



# Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. • [cceci@cceci.com](mailto:cceci@cceci.com) • [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com)

## Giving back is the cooperative way

The holiday season brings a spirit of generosity and compassion. It's a time to reflect on our many blessings and uplift those in need. While this is certainly a special time of year, Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) is deeply rooted in giving back to its local communities year-round.

One way CCEC gives back is by investing in tomorrow's leaders. Through presentations at schools, scholarship opportunities and the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we aim to empower students for a brighter future. When we invest in our local youth, we strengthen the fabric of our community.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we also believe in giving credit where credit is due — to the members who shape our co-op. One of the ways we do this is through capital credits. Because CCEC operates at cost, we give cash back to our members rather than outside investors or shareholders.

Here's how capital credits work: CCEC members use the electricity we provide and pay their monthly

bills, and we track their business with the co-op over time. CCEC pays all operating expenses throughout the year, and if any operating revenue is left over, we allocate it as capital credits. When financial conditions permit, the co-op's board of directors votes to pay capital credits back to the members. CCEC then sends you a check.

Since 1939, CCEC has returned \$10.7 million to our local members.

Capital credits are just one of the many benefits of co-op membership. Giving back to our local members instead of outside parties is one of the many aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses.

Our members guide every decision we make and are the reason our co-op exists. To us, you're more than a customer. This holiday season, we hope you're proud to be part of a community-focused co-op that puts people before profits.

From your friends at CCEC, we hope you have a bright, blessed holiday season.



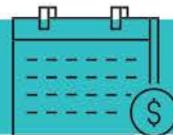
**HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK**

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit and operate at cost. Capital credits are a financial benefit of co-op membership.



**1.** Members pay their electric bills, and we track their business with us each month.

**2.** The co-op pays operating expenses throughout the year and allocates any leftover operating revenue as capital credits.



**3.** When financial conditions permit, the co-op board votes to retire (pay) capital credits to the members.

**4.** We send members their share of capital credits as a bill credit or check.



# POWERING YOUR FUTURE

**17 SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**\$2,500 EACH**

The Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program awards seventeen \$2,500 scholarships annually to deserving students in the “electric cooperative family” entering college to assist them with their educational costs.

## ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS

**10 SCHOLARSHIPS** are awarded to high school students who are the child of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2024).

**5 SCHOLARSHIPS** are reserved for high school students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the child of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2024).

**1 SCHOLARSHIP**, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a high school student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director (deadline to apply Dec. 31, 2024).

**1 SCHOLARSHIP**, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker’s Scholarship, is awarded to a student to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL (deadline to apply April 30, 2025).

**For more information about the IEC Memorial Scholarships, please contact:**

**Carrie Trame • [trame@cceci.com](mailto:trame@cceci.com) • 800-526-7282**



**IEC MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

# 2025 maintenance programs

In 2025, we have again contracted with Rensing Tree Service to continue with our 4-year trimming program. This year we will be trimming trees in areas served by our Breese, Albers and Mascoutah substations. Since weather conditions play a big part in where and what they can cut, you can expect to see Rensing Tree Service crews throughout most of the year. Rensing Tree Service has worked with Clinton County Electric for many years, and we believe they are a valuable partner for us to ensure reliable service to the membership.

Also in 2025, Clinton County Electric has contracted with Osmose Utilities Service to inspect and possibly treat all electric utility poles served by the Old State Substation. Osmose will start their work this spring. Osmose will be using both pickup trucks and 4-wheelers to move from pole to pole, inspecting and treating them.

For a more detailed map of the areas affected by the 4-year trim or pole-treating programs, please visit our website at [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com). Please do not hesitate to call the office at 800-526-7282 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. if you have any questions or concerns.



*Tree Trimming map: Trees will be trimmed in the areas served by the Breese, Albers and Mascoutah Substations.*



*Poles will be treated in the areas served by the Old State Substation*

**YOUTH TOUR**



**ILLINOIS**

## 2025 Youth Day and Youth Tour

Clinton County Electric is sponsoring up to 12 area sophomores, juniors or seniors to attend Youth Day in Springfield, sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Two students attending Youth Day will be selected to go to Washington, D.C., for an all-expense-paid trip. See our January 2025 issue for more details.



# HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

In observance of the following holidays,  
the cooperative office will be closed:

**Christmas Eve & Christmas Day,  
Tuesday, Dec. 24 & Wednesday, Dec. 25**  
**New Year's Eve & New Year's Day,  
Tuesday, Dec. 31 & Wednesday, Jan. 1**

*Although the office will be closed, view your account information and pay your bill 24 hours a day,  
seven days a week by visiting our website at [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com) or by calling 800-526-7282.*

The Trustees and Employees of Clinton County Electric wish everyone

*a very Merry Christmas and  
a Happy and Prosperous New Year.*



John Becker



Cary Dickinson



Robert Gerstenecker



Tim Hanke



Stephen Kalmer



Rodney Timmermann



Joseph Voss



Kevin Wiegmann



Craig Benhoff



Ron Deien



Mike Faust



Jacob Haselhorst



Justin Hubert



Jared Kampwerth



Brenda Knolhoff



Mike Korte



Bob Kroeger



Ralph Kuhl



Sam Kuhl



Ahren Langhauser



John Schroeder



Katy Singler



Brian Taylor



Braden Trame



Carrie Trame



Doug Vonder Haar



Kyle Wiegmann