



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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



Mike Johnson

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We are committed to youth and education

For many, many years, the electric cooperative family has been committed to youth and education. Clinton County Electric is no different. This commitment to our youth is sincere and real and will continue for many years to come. The youth are our future and the only way to ensure our future is to educate our youth. I believe this is yet another way we differentiate ourselves from the typical Investor Owned Utility.

Our Youth/Education Programs consist of:

- Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield
- Youth Tour to Washington D.C.
- The Illinois Electric Cooperatives Scholarship Program
- The Clinton County Electric Cooperative Scholarship Program
- The Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant Program

Clinton County Electric has been a part of the Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Day for many years. Under this program we sponsor up to 12 area sophomores and/or juniors to go to Springfield to enable them to become engaged in the political process. On March 28, five area students proudly represented Clinton County Electric and had the opportunity to meet area legislators, visit the State Capitol complex and see numerous Illinois historical sites.

Two of those participants of the Youth Day in Springfield will be selected to also partake in the Youth Tour to Washington D.C. in June. The Youth Tour is an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. scheduled for June 15-22. They, along with about 70 other youth from the state of Illinois, will visit such attractions as the White House, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Monument and many

other national monuments of interest. The students will have an opportunity to meet with US Congressmen when they visit the U.S. Capitol. What a fantastic way to see and experience the political process at work. You can go to our website www.cceci.com/youth-programs to find out more information to get ready for next year's Youth Day in Springfield and Youth Tour to Washington. The Youth Day and Youth Tour are open to any sophomore or junior in high school. Also, be sure to check the December issue of the Illinois Country Living Magazine for reminders!

Each year, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), offers eight \$1,250 scholarships through its Scholarship Program. The program dedicates four scholarships to the sons or daughters of cooperative members who will be attending a 4-year university. One is reserved for the child of a cooperative employee or director, and two are for students who will attend a 2-year (Junior) college or trade school. Also, the AIEC awards a scholarship to financially assist an individual in becoming a trained electrical line worker. An article detailing these scholarships appeared in our November newsletter. The deadline for the \$1,250 IEC scholarships has passed, but there is still time to apply for the lineworkers' scholarship with a deadline of April 30, 2012. Visit our website for more details. Good luck to all of those who applied for this year's scholarships offered through the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's scholarship program.

Here at Clinton County Electric we also sponsor our own scholarship program. We offer six \$500 scholarships to local graduating seniors. Each area high school receives one scholarship and determines its own criteria to select a recipient. Clinton County

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President's letter (Continued from page 16a)

Electric's requirement is that the student continues their post high school education in some manner. Be sure to check with the guidance departments at Carlyle High School, Central Community High School, Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, Mater Dei Catholic High School, Mascoutah High School, and Wesclin High School for more details or to apply. Clinton County Electric also offers a \$500 scholarship to a student at Kaskaskia College who will be continuing his or her education at that institution. More information for this scholarship can be obtained from Kaskaskia College.

To be eligible for all of the programs listed above, students must be dependents of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members that are in good standing. Just to be fair, children of cooperative employees and board of trustees are not eligible (unless specifically noted).

Three years ago, we implemented a new educational program, the

Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants. These grants are awarded to educators within the footprint of our service area who have planned projects that focus on Touchstone Energy's four core values of Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and Commitment to Community. This year we "ramped up" this program and funded 16 of 22 grant requests. Congratulations to all of this year's recipients. Their pictures can be found on pages 16c & 16d of this newsletter.

As you can see, we have programs in place for sophomores and/or juniors, graduating seniors and educators, but one of the areas we need to work on in the future is the secondary education level. We have presented our safety demonstration at the Earth Day Celebration at Carlyle Lake, and that has been very well received (the kids have fun watching the hot dog burn). This is an area we will be looking at for new ideas and programs in the future. If anyone has ideas on this, please let me know.

In 2011 Clinton County Electric invested over \$15,000 in our Youth/Education Programs, and we hope to increase this amount in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the membership to visit our website www.cceci.com to read more about our Youth & Education Programs. While you are on our website, please take the opportunity to sign up for E-Business; the button is on the upper left of your screen. All you will need is a Cooperative billing statement and a valid email address. Once you are signed in, you will have the opportunity to view your personal account and the option to pay your bill via our website.

Please remember, all initiatives we embark on always have our members' best interest in mind. Providing our members with affordable electricity and excellent service will continue to be our goal in the future. As always, if you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Johnson@cceci.com

Did you know you can pay your electric bill through our website?

How do I pay my electric bill through the cooperative website? The first thing you need to do is have your Clinton County Electric Cooperative bill in front of you. Then follow these easy steps:

- Go to our website www.cceci.com
- Click on E-Business Solution and Register your account if you have not already done so. To do this, just follow the prompts.
- Once you have registered, you will have the opportunity to pay your bill with your debit card, credit card or through your checking account.

During the registration process you will be providing your e-mail address. Using this e-mail address, we will send you an email every month when the bills are processed and provide you with a link to access our website to view and pay your bill electronically. You will still receive a paper copy of your bill each month unless you check the box requesting paperless billing.

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WELCOME
All of us here at Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. would like to thank you for visiting our website. Please visit often. Thank you!!

Find us on Facebook
Get current information on storms, large outages, and more via Facebook!
Please check us out at www.facebook.com/ClintonCountyElectric

Have you heard about our upcoming rate increase?
Would you like to know how much the new rates will effect your electric bills?

Grab a few of your old electric bills (or look them up through our E-business Solution) and use the Rate Increase Calculator to find out exactly what you would have paid this past month with the new rates that will be imposed on all usage starting January 1, 2012.

This is a convenient way to pay your bill and also view your payment and billing history 24 hours a day/7 days a week. If you have any question about the e-bill process, please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing billing@cceci.com or calling 526-7282.

Touchstone Energy 2011/2012 Classroom Empowerment Grant Program

Clinton County Electric Cooperative awarded \$8,000 to area teachers through the Touchstone Energy 2011/2012 Classroom Empowerment Grant Program. In January and February, the cooperative presented checks to the following winners of the program:



◀ A check for \$500 was presented to Christy Segelhorst, Dawn Isenhower, and Angie Oelrich. All three are 4th Grade Teachers at New Baden Elementary School. Pictured at left are the 4th Grade Students of New Baden Elementary along with 4th Grade Teachers Christy Segelhorst, Dawn Isenhower, CCECI Representative Brenda Knolhoff and 4th Grade Teacher Angie Oelrich.



▲ A check for \$2500 was awarded to Carlyle Community School District. Pictured above are Patty Harre, 6th Grade Science Teacher; Rita Winkeler, 3rd Grade Teacher; Carrie Toth, High School Spanish Teacher; Brenda Knolhoff, representing CCECI; Tara Joiner, Jr. High Special Education Teacher and LuAlice Kampwerth, Junior High Librarian.

▶ Cooperative employee Brenda Knolhoff presented a check for \$500 to Albers Elementary School on behalf of a grant written by Sharon Harms, Superintendent of Albers Elementary. Pictured at right are Knolhoff and Harms.



▲ Brenda Knolhoff of Clinton County Electric Cooperative presented a check in the amount of \$1,500 to teachers at Germantown Grade School. Pictured are Knolhoff, Becky Hitpas, Pre-K Teacher and Coordinator; Kaci Lueking, 1st Grade Teacher; and Pat Henrichs, Music Teacher, all writers of the winning Touchstone Energy Grants awarded by Clinton County Electric.



▲ Brenda Knolhoff presented a check in the amount of \$1,500 to teachers at Mater Dei Catholic High School. Pictured are Principal Dennis Litteken, Business Teacher Jackie Chiarolanza, CCECI Representative Brenda Knolhoff, Science Teacher Christine Gramann and Business Teacher Dave Kohnen.

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Touchstone grants *(Continued from page 16c)*



Accepting a check from Brenda Knolhoff of Clinton County Electric Cooperative for \$1,500 at Weslin St. Mary's School in Trenton was Librarian Kristen Oster, Fourth Grade Teacher Julie Boeckman and Special Education Teacher Heather Klein.

Spotlight on Mike Johnson

Boy, it's hard to believe that it's been almost 3 years since I began my employment here at Clinton County Electric as your President/COO. Let's see, since I last talked about myself in the newsletter, I have had two new additions to my family. In May of 2011 my oldest daughter Sarah and her husband Kevin became the proud parents of my new granddaughter, Samantha Ann. Samantha's brother, Gavin (he is almost 3 years old) is taking really good care of her. My youngest daughter, Kelly Ann got married in October of 2011 to a



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fellow Dubuquer, Jeremy Noel. I just heard they are expecting their first child in the fall of 2012. I just turned 55 years old and am looking forward to spending the next 10 years working here at Clinton County Electric for you, our members.



Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. once again sponsored the "Lite for Bite" Program during the months of November, December, January and February. In exchange for two canned goods, donors received a CFL light bulb from Clinton County Electric. Through generous donations from Clinton County Electric Cooperative Members, Employees and Trustees, the Cooperative was able to donate a truckload of non-perishable food items along with hundreds of CFL light bulbs to the Matthew 25 Ecumenical Food Pantry in Carlyle. Pictured above is Food Bank Coordinator David Huene along with employees of Clinton County Electric Cooperative. Each cooperative employee and trustee made a generous donation toward this important cause. Thanks to all who donated and made our food drive a huge success.