

Clinton County Connection

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Clinton County Electric Holds 69th Annual Meeting Of Members

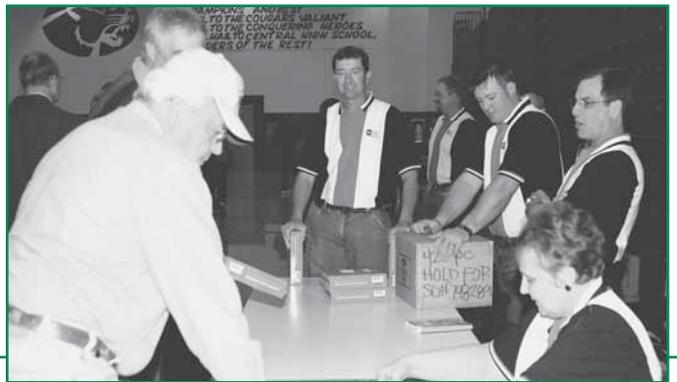
A large number of cooperative members came out on Thursday evening, March 15th, to attend the cooperative's 69th Annual Meeting of Members. Cooperative President and COO Jim Riddle's announcement that the cooperative plans no rate increase for 2007 was met with a round of applause. Riddle also addressed the co-op's power supply agreement with Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. "We are continually striving to find ways to reduce costs and improve service for our members," Riddle said.

In his annual report, Chairman of the Board Joe Voss discussed safety, especially regarding the use of generators during outages. "I would recommend that everyone have a professional electrician install your generator to make sure it is done correctly," Voss commented. Voss also praised the co-op's outstanding safety record, saying, "Our loss ratio for Worker's Compensation is the second lowest in the state and that means, too, that our insurance cost for Worker's Compensation is also lower." Voss credited this to the professionalism of the co-op's employees and management's emphasis on safety.

Secretary-Treasurer of the co-op Ron Becker informed the members in attendance of the financial status of the co-op. Becker told the crowd that, because the co-op is in such good financial condition, Capital Credit checks totaling \$200,000 could be distributed this year for those people who were co-op members during 1986-1988.

Re-elected to three-year terms were trustees Cary Dickinson, District No. 1, of Hoffman; Joe Voss, District No. 2, of Carlyle; and Rich Timmermann, District No. 3, of Germantown.

Every member registered at this year's annual meeting received a \$10 bill credit and an 8-plug power strip/surge protector.



EDP Operator and Receptionist Cathy Markus registers members at the 69th Annual Meeting held on March 15th.



(l. to r.) Richard Timmermann, District No. 3; Joe Voss, District No. 2; and Cary Dickinson, District No. 1, were re-elected to 3-year terms to the Board of Directors.

Cooperative Chairman Joe Voss congratulates lineman Gary Albers on 35 years of service with the co-op.





**Clinton County Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

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**ARE YOU MAKING
INFORMED
DECISIONS?**

- Are you thinking of building a new home?
- Are you preparing to replace existing appliances?
- Are you contemplating which type of heating and cooling system would be right for you?
 - Did you know that CCEC offers to its members a 50 gallon or 80 gallon electric water heater (made with R16 insulation) for \$0.94.
 - Did you know that CCEC offers a reduced rate for Energy Efficient Electric Space Conditioning Systems which utilizes a second meter to maximize the savings of your energy efficient system.
 - Did you know that geothermal systems can pre-heat water before it enters your water heater, thus lowering the amount of additional energy your water heater needs.
 - Did you know that propane would have to cost less than \$0.41/Gal. to be able to heat your home at the same cost as a geothermal system.

-Price Equivalents to Heat your Home-

Baseboard/Resistance Electric Furnace (99% Efficient) @ \$0.09/Kwh

LP Furnace (92% Efficient) @ \$2.22/Gallon

Natural Gas Furnace (92% Efficient) @ \$2.42/Therm

Air-to-Air Heat Pump (200% Coefficient of Performance) @ \$0.058/Kwh

LP Furnace (92% Efficient) @ \$0.71/Gallon

Natural Gas Furnace (92% Efficient) @ \$0.77/Therm

Geothermal Watersource Heat Pump (350% Coefficient of Performance) @ \$0.058/Kwh

LP Furnace (92% Efficient) @ \$0.41/Gallon

Natural Gas Furnace (92% Efficient) @ \$0.44/Therm

Is Your Home's Wiring Up To Date And Safe?

While use of electric power has increased, electrical systems, in homes built more than 20 years ago, have not kept up with the demand or the technology. Aged wiring, overloaded circuits and worn outlets are among the hazards that can start fires and cause electrical shock.

Most shocks and fires from electrical systems can be prevented. Have your electrical system inspected by a licensed electrician. Fix dangerous defects, install smoke detectors, arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), and check lighting and home appliances for wear and tear. Have your house inspected if your home is 40 or more years old; if it is 10 or more years old and you've completed a major renovation or installed new major appliances; or if you're the new owner of a previously owned home.

Here are just a few hazards to look out for in your home system:

- Dim and flickering lights.
- Arcs and sparks – flashes of light or showers of sparks in your electrical system.
- Sizzles and buzzes – unusual sounds from your electrical system.
- Overheating – over heated wires can give off an odor of hot insulation; switch-plates or receptacles covers are hot to the touch or discolored from heat buildup.
- Electrical shocks – any shock, even a mild tingle, may be warning of an electrical danger.

A Tremendous Value – Electricity!

We pay for electricity just once a month, but we enjoy its benefits every day (and night). We use it to make our toast and coffee in the morning, maybe with some cold refreshing orange juice from the fridge. We may work with computers or fax machines, or electric hand tools and air compressors all day long. We get home; we flip on the lights, heat up some food in the microwave and turn on the TV, stereo, computer or all three!

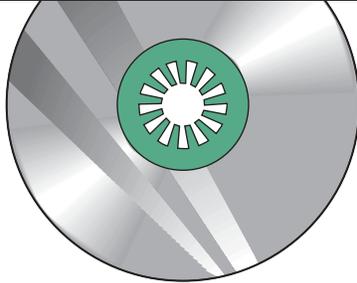
Even when we go to sleep, we trust in the security light outside to protect us and the clock radio to wake us up on time in the morning.

Electricity has always been a labor-saving tool and convenience provider, and

we continue to find more ways to take advantage of it in our daily lives. Considering the recent spikes in oil, gasoline, propane and natural gas, it's an even better value today! No other fuel does so much, for less than the cost of a decent lunch each day.

Which would you rather do without? One meal, or all your heating, cooling, hot water, refrigeration, clean clothes, lights, entertainment and security. The average cost for all that for a CCEC residential member is about \$5 per day.

It may not be a fair question, but it makes us pause to think about the great value of electricity in our lives.



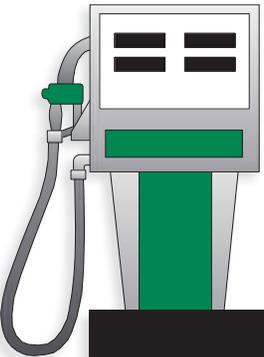
One music CD =
2 days of electric service



One fast food lunch =
1 day of electric service



**One movie ticket,
popcorn and soda =**
2½ days of electric service



**One tank of gasoline
(20 gallons at \$2.25/gallon) =**
9 days of electric service

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, invisible gas. It can come from ranges, ovens, clothes dryers, furnaces, fireplaces, grills, space heaters, vehicles and water heaters. Open flames, such as from ovens and ranges, are the most common sources of carbon monoxide.

Under the new law that went into effect on Jan. 1, 2007 a carbon monoxide detector must be placed within 15 feet of every room in a house that is used for sleeping purposes.

This new law is enforced whenever a home is built or when it's bought or sold.

Electric appliances are not at risk of creating carbon monoxide. All-electric homes that don't use any fossil fuel-burning appliances are exempt from this law.



We Might Call You....

Please be sure to keep your phone number up to date at the Cooperative. It is extremely important to have a current primary phone number on file to reach you in case of a power outage, a billing question or to notify you when work must be done on your property.

If you've changed your phone number in the past few years for whatever reason, please notify the Cooperative of the change. Write the correct phone number on the back of your next electric bill. Or if you're not sure if you've told us of the change, call the office (526-7282) and we can look it up for you and do the change if necessary.

10 Tips For Saving Energy

1. **Setting your thermostat** - install a programmable thermostat.
2. **Lower your water heater temperature** - lower the temperature to 120 degrees F.
3. **Washing clothes or dishes** - follow the load guideline. Never use the dishwasher or washing machine unless it has a full load.
4. **Using power strips** - plug your electronics into power strips. When turning off these electronics, power down using the power strip to prevent stand-by mode from drawing electricity unnecessarily.
5. **Power down computers and monitors** - turn them off when you are not using them.
6. **Drying dishes** - air dry rather than using heated drying cycle.
7. **Washing in cold water** - wash clothes in cold water.



8. **Use compact fluorescent lighting** - these bulbs last longer and use less energy.
9. **Take showers** - take short showers instead of baths.
10. **Look for the Energy Star label** - buy products that have the Energy Star label on them. All Energy Star products meet strict guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Energy.

RECIPES

Tomato-Zucchini Soup

Roberta Kilpatrick

1 T. corn oil, margarine or olive oil
1/2 C. celery, chopped
2 lg. cloves of garlic, minced
4 C. chicken broth
3 tomatoes, chopped
1 zucchini, thinly sliced
1 can tomato paste

3 shallots, chopped
1 tsp. fresh parsley, chopped or
1/2 tsp. dried
1/2 tsp. fresh cilantro, chopped (opt.)
1 bay leaf
4-6 T. low fat plain yogurt

Warm margarine or oil in a large pot over low heat. Add celery, shallots and garlic and sauté until tender. Add all remaining ingredients except yogurt; simmer for 2 hours. Discard bay leaf. Garnish with yogurt. Serves 4-6.

Olive Nut Spread

Doris M. Fischer

6-oz. cream cheese, room temperature
1/2 C. mayonnaise, room temperature
2 T. liquid from salad olives
Dash of ground pepper
1/2 C. chopped pecans
1 C. chopped salad olives

Combine cream cheese and mayonnaise in a bowl and mix well. Add liquid from olives and pepper; mix. Fold in olives and pecans. Seal or store in the refrigerator.

Unbelievable Peanut Butter Cookies

Pauline Tucker

1 C. peanut butter
1 C. sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix all ingredients together. Roll into balls and place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Take a fork and flatten cookies slightly with the prongs. Bake for 15 minutes at 350°. Let stand for 5 minutes before removing from cookie sheet.

Jambalaya

Roberta Kaufman

2-3 T. olive oil
3 stalks celery, sliced
1 green pepper, sliced
2 med. onions, sliced
1 ring Kielbasa, sliced
3-4 lbs chicken, boiled and cut up
1 (28-oz.) can diced tomatoes
1 (14-1/2-oz.) can beef broth
1-2 cloves garlic, minced
1/4 tsp cayenne pepper, ground
Salt and pepper, to taste
Cajun seasoning, to taste
3 C. instant brown rice
3 green onions, chopped

Brown celery, green peppers and onions in olive oil until almost soft; add sausage and chicken, cook until brown. Add diced tomatoes, beef broth, garlic and cayenne pepper. Season with salt, pepper and Cajun seasoning. Cook 15 minutes. Bring to a boil and add brown rice. Cook until tender and add chopped green onions and serve.

The Passing Of An Old Friend

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair; and
- Maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound, financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended

from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or a band-aid to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and planned to have a medical procedure.

Common Sense lost the will to live as churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled some in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason.

He is survived by his three stepbrothers: I Know My Rights; Someone Else is to Blame; and I'm a Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

You And Your Health

1. You can improve your diet and health by consuming the following nutrient-packed foods and drinks: whole grains, fish, walnut, almonds, soy, fat-free dairy products, berries, broccoli, cauliflower, tomatoes and green tea.

2. Even a small amount of physical activity can make a big difference in your weight and well being. You can lose 10 pounds in a year if you walk briskly for 30 minutes on most days. Adding moderate amounts of activity (raking leaves, gardening, pushing a stroller) for

30 minutes, five days a week, can trim five pounds in six months.

3. Women with phobic anxieties, such as fear of heights or crowded places, are at higher risk for fatal heart disease than women with fewer or no such anxieties. A study of 72,359 women found those with high phobic anxiety had a 59 percent increased risk for sudden cardiac death, compared with those with very low phobic anxiety.

4. Snacking on whole-wheat pretzels or plain pop-

corn will boost your fiber intake while also making you feel full. Baked potato chips and baked tortilla chips also are healthful crunchy snack options.

5. Instead of whole milk, switch to skim or low-fat milk. You'll still get lots of calcium, but without all the saturated fat.

6. To keep weight off, stick to no-calorie drinks: coffee, tea, diet soda, mixes such as Crystal Light and water.

Managing Your Electric Bill

Every month right after the bills come out, we get phone calls from customers who cannot believe their bill is correct. The high bill complaints range from “the meter must be wrong” to “my bill is higher than my neighbor’s and we have the same size house and family.”

First of all, although the meter is often accused of inaccuracy, it is seldom the culprit. The meter is a finely calibrated, highly accurate device used to measure power use. Furthermore, all CCEC meters are tested for accuracy on a regular basis. Historical data bears out the fact that in more than 99 percent of the cases, the electric meter is accurate. High bills are almost always traced to other causes.

Secondly, you simply cannot compare your bill with your neighbor’s. Even though superficially it may look to be the same, no two families maintain the same schedules and lifestyles. There are many, many variables that go into the bottom line that ends up on your electric bill. That’s why comparing bills doesn’t work. Both of you have completely different set of circumstances – different lifestyle, different size home, different style of construction, different numbers and types of major appliances, as well as different heating and cooling systems.

Just as death and taxes are two things in our lives that never change, there are a couple of constants on your electric bill too. The Facility Charge and Utility Tax are two of these constants. But the largest charge on your bill – kilowatt-hour usage – is one thing you, the consumer, have the ability to control.

You have complete control over how you use your electricity by choosing the ingredients that are necessary for you to maintain your standard of living. There is a direct relationship between the number of people living at home and the amount of energy being used. That’s especially true if you have teenagers at home.

The “comfort zone” also plays an important part in controlling your electric usage. Dehumidifiers, although an important part of our year-round comfort, contribute to our household energy consumption because they tend to run continuously. Portable space heaters, air conditioners and fans located in such places as the garage and basement contribute greatly to your energy consumption.

Adding insulation, weather-stripping, caulking, changing or cleaning your furnace filters monthly as well as turning down the thermostat in winter and up in summer are just a few ways we can use energy wisely.

Hot water usage is the 2nd largest energy consumer in the household behind heating and cooling. Teenagers like to take long, hot showers. Limit hot showers to 10 minutes or less.

Install water flow restrictors and aerators in sink faucets. This can save you money by reducing water use. Reducing

the water heater temperature to 120 degrees F. can decrease heat loss from your tank. And remember the use of tankless water heaters as the central source of hot water in a residence should be carefully considered because of their modest, if any, savings.

Constantly opening and closing refrigerator and/or freezer doors make that appliance work harder to cool foods. Temperature settings also make a big difference. No two families do the same amount of washing and drying. Do you wash clothes in cold water? How much you cook and how you cook (microwave versus stovetop or oven) also varies.

Be careful of phantom loads. Many appliances are quietly using energy around the clock, even though you think they are turned off. The power supplies to your instant on TVs, computers, cordless phones, cell phone chargers, clocks on microwaves and electric ranges are all examples of phantom loads that steadily consumes electricity whether you are using the device or not. Phantom loads add up to a huge waste of electricity in the U.S. that costs consumers billions of dollars per year and many billions of kilowatt-hours. The total phantom load in your home could account for substantial energy use.

One way you can eliminate phantom loads is by plugging them into a power strip that is equipped with its own power switch. Simply switch the power strip on and off as you use the appliance.

The new big screen TVs and plasma TVs are great for watching your favorite movies or sports network, but they use as much electricity as an older style refrigerator – about 850 kilowatt hours per year.

You can reduce your lighting expenses by turning off lights when not in use and using compact fluorescent lighting whenever possible. The most efficient lighting on the market, fluorescent lighting, uses 70% less energy and lasts up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Common sources of high electricity usage include electrical faults in wiring systems that are usually due to physical damage, moisture and dirt or improper connections. Sometimes you’ll find equipment using electricity that you thought was turned off. It could be a stock tank heater, leaky hot water faucet or lights and equipment simply left on. Water pumps, too, are the cause of unexpected high-energy use. Water leaks and defective pressure tanks and switches can cause a pump to gobble up energy.

You have the power to make a difference in your bill. By being energy conscious, you have the ability to manage your electric bill.

What Are Capital Credits?

Some of you received a Capital Credit check in the past few weeks. This is a unique part of being a member of a cooperative. If you received service from Clinton County Electric in 1986-1988, you may have been eligible to receive a Capital Credit check.

What is a Capital Credit?

Capital credits are to cooperatives what shares of stock are to a for-profit company. When you own stock in a for-profit company, your stock may pay dividends based on the performance of that company. At Clinton County Electric, you accumulate capital credits based on how much revenue you pay to the cooperative. The difference between the two types of businesses is that the customers of an electric cooperative are also the owners. There are no outside investors to please, only the users of our products and services.

At Clinton County Electric, a member and owner are one and the same: you are a part owner in this organization. In essence, you have stock in the company. That "stock" is known as "capital credits."

Capital credits are assigned to member accounts based on each member's purchases and the cooperative's operating margins. The capital credits are retained for several years to invest in the electrical distribution system. Your board of directors authorized the return of the balance of 1986, all of 1987 and a portion of 1988 to those who earned them in that time frame.

Members who received electric service from the Co-op in that time frame were issued capital credit checks and some of you picked your check up at the Annual Meeting held on March 15. The remaining checks were mailed out the week of April 2. If you think you should have received a check, but didn't, please call our office and we can check our records.

Financial Information

BALANCE SHEET

As of Feb. 28, 2007

ASSETS (What We Own):

Total Utility Plant.....	\$ 19,270,658
Less: Accumulated Depreciation.....	7,640,318
Net Utility Plant	11,630,340
Cash & Temporary Investments.....	44,882
Investments in Associated Organizations	632,472
Accounts Receivable	354,813
Materials & Supplies	760,761
Prepayments & Other Deferred Expenses.....	1,336,689
Total Assets.....	\$ 14,759,957

MEMBERS' EQUITY & LIABILITIES (What We Owe):

Members' Capital Credits.....	\$ 6,532,682
Other Equities.....	223,453
Long-Term Debt	6,624,350
Consumer Deposits	116,189
Other Liabilities & Deferred Income.....	1,263,283
Total Members' Equity & Liabilities.....	\$ 14,759,957

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Two Months Ended February 28, 2007

INCOME:

Sale of Electricity & Other Services.....	\$ 2,039,783
Other Income	34,289
Total Income	\$ 2,074,072

EXPENSES:

Cost of Electric Power	\$ 1,440,458
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	212,911
General & Administrative Expenses.....	193,524
System Depreciation.....	94,590
Interest Expense	79,742
Total Expenses	\$ 2,021,225

NET MARGINS..... \$ 52,847

Co-op says goodbye to long-time friends

All of us at the Co-op are mourning the loss of two great friends and members of our Co-op family who have recently passed away.

Stan Feldmann entered into rest on Friday, February 16th, at the age of 76 years, following a lengthy illness. Stan retired from the Co-op in 1991, after serving the Co-op for 33 years as a lineman.

Stan was very active with American Legion Post 252 of Breese and was an avid fisherman. Stan leaves his wife, Shirley, and two sons and many, many friends.

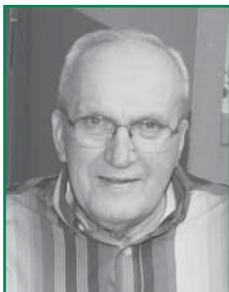
Then on March 24th, another long-time Co-op employee, Bob Vander Pluym, passed away, after a short illness. Bob was 84.

Bob started with the Co-op in 1946 as an apprentice lineman and served the co-op in many, many capacities, culminating in the top job, Manager. Bob was General Manager from 1973 until his retirement in 1988.

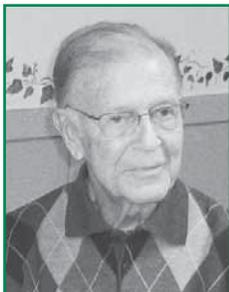
He was extremely active in community affairs, county government and St. Dominic Catholic Church. He was also very well-known throughout the state of Illinois with his ties to the Cooperative. Bob received the Manager of the Year Award in 1986 from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Bob leaves his wife of 61 years, Ardel, three daughters, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Both Stan and Bob embodied the true meaning of cooperative and our sincere condolences go out to their families. We will miss you!



Stan Feldmann



Bob Vander Pluym

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Kevin Kampwerth	Carlyle
Randy Renth.....	Mascoutah
Tim Hanke	Carlyle
Richard Timmermann	Germanatown

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