



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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Commitment to reliability

At our 2010 and 2011 Annual Meetings we discussed our commitment to increasing the reliability of our electric distribution system. We entitled our commitment as “Infrastructure Improvement Initiative”. A big component of that initiative is our copper replacement program.

In early 2011 we completed our 4-Year Construction Work Plan. The 4-Year Construction Work Plan is the product of a consulting engineer that analyzes our distribution system looking for areas that are in need of improvement. Improvements can be defined as electric loading problems, under/over sized transformers, under sized wire and general reliability issues.

With the aid of that Work Plan we have determined four major copper replacement projects that we will tackle this year, assuming Mother Nature doesn’t “rain on our parade”.

The first project pertains to a feeder out of our Bartelso Substation that runs north/south on Shoal Creek Road. With this project we will be replacing slightly less than 3 miles of 9 ½ D copper strand with #2 ACSR. To give you an idea of what 9 1/2D Copperstrand is like, I once heard it described as wire that is slightly fatter than fishing string. This project also includes replacing about 80 poles and will cost about \$115,000 to complete. Clinton County Electric crews will do the construction.

The second copper replacement project scheduled for 2011 is converting a 2 Phase 6A copper line to a 3 Phase 4/0 ACSR line. This line runs south out of our Shattuc #1 Substation along Shattuc Road to State Route 161. The project is slightly less than 1.5 miles and will cost about \$125,000 to complete. Our contractor, Big D, will do the construction.

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Stay engaged in the political process

Clinton County Electric has started a new program that will communicate with you via e-mail messages from your Cooperative President, Mike Johnson. These emails will report on current events that may impact your electric bill and what we might be able to do to provide some relief. They will deal with facts only – NOT opinions and will not be a political or partisan effort. Our national association (NRECA) will craft emails that will be reviewed by President Johnson and, if it “fits” our membership, they will be emailed to you from his email address, johnson@cceci.com.

So, in order for this program to be successful, please email us at CCECI@CCECI.com with your name and account number (or service address) so you can be added to our list if you wish to participate. These will be informational emails that occasionally may request you to communicate with your elected officials. Also, please be assured your email address will **NEVER** be sold or shared with anyone else. Also, once we have your email address in our database, you will receive monthly emails when bills are processed, letting you know your electric bill is available for viewing on our website many days before your bill ever arrives in the mail. Also, you will be provided a link to our company website allowing you to pay your bill via debit card, credit card or your checking account. Please provide your email address and do your part to help keep electric rates reasonable for all of our members!

Commitment to reliability *(Continued from page 16a)*

The third copper replacement project scheduled for 2011 is replacing approximately 4 miles of single phase 9 ½ D wire with #2 ACSR. This line is west of our Trenton Substation on County Line Road and Pleasant Valley School Roads. Clinton County Electric crews will do the construction at an estimated cost of slightly less than \$130,000.

Lastly, the fourth copper replacement project for 2011 involves replacing 2 miles of 6A copper weld with 4/0 ACSR. This line is east of our Albers Substation on Grassy Branch Road and Hunter Road. Big D will do the construction at an estimated cost of \$175,000.

I understand this article might not be the most exciting reading, but we feel the membership needs to know what your cooperative is doing to increase reliability. These four projects add up to well over one-half million dollars – that is a huge commitment for a cooperative the size of Clinton

County Electric. Reliability while maintaining reasonable rates is our commitment to the membership.

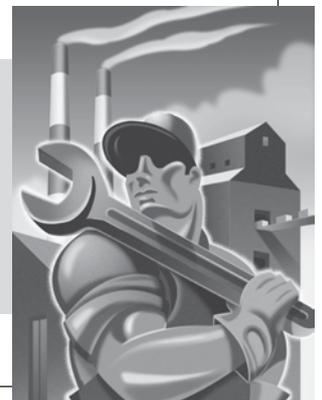
I would like to take this opportunity to invite the membership to visit our website, www.cceci.com. You will have the opportunity to sign up for E- Business; the button is on the upper left of your screen. All you will need is a Cooperative billing statement and a valid email address. Once you are signed in, you will have the opportunity to view your personal account and the option to pay your bill via our website using debit card, credit card or checking account information.

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



In observance of Independence Day, the office will be CLOSED on Monday July, 4th

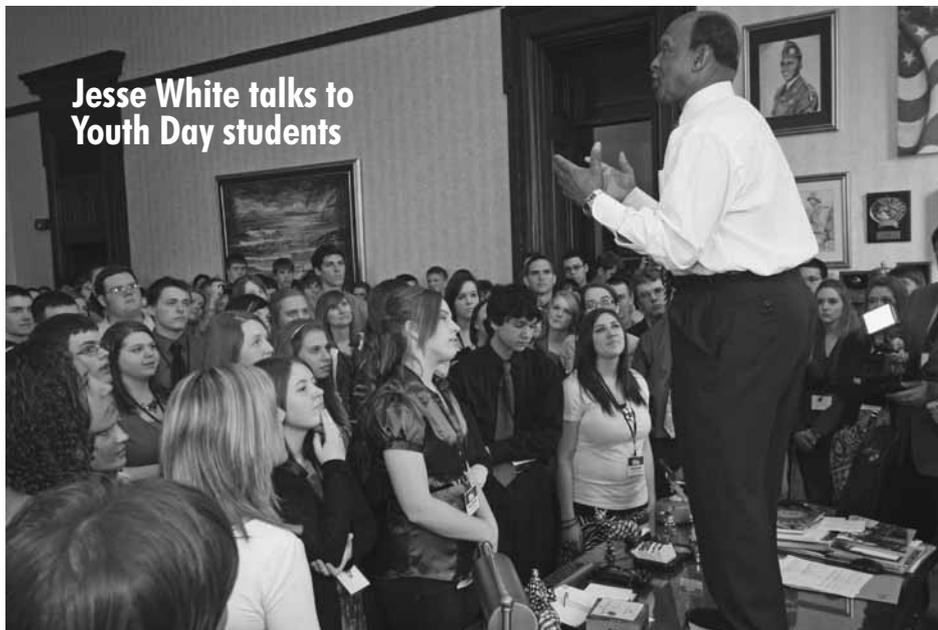
In observance of Labor Day, the office will be CLOSED on Monday, September 5th



CCEC Sponsored Youth Programs

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives sponsored the “2011 Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day” on April 6, 2011 in Springfield, Ill. The purpose of the Youth Day is to help students learn more about cooperatives, meet their legislators and see our state government in action. Adam Eggerman, Sawyer Magnus and Michael Boothman, three high school students from the CCEC area were chosen to attend the Youth Day and joined more than 300 high school students from around the state for the day’s activities. The day included touring the Capitol Building, the State Supreme Court, the Old State Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. The students were privileged to meet with Senators Kyle McCarter, John O. Jones and David Luechtefeld and Representatives John Cavaletto and Mike Bost while at the Capitol Building. They also heard words of wisdom from Secretary of State Jesse White and Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon.

Two of the students attending were chosen by a panel of judges to participate in the “Youth to Washington” tour. This is an all expense paid week-long trip to Washington, D.C. taking place this month. The 2011 winners of the Washington D.C. trip from Clinton County Electric were Adam Eggerman, son of Mike & Kim Eggerman, and Sawyer Magnus, son of Scott & Debbie Magnus all of Carlyle. Also attending “Youth to Washington” this year is Nicole Hanke, daughter of Trustee Tim Hanke and his wife Chris, also of Carlyle. Children of cooperative trustees and employees are eligible to attend the trip to Washington DC at their own expense. Adam, Sawyer and Nicole will be outstanding representatives for Clinton



County Electric as they are traveling to Washington D.C. this month with approximately 80 other students representing cooperatives throughout Illinois.

Children of cooperative members who are sophomores or juniors in high school are eligible to apply for the Youth Day in Springfield, giving

them a chance to participate in the annual “Youth to Washington” trip. For more information, visit our website at www.cceci.com or watch for information in our December and January issues of this newsletter. Additional photos of the Youth Day in Springfield can be found on page 9 of this publication.

Scholarship winners

Congratulations to the following sons and daughters of Cooperative members who were awarded \$500 scholarships on behalf of Clinton County Electric Cooperative in May:

Carlyle High School

Cally Beckemeyer, daughter of Don & Joyce Beckemeyer of Carlyle

Central High School

Julie Varel, daughter of Steve & Jill Varel of Bartelso

Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School

Macey Smith, daughter of Denny & Teresa Haake of Centralia

Mascoutah High School

Gregory Laux, son of Verlan Laux of Trenton

Mater Dei Catholic High School

Amy Huelsmann, daughter of Vernon & Janice Huelsmann of Trenton

Wesclin High School

Chelsea Bair, daughter of Tim & Cheryl Bair of Trenton



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checking account
information.

Spotlight on Ahren

Ahren Langhauser began working for the cooperative in May of 2004 after graduating from Ranken Technical College with a degree in Industrial Electricity and Electronics. Ahren was born and raised in Germantown and attended Mater Dei Catholic High School. In 2006 he married his wife Lauren and they reside in Breese with their daughter Camryn, who recently turned 3 and their newborn son Jackson who was born in March of this year.

Ahren's job responsibilities at the cooperative involve working with many departments – to name just a few – Engineering and Operations, Member Services (water heaters, high bill complaints, HomE Program), the cooperative Safety Accreditation, IT and technology upgrades (computers, telephones, two-way radios, webmaster) and the facility and building maintenance. As you can



Ahren Langhauser

tell, he has no problem staying very busy with all of the many hats he wears here. In Ahren's spare time, he enjoys maintaining the family hunting grounds and deer hunting, playing on a Bocce Ball League, working around the house, and most of all, playing with Camryn in the yard and then relaxing with Jackson in the recliner.

Call Before you Dig: 811 is the number to call

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

Don't gamble with your safety – knowing where underground lines are buried before each digging project helps prevent injury, expense and penalties. In 2004, according to industry data, CGA estimates there were approximately 680,000 underground line strikes resulting in damages, including service outages and injury. Many of these accidents might have easily been avoided by calling ahead to have lines marked before digging.

One easy phone call to 811 starts the process to get your underground utility lines marked for free. When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, your call will be routed to your local One Call Center which is JULIE in Illinois. Operators there will ask you for the location of your digging job and contact all affected utility companies on your behalf.

Those companies will then send a professional locator to mark your lines within a few days.

The colors of the paint and flags represent a universal color to what is buried below ground.

- Red – Electric
- Orange – Communications, Telephone/CATV
- Blue – Potable Water
- Green – Sewer/Drainage
- Yellow – Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line
- Purple – Reclaimed Water
- White – Premark site of intended excavation

Once your underground lines have been marked, you will know the approximate location of your utility lines and can dig safely, because knowing what's below protects you and your family. (Please note, it is the responsibility of the owner to inform the excavator of any underground power lines that are not owned by Clinton County Electric Cooperative). For more information, visit www.call811.com or www.Illinois1call.com.