



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Clinton County Electric Cooperative *Annual Meeting Recap*

Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) welcomed members to its 86th Annual Meeting of Members on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, at Central Community High School in Breese.

Board Chairman Rob Gerstenecker welcomed CCEC members and called the meeting to order. Attendees heard reports from cooperative leadership, received updates about the cooperative, and voted in the election of trustees.

In his report, President and COO Bob Kroeger addressed challenges facing the cooperative and the broader energy industry, including inflation, rising demand for electricity, and state and federal legislation that could affect reliability and affordability.

"Unlike investor-owned utilities, CCEC is owned by the people we serve," Kroeger said. "Every decision we make is with our members in mind. You're more than just a customer. You're a member and an owner."



Kroeger highlighted the cooperative's safety record, noting employees have worked more than 625,000 hours without a lost-time accident since April 2009. He also emphasized CCEC's investments in local infrastructure, ongoing legislative advocacy and the development of demand response programs to help members manage energy use and lower bills.

Board Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Wiegmann reported that CCEC remains financially strong, with \$19 million in revenues and nearly \$18 million in expenses in 2024.

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The cooperative generated \$1 million in margins, with approximately \$488,000 from operations and \$507,000 from SIPC and associated organizations.

Over its history, the cooperative has returned more than \$11.2 million in capital credits to members, including \$450,000 in March 2025. Total assets now stand at nearly \$39 million, with equity of \$17.7 million, meeting the co-op's target equity ratio of 40 to 50 percent.

The inaugural Kevin Kampwerth Memorial Scholarship, honoring longtime board member and cooperative leader Kevin Kampwerth, who passed away last fall, was awarded to Bradley Huelsmann. He will attend Kaskaskia College.

"Kevin's passion for cooperative values, education and community service was evident in everything he did. He was a strong believer in the importance of supporting the next generation," Gerstenecker said. "It is in his memory that we are proud to present the scholarship



to a deserving young individual who shares that same commitment to growth, purpose and service."

Three trustee positions were up for election this year. Justin Detmer of Carlyle (District 2) and Steve Kalmer of New Baden (District 3) were elected by acclamation. In District 1, members cast ballots between Brad Knolhoff of Carlyle and Cary Dickinson of Hoffman. Following member voting, Knolhoff was elected to represent District 1.

The meeting also marked the retirement of Joe Voss, who served on the cooperative's board of trustees for 41 years. Leadership and members thanked Voss for his decades of dedicated service.

As a thank-you for attending, all registered members received a \$20 bill credit on their next bill, along with the chance to win additional prizes.

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 Nov. 7, 2025.

Grant awards will be announced on Dec. 8, 2025.

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 Katy Singler at 1-800-526-7282.

Powered by Purpose



Bob Kroeger,
President/COO

In October, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you — the members who make it all possible. For us, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

As the President/COO of Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC), I see purpose in action every single day. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you — our members, our neighbors and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally controlled. That's not just a tagline; it's the very heart of our business model. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members who live right here in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most: delivering reliable, affordable electricity and providing real value to the people we serve.

We do that by investing in essential infrastructure upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to manage costs and keep rates as low as possible — because we know how much rising prices affect families and small businesses in our area. And, when storms hit or outages occur, CCEC crews are here and ready to respond quickly, because we live here, too.

But our commitment doesn't end at the power lines.

Co-ops were built to meet community needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools, sponsoring youth programs, or partnering with volunteer organizations, we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in the places we serve. Community support isn't an afterthought — it's part of our mission.



We're also planning for the future. As electricity demand grows due to new technologies and economic development, electric co-ops are working to ensure we continue to meet those needs with a balanced, reliable energy mix. We know our members care about affordability and dependability, and we're committed to delivering both.

That's the power of the cooperative difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose.

This National Co-op Month, I encourage you to take pride in your cooperative membership. You're not just a customer — you're an owner and a vital part of a larger effort to keep our community strong, connected and energized.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to be your local electric cooperative.

Office Closings

In observance of Veteran's Day, the office will be closed
Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025.

In observance of Thanksgiving, the office will be closed Thursday,
Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28, 2025.

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





Co-op Month Word Search

Did you know October is National Co-op Month?

Read the following facts to learn how co-ops are unique, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.

B	T	A	M	L	J	S	T	K	S	N	B	M	T	M
S	R	G	T	A	C	F	V	E	S	I	S	U	J	P
Z	Q	Z	M	M	V	G	L	K	E	F	U	F	A	J
Q	R	F	R	M	N	P	C	W	I	Z	N	G	K	K
L	A	E	Q	B	I	N	P	C	T	N	V	K	T	W
H	K	V	H	C	X	I	C	B	I	H	Y	S	I	S
X	S	O	N	T	C	W	B	L	N	E	F	D	U	F
P	Z	I	M	R	E	R	I	W	U	L	H	F	K	I
C	R	C	Y	E	X	G	T	H	M	O	B	M	G	B
P	A	D	O	U	M	D	O	Z	M	C	J	W	Y	T
A	A	T	U	V	Z	B	X	T	O	A	Q	J	B	X
I	F	D	H	F	O	S	E	N	C	L	W	O	J	V
L	U	P	C	O	O	P	E	R	A	T	I	V	E	F
F	F	C	N	K	B	S	I	I	S	Q	D	S	U	Y
A	X	S	Y	X	Y	B	P	G	G	B	M	D	P	D

Fun Facts about Co-ops:

- Co-ops and their members work **together** toward a common goal.
- Co-ops are local organizations, so they understand the **communities** they serve.
- All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative **principles**.
- Concern for community is the seventh **cooperative** principle.
- Co-ops don't serve customers; instead, they serve **members**.
- Co-ops are led by the **local** members they serve.