

# Clinton County Connection

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## Across The Manager's Desk



All of us here at Clinton County Electric would like to guarantee that you have power 100 percent of the time, but unfortunately that just isn't possible. Vehicles and farm equipment, thunderstorms, high winds and tornadoes, equipment failures, animals - just to name a few, are all reasons why your power may be interrupted.

In a major outage (e.g. severe storms and tornadoes, or power supplier failure) when outage calls begin to pour into the office, CCEC's engineering department begins to assess the extent of the damage. Always, the plan is to restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time. The severity of the outage and the weather conditions always play a role in the time it takes to restore power.

In a major outage, crews are immediately dispatched in order to restore power to our members. Repairs are first

made at the substation, followed by major feeder lines, and then individual service lines. The last portion of the plan, dealing with individual outage situations, can take the greatest amount of time. During that phase, crews move from house to house making repairs. And, remember, with the co-op's rural service area, there often are great distances between homes. So, we ask you to please be patient.

Also, we ask that you be patient with us when calling in to report that you have no power. Even though the co-op's phones are answered 24 hours a day, during a large outage situation, the phone lines coming into the office may be busy and patience is needed. We never, ever take the phones off their hooks - we need to know the location of the trouble and we can only know that if we talk to you.

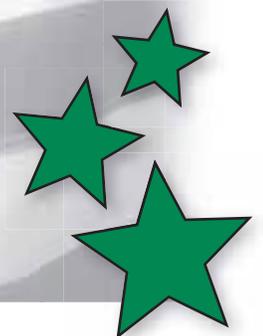
Call us - 526-7282 - any time with your questions or comments or suggestions or complaints. Our job is to serve you.

# Happy Birthday America

## Office Closing

In honor of Independence Day, our office will be closed  
on Wednesday, July 4.

Please drive safely and enjoy a safe July 4<sup>th</sup>.



## Meet Your Directors

Your Board of Directors establishes Clinton County Electric Cooperative's basic business policies. They meet regularly each month at the cooperative office in Breese. They receive no salary but they are reimbursed for travel expenses and receive a per diem for meetings attended. They employ a general manager or president, who is responsible for the operational details of the cooperative and who answers directly to them.

All directors must receive service from Clinton County Electric and they pay the same rates for service and follow the same policies as all other members of the co-op.

Clinton County Electric is member-owned and member-controlled. These directors are YOUR directors. They are chosen through election each year at the annual meeting. Each of the nine directors is elected for a three-year term and may be re-elected. These directors are your voice. They represent you. Let's meet them...

### DISTRICT NO. 1

#### Tim Hanke

- Has served eight years on the CCEC's Board of Directors, being appointed in 1999 to serve the unexpired term of Ken Heinzmann who moved off co-op lines. Tim was then elected at the Annual Meeting of Members in March of 2002
- Earned NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director status in 2002



*Besides farming with his dad and uncle, Tim is employed at Monsanto Global Seed Group as a Field Services Supervisor.*

**Q:** *Are you originally from this area? If so, where did*

*you grow up and why did you stay in this area? If not, what made you come here?*

A: I was born and raised in the Boulder area, attending Carlyle High School and Kaskaskia College. I graduated from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. My wife, Chris, is from St. Rose. After college we moved to Columbus, Ohio for a year and half. During this time we realized how much we missed the rural lifestyle. A job opportunity presented itself and we moved back to the area. I currently work full time and farm with my father (Roger) and uncle (Larry).

**Q:** *What inspired you to run for election to the board?*

A: I was first appointed to the board to fill an unexpired term for a director who moved off the co-op lines. I decided to run at the end of the term because of the quality and commitment of the employees and directors. I have learned a lot in my time on the board and hope to continue to serve the member/owners as a director.

### DISTRICT NO. 2

#### Kevin Kampwerth

- Has served nine years on the CCEC's Board of Directors, being appointed in 1998 to serve the unexpired term of Eleanor Voss who moved off co-op lines. Kevin was then elected at the Annual Meeting of Members in March of 1999
- Earned NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director status in 2004



*Kevin is a familiar face behind the wheel of the Huels Marathon truck. He has been employed there for 26 years.*

**Q:** *How do you like to spend your free time?*

A: In my free time, I like to attend tractor pulls. I've been pulling for 18 years and have found it to be fun. I've met a lot of nice people at these tractor pulls. I also enjoy boating on Carlyle Lake with my family and friends. I am currently President of the Clinton County Fair and I have the privilege of working with a great group of volunteers.

**Q:** *What is the most important duty of a director?*

A: I think the most important duties consist of approving the budget and establishing policies. Our decisions have long-lasting effects on our member/owners. I take the responsibility very seriously and I always keep the best interests of the co-op in mind.

**(Three more Director profiles in August issue of Clinton County Connections.)**

### DISTRICT NO. 3

#### Randy Renth

- Has served 11 years on CCEC's Board of Directors, having first been elected at the Annual Meeting of Members in 1996.
- Earned NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director status in 2005



**Q: What has surprised you the most about serving as a director?**

A: The size of Clinton County Electric Cooperative and the intricacies of the electric industry have been the most surprising things I've encountered as a director. We may be one of the smaller co-ops, but we are a big business generating more than \$11,000,000 in revenue. We only have five members per mile of line yet our rates are competitive with the urban utilities. Not only am I a director, but I'm also a co-op member like everyone else. My goal, like I am sure it is of all the directors, is to have safe, reliable and affordable electricity for every member. To understand how all this works you just can't show up to the meeting once a month and sit back to see what happens. One has to act and react quickly. You need to have an understanding of cost of power studies, cash flow statement, and capital budgeting, TIER, DSC and equity management, just to name a few. Being a CPA has definitely helped me to understand the financial demands placed upon a director. Also, from an operational standpoint, the storms this past year showed us how having a good preventative maintenance program for our power lines allowed us to keep our lights on while others were not so fortunate.

**Q: Are you from this area? If so, where did you grow up and why did you stay in this area? If not, what made you come to this area?**

A: I grew up on the family farm just outside of New Baden in St. Clair County. I went away to college, became a CPA and moved back to the area and purchased the family farm. I reside there today with my wife and daughter. I like the small town atmosphere and the sense of community it allows. To be able to go out on a tractor and work in the field after the hustle and bustle of a St. Louis workday is very peaceful and relaxing. As the saying goes, "You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy."

*Randy exchanges business suit for jeans and city noise for country quiet. Randy lives and farms just outside of New Baden and is also employed with Auffenberg Auto Group as a controller.*

## Live Line Demonstration At Carlyle Lake

Several CCEC employees traveled to Carlyle to participate in the Corps of Engineers Earth Day on April 20, 2007. The linemen used the Live Line Demo to teach 300 area grade school students power line safety. The students learned the hazards associated with animals, tall farm/work equipment, tree limbs and fallen power lines. The demonstration is shared by CCEC and several other Southern Illinois Electric Co-ops.



▲ *Lineman Gary Albers explains some of the dangers associated with working on live power lines. He expressed the extreme safety measures that are used to keep linemen and the public safe.*



▲ *Lineman Brian Taylor simulates what may happen when an animal comes in contact with an energized power line. The picture shows the violent reactions that occur when an animal or person becomes energized at 7,200 volts.*

## New Employee



Clinton County Electric Cooperative welcomes Brandon Diekemper to its Maintenance Dept. Brandon is a Carlyle native, and graduated from Carlyle High School in 2004. He attended Nashville Auto Diesel College in Nashville, TN. Brandon fills the vacancy left by Mike Faust who transferred from the Maintenance Dept. to Apprentice Lineman on May 1. Brandon lives in Carlyle.

Mike Faust became an Apprentice Lineman for Clinton County Electric on April 1. He had been employed as custodian and Field Serviceman since 2001. Mike graduated from Mater Dei High School in 1994 and is a crew member of the Faust Racing Crew. He and his wife Coral reside in Breese.



*Linemen with JF Electric are pictured here installing hardware on poles for the new transmission and distribution line that will connect CCEC's new Old State Substation to our existing Breese Substation. The new line will extend from the intersection of Highline Road and Drive In Road, southwest of Breese, north to Old State Road, and then east to the intersection of Old State Road and Timmermann Road, which is the site of the new substation. The transmission and distribution line is expected to be completed in September, and the substation construction is estimated to be done in winter 2007.*

# RECIPES

The following recipes were submitted by co-op member Evelyn Smothers of Keyesport.

## Chicken Chalupa

1 bag (6 to 8 oz) nacho cheese flavor tortilla chips  
4 chicken breasts  
1 can cream of chicken soup  
1 can cream of mushroom soup  
1 cup sour cream  
½ cup chicken broth  
1-½ cans diced green chilies  
1 onion finely chopped  
Grated Longhorn cheese  
Tomato wedges and/or avocado slices

Spray a 9 x 13 inch pan with any vegetable cooking spray. Line the pan with the tortilla chips. Cook, de-bone, and chop the chicken breasts. Spread chopped chicken on top of tortilla chips. Mix together the soups, sour cream, chicken broth, chilies and onion. Spread this mixture on top of chicken. Top with grated cheese. Bake at 350 degrees 30 to 45 minutes or until bubbly. Garnish with tomato wedges and/or avocado slices. Return to oven to warm garnish. Let set a few minutes before cutting.

## Chicken Tortilla Bake

3 cups shredded cooked chicken  
2 cans (4 ounces each) chopped green chilies  
1 cup chicken broth  
1 can (10 ¾ oz) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted  
1 can (10 ¾ oz) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted  
1 small onion, finely chopped  
12 corn tortillas  
2 cups (8 oz) shredded cheddar cheese, divided

In a bowl, combine the chicken, chilies, broth, soups and onion; set aside. Warm tortillas in the microwave according to package directions. Layer half of the tortillas on the bottom of a greased 13 x 9 x 2 baking pan, cutting to fit pan if desired. Top with half of the chicken mixture and half of the cheese. Repeat layers. Bake, uncovered at 35 degrees for 30 minutes. Yield: 6-8 servings.

## Call Before You Dig...



Now made easier. SIMPLY CALL 811 or 1-800-892-0123. Safe Digging is no accident. Regardless of the project size or depth, always call 811 before you dig. Here are a few safety tips for homeowners when planning outdoor projects:

- ◆ Call JULIE (simply call 811 or 800-892-0123) before you dig;
- ◆ Wait the required amount of time (two working days);
- ◆ Respect the marks;
- ◆ Dig with care.

*Call  
Before  
You Dig*



## Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Recipients

### 2007 IEC Scholarship Winners

The winners of the 2007 Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarships have been announced. In the “son or daughter of an electric cooperative member” category, the three winners are: Laura Kirst of Galena, IL (Jo-Carroll Energy); Tess Hellgren of Makanda, IL (Egyptian Electric Cooperative); and Mitchell R. Fairley of Quincy, IL (Adams Electric Cooperative).

In the “son or daughter of an electric cooperative employee or director” category, the scholarship winner is Whitney Kampwerth of Carlyle (Clinton County Electric Cooperative).

The winner of the scholarship to be used at an Illinois Community College is Benjamin Wesley Johnson (Menard Electric Cooperative).

All of the winning students were presented with a plaque by local co-op officials at their local high school awards ceremonies. The amount of the scholarship is \$1250. There were 204 applications this year.



*Whitney Kampwerth receives the IEC Scholarship plaque from her dad, Kevin Kampwerth, a director at Clinton County Electric. Whitney marks the first IEC scholarship winner from Clinton County Electric. Congratulations to Whitney and her parents, Kevin and LuAlice Kampwerth.*

### CCEC Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following students for having won the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. scholarship from their respective schools:

Carlyle High School - Nathan Novsek,  
son of Co-op members Joe and Tracy Novsek;

Central High School - Megan Winkeler,  
daughter of Co-op members Dave and Tina Winkeler;

Mascoutah High School - Mark Wehmeyer,  
son of Co-op members Dale & Lisa Wehmeyer;

Wesclin High School - Morgan Lockowitz,  
daughter of Co-op members Mark and Barb Lockowitz;

Mater Dei High School - Amanda Luebbers,  
daughter of Co-op members Jeff & Vivian Luebbers;

Kaskaskia College - Brett Huelsmann,  
son of Co-op members Jerry & Karen Huelsmann.



Photo by Eileen Riddle, Union Rural Electric

## Can I Choose Who Provides My Electricity?

Occasionally (and more often recently with Ameren/IP in the news) we get phone calls asking, “Can I choose who to get my electric service from?” The answer is no....due to the Electric Supplier’s Act of 1965, electric customers cannot choose an electric distribution provider.

In 1965 the Electric Supplier’s Act was passed in Illinois. At that time, different utilities and cooperatives were building lines very near to each other’s distribution services.

The State of Illinois did not want to see overall costs go up for people by utilities building duplicate lines. They did not want two or more utilities building lines along the same road. This prompted the passing of the act, which said a utility or cooperative had territorial rights to certain areas based on their proximity to those areas in 1965.

This act determines who will serve an area with distribution lines. The only way for a consumer to be served by a distribution entity (cooperative or investor-owned utility) other than what was established in 1965 is for the present distribution entity to release that consumer to the other. This rarely happens.

Over the last 35 years the different distribution entities have extended their lines so there are very few “gray” areas where service would be questionable.

## Financial Information

### BALANCE SHEET

As of April 30, 2007

#### ASSETS (What We Own):

Total Utility Plant.....	\$ 19,410,066
Less: Accumulated Depreciation.....	7,720,634
Net Utility Plant .....	<u>11,689,432</u>
Cash & Temporary Investments.....	0
Investments in Associated Organizations .....	990,732
Accounts Receivable .....	275,044
Materials & Supplies .....	846,262
Prepayments & Other Deferred Expenses.....	<u>1,221,114</u>
<b>Total Assets.....</b>	<b><u>\$ 15,022,584</u></b>

#### MEMBERS’ EQUITY & LIABILITIES (What We Owe):

Members’ Capital Credits.....	\$ 6,965,820
Other Equities.....	230,530
Long-Term Debt .....	6,619,331
Consumer Deposits .....	119,130
Other Liabilities & Deferred Income.....	<u>1,087,773</u>
<b>Total Members’ Equity &amp; Liabilities .....</b>	<b><u>\$ 15,022,584</u></b>

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Four Months Ended April 30, 2007

#### INCOME:

Sale of Electricity & Other Services.....	\$ 3,941,896
Other Income .....	<u>399,232</u>
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b><u>\$ 4,341,128</u></b>

#### EXPENSES:

Cost of Electric Power .....	\$ 2,755,869
Operations & Maintenance Expenses .....	357,780
General & Administrative Expenses.....	373,749
System Depreciation.....	189,542
Interest Expense .....	<u>159,725</u>
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,836,665</u></b>

**NET MARGINS.....** **\$ 504,463**

# Carlyle Lake News

## 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>JUNE 9</b>	Carlyle Lake Summer Beach Blast
<b>JUNE 1-30</b>	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (Special activities and programming throughout the month of June)
<b>JUNE 30</b>	Fireworks Spectacular
<b>JULY 14</b>	Kaskaskia Duck Race
<b>SEPT. 15 and 16</b>	Carlyle Lake Wine and Art Festival
<b>SEPT. 15 and 16</b>	Whale of a Sail
<b>SEPT. 27</b>	Carlyle Lake Blood Drive

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### Board of Directors

Joseph A. Voss, Chairman.....Carlyle  
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 Ronald Becker, Secretary-Treasurer.....Trenton  
 John White.....Carlyle  
 Vernon Mohesky ..... Breese  
 Kevin Kampwerth ..... Carlyle  
 Randy Renth..... Mascoutah  
 Tim Hanke .....Carlyle  
 Richard Timmermann ..... Germantown

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 Bob Kroeger ..... Engineer  
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 Susan M. Laux.....Editor

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