



# Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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## Applications are being accepted for 2020 Youth Day and Youth Tour

Applications are being accepted for 2020 Youth Day and Youth Tour. Clinton County Electric Cooperative will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores or juniors to attend Youth Day in Springfield to be held on March 31, 2020, sponsored by the cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Two students will be selected to go to Washington, D.C. from June 19-26, 2020 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 trustees or employees may attend at their own expense.

### YOUTH TO SPRINGFIELD

Up to 12 students will participate with more than 125 other youths from other Illinois electric cooperatives in Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield set for March 31, 2020. The day's activities in Springfield will include touring the State Capitol complex, visiting



with legislators and a luncheon. Transportation to Youth Day in Springfield will be provided by the cooperative.

### WASHINGTON TOUR

Of the 12 students attending Youth Day in Springfield, two will have the opportunity to participate in the Washington, D.C. Youth 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 19 and returning June 26. 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/youth-programs](http://www.cceci.com/youth-programs). Completed applications need to be returned to the cooperative office no later than February 20, 2020. Feel free to contact Carrie Trame at [Trame@cceci.com](mailto:Trame@cceci.com) with any additional questions.



## Operations Superintendent Brian Taylor becomes certified loss control professional

In July 2019, Operations Superintendent Brian Taylor completed an intensive program in electric utility safety loss control. The loss control internship is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the National Utility Training & Safety Education Association. The program is designed to instruct participants in many areas related to electric utility industry safety.

Brian is one of only a few electric utility professionals in the country that received this certification in 2019. Control participants go through four, week-long sessions that are designed to challenge and educate participants in new, innovative safety techniques. Participants must also maintain their certificate by attending courses every year in order to stay on top of changes in the industry.

*Congratulations Brian!*



# 2020

## Annual Meeting

Clinton County Electric Cooperative

**Thursday, March 19, 2020**

**Be sure to mark your calendar!**

**It is never too early to plan for your upcoming annual meeting.**



# SEE YOU at the ANNUAL MEETING

By Anne Prince

Most of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking, constantly checking phones and email to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. With so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time. Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether or not our time and effort to attend is beneficial. The answer to the question, “What’s in it for me?” must be compelling. You may think attending Clinton County Electric Cooperative’s (CCEC) annual meeting would be easy to lump into the “no benefit to me” category. However, I’d ask you to think again.

CCEC exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to its consumer-members (that’s you!). Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable—and we invite you to share it with the cooperative. At the

annual meeting, cooperative leaders will discuss priorities and challenges, and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years. Annual meeting is also the time to vote for new board members who will represent you—the members of the cooperative. Board members are local consumers, just like you.

CCEC is one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. It’s worth noting that the health of the cooperative and the well-being of the community are closely intertwined.

Perhaps you may feel you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the cooperative helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and CCEC wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future.

While CCEC provides convenient electronic options for bill-paying and communication, there are times when there is no substitute

for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world.

If you’ve never attended our annual meeting, or if it’s been awhile, please stop by. Our cooperative family looks forward to visiting with you! We’ll have attendance prizes and cash prizes, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting on March 19, 2020 at Central High School in Breese.



# Considering Solar? Call us first!

As interest in “green” energy and ways to save money on utility bills continue to grow, some cooperative members may be considering the installation of a solar array.

Since these types of systems have the capability of returning electricity back to the electric grid, there are some major safety considerations to sort through before a system is installed.

Before deciding to buy a solar array, examine the economics to determine if such a system will lower your monthly electricity costs. If you do decide to install a solar array, contact our office as early as possible in the process.

A CCEC representative will provide information on our interconnection process and policies, as well as answer any questions you may have. That way, you and your installer will have the information needed as you progress with your system.

*For more information on CCEC policies and requirements, please contact our office Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.*



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