

Clinton County Connection

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Across The Manager's Desk



Once again, this year, CCEC is hosting three Area Meetings. If you've never attended one of our Area Meetings, you are missing a great experience. These meetings are a very informal means of communicating our message to you, the member.

We welcome questions from our members, and we'll listen to all suggestions, comments and ideas that you may have. In fact, we want members to ask questions, so with your invitation to attend the Area Meetings that you will be receiving this month, there is room at the bottom for you to write out your questions and/or comments. You can cut this out and bring it with you to the Area Meeting. We will have a box at the registration table for you to drop in your questions. We are doing this because we understand that some of you may be reluctant, for whatever reason, to stand up and talk before a crowd.

Refreshments will be served and attendance prizes awarded. We look forward to meeting with you and talking with you at the Area Meetings (see dates below).

As a consumer-owner of Clinton County Electric Cooperative, you have a lot of power. You can vote for your board of trustees. You can make your opinions heard at area and annual meetings because you are the owner. And that's a huge advantage over the big companies whose customers have no say in the management of the company. We take the time to listen to our members, to find out what you need and want. Co-ops like Clinton County Electric Cooperative are unique in the business world.

Take advantage of these Area Meetings. Don't miss this opportunity to meet and talk with your co-op's manager, trustees and employees and find out what's happening at your cooperative. Mark your calendars and make plans today to attend one of the Area Meetings listed below.

Mark your calendars now for the November Area Meetings

Monday, Oct. 29

7:30 p.m.

Albers American Legion

Tuesday, Oct. 30

1:30 p.m.

Breese Knights of Columbus (basement)

Tuesday, Oct. 30

7:30 p.m.

Carlyle VFW (south of Carlyle Super Valu)

Topics to be Discussed: Power Supply; Cost of Service Study; Rates; and Construction Activity

ATTENDANCE PRIZES given to all members attending!



2008 IEC Memorial Scholarships

Students Encouraged To Apply for 2008 IEC Memorial Scholarships

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. Manager Jim Riddle has announced that for the thirteenth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors.

Seven scholarships of \$1,250 each will be awarded in 2008 to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

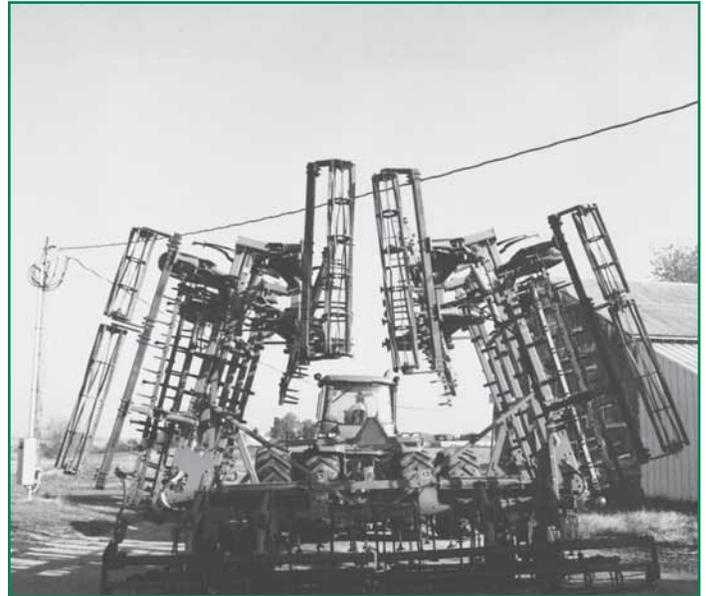
Four scholarships will be awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with this scholarship," says Riddle. "Clinton County Electric Cooperative and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

For more information contact Ahren Lanhauser at Clinton County Electric Cooperative at 618-526-7282 or ask your high school guidance counselor.

Stay Inside Until Help Arrives



Instincts tell us to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that bring down power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, Safe Electricity and Clinton County Electric Cooperative urges you to stay inside the vehicle until help arrives. Getting out of the vehicle, with few exceptions, is the wrong thing to do until the line has been de-energized.

The only exception would be if fire, or other danger, like the smell of gasoline, is present. In that case, the proper action is to jump - not step - with both feet hitting the ground at the same time.

For more information, visit www.safeelectricity.org.

Safe Electricity

Note

Clinton county electric is in the process of updating its computer system. Please be patient with us in the next few months as we convert all of our member files to the new system. Thank you for your cooperation and patience.

Youth To Washington Tour and Youth Day in Springfield

Clinton County Electric will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores or juniors on a day in Springfield to be held on April 9, 2008, sponsored by the co-op and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Of these 12, two will be selected to go to Washington DC in June 2008 for an all-expense paid tour.

WHO MAY ENTER? All applicants must be sons or daughters of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members. If you meet that criterion, then you must be a high school sophomore or junior and attending one of the many high schools in the cooperative service area. Immediate members of the families of Clinton County Electric board of directors or employees are not eligible.

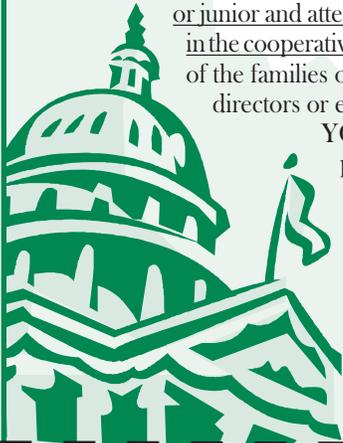
YOUTH TO SPRINGFIELD. A panel of judges will choose up to 12 students who will participate with more than 125 other youths from other Illinois electric cooperatives in Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day

in Springfield set for Wednesday, April 9 2008.

The day's activities in Springfield will include touring the state Capitol complex, visiting with legislators and a luncheon. The two Washington tour winners will be selected from these 12 students.

WASHINGTON TOUR. The two local winners will join some 50 other Illinois students, winners of similar contests sponsored by other Illinois electric cooperatives, at Springfield on June 13. They will travel on air-conditioned buses, returning June 20. While in Washington, they will visit such attractions as the White House, U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Monument and many other national monuments and places of interest.

For more information, call Clinton County Electric's Ahren Langhauser, Sue Laux or Jim Riddle at 526-7282. To apply, all you need do is come in and pick up an application or call the co-op and we will mail you one or complete the coupon below and mail it to us or bring it in to the office. Applications must be returned to the co-op no later than Jan. 31, 2008.



This program may be suspended at any time due to inadequate funding or participation. As noted above, there will be a maximum number of 12 participants chosen. Notifications will only be made to those chosen to participate in the program.

PLEASE SEND ME AN APPLICATION AND MORE INFORMATION ON "YOUTH DAY IN SPRINGFIELD" AND "YOUTH TO WASHINGTON"

Name: _____
Age: _____ Phone: _____
Parent's Name: _____
Address: _____
I attend (name of high school) _____
Class year: (check one) Sophomore _____ Junior _____

**Mail or bring to: Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230
Applications must be returned to the co-op no later than January 31, 2008**

Farming Still One Of The Most Dangerous Occupations

Agriculture consistently ranks first or second among the nation's most hazardous occupations. In helping to put food on America's tables, more than 700 farmers and ranchers die from work-related incidents yearly and another 120,000 sustain disabling injuries. Approximately 387,000 agricultural producers have disabilities and chronic health conditions that limit their daily activities.

As part of the National Agrability Project, Illinois Agrability Unlimited's goal is to help people with disabilities employed in agriculture continue to farm and live successfully and independently in their communities.

A fundamental aspect of successful farming is farming safely. Observing National Farm Safety and Health Week, Sept. 18-24, Agrability Unlimited is encouraging all agricul-

tural producers to preserve their livelihoods by following safe farming practices.

For more information visit the National Safety Council's Web site at www.nsc.org/necas/ or contact Illinois Agrability Unlimited at 800-500-7325.



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

Cary Dickinson

- Was appointed to the board of trustees in October of 1996 to replace Roxanne Michael, who moved off co-op lines. Cary was then elected at the annual meeting of members in March of 1998. Cary serves as vice-chairman of the cooperative board and is CCEC's representative on the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's board.



Cary is the Chrysler Sales Manager at Monken Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep in Centralia. He enjoys working and living in the area where he was raised.

- Earned Credentialed Cooperative Director status from NRECA in 1999.

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

A. When I was appointed to complete an unexpired term, I had little knowledge of electric cooperatives, or the duties of a cooperative director. It didn't take long to see the dedication and pride of electric cooperative employees, from the office, to the outside crews. In good or bad weather, these employees thrive in providing the most reliable electric service possible. I also was quite surprised at the quality and the amount of training available to all cooperative directors.

Q. Are you from the area originally? If so, where did you grow up and what are your reasons for staying in the area?

A. Yes. I was born and raised in Centralia and graduated from Centralia High School and Kaskaskia College. I married my high school sweetheart, Sharon, and served three years in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, stationed at Royal Air Force Base in Holland. Sharon and I moved to Hoffman in 1974 where we still reside. We stayed in the area because it's home...and the best place to raise our two boys, Kyle and Brett.

DISTRICT NO. 2

Vernon Mohesky

- Was elected to the board of trustees at the annual meeting in March, 2006.

Q. What has surprised you most about serving as a director?

A. As a new director of only two years, I have been surprised by the vast amount of learning required to become a good Credentialed Cooperative Director. I am quite impressed with the amount of excellent training that is available to me through the NRECA and AIEC. In the short time that I have been a director, I have learned much about my responsibilities to my fellow cooperative members via this training. It's already assisted me, and I'm sure will continue to in the future as decisions are made in the board room that impact our cooperative and its members for many years to come.

Q. How do you spend your free time?

A. I've been married to my lovely wife for 41 years, and we have four married children and 10 grandchildren. So I would have to say that family is my most important free time activity. Many of my family members also enjoy my second love, which is bike riding. On most days, around 4 p.m., you will find me on my bike for my daily six to eight mile ride. I host a 40-plus mile ride for family and friends each spring called the "Tour De Vern." I also co-host a 40-plus mile ride in the fall to benefit autism research. When not with family or on the bike, you can find me tinkering with my restored antique Farmall model M tractor. The tractor is in several local parades each summer and fall, most of the time pulling a float behind it.



Vernon's father-in-law, Robert Holtgrave, originally purchased this tractor new, and used it on his farm for many years. Vernon and Ann are thankful to have such a special family heirloom.

DISTRICT NO. 5

Ron Becker

- Has served 16-½ years on CCEC's Board of Directors, first being elected in March of 1991 when Richard Haas retired as a director from District No. 3. Ron serves as secretary/treasurer on the co-op's board of directors, a position he's held since 1996. Ron is CCEC's representative on the Southern Illinois Power Cooperative's board of directors.

- Earned NRECA's Director Certificate to become Board Certified in 1994, the Board Leadership Certificate in 1997 and completed NRECA's series of Credentialed Cooperative Director Training Courses in 1998.



Ron is pictured next to his mint condition 1961 Impala which has only 67,000 miles on it. His father purchased this car new in 1961 and sold it to him in 1965 after graduating from college.

Q. Are you from this area? Where did you grow up and why did you stay in the area?

A. I grew up living in Trenton and attended grade school and high school here. Most summers were spent staying and working at my grandfather's farm in rural Trenton. After high school, I graduated from Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville with a degree in math and began teaching math in the Edwardsville school district. In 1976 I moved north of Trenton and became a CCEC member. I held my teaching position for 35 years, retiring in 2000. Except for two years in the Army, including a year in Vietnam, my address has always been Trenton.

I am comfortable in this area. I like the people and I find living in this area very enjoyable. Most of my family lives close by and our farms are here too. I don't ever plan to move anywhere else.

Q. How do you spend your free time?

A. I spend my free time doing a variety of things. I enjoy working with investments and money management and I like to spend time with family and friends. One of the best enjoyments I have is spending time with my life-long hobby of collecting cars and trucks (I even have a few farm tractors). I attend car shows and am a member of the Lookingglass Corvette Club. I spend a lot of time cleaning, polishing and driving my vehicles and enjoy making changes to some in order to make them really stand out. I insist some remain 100 percent original. When I think I've made a vehicle look the same as, or better than, new, it gives me great satisfaction. By the way, the majority of my vehicles are Chevrolets.

Director Duties

The Election and Credential Committee will soon be meeting to qualify candidates for the CCEC Board of Directors. Here are a few qualifications that are needed:

What Directors Do:

- Be accessible to people in their district. While it helps to be sympathetic to the needs of the members, a director must keep the best interest of the entire cooperative in mind.
- Be able to attend regular board meetings and any special meetings that come up from time to time. CCEC holds its regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month.
- Be an independent thinker, but also a cooperator.
- Be capable of acquiring the knowledge necessary to cope with the issues of a modern electric utility, including finances, management and public issues.
- Have the willingness to listen and learn.
- Be one who can accept and direct change.
- Be of sufficient stature to command the respect of management, employees, fellow board members, cooperative members and the public.
- Be willing to commit adequate time to the work of the board to be an effective member and properly discharge the duties of the board.
- Be willing to accept the unpleasant moments of a director's experience.
- Let management manage.

What Directors Don't Do:

- The board does not oversee CCEC's day-to-day operations. Directors establish policies and point the cooperative in the direction they want employees to follow. The employees decide the best way to get the job done.
- Directors aren't required to be walking encyclopedias about electric utilities when they are elected. But it is their job to become knowledgeable about issues facing Clinton County Electric Cooperative so they can make intelligent decisions.

RECIPES

Recipes taken from the October Illinois Country Living magazine.

Easy Ham Breakfast

3 C. French bread cubes, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
3 C. ham cubes, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
1 (8-oz.) pkg. processed cheese spread, diced
3 T. flour
1 T. dry mustard
1/2 tsp. salt
4 eggs
3 C. milk
Dash of hot pepper sauce

Arrange bread, ham and cheese in layers in a 3-quart shallow baking dish. Mix flour with mustard and salt. Sprinkle over layers. Combine eggs, milk and pepper sauce. Pour over entire dish. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Bake, uncovered at 350° for 50 minutes.

Pork Chop Skillet

4 lean pork chops, 1/2-inch thick
Salt and pepper, to taste
2 T. oil
1 onion, sliced
2 (8-oz.) cans tomato sauce
1 tsp. sage
1 can whole green beans, drained
1 (12-oz.) can whole kernel corn, drained

Season pork chops with salt and pepper. Brown chops in oil in a large skillet. Remove chops from skillet and reserve. To skillet, add onion and cook until tender. Stir in tomato sauce and sage. Return chops to skillet, cover and simmer 45 minutes. Add vegetables and simmer about 10 minutes, until heated.

On the Lighter Side...

◆ Why did the doctor run up and down the halls of his clinic yelling, “Typhoid,” “Tetanus,” “Measles”? Because he wanted to call all the shots!

◆ Why don’t skeletons date? Because they don’t have any body to go out with.

◆ A farmer was overheard boasting that he had the biggest sheep farm in the state. Someone asked him, “How many sheep do you have?” He replied, “I don’t know. Every time I try counting them, I fall asleep.”

Tip for the day...

Make sure your wife knows you’re talking to the cat under her chair begging for food before you say, “You know you’re already twice as fat as you should be.”

Sausage and Rice Casserole

1 lb. bulk pork sausage, browned
2/3 C. white rice
2 pkg. Lipton chicken noodle soup
4-1/2 C. water
1 lg. onion, diced
1 green pepper, chopped
4-5 stalks celery, chopped
1/2 C. sliced almonds
1 sm. can mushroom pieces
1/4 C. sliced almonds

Brown sausage and do not drain. Add rice, chicken noodle soup mix and water. Cook 7 minutes and then let stand. Mix together onion, green pepper and celery. Add to the sausage-rice mixture. Add 1/2 C. almonds and mushrooms. Pour into a 3-quart casserole dish. Sprinkle additional 1/4 C. almonds over top. Bake at 350° for 1 hour.

Odds and Ends...

◆ Freeze onions for 30 minutes before you peel them. This eliminates the fumes that cause your eyes to tear up when you peel them.

◆ Orange is the happiest color, so try painting a room you don’t particularly like a cheerful orange, tangerine or peach. The new color could help boost your spirits and outlook whenever you’re in the room.

◆ Heart disease kills 32 percent of the women who have it, yet only 13 percent of women consider the disease their top health concern.

◆ Brown eggs are no better for you than white eggs. The only difference between the two is shell color, which is determined by the type of feed given to a chicken.

◆ Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. It’s also the leading cause of home fire injuries.

◆ Almost 90 percent of U.S. homes have at least one smoke alarm.

◆ Tobacco in all forms, including secondhand smoke, increases the risk of heart disease.

◆ Talking on a cell phone is a major road hazard, and the impairments can be as profound as those associated with drunk driving, according to researchers at the University of Utah.

◆ Eating fish two to three times a week can help reduce sudden death from heart problems.

◆ Eating 12 to 15 red or green grapes three or four times a week helps rid the body of oxidative stress, a major cause of cardiovascular disease.

New substation construction and line work continues



◀ *This lineman with JF Electric climbs one of the new 60 foot poles to help “string” new conductors. Temporary pulleys were installed on the poles to allow ropes to be sent through the pulleys to pull in the new conductor wires. There are a minimum of 8 pulleys per pole that will assist in the installation of the 4 conductors for the distribution feeder, and the 4 conductors for the transmission feeder. Each wire is about 3/4 inch diameter and weighs 3.65 lbs per 10 foot lengths, there will be an average of 775 lbs of wire per span on the new line.*

The ropes that are being pulled through the pulley are attached to a motorized spool. The spool will spin freely while pulling the ropes out and sent through the pulleys. When the ropes reach the end of the line, the new conductor will be attached to the ropes and pulled back through the pulleys using the motorized winding system on the spools. There are over 8,000 feet of rope on each spool. This picture shows the tangled web that the stringing process can weave. The ropes will be stretched over, under, and through the existing 8 wires that feed our customers north of Breese. 1/2 of the wires are still energized at 7,200 volts.



Big D Electrical Contractors continue work at the new substation site. Linemen with Big D are pictured erecting the large steel structures that will hold the conductors and devices that will allow the safe distribution of electricity. The structure shown is the low voltage bay where the 4 substation feeders will be split apart from the main substation transformer. The construction on CCEC’s new Old State Substation is expected to be completed by the end of October.

Financial Information	
BALANCE SHEET	
As of Aug. 31, 2007	
ASSETS (What We Own):	
Total Utility Plant.....	\$ 19,960,414
Less: Accumulated Depreciation.....	<u>7,818,357</u>
Net Utility Plant	\$ 12,142,057
Cash & Temporary Investments	4,260
Investments in Associated Organizations.....	1,020,732
Accounts Receivable	159,496
Materials & Supplies	977,707
Prepayments & Other Deferred Expenses	<u>1,127,099</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$15,431,351</u>
MEMBERS’ EQUITY & LIABILITIES (What We Owe):	
Members’ Capital Credits.....	\$ 7,211,032
Other Equities.....	230,529
Long-Term Debt.....	7,335,726
Consumer Deposits.....	117,115
Other Liabilities & Deferred Income.....	<u>\$ 536,949</u>
Total Members’ Equity & Liabilities.....	<u>\$15,431,351</u>
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS	
For the eight months ended Aug. 31, 2007	
INCOME:	
Sale of Electricity & Other Services	\$ 7,788,736
Other Income.....	<u>410,745</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 8,199,481</u>
EXPENSES:	
Cost of Electric Power	\$ 5,331,436
Operations & Maintenance Expenses.....	656,727
General & Administrative Expenses	743,294
System Depreciation	383,745
Interest Expense	<u>317,056</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 7,432,258</u>
NET MARGINS.....	<u>\$ 767,223</u>



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/s/ Susan M. Laux, Editor



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