



Clinton County Connection

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Mark your Calendars

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. will host the 2022 Annual Meeting of the membership on Thursday, August 18, 2022. The nomination procedure for those interested in running for a seat on the board is published on page 18C.

Annual Meeting

18 AUGUST 22

Minutes from CCEC's 82nd Annual Meeting of the members

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.

Trustee Kevin Wiegmann acted as secretary and kept the minutes thereof.

Chairman Kampwerth reported there was a quorum present.

The invocation was given by trustee Vernon Mohesky.

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

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

Chairman Kampwerth then introduced the CCEC Board of Trustees, Advisory Board, special guests including Vice President for Risk and Strategic Planning for Southern Illinois Power

Cooperative (SIPC) Paul Furtak and State Representative Charlie Meier. Employees of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative who were present included: Paul Dow, Coordinator of Video Productions; Jim Pauley, Facilities Maintenance /Member Support Representative; Nick Reitz, Vice President of Government Relations; and Colten Bradford, Assistant Editor of ICL.

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.

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 elected John Becker to represent district 2. In district 3, Matt Albat was running against incumbent

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"Minutes" continued from 18A

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 investor-owned 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 spoke about 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 whose primary residence is served by CCEC, as well as 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.

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, Nick Reitz came to the podium to briefly discuss some of the pending energy legislation in Springfield.

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

Illinois State Representative Charlie Meyer spoke briefly on the energy legislation that could 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 VonderHaar, 30 years in 2020.

President Kroeger also recognized the following CCEC board members 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 Mohesky retired after 15 years of dedicated service to the membership. Trustee Randy Renth retired after 25 years of dedicated service to the membership. 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.

Kevin Wiegmann,
Secretary/Treasurer pro tempore

Kevin Kampwerth, Chairman

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: Bob Kroeger, President, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 N. Main Street, Breese, IL 62230, (618) 526-7282.

Restoring power safely and efficiently

We do our best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: power outages happen.

For most Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

So, when the power goes out, how do CCEC crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We've got answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on

utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. CCEC keeps a supply of extra utility poles, transformers and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see CCEC crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. We love trees too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition to

managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself, and we make it easy to do. The quickest way to report an outage is to call our outage reporting number at 800-526-7282.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of CCEC, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

Considering Solar? Call us first!

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.

