



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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

Facility charge - "the story continues"

Over the past three years, Clinton County Electric has dedicated the October ICL articles to explaining the facility charge. Those articles can be found on our website www.cceci.com. Click on the Clinton County Connections tab on the left side of the webpage and select the article needing reviewed. At this time, I would like to continue the education process concerning the facility charge.

In February of this year, Clinton County Electric increased the facility charge from \$40 to \$45 per meter, per month for the typical single phase home/farm account. That was a significant increase of 12.5%. Since 2012, we have been increasing the facility charge by various amounts per meter, per month. 2014's percent increase in the facility charge was 18%. At this time, I predict the facility charge will probably increase again in 2017. We do not believe the current charge of \$45 is enough to cover the cost of what it takes to deliver safe and reliable power to your home or business.

At the past three Annual Meetings, we informed the membership that "we need to recover fixed expenses through fixed charges (our monthly facility charge) and we need to recover variable expenses

through variable charges (our energy charge)." We also stated, "Our long term rate design goals are: (1) to increase the facility charge, and (2) to lessen the energy charge. We believe this is the fair thing to do."

I am writing this article toward the end of August, 2015 and Management along with the Board of Trustees will soon begin having discussions concerning the 2016 Rate Plan. As mentioned above, our goal is to be fair and our current rate structure is not fair to all members. Clinton County Electric is not alone in this area. This situation is fairly common in today's electric utility industry. However, I believe almost all electric utilities, including Clinton County Electric, are trying to move to a fairer rate structure. A "fairer rate structure" would be defined as everyone paying their fair share of the cost to provide them with safe, reliable and reasonably priced power.

Past articles have described the fixed cost investment required to be in place if and when the member decides to "flip the switch". There is more to that story; the continuation also needs to address safety and reliability. We believe the facility charge needs to include costs of our safety programs. Safety concerns include the general public, members and

employees. We also believe the facility charge needs to include reliability costs. After all, what good is an electrical system if it's not reliable? Those reliability costs include tree trimming, pole testing, line inspection, outage restoration, replacement of worn out facilities and investment in new equipment/technology that improves efficiencies.

The facility charge should recover five CCECI cost functions:

- Transmission System
- Distribution Substations
- Distribution System
- Metering
- Customer Delivery System

We are coming to the conclusion of the Cost of Service/Rate Design Study. Therefore, we do not have final numbers at this time. However, the timeline going forward is forecasted to be:

Continued on 16c ▶



Mike Johnson

Tebbe receives LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship



Cody Tebbe (left) accepts the Lavern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship from Lavern McEntire.

Lavern McEntire served from 1949 to 1991 as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Macomb, Ill. McEntire took great pride in being a lineman for over 42 years. He and his wife, Nola, made a generous contribution to endow a scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers, ready to "step forward" and move on in this field. They feel strongly about "giving back" and hope that future lineworkers will enjoy the work as much as Lavern did.

The \$1,500 scholarship helps

pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield. It was awarded for the first time in 2011.

Cody Tebbe, son of Gary and Jean Tebbe of Highland, was this year's winner and was enrolled in the AIEC lineworker's school August 25, 2014 thru October 17, 2014.

One scholarship a year will be awarded to an individual who is related to a rural electric cooperative

employee or director in the state of Illinois; is the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member in Illinois; or has served or is serving in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard. The applicant must have a high school diploma or a GED at the time the scholarship is awarded.

For information on the electrical distribution lineworker programs at Lincoln Land Community College, please contact: Roger Larkin, Manager of Lineworker & Apprentice Development, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62712. Phone: 217-241-7932. E-mail: rlarkin@aiec.coop.

Attention educators and administrators!

Have an educational project you'd like funded?

\$4,000 available through Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants

Enter Touchstone Energy's Classroom Empowerment Grant Competition and your submission could win a \$500 grant for classroom and education enhancement projects!

Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants totaling \$4,000 are being funded by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CCECI) for the 2015-2016 school year. For more information about the grant program, or to get an application, please contact your school superintendant or Carrie Trame at Trame@cceci.com.

Grant applications will need to include the following information:

- 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 project will be completed
- The number of people affected by the project
- If the project's goals are measurable, and how
- How the project ties in Touchstone Energy's four core values of Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and Commitment to Community

Photos and supporting data are optional. Grant applications must be received at CCECI by November 6, 2015. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced on December 4, 2015.

Last year's winners:

\$1,500 - Carlyle Junior High School

Submitting teachers: Tara Joiner, Special Education Teacher; Patty Harre, 6th Grade Science Teacher; and LuAlice Kampwerth, Library Media Specialist.



Touchstone Energy®

The power of human connections

\$500 - Central Community High School

Submitting teacher: Rick Harre, Ag Teacher.

\$500 - Bartelso Elementary

Submitting teacher: Abby Kreke, Special Education Teacher.

\$500 - Germantown Elementary

Submitting teacher: Margie Koopmann, 4th Grade Teacher.

\$500 - Damiansville Elementary

Submitting teacher: Candace Detmer, 3rd Grade Teacher.

\$500 - Breese Elementary District 12

Submitting teacher: Courtney Taylor, 5th Grade Teacher.

Facility Charge - "the story continues" Continued From 16a

- **Early November, 2015**
Review the Cost of Service Rate Design Study results
 - **Early December, 2015**
Come to a conclusion on future rate changes and when those changes will take place. Please note, "CHANGES" not "INCREASES"
 - **2016 CCECI Annual Meeting**
Inform membership of decisions made
 - **Balance of 2016**
Communicate, communicate and communicate the decisions of the CCECI Board to the membership
- Management and the Board of Trustees will continue working on our long term rate design goals, and as always, we will continue to communicate our findings with the membership.

Please remember, all initiatives we embark upon always have our members' best interest in mind. Providing our members with safe, reliable, reasonably priced electricity while providing excellent service will continue to be our goal. As always, if you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Johnson@cceci.com.



I LIKE TO TAKE IT EASY ON VACATION. SO DOES MY ENERGY BILL.

And while my energy bill can't go camping or fishing, there are some things I can do to lighten its load. Like adjusting my thermostat and turning off the water heater before I leave. I'm saving money even while I'm on vacation. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



*In observance of
Veterans Day the
office will be closed on
Wednesday, November
11, 2015*

**In observance of Thanksgiving the office
will be closed on Thursday, November 26,
2015 and Friday, November 27, 2015.**

