



Clinton County
Connection

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Clinton County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Held Thursday, August 19, 2021

The 82nd Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at Central Community High School, 7740 Old US Hwy 50, Breese, Illinois on Thursday, August 19, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Kevin Kampwerth, Chairman of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) board, at 7:30 p.m. He then introduced the CCEC Board of Trustees, Advisory Board, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative (AIEC) employees

and special guests including Paul Furtak, Vice President for Risk and Strategic Planning for Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) and State Representative Charlie Meier.

Board trustee Kevin Wiegmann 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 the receipt of mailing from the U.S. Postal Service.

Upon motion by John Winter, seconded and a vote taken thereon,

the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting were approved. Since COVID-19 canceled the 2020 Annual Meeting, upon motion by Dianne Dagner, seconded and a vote taken thereon, trustees Tim Hanke from district 1 and Kevin Kampwerth from district 2 were re-elected by acclamation to three-year terms set to expire at the Annual Meeting in 2023. The district 3 seat set to expire in 2023 was held by Randy Renth. Upon his resignation, the seat will remain vacant until a successor is appointed by the board of trustees.



Chairman Kampwerth (right) recognized trustee Joe Voss (left) for completing 35 years of dedicated service to the CCEC membership.



Vice Chairman Steve Kalmer (right) accepts a plaque from Chairman Kampwerth (left) for 10 years of dedicated service to the CCEC membership.



Trustee Vernon Mohesky (left) retired with 15 years of dedicated service to the membership. Chairman Kampwerth (right) presented Vernon with his plaque.

The 2021 election consisted of a contested election in district 2 and 3. Upon motion Dianne Dagner, seconded and a vote taken thereon, Robert Gerstenecker, who was running unopposed, from district 1 was re-elected by acclamation to a three-year term set to expire at the Annual Meeting in 2024. John Becker, Jared Kampwerth and John Winter were vying to fill the district 2 seat upon the retirement of trustee Vernon Mohesky. The members in attendance voted to elect John Becker to represent district 2. In district 3, Matt Albat was running against incumbent Kevin Wiegmann. The membership re-elected Kevin Wiegmann. Both Becker and Wiegmann's terms will also expire at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Board Chairman Kevin Kampwerth welcomed members to the meeting and discussed CCEC's business model and how it sets the co-op apart from other electric utilities.

"Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures. 2020 was the fourth year in a row CCEC exhibited 'Cooperation among Cooperatives' by sending linemen to aid those who faced the wrath of Mother Nature."

Kampwerth then demonstrated CCEC's "Concern for Community" by explaining ways the co-op has invested in the community, including academic scholarships to high school and college students who are members or dependents of members of CCEC, and providing grants to area classrooms to help fund educational projects.

"For many years, CCEC has been dedicated to giving back to the community it serves," Kampwerth said.

Board trustee Kevin Wiegmann provided the treasurer's report. "Your

electric co-op is financially sound and strong," he began. Wiegmann explained that more than \$17 million in revenue was collected in 2020, and the co-op spent \$15.8 million to operate. About \$10.7 million was power purchased from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, the co-op's electric supplier.

"The revenue varies from year to year depending on weather, but has decreased somewhat due to the negative power cost adjustment and refunds we've given back in the last few years," Wiegmann explained.

For 2020, the co-op generated about \$1.27 million in margins. The current capital credit balance is \$9.2 million, and CCEC has returned more than \$9.1 million to members since its beginning over 80 years ago. In March, the co-op paid \$325,000 in capital credits earned in 1994 through 1996 to members.

Next, Vice President of Government Relations for the AIEC Nick Reitz came to the podium to briefly discuss some of the pending energy legislation in Springfield.

Paul Furtak then provided a brief history of SIPC, as well as an overview of the generation resources owned by SIPC.

Illinois State Representative Charlie Meyer also spoke briefly on the energy legislation that stands to force an early closure for Prairie State Generating Campus.

Then, CCEC President Bob Kroeger addressed members. "We are here to provide safe and reliable service," he said. "In 2020, we were challenged on both elements. Fortunately, we managed around a global pandemic to keep our employees safe so we could continue to provide reliable service. I'm proud of the way our employees stepped up to this challenge and made adjustments in their work and personal lives to maintain service to our members."

He explained safety is the co-op's

top priority and reported zero lost time accidents in 2020 and to date in 2021. “Our last accident dated back over 12 years ago. That’s pretty amazing in this business,” Kroeger said.

In addition, he discussed the importance of public safety, which included right-of-way maintenance, pole testing and treatment, and rebuilding overhead lines, all to prevent outages and increase safety.

“Although we will never reach 100 percent reliability or eliminate all safety risks, hopefully these programs will continue to move us toward meeting the goal of our mission statement: To provide safe and reliable services to benefit our member-owners,” Kroeger said.

Kroeger then discussed pending legislation that has the potential to increase costs, reduce reliability, make CCEC dependent on neighboring states for energy generation, eliminate jobs and transfer tax base to neighboring states.

CCEC supports the movement toward a cleaner energy future, but not at the expense of rates and reliability. Considering the pending legislation, Kroeger asked members to help by sending a letter to Governor Pritzker and local state legislators voicing their support to delay the closure of the Prairie State Energy Campus.

“I believe the membership of CCEC is the greatest asset we have,” Kroeger said. “After all, you are the owners of this co-op. I believe the second greatest asset we have are our employees. The employees play a key role in the success of CCEC. They take pride in that responsibility and serving the membership. I’m proud of their commitment and dedication and I think you should be too.”

Upon motion by Mark Huelsmann, seconded and a vote taken thereon, all reports given by the officers and the president were approved.

President Kroeger recognized the following CCEC employees for their years of dedicated service to the membership: Katy Singler, 5 years in 2019; Jason Deering, 5 years in 2020; Mike Korte, 5 years in 2020; Brenda Knolhoff, 10 years in 2020; Ahren Langhauser, 15 years in 2019; and Doug Vonder Haar, 30 years in 2020.

President Kroeger also recognized the following CCEC trustees for their years of dedicated service to the membership: Rob Gerstenecker, 5 years in 2019; Steve Kalmer, 10 years in 2020; Tim Hanke, 20 years in 2019; and Joe Voss, 35 years in 2019.

The evening drew to a close with President Kroeger acknowledging three CCEC retirements. Trustee Vernon Molesky retired after 15 years of dedicated service to the membership. Trustee Randy Renth retired after 25 years of dedicated service to the membership and CCEC Leadman Lineman Allan Deiters retired back in 2019 with 31 years of dedicated service to the membership.

There being no further business to come before the 82nd Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., upon motion by John Winter, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Kampwerth at 9:08 p.m.

Following adjournment, four cash prizes were awarded. The winners were: Don Deiters, \$100; Robert Langenhorst, \$50; Jacob Schroeder, \$50; and Mascoutah Equipment, \$50.

To hear this type of information first hand, collect attendance prizes and to have the opportunity to win cash prizes, consider attending next year’s Annual Meeting. As a member, you are an owner of this cooperative and deserve to be well-informed about all activities.



Chairman Kampwerth (left) recognized trustee Rob Gerstenecker (right) for completing 5 years of dedicated service to the CCEC membership.



Trustee Tim Hanke (left) accepted a plaque from Chairman Kampwerth (right) in honor of 20 years of dedicated service to the CCEC membership.



Attention Teachers & Local School Administrators!

Apply for your 2021-2022 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants



Clinton County
Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*Does your school or classroom need new materials?
Can your students benefit from new programs and educational resources?*

Clinton County Electric Cooperative is again coordinating our grant program with Touchstone Energy for our local private and public Pre-K-12 teachers and administrators. Eight grants of \$500 will be provided for innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

Grant applications are due by **November 5, 2021**. Grant awards will be announced on **December 6, 2021**. An objective panel of judges will determine which projects will be awarded the grants. For grant applications and guidelines, please visit our website at www.cceci.com or contact Carrie Trame at 1-800-526-7282.



In observance of Veterans Day, the office will be closed on Thursday, November 11, 2021.



In observance of Thanksgiving, the office will be closed on Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26, 2021.

Although the office will be closed, view your account information and pay your bill 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting our website www.cceci.com or by calling 800-526-7282.



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