board of Trustees met on October 12, 2011 to discuss 2012 rates. The following evening management and some board members discussed our recommendations with the members of the Clinton County Advisory Committee. These discussions continued at the Area Meetings. At their regular board meeting, which was held on October 25, 2011, the Board of Trustees approved our 2012 rates. We don't have the time or room to go into much detail, but this will be the main topic of conversation in the January 2012 Illinois Country Living magazine. However, if you want to see the impact the new rates will have on your account, simply go online to www.cceci.com and select the "Clinton County Electric Cooperative Rate Calculator". All that you will need is a billing statement to see how our new rates will affect your bill.

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 questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me at Johnson@cceci.com.

Area Meeting Bill Credit Winners



Clyde Dorries - \$150, Patricia & Robert Feldmann - \$100, and Frank Heinzmann Co. (Debbie & Gary Meier) - \$50.



Louise & Carl Brammeier - \$150, Ron Zurliene - \$100, and Joe Humphrey - \$50.



Regis Voss - \$150, Leonard Koopmann - \$100, and Frank Fuehne - \$50.

Effective Tuesday, January 3, 2012 our office hours will be changing to 7:00 am to 4:00 pm

Please call 526-7282 with any questions



The cooperative office will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2011 and Monday, January 2, 2012 in observance of Christmas and New Year's.

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 73rd Annual Meeting of Members

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Breese, Illinois held Thursday, March 17th, 2011

The 73rd 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 17th, 2011, beginning at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was called to order by Cary Dickinson, chairman of the Cooperative, at 7:30 PM.

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

Chairman Dickinson reported there was a quorum present.

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

All present were then asked to stand for the playing of the National Anthem.

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

Chairman Dickinson then introduced the Clinton County Electric Board of Trustees and special guests present including Scott Ramsey, SIPC President and General Manager, Norman Conrad, General Counsel for AIEC, John Lowery, Editor of Illinois Country Living Magazine, Rick Polley, Manager of Field Services for AIEC and Paul Dow, Coordinator of Video Products for AIEC, along with past directors and retired employees present at the 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 Bill Guile, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the minutes of the 72nd Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. were approved as they appeared in the December 2010 issue of the Cooperative newsletter inserted in the Illinois Country Living Magazine.

Chairman Dickinson then addressed the membership thanking everyone for attending the 2011 Annual Meeting of Members. He announced each membership represented in attendance at the annual meeting would receive a \$10.00 bill credit along with the chance to win one of 4 cash prizes including 1-\$100 bill and 3-\$50 bills. Also capital credit checks for attendees who were members in 1989 were distributed. Chairman Dickinson informed the membership of the financial condition of the Cooperative stating the cooperative had a very good year financially, with sales up about 6% and with power costs a little lower than last year. Higher sales were contributed to the cold winter and extremely hot summer. Dickinson then reported that the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment of \$0.003/KWh was eliminated in July 2010. Concerning rates, Dickinson reported members of Clinton County Electric last experienced a rate increase in January 2009 and the one before that was in 2003. He discussed the likelihood of a rate increase in 2011 to our members due to the possibility of our power supplier, SIPC, raising its rate for our wholesale power cost. He mentioned many factors that are affecting SIPC's costs include fuel costs, environmental compliance and the cost of coal. In summing up, Chairman Dickinson thanked the dedicated employees, his fellow-board members, the Advisory Committee along with 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, 2010. Becker detailed where a dollar of revenue was spent in 2010, with 65 cents of it going to cover power costs. Becker reported Clinton County Electric is continuing the practice of returning capital credits to its members and announced to date \$6,261,570 has been returned since 1939. He explained the Board of Trustees feels returning positive margins

is the "cooperative way of doing business" but is not required by law and many cooperatives do not pay back these dollars. Becker informed the members in attendance that three of the cooperative's biggest financial threats include: the weather, government imposed rules and regulations concerning climate change/global warming; and stricter environmental regulations from both federal and state environmental protection agencies. In conclusion, Becker assured the members that "whatever happens in 2011, the employees and trustees of CCECI will do their very best to make intelligent management decisions."

Chairman Dickinson then introduced the President/COO of the Cooperative, Mike Johnson. Johnson explained the Cooperative has developed two initiatives for 2010 and beyond with the first being to Enhance Our Member Communications and the second Infrastructure Improvements.

Concerning Infrastructure Improvements, Johnson reported the cooperative will be completing a complete physical inventory of our electrical distribution system in the second half of 2011 which will allow our linemen to have an up-to-date electronic GPS/GIS mapping of our system. He indicated this will enable quicker restoration in the event of an outage. In 2010 the meter testing program was re-implemented according to Johnson. So that everyone pays for only the usage they are consuming, meters will be tested making sure no one is over or undercharged. Johnson then reported the 4-year cut program was started in 2010. With this program, a contractor will cut trees and limbs back so that under normal growth, they will not need to be cut or trimmed again for 4 years. He indicated this program will continue year after year, helping to reduce power outages. Johnson reported the pole inspection program was re-implemented in 2009. To date, 9446 poles have been inspected and we are planning to inspect 4,934 poles in 2011. There has been an 8% failure rate of the poles inspected which translates into about 750 poles to be replaced. Next, President Johnson reported the cooperative will continue to work on our copper replacement program in 2011 which was slowed in 2010 because of Mother Nature.

In reference to Member Communications, Johnson explained an unexpected program was offered in 2010 called the Home Program. This was a state sponsored stimulus program related to rebates for energy efficiency in which a little more than \$71,000 was distributed to co-op members. Clinton County Electric contributed \$14,200 of the \$71,000, with the state contributing the balance for this program. He then reported the cooperative hosted an Open House in July of 2010 which went well, but the cooperative was disappointed by the lack of attendance. Area Meetings were held in the fall of 2010 and plans are to continue these area meetings in the fall of 2011 with discussion on the potential rate increase. Johnson then explained the cooperative changed its after-hours call center in November, 2010 to Cooperative Response Center (CRC) based in Austin, Minnesota. He reported members experienced difficulty with the phone system during the February ice storm, but assured those in attendance the cooperative is working to fix that problem and that it is a problem with the local phone carrier, not CRC. Clinton County Electric provides the Illinois Country Living Magazine which includes our monthly newsletter. President Johnson explained this is our largest member communication. He encouraged all members to read this valuable communication tool and noted the 4-page insert can be found on our website at www.cceci.com. Johnson then announced the cooperative implemented the E-Business solution in September, 2010 which allows our members to transact business with us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting our website. He explained members now have the ability to

pay their bill online, review electrical consumption and review past billing history.

At this time, President Johnson asked the employees of the cooperative to stand. He thanked them for their dedicated service and was especially appreciative of their spectacular effort put forth during the February 1st and 2nd ice storm. He reiterated the infrastructure improvements are working based on the low number of poles that were broken and the wire that was down during the recent storms along with the number of outages caused by fallen trees. During the next three years, when the infrastructure improvements are fully deployed, he indicated our reliability will be even better.

Next, Johnson thanked the membership for being involved with our "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign. It was very successful this past year concerning potential carbon legislation. President Johnson asked members to provide the cooperative with their email addresses so that valuable information can be forwarded to them when necessary. He assured the membership only information approved by him would be sent to them and email addresses would never be sold or shared for any other purpose.

President Johnson then asked Sue Laux to stand and be recognized. He indicated Sue retired from the cooperative on January 31, 2011 after 31 ½ years of service. Brenda Knolhoff, her replacement, was then asked to stand and be introduced.

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

Next, Chairman Dickinson 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, 2010. 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, 2011 via conference call due to the ice storm. 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 Jim Tebbe, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the following trustees were elected by acclamation to serve three year terms beginning on March 17th, 2011: Tim Hanke from District #1; Kevin Kampwerth from District #2; and Randy Renth from District #3.

At this time President Johnson presented service awards to the following Trustees who have served the membership: Ron Becker for 20 years of service, Randy Renth for 15 years of service and Cary Dickinson for 15 year of service.

There being no further business to come before the 73rd Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., upon motion by Donald Berry, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM by Chairman Dickinson.

Following adjournment, four cash prizes were awarded: Dennis & Jeanette Horstmann, \$100; John & Judith Stack, \$50; Miriam Huelsmann, \$50; and Jerome & Anita Peters, \$50.

Ronald L. Becker, Secretary

APPROVED:

Cary Dickinson, Chairman

Applications are being accepted for 2012 Youth Day and Youth Tour

Clinton County Electric will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores or juniors to attend Youth Day in Springfield, March 28, 2012, sponsored by the cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Of these 12, two will be selected to go to Washington D.C. from June 15-22, 2012 for an all-expense paid tour.

WHO MAY ENTER?

Youth Day in Springfield and Youth Tour to Washington D.C. 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 youths from other Illinois electric cooperatives in Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield set for Wednesday, March 28, 2012. The day's activities in Springfield will include touring the State Capitol complex, visiting with legislators and a luncheon. Clinton County Electric's two Washington tour winners will be selected from these 12 students.

WASHINGTON TOUR.

The two local winners will join about 70 other Illinois students who are winners of similar contests sponsored by other Illinois electric cooperatives. They will travel on air-conditioned buses, leaving on June 15 and

returning June 22. While in Washington D.C., 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. Completed applications need to be returned to the cooperative office no later than **January 31, 2012**. Feel free to contact Brenda Knolhoff at Knolhoff@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 Koerkenmeier



Bob Kroeger



Ralph Kuhl



Ahren Langhauser



Cathy Markus



Dale Nordike



Mary Jane Richter



Adam Robke



Brian Taylor



Doug Vonder Haar