



# Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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



Mike Johnson

## New member deployments

I have been with Clinton County Electric a little over four years now. When I arrived, the Board and I implemented two initiatives. The first being infrastructure improvements and the second, member communication initiatives.

Within the next thirty days, the membership will see two new member communication improvements; a new website and a new bill presentation.

The website, [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com), has been refreshed and should make navigation simpler and more satisfying for the member. Clinton County Electric Inc. (CCECI) is a transparent, member-owned cooperative. Therefore, we intend to post information on our website that will keep the membership informed on the activities here at CCECI. You will see some screen shots, along with more details about this exciting change later in this section of the Illinois Country Living Magazine.

Our new bill presentation should be in production for the September or hopefully, no later than, the October billing cycle. The new bill presentation is larger than our current one. The additional space will allow us more room to display graphs of your past kWh consumption, along with having the ability to show you, the member, all of your monthly charges. Currently, due to lack of space, some of your charges are combined with other charges. With the new bill presentation, you will see all of your billing components. We feel this is very important. Please note, your billing statement will look completely different, but the total charges will be exactly the same.

In the future, we may “unbundle” our charges, meaning the members will see the generation, transmission, distribution line, billing and fixed charges by line item. We

will not have those charges determined until sometime in 2015 or beyond. In order to accurately determine those individual charges, we will need to contract someone to perform a Cost of Service Study. That study will probably be performed in late 2014 or early 2015.

I would appreciate your feedback concerning the newly designed website and the new bill presentation. Please e-mail me at [Johnson@cceci.com](mailto:Johnson@cceci.com) with your comments. I am looking for positive, as well as negative comments, both of which will enable us to make changes that enhance the members’ experience.

Please remember, all initiatives we embark upon always have our members’ best interest in mind. Providing our members with safe, affordable, reliable electricity while providing excellent service will continue to be our goal. As always, if you have any comments or questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at [Johnson@cceci.com](mailto:Johnson@cceci.com).

Visit our website at [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com) to view your account information and to pay your bill.



***In observance of Labor Day, the cooperative office will be CLOSED on Monday, September 2nd***

# Youth to Washington

At the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957, Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson addressed the crowd stating, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents." Soon thereafter, Illinois sent a busload of young people to Washington. By 1964, approximately 400 students from 12 states made the trip to D.C. The word of the program continued to spread and today, more than 1,500 students and their chaperones participate in the Youth Tour every year.

The program is stronger than ever and Clinton County Electric Cooperative Inc. (CCECI) was proudly represented by two outstanding youth on this year's "Youth to Washington" Tour held June 14-21st. Katie Foppe and Brianne Hellmann both children of CCECI members, loaded a motor coach in Mt. Vernon early Friday morning, June 14, and started what was an eye-opening experience by seeing numerous D.C. area attractions and monuments, learning more about electric cooperatives and creating countless friendships which will last for many years to come.

Almost 1,600 youth from all over the United States gathered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel one morning for the Youth Day assembly to hear phenomenal speakers. Former Nebraska State Senator David Landis provided a vibrant historical portrayal of United States Senator George W. Norris. Senator Norris saw the need for the enactment of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) which gave rise to the rural electric cooperatives and public power. The students were also privileged to hear Keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, who delivered an inspiring message from his wheelchair. Mr. Schlappi was accidentally shot at age 14 and doctors told him he would never walk again.



*Left to right are Brianne Hellmann, United States Congressman Bill Enyart, and Katie Foppe during a meet and greet session while visiting our Nation's Capital in June.*

Prior to his accident, he was dreaming of a career as a top American athlete. In his message he stated, "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out." His message was inspiring for young and old.

The week in Washington D.C. was action-packed with more than 60 students and 8 chaperones representing Cooperatives from the entire state of Illinois. They all traveled together to visit such sites as the Capitol Building, Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the United States Holocaust Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington, and Roosevelt, the Newseum and numerous other historic locations. A highlight of the trip was the opportunity to meet our United States Representatives and Senators. Katie and Brianne were able to personally meet with United States Congressman John Shimkus and William Enyart, United States Senator Dick Durbin along with other United States Representatives and Senators.

The Youth Program allows today's students to experience government first-hand by visiting Capitol Hill and seeing the historical sites in Washington D.C. Katie and Brianne, along with all of the students from Illinois, did not want this awesome week to end. They made long-lasting friendships and will remember their week of learning more about our Nation for a very long time.

Each year Clinton County Electric sponsors two students to attend this week-long all expense paid educational trip. Children of Board of Trustee members and employees are eligible to attend at their own expense. The program is kicked off each year in February with "Youth Day" in Springfield and followed by the trip to Washington D.C. in June. Information about next year's trip will be available in the December issue of our newsletter or can be found on our website at [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com) under the Youth Programs tab. See page 9 of this publication for photos from this year's "Youth to Washington" Tour.

# Substation transformer plan

At the March 2013 Regular Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees approved management's recommended Substation Transformer Plan. This plan ensures adequate, ready to

install substation transformers for our 12 substations in case of mechanical failure, a lightning strike or any other natural disaster Mother Nature throws our way. Implementing

this plan will cost the Cooperative approximately \$175,000 over a two year period. We believe this is a fairly priced insurance policy to ensure reliable power for many years to come.

*The pictures below and to the right show Clinton County Electric Cooperative Inc. (CCECI) linemen installing a 3750 KVA transformer at our Breese Substation. The addition of this transformer doubles the transformer capacity at the Breese Substation.*



*These pictures show CCECI linemen replacing 3 old 833 KVA transformers, with 3 refurbished 1250 KVA transformers at our Bartelso Substation. Increasing the transformer capacity at the Bartelso Substation should allow for growth in the many years to come.*





# New look for website coming soon!

In September, we will be introducing our new website. This site was created using responsive web design to allow easy navigation on multiple viewing platforms. The site should have the same look and feel when viewing it on a PC, tablet, or smartphone. Although it may not be organized in the same fashion as before, most of the information on our current site will be transferred to the new site. Please look us up in September at [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com).

## Spotlight on Jacob Haselhorst

Clinton County Electric Cooperative Inc. is proud to announce its newest Apprentice Lineman, Jacob Haselhorst. Jacob graduated from Wesclin High School in 2004 and Ranken Technical College in 2006. There he earned an Associate of Technology Degree in Electrical Automation Technology. Jacob and his wife, Tiffany, welcomed their daughter Brenna Ann on May 30, 2013, just over a month after they celebrated their one year wedding anniversary. Hunting, four-wheeling, golfing, football and watching hockey are all some of Jacob's hobbies. In July of 2013, Jacob started his career here at Clinton County Electric and we couldn't be more excited about having Jacob as a part of the Cooperative team!



Jacob Haselhorst